



Gateway District e-Newsletter

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Info for All Scouters

Quality District Progress

The Gateway District is very close to achieving Quality District status, but we need your help!! The last hurdle to get over is membership growth and we are very, very close to achieving that. We just need 2 to 3 more new Scouts. If you know of any boys or Venturing age youth who have been considering joining, but haven't yet, get the word out to them. **Every registration counts!** Registration for 2008 officially closes on January 9th, so there is still time!

Roundtable

January's Roundtable will take place on the 8th. Roundtables are held at Trinity Crossing in Princeton at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month. Directions can be found below by clicking on the Google Maps link.

[Google Maps link for Trinity Crossing](#)

Roundtables are a great way to stay up to date, meet others in your position and exchange ideas. Make sure you have at least one person to represent your unit.

Open Positions on the District Team

The Gateway District is always looking for enthusiastic people to serve on the district committee. Listed below are the areas in which we are looking for your help and a brief description of each position. If interested in one of these positions or if you have questions, please contact me.

- Tiger Prowl Event Chairperson for 2009
 - Help develop ways to improve the program and the stations
 - Help promote Tiger Prowl at Roundtables
 - Recruit and coordinate staff to run stations
 - Help run the event
 - Budget, facilities, registration and program materials are already taken care of
- Unit Commissioners
 - Act as a representative of the District to 2 to 3 units
 - Make regular unit visits (usually visit one unit per month)
 - Help units complete their charter renewal on time
 - Help set and approve goals for the Centennial Quality Unit Award
 - Act as a guide and counselor to those units
 - Attend Commissioner meetings
- Scouting For Food Chairperson
 - Encourage Pack and Troop participation in this project
 - Contact area food shelves and set up delivery times
 - Help coordinate communities with several Packs and Troops to ensure maximum coverage
- Friends of Scouting Campaign Chairperson
 - Help set up presentation dates with units
 - Help recruit and schedule presenters
 - Keep track of progress toward District Goal
 - Coordinate follow up efforts to reach and surpass District Goal
- Friends of Scouting Presenters
 - Attend a training session on making the pitch
 - Make a short presentation to Packs and Troops to raise funds for the 2009 FOS campaign and encourage them to reach their unit's goal
 - Receive and record pledges and payments that night
 - Make follow up calls if necessary
 - A script and visual aids are provided

Friends of Scouting 2009

The 2009 FOS Campaign is quickly approaching. Have your unit contact me with a date, time and location for your unit to have a representative from the district conduct a short FOS presentation to the families in your Pack, Troop or Crew. The Friends of Scouting campaign is vitally important to the operation of the Council and to the programs, support and resources provided to your unit.

Being an Eagle Scout...It's a Dirty Job

I'm a fan of the Discovery Channel's show, Dirty Jobs. But until recently, I did not know that Mike Rowe, the host, is an Eagle Scout. Mike was sent a letter by a Scout's dad asking Mike to write to his son, encouraging him to work hard and pursue the rank of Eagle. I doubt Mike's response was what the father was expecting, but is a great testament to what a special honor and challenge the rank of Eagle Scout is nonetheless.

Many of you may have seen this already, but I'd like to share it for those who haven't. Below is the link to Mike Rowe's blog on the Discovery Channel's website where you can read his letter to this Scout.

http://blogs.discovery.com/mike_rowe_answers/2008/11/mike-offers-a-p.html

Cub Scouters

Nanuq Camp

Nanuq is a new winter program for Cub Scouts at Parker Scout Reservation. Packs who take part in this program will be among the first people to stay in the new Miller Castle. The first 32 scouts to sign up for each session will spend a weekend in the Castle, with plenty of outdoor activities, adventure and advancement. Learn to Cross Country ski, Snow shoe, Ice fish, make crafts, and observe nature. Play games like capture the flag, snow golf, snow tubing, and broom ball. Plus, for the Webelos age scouts, we will present information and techniques on winter survival and how to stay warm and dry in the Minnesota winters. A hot lunch, dinner and breakfast will be provided for this Saturday to Sunday excursion.

If you would like to sign up or have questions, please see the council website or contact Bob Peterson at robertcp@bsacmc.org or (320)251-3930.

Fast Tracks Program

Fast Tracks is a pilot program being used in the Central Region of the BSA. It provides den meeting plans for each month. It was being tested as a way to make life easier for Den Leaders and improve membership retention. It is now open to any Pack or Den that wants to use it. The meeting plans are available online at the following web address.

<http://www.scouting.org/CubScouts/FastTracks.aspx>

Boy Scouters

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

National Youth Leadership Training is an intense, but fun, six-day outdoor leadership training experience for Troop youth leaders. The course will take place over two weekends. Its principle function is to help Scoutmasters improve the quality of their Troop by training their top boy leaders in the art of leadership, team building, decision making and conflict resolution. This course was developed nationally by the BSA and follows the material provided in the latest

National Youth Leadership Training syllabus. NYLT is modeled after the 21st Century Wood Badge training for adults.

The council's National Youth Leadership Training course will be entering its third season this summer with a seasoned staff. We are going to a course that covers two weekends this year instead of the weeklong schedule. We hope this will allow more boys to take part in the training. The dates will be May 29 – 31 and June 5 - 7. If you are interested in NYLT, but have questions, please feel free to contact me at paul@bsacmc.org or at (320)251-3930 x115.

Registration forms will be available starting at the January Roundtable. They will also be made available on the council's website.

Alpha Lupus 2009

WE HAVE SNOW! It looks to be a good year for the winter camping program. If your Troop hasn't already signed up to take part in Alpha Lupus, please do so as soon as possible. If you'd like more information or a registration form, check the council's website.

Venturing

Venturing Roundtable

Don't forget to attend roundtable each month in Princeton. It was great to see so many of you attend in November.

If there is a specific concern or an area you would like to learn more about, please let me know and we can work to cover it at a Roundtable. Chances are if you aren't sure about something, someone else has the same question.

Invite a friend!

Invite a friend to your next Crew meeting or activity. Do you know of families that have boys in Scouts and have a sister who is 14 to 21 and is looking for a group to get involved with? Extend and invitation to them to join.

District Event?

Is there interest in having an event or activity for all the Venturers in Gateway District? If so, please bring your ideas and comments to Roundtable. We'd like a way to generate interest, excitement and camaraderie amongst the Crews in the district.