



## **Gateway District e-Newsletter**

### **2008 Centennial Quality District**

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### **Info for All Scouters**

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#### **Quality District**

I am proud to announce that the Gateway District achieved Centennial Quality District Status in 2008! Thank you to everyone and congratulations for a great year.

## **February Roundtable**

February's Roundtable will be our annual Scout Program Expo. Come learn more about NYLT, Cub Scout Camps, Philmont, Order of the Arrow, SWIM and more. This is your chance to ask questions about these programs of the people who coordinate them.

## **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.

## **2008 Centennial Quality Unit Order Forms**

If your Pack, Troop or Crew achieved its goals in 2008 and made Centennial Quality Unit, an order form for a flag ribbon, patches, plaques or pins can be found here:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/2008CQA\\_Unit\\_Order\\_form\\_14-192.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/2008CQA_Unit_Order_form_14-192.pdf)

## **2009 Centennial Quality Unit Commitments**

Make a commitment to be a Centennial Quality Unit in 2009. Set your unit's goals using the worksheet below and submit it to the council office by February 28<sup>th</sup>. This step is necessary to being a Quality Unit. If your unit does not have a Commissioner, please turn it in and it will be reviewed by the District Commissioner.

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/14-190-09.pdf>

## **Exploring**

The BSA is putting a renewed emphasis on its Career Exploring program. Currently, the Gateway District has no Explorer Posts. If you, your place of employment or someone you know may be interested in getting an Explorer Post started, please contact me. Exploring is a great way for young people to learn more about occupations in which they are interested, make contacts and gain practical knowledge and experience about a career. Traditional areas of interest are: Arts & Humanities, Aviation, Business, Communications, Engineering, Fire Service, Health, Law Enforcement, Law & Government, Science, Skilled Trades and Social Service. More information on the program is available at this website: <http://www.learningforlife.org/exploring/index.html>

## **Celebrate the Centennial - 2010**

February of 2010 is the Boy Scouts of America's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is quickly approaching and there are several events being planned on a national level. Let's also celebrate this important milestone on a more local level as a District and in your unit. I'd like to start adding pieces in this newsletter and elsewhere about the history of Scouting in your units and your communities. Who were the founders of your unit? How old is your unit? How many Eagle Scouts has your Troop had? Are there any interesting stories involving Scouting in your community? How has Scouting played an important role in the development of your community? Are there Scouters from our early days that have stories to share? Please share them with me and share them with your local newspapers. It is a great way to make others aware of how integral and important this program

has been to the development of our communities. Do you have any suggestions of other ways we can commemorate the Centennial in our District?

## **Cub Scouters**

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### **Wolf Howl**

Wolf Howl is open to all Wolf Scouts in the Gateway and Scenic Districts. It will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Foley High School. Wolf Howl is a fun day filled with games, swimming and a Wolf program put on by the Wildlife Science Center. Registration forms and more detailed information are available by clicking on the link below and are due at the Council Office by Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

[http://www.bsacmc.org/2009\\_Wolf\\_Howl\\_Info\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.bsacmc.org/2009_Wolf_Howl_Info_Registration.pdf)

### **Bear Hibernation**

Bear Hibernation is an overnight lock-in at the fieldhouse at St. Cloud State University. It will take place on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bear Scouts will take part in a number of games and sports, watch movies, go swimming, skate at the National Hockey Center and try to stay up all night. A registration form is available by clicking on the link below.

[http://www.bsacmc.org/2009\\_Bear\\_Hibe\\_Info\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.bsacmc.org/2009_Bear_Hibe_Info_Registration.pdf)

### **Webelos Leader Training & BALOO Training**

Mark your Calendars! Webelos Leader Training will be taking place on May 2 – 3, 2009 at Parker Scout Reservation near Brainerd. BALOO will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be at Parker as well. Look for registration forms to come out in early March.

Webelos Leader Training course topics include planning outdoor activities, Webelos skills, knots, fire building, outdoor cooking, Webelos to Scout transition, parental involvement, advancements, uniforming, activity badges and more. Participants are expected to camp overnight.

BALOO stands for Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation. It is necessary to have at least one person from your Pack be BALOO trained in order for a Cub Scout Pack to go on overnight camping trips. It will give you an overview of outdoor skills and BSA policies. This training is open to any Cub Scout Leader.

### **Basic Cub Leader Training**

The Gateway District is committed to building quality Cub Scout Packs in our area by providing the necessary training. The District does traditionally offer three sessions of Cub Leader Training in October in various locations, but we realize that not everyone can make those sessions.

If your Pack is in need of leader training, please contact me or the District's Cub Leader Training chair, David Rolf at [Rolf@sherbtel.net](mailto:Rolf@sherbtel.net). We would like to coordinate schedules between Packs to get as many leaders trained at one time as possible.

## District Pinewood Derby

The District Pinewood Derby will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Evangelical Free Church in Zimmerman. The event will get started at 9:00 am. Steve Hill is organizing this activity and is running it with the help of Pack 96. If you have questions, please contact him at [stevehill@usfamily.net](mailto:stevehill@usfamily.net) or [shill@minntech.com](mailto:shill@minntech.com). Rules will be made available on the Gateway district's page of the council's website: [www.bsacmc.org](http://www.bsacmc.org).

## Boy Scouters

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### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Participants must attend both weekends. If you are interested in NYLT, but have questions, please feel free to contact me at [paul@bsacmc.org](mailto:paul@bsacmc.org) or at (320)251-3930 x115.

Registration forms are available here: [http://www.bsacmc.org/2009\\_NYLT\\_Info\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.bsacmc.org/2009_NYLT_Info_Registration.pdf)

### Boy Scout Leader Training

Boy Scout Leader Training will be held on May 1 – 3 at Parker Scout Reservation near Brainerd. It is open to any Boy Scout Leader. Participants are required to camp both nights in order to complete the training.

Participants will learn the Patrol Method for running a boy-lead Troop, outdoor skills, program planning, outdoor cooking, Troop Committee operations and more. Look for a registration form to come out by early March.

### Eagle Scout Process Tips

Here are a few tips and procedures to keep in mind when a Scout is ready to take the final steps in the Trail to Eagle. This is by no means all the requirements. Please consult the Life to Eagle packet or contact the Council Office.

1. All work, including Merit Badges, the Eagle Project and Scoutmaster's Conference **must** be completed by the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
2. Make and keep copies of everything as a back-up! (Merit Badge Cards, Eagle Project Booklet, Eagle Rank Application, etc.)

3. Fill out the Eagle Scout Application completely and legibly, including all necessary signatures, and verify rank and merit badge dates with the Troop. Again, keep a copy of the application for your records and as a back-up. The council office will contact the candidate should any discrepancies, missing advancement records or any other issues come up. The application must be approved by the Council Office before a Board of Review may be scheduled with the District's Eagle Board Chair.
4. Please allow plenty of time for an Eagle Board to be scheduled. At times, several boys may be lined up for boards of review and it may be necessary to wait a month or two before an opening is available. The Eagle Board does its best to schedule them in a timely manner.
5. Eagle candidates do have a window of three months after turning 18 to have their Board of Review conducted with no questions asked. **Again, all work must be completed by the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.** Requests to have Boards of Review conducted more than three months after the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday require approval from the council and any requests beyond six months require approval from the BSA national office in Dallas, Texas.

### **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**

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### **Training**

If there is interest in running a Basic Venturing Leader Training, please let me or Mike Messman know.

### **Alpha Lupus**

Please see the item above in the Boy Scouters' section.