



Gateway District e-Newsletter

October 2008

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Info for All Scouters

E-Newsletter Subscriptions

Remember, that if any registered adult in your Pack, Troop or Crew would like to receive the monthly E-Newsletter, have them send an email to me at paul@bsacmc.org with E-Newsletter Subscription in the subject line. Have them include their first and last name, email address, unit number and position within the unit.

Roundtable

November's Roundtable will take place on the 13th. Please remember that we are in a new location this year. Roundtables will be 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.

We are also looking for Packs and Troops to do opening ceremonies for our Roundtables. If your unit would like to do the honors at one of our Roundtables this year, please let me or Judy Hanson know.

Charter Renewals

Charter Renewal Packets were handed out to the Packs, Troops and Crews at October's Roundtable. I still have a handful of them and will be getting them out to those units in the next week. The website to complete the Charter Renewals will go active on November 1st. You will not be able to work on them prior to that. The web address and access code are provided in the packets. The Charter Renewals are due in to the Council office by December 3rd. This includes all fees and the necessary signatures. Charter renewals must be completed on time in order to qualify for the Centennial Quality Unit Award.

Popcorn

If your unit has not yet signed up for a pick-up time slot, I will have the schedule at the next roundtable. Pick up will be at MyCull Fixtures in Princeton. You can find a [map here](#) to direct you to MyCull Fixture's location. We will be using loading doors 5 and 8 at MyCull.

If you have questions regarding details of the sale or turning in the orders, please contact Wade Bastian at the Council office at wade@bsacmc.org or by phone at (320)251-3930 x106.

Open Positions on the District Team

The Gateway District is looking for volunteers to serve on the district committee. Listed below are the areas in which we are looking for help and a brief description of each position. If interested in one of these positions, please contact me and let me know where you are interested in serving.

- Tiger Prowl Event Chairperson for 2009
- Unit Commissioners
- Scouting For Food Chair
- Friends of Scouting Presenters

Tiger Prowl Staff Needed (Play Games with 200 Brand New Scouts)

About five more volunteer staff are needed to help staff activity stations and assist with check-in at Tiger Prowl on Saturday, November 15th. Adult staff, mature Boy Scouts and Venturers are welcome to come help give these boys a fun start to their Scouting experience. If you would like to be a part of the team, please contact me at paul@bsacmc.org.

SWIM Program

A new program is being put together in Becker to help Scouts with just about any kind of water related advancement. This includes Boy Scout and Girl Scout basic swimming requirements (Through First Class), basic and advance swimming strokes, Swimming and Lifesaving Merit Badges, Webelos Aquanaut, BSA Snorkeling, BSA Mile Swim and more. The cost is \$3.00 per person. Emailing or calling in advance will guarantee the program you are looking for is available but walk-ins are welcome.

Dates:

Nov 11th 6:30-8:30 PM

Dec 18th 6:30-8:30 PM

Jan 8th 6:30-8:30 PM

Feb 19th 6:30-8:30 PM

March 12th 6:30-8:30 PM

April 16th 6:30-8:30 PM

May 1-2-3rd River Run canoe trip in Cannon Falls

For more information and location info please contact:

Nathan France (763) 286-9241

kisernathan@yahoo.com

Scout Uniform Closet

The Scout Uniform Closet is a way for boys to get a uniform who are unable to afford one. Donations are needed in order to keep this going. If you have uniform items that no longer fit your boy or if you have purchased something that you would like to donate, please contact Nathan France at scoutcloset92@yahoo.com. Cub Scout or Boy Scout shirts, neckerchiefs, pants, hats, belts, etc are appreciated. Garage sales are great places to find these items and can be picked up for next to nothing. Please do so if you see them and if you are able. Not being able to afford a uniform should not be a barrier to a boy joining Scouts.

Commissioner Training

A training will be held for all Unit Commissioners on December 6th from 9am to 4pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton.

Quality District

The Gateway District is moving closer and closer to achieving membership growth for 2008 and being a Centennial Quality District, but we still have a ways to go. If each Pack, Troop and Crew were to recruit just two more new Scouts yet this fall, we would achieve growth and turn around the disturbing trend of declining membership in Scouting in the Gateway District. This is a trend that goes back to 2002.

Each Scout who recruits a friend to join Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts will be eligible to receive a special Centennial Recruiter award patch. When a new Scout's application is turned in, make a note of who recruited him and I'll send one of these patches to the Pack or Troop's leader.

Having more boys involved in your unit not only makes it stronger and can bring in more parental help, but Scouting is one of the most worthwhile and positive activities a boy can be involved in. Not only do we get the chance to make a difference in a boy's life, but we also have the chance to help build a strong foundation of engaged and involved citizens in our communities. These boys are our political, religious and business leaders of the future. Let's have a hand in instilling the right values in them.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Cub Scouters

Tiger Prowl

Tiger Prowl will take place on Saturday, November 15th at the Foley High School. The program runs from 10am to 2:30pm. Check-in will begin at 9:30am. Registrations are due in to the Council Office by Friday, November 7th. The form can be found on the Council's website.

Membership Follow ups

Remind your Cub Scout families to invite someone new to your next Pack meeting. Scouting is more fun when a boy's friends are involved and Scouting can have a positive impact in the development of a boy as he grows into a man. Help build a stronger foundation in your community by inviting a family to take part in Cub Scouts.

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>

Northern Tier Webelos Program

A representative from the Charles A. Sommers canoe base in Ely will be coming to the November Roundtable to promote a new program they are developing for Webelos Scouts. The Northern Tier High Adventure Program is one of three national high adventure bases run by the BSA. Have your Webelos Leaders come hear what they have to offer.

Boy Scouters

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

NYLT is a great way to develop the leadership of your Troop. The training is open to Scouts who will be 13 years old by the start of the training, have attained the rank of First Class and hold a leadership position in the Troop.

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. Look for more information on costs and registration around the first of the year.

Alpha Lupus 2009

Alpha Lupus is the Central Minnesota Council's winter camping program at Parker Scout Reservation. There are two program levels based on a Scout's experience with winter camping. There will be two sessions this year. One on January 23 – 25 and one on February 6 – 8. Registration packets will be sent to the Troops in November with more details. If you have questions, please contact Bob Peterson at (320)251-3930 x113.

Roundtable Topics

Here is a preview of what will be covered at the next few Boy Scout Roundtables:

- November - Youth Protection Training & Jamboree 2010 presentation
- December - Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense
- January – Webelos Transition and OA
- February - Scout Fair
- March – Gateway Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

Youth Protection Training

The Boy Scout Roundtable Staff will be conducting a Youth Protection training at the November Roundtable. Any leader who has not yet taken this training online or needs to renew it is encouraged to attend Roundtable on November 13th.

Venturing

Venturing Roundtable Starts in November!

Thanks to Mike Messman from Becker for stepping up to run the Venturing Roundtable. Mike has been involved in several capacities in Scouting including a stint as Scoutmaster of Troop 92 and is currently working on his tickets to complete his Wood Badge training.

November will be our first Venturing Roundtable. We strongly encourage each Venture Crew to attend. Your participation will determine the success and value of these Roundtables. Adult and youth leadership are invited to take part. We really hope it will help you get to know your fellow Venture Crews in the district and be able to share ideas, resources and camaraderie.

We will be looking for your input as to what you want to discuss, but topics will include...

- Position Job Descriptions
- The Venturing advancement program
- Recruiting parents to get involved
- Developing a district Venturing activity
- Attaining a youth-led Crew
- Leader training opportunities
- Certifications