

MAY 2009 - SCENIC District E-Newsletter

Bob Rueter – District Director bob@bsacmc.org

Council website www.bsacmc.org

National website www.scouting.org

2008 Centennial Quality District

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INFORMATION FOR ALL SCOUTERS

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING 2009

We continue to be short from our goal of \$54,000 in CASH, with just over \$46,000 in pledges in to date. Please consider a contribution today if you have not yet made your contribution. You can collect your patch or print at our office or let me know if I can deliver at your next unit meeting. What a great time to donate in this our Centennial year of Scouting!

ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Thanks to all that came to our Scout Expo May 5 and picked up materials for planning their new year! The remainder of the packets were mailed out to the unit leader of record. The Cub Leader book has a section on annual program planning and the Scoutmaster's handbook covers this as well. Venturing and Varsity programs also cover that item. The Cub Fast Tracks program has calendar templates and newsletter templates also – find this under Cub Scouts on www.scouting.org for lots of resources. Let me know if you need some help on this. Thanks to the district committee members and area resource staff that provided displays and information!

CHARTER ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

At the Scout Expo, we recognized First Presbyterian Church of St Cloud for over 86 years of continuous sponsorship of Troop 3! Pastor Ed was kind enough to come to our event and Jeanne Duinink former Scoutmaster and John Phillips Committee Chair and former Scoutmaster attended also.

RIVER BATS BASEBALL OVERNIGHTER

July 31 is the 3rd annual scout overnighter at Joe Faber Field. More information is on the website and get your tickets at the River Bats offices in St Cloud. You have the option to stay over night in a tent in the outfield.

TRAINING UPDATES

Please check out <http://olc.scouting.org> for lots of sessions for summer outings and program information. Remember to do Hazardous Weather training which is required for all outings and must be noted on the tour permits. New Leader Essentials has been changed and you can take the update **THIS IS SCOUTING** from the same site.

HEALTH FORM UPDATES

There has been quite a discussion on the new health forms. Our council is preparing an update on the website on this. For now, check out the www.scouting.org/scoutingsafely link for more information and see the Frequently Asked Questions section also. Use the form you have for now but you must change by January 1, 2010 and keep this information CONFIDENTIAL and only share it with your camp health officer.

SUMMER FUNDRAISERS

Remember to fill out a money-earning application from our council website under forms. The key to success is following the guidelines on page 2 of the form. Remember only a 501C3 organization can donate to your unit so check with your charter organization for their number.

NEW PARENT INITIATIVE

Remember to get new parents involved in your unit. The BSA has set up a website www.scoutparents.org with lots of information on involving new parents. Check out the resources link or the parenting book on page 48 on the site.

SUMMER RECRUITING

NOW is the time to recruit new youth and parents into the program so they can participate in summer activities and help you with your programs throughout the year. Boys should invite their friends to come visit or attend an event/outing. Girls in Venture age (see separate section) can also join.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 2

Join us at the Scout office from 4 until 7 pm for a fun event and information on our upcoming Centennial! There is a rib dinner option available also besides the snacks and goodies. See some great displays will be on hand plus door prizes. Contact our office if your unit wants to help out with an interactive Scout booth or set up or take down or clean up or registration booth for information and collecting activity passports.

UNIT COMMISSIONERS

This is a great option for anyone wishing to stay involved and have a flexible schedule in doing so. Check out the information at www.scouting.org and click on the left side tab. A retreat is planned for August 29th at the Scout office.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Our district committee meets monthly from September through April and offers another opportunity to stay involved through one event a year or monthly however it fits your schedule. We are here to help support units in quality programming. COME JOIN US NOW.

INFORMATION FOR CUB SCOUTS

RESIDENT CAMPS

Bob Pederson and his staff have planned another exciting summer at Parker. Unit sign up is going well and be sure to get your registrations in by May 24th. The castle has been a welcome addition and the theme areas were very successful last year. JOIN IN YOUR THEME ADVENTURE!

DAY CAMP 2009 JULY 6 AND 7

ECOLOGY is our theme this year so help us GO GREEN by attending at Millstream Park in St Joseph on July 6 and 7th. REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE MAY 21ST to insure a t-shirt. Let Bob know who the key contact in your pack is for updating information and coordinating station staff. Always a great time is had by all! BOY SCOUT HELP IS ALWAYS WELCOME. Registration flyer is on the council website. Bouldering wall (climbing), archery and bb gun, crafts, games, and entertainment all included plus a patch and t-shirt (provided registration is in May 21st). EARN THE SUMMERTIME PACK AWARD with monthly activities like this!

AUGUST 10TH FALL ROUND UP (SCHOOL NIGHT) and TIGER MENTOR SESSION

Plan now to have your date set for your fall sign up the week of September 28th. Find out more at our session on Monday August 10th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Scout office. We will also discuss the importance of Tiger Mentoring in your pack. Contact your school now to set up a booth at the open house in August and order flyers from me plus coordinate a boy talk in the school with me ahead of the Fall Round Up night.

FALL TRAINING

Saturday September 26th is a council-wide training day at the Scout office so plan your fall to get your new leaders and parents into the sessions. The flyer is on the website.

INFORMATION for BOY SCOUTS

SUMMER CAMPS

Be sure to turn in your tour permit for attending summer camp. This is needed since our council does not have the facilities so you attend another council's summer camp. Enjoy your fun filled week of merit badges and troop activities!

YOUTH LEADER TRAINING MAY/JUNE

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Red Pine will be done this year over two weekends so sign up now. It is critical to developing key YOUTH leaders for your troop. Key sessions on leadership, team building, decision making and conflict resolution are offered. This is a national BSA training and modeled after Wood Badge courses for leaders. THIS REPLACES JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING. Trained youth and adult staff provide the instruction May 29-31 and June 5-7 at Parker. Questions contact Paul Ravenberg at paul@bsacmc.org or 320-251-3930 ext 115. http://www.bsacmc.org/2009_NYLT_Info_Registration.pdf

ROCK CLIMBING MAY, JUNE, AUGUST

Our climbing instructor's course is coming up in May 15-17 at Blue Mound State Park near Luverne MN. The climbing merit badge is Saturday June 20th (rain day June 27th) – participation is limited so sign up now. A climbing day August 29th at Quarry Park is also scheduled. Check out our flyers on the ROCK CLIMBING page on the council website. Facilitator training for the portable bouldering wall is being offered June 1st from 6:30 to 9 pm – if you are using the bouldering wall, you must take this training. See the website for more information. The council has climbing gear to rent, once you have a certified instructor or pick from the list on the website. Earn your climbing patch or merit badge this year!

We are getting our program accredited May 15 to 17th at Blue Mound State Park.

HUNTERSVILLE CANOE TRIP DISCOUNTS

Check out <http://www.huntersvillecanoeoutfitters.com/Reservations.htm> for information or contact Huntersville Canoe Outfitters in Menahga, MN at 218-564-4279 or 800-279-6588 or email at hotdk2@wcta.net.

BRING A BUDDY

There is no time like the present to invite a friend to join Scouting. See if he has any interest and have him come to a meeting or outing (with your Scoutmaster's permission). If he is your friend, he must like some of the same things you do. Also fulfills the advancement criteria for having a friend attend a Scouting meeting/event. Sometimes people are looking for youth interaction and activities in their schedules and don't know they can join Boy Scout, even if they were never in Cub Scouts. Parents might not realize this either so go ahead and inform them of this great opportunity you have to offer.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR LIST

The list is being updated now – let me know if you want to continue. Some folks have been sent a postcard, others invited to stay on by email. Help get the word out on merit badges. Let me know if we can use your email for people to contact you or if you just want it to check for annual renewal on the list. Help us get you in touch with boys that need merit badges for their advancement. Let's make sure we have the correct contact information available.

OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION

VENTURER – DO YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER INTERESTED?

YES this program is offered for females aged 14 and through 8th grade as well as males. You can participate through age 20 as a youth in high adventure activities of your choosing on a schedule of your choosing. You can utilize the troop committee for assistance in the program. Check this out at www.scouting.org/venturing today!

EXPLORERS

Are you unsure what you want to do with the rest of your life? How about joining Exploring? This is a great opportunity to check out various careers with minimal costs to you. There is currently a post for law enforcement (St Cloud), fire/rescue (St Cloud), health careers (Sauk Centre and St Cloud) and soon one in Zoology in Freeport. Other potential options are aviation in the St Cloud area and a general business option also. You determine your schedule and some have a preset schedule for you to check out. THIS IS ANOTHER OPTION IN SCOUTING AND IT IS COED. www.learningforlife.org then click on EXPLORING.

VARSIITY – JUST WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources and scroll down then click on VARSITY TEAM for more information on this great program to keep older youth in the program and offer options unique to them.

THANKS FOR HAVING YOUR FAMILY IN OUR FAMILY OF SCOUTING!