

November 2009 - SCENIC District E-Newsletter

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FALL ROUND RESULTS

It has been an interesting process this fall with fall recruitment. The council plan was presented to units August 10th and information was passed out at the September 8th roundtable. Each school night should have had a commissioner or district volunteer in attendance if I did not make it.

27% of new boys recruited in the fall, drop by December 31st nationally in the BSA – why? Did not get a den meeting schedule or unit meeting schedule, did not have a den leader trained and in place, did not have quality meetings, or did not understand what Scouting is about due to a poor fall round up meeting. Having a parent mentor can help – see information on the national website www.scouting.org or let me know.

What can you do to meet your unit goal posted in our lobby by November 30th?
Do another sign up night at an upcoming meeting or outing. We can do flyers for you.
Promote Scouting locally through the media with articles about what you have done with pictures and contact information. Promote future events/outings.
Have your son talk to his friends in school about joining your unit.
Talk with your neighbors about joining or have a booth at a school family fair.

CENTENNIAL QUALITY UNIT UPDATE

Now is the time to apply for your Centennial Quality Unit awards by filling out the form in the kiosk at the front desk if your unit met its commitment goals for 2009. Fill out the commitment sheet at the bottom and turn in to the front desk to note your 2009 accomplishments. Turn in the order form for the recognition strips to the trading post.

Forms for 2010 will come out in January for 2010 – don't turn in the one from the recharter page online for 2009.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING 2010

We ran short of our goal for 2009 and still need all pledges paid by 12/30. For 2010 let me know when your unit presentation will be done if you have not already submitted it.

ANNUAL RENEWAL

Each year your unit gets a new code for rechartering and those will come out at the November 3 roundtable or request through me. Be sure you print your COMPLETED renewal AFTER you SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL. Print the charter agreement. Have the renewal and agreement signed by the charter organization. Include your check for the fees as listed on the renewal. All adult applications must be signed by the committee chair and the charter organization before submitting with your recharter renewal. Our goal is Cub Scout retention of 72%, Boy Scout retention of 80% and Venture retention of 75%. REMEMBER IT IS \$15 FOR EACH BSA REGISTRATION FOR 2010.

CHARTER ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION MAY 2010

Now is the time to consider nominating your charter sponsor for recognition at our spring program expo May 4 of 2010. A simple letter noting their contribution to your unit and your community to my attention for our district committee consideration.

TRAINING PILOT 2010

Our council has been selected to pilot test training recording for top leaders of all of our units. Please help us get you the training you need for your position as Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or Crew Adviser. Many offerings are online and are recorded on your profile on our database. Look for a call or request in the near future to check to be sure you have the proper training for your position. You should each have FAST START, YOUTH PROTECTION, THIS IS SCOUTING, and SPECIFIC TRAINING completed for your current position. Scoutmasters also need OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS.

HEALTH FORM UPDATES

RECOMMENDED ANNUAL MEDICAL EVALUATION as determined by your doctor. This does not mean an automatic physical. Check out the www.scouting.org/scoutingsafely link for more information and see the Frequently Asked Questions section. 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.

NEW PARENT INITIATIVE

Remember to get new parents involved in your unit. The BSA national website www.scouting.org has lots of information on involving new parents.

CENTENNIAL BSA FEB 8 2010

We have information on our council website as we near our CENTENNIAL anniversary. Make it a part of your February meetings.

WEBELOS ESSENTIALS NOVEMBER 17 2009

There is a training session for new or prospective Webelos den leaders or assistants at our office on Tuesday November 17, 2009 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Let me know if you can attend or advise our receptionist.

DAY CAMP 2010 FLIGHT

On December 5th, the council day camp chairs will meet to select stations for 2010 Day Camp using the theme of FLIGHT. Look for more information at the February roundtables. It would be nice to have a unit contact to pass along the information to and coordinate your pack's attendance – Scenic Day Camp July 12 and 13 at Millstream Park in St Joseph.

ROCK CLIMBING

Use the indoor climbing walls over the winter to stay in shape. Prepare for climbing over the summer by attending our instructor's course May 14-16 at Blue Mound State Park. We also have a June climbing merit badge program at Quarry Park in Waite Park plus other opportunities coming out in 2010 for your unit.

BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR LIST

The list is on the SCENIC page and is password protected. Your unit leader should have the password or call me to get it. The list will be updated online quarterly. All merit badge counselors need to submit an application for annual renewal as a counselor AT NO COST.

VENTURER COED PROGRAM

Youth aged 14 and through 8th grade 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.

EXPLORER PROGRAM

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), and health careers (St Cloud). We are open to new opportunities in any career field. You determine your schedule and some have a preset schedule for you to check out. Check it out at www.learningforlife.org/exploring today!

COUNCIL COORDINATED PROGRAM MEETING

Our quarterly council meeting with district committee members and commissioner staff is coming up December 5 to review programs in Cub, Boy, and Venturing plus Unit Service. We review the current status of our council and future plans and strategies. Any input is welcome from our unit volunteers and parents.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR SCOUTING!