



Cherokee Area Council
 520 S Quapaw
 Bartlesville OK 74003
 Phone: 918-336-9170
 Fax: 918-512-4789
 Toll Free 888-269-1328
<http://www.cherokeebbsa.org>

Cherokee Scouter

An official publication of the Cherokee Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

April 2012

In this Issue

Anniversary Eagle Patch	1
Eagle Scouts.....	1
OA Spring Fellowship	2
Cub and One	2
2012 OA Section Conclave.....	2
BALOO training.....	2
Cub Scout Day Camp.....	3
Boots on the Ground.....	3
Tulsa Drillers Scout Sleepover.....	4
NOAC 2012	4
Training completed	4
Indian Nations Council	
Resident Camp.....	4
Jamboree 2013	5
Jamboree Band	5
Grand Lake District News.....	5
Spring Camporee Pictures	6
BSA Endowment Corner	7
WANTED-BOY SCOUT CAMP STAFF	7
On Increasing Advancement.....	7
The Cub Scout Angle.....	8
Join BSA'S Scouting Research	
Panels	8
Innovation Challenge	8
National Outdoor Badges	9
Scout Challenge	9
New Troop Leadership Training	
for Bronze JTE	10
Newest Merit Badges	11
BEST METHODS Portal	
now available to all	
Commissioners	11
Update to Campfire Songs	
Scout App.....	12
Trail to Eagle Scout App	12
Cub Scouts Give Thanks	
Theme for April.....	13
Spring Backpacking Season	
– Get Ready.....	13
Philmont Scout Ranch Trails Map ...	15
Upcoming Key Dates.....	16

Anniversary Eagle Patch 100th Anniversary of the First Eagle Scout

One hundred years ago, Arthur Rose Eldred became the first Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. That was on Aug. 21, 1912.

Since then, 2 million other Scouts have attained this distinction.

To celebrate, those youth who earn the Eagle Scout rank during 2012 have the opportunity to wear the 1912–2012 Eagle Scout Centennial patch.

This is a great time to earn your Eagle rank and be one of the few people that have this centennial Eagle patch. Get your Eagle project underway early, and start on those Eagle required merit badges, as several have 3 month long requirements to complete. Be a part of BSA history with a patch that Scouts earn only once every 100 years!



Eagle Scouts



Only 5 percent of the Scouts have achieved Eagle rank, Cherokee Area Council ranks above the national average in Eagle rank achievement.

Our congratulations go out to the following Scout who has achieved Eagle rank in the last month:

- Blake Parkinson – Troop 55 (Miami BMX Track 104 hours

Cherokee Area Council is proud of this Scout's achievement.

OA Spring Fellowship April 13-15

Come out and support the Lodge's main event. There will be work projects and games. This will be great practice for playing games, and ceremonies when the Lodge competes at Section Conclave.

Fellowship will be held at Camp McClintock. Information about registration will be available soon!

Cub and One April 27-28

Attention all Cub Scouts!

The annual Cub and One camp will be held on April 27th and 28th at Camp McClintock. All Cub Scouts and their parents are invited to attend this event.

We will be camping Friday night, have a free breakfast Saturday morning, and then games and activities during the morning. Camp will be dismissed around noon on Saturday.

Friday night will feature the second annual Cub and One Pinewood Derby race at 9:00 PM. Make sure to bring your cars to win cool prizes.



Everyone attending will need to fill out a brief health history form and the registration form available at the Scout office. **Please register before April 20th.**

Registration form -

<http://www.cherokeesbsa.org/activities/CubAndOne.pdf>

Check-in begins at 5:00 p.m. Friday (no supper provided but a cooking fire will be available if no burn ban) and camp ends at noon on Saturday. Breakfast is provided Saturday. You will need to bring your own tent, camping

gear, personal items, water bottles, etc. Please don't bring electronic items and games.

Cost of the event is \$10 per person and includes free breakfast, a late night snack, and prizes for pinewood derby winners.

Come join the fun!

2012 OA Section Conclave April 27-29

The Section 8 Conclave is scheduled for the weekend of April 27, 28, & 29 at Camp Rockefeller on the Gus Blass Scout Reservation near Damascus, Arkansas.

This annual event is attended by all seven lodges in the Section and is a great opportunity for any Arrowman looking to get further involved, compete in fun and exciting games, competitions and ceremony evaluations. Not to mention the fun you can have with everyone from your Lodge!

Section Conclave will include competitions in Indian events, training classes, patch trading, shows, games, and excellent food throughout the weekend. Each lodge will have the opportunity to demonstrate what makes it unique, and to gain experience from each other.

The registration fee is \$25 until March 22nd and will then jump to \$35 until April 13th. Registration may be completed online at www.sr-8.org.

MAP: http://www.quapawbsa.org/maps/state_map.pdf

BALOO training

A leader who has completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) training is required for Packs to camp. This training will be offered in the Grand Lake District on May 5th at 9:00a.m. at First Methodist Church (1005 Leisure Rd. Grove OK)



Since the BALOO

training course includes hands-on instruction, the class will move to Honey Creek State Park around 11:00 a.m. for a more hands on lab type setting. Participants will be cooking over a fire (Dutch oven etc.)

The course should conclude around 3 or 4 p.m. Copies of the BALOO workbook will be provided.

Cub Scout Day Camp

Osage Hills District

Osage Hills District will hold Cub Scout Day Camp at Camp McClintock, starting Tuesday, June 5, and ending

Join the Fun!



after campfire on Friday, June 8. Cub Scouts and their families may camp overnight on Friday.

Registration material has been mailed to each Cub Scout and is available online now.

Participant registration:

<http://www.cherokeebesa.org/activities/OH-Day-Camp-2012.pdf>

Pack Day Camp Coordinator should submit all participant registrations to the Scout Service Center no later than May 7th.

BOY SCOUT STAFF - To be on staff at Cub Scout Day Camp you must be a registered Boy Scout and attend staff training on Monday June 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Camp McClintock.

Boy Scout staff will be assigned to one of several program positions. Boy Scouts will be expected to be at camp from 1:00 p.m., Monday, June 4th, through Friday night at 9 PM June 8th.

Boy Scouts serving on Staff are expected to camp at the Cub Scout Day Camp. Two adults will serve as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for the Staff. Please bring everything that you need to camp with you. Food will be provided.

All staff members staying the night need an Annual Health and Medical Record parts A, B, and C. You will not be allowed on camp property without this form.

All those selected to serve on Staff will be expected to serve as an example to the Cub and Webelos Scouts present at the camp. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. In addition, Boy Scouts on Staff will be expected to wear a Day camp T-shirt whenever Cubs or Webelos are in camp, Class A uniforms may be required for ceremonies, otherwise Troop T- Shirt or Scouting T-shirt will be acceptable at all other times. They will be provided a day camp shirt and cup.

This year we will be allowing our Junior Staff (Boys ages 11 to 13) to camp. Junior staff positions will receive all of the same benefits of regular Boy Scout staff. Junior staff positions include den chiefs and runners. Only older staff will be allowed in the BB gun range and Archery range.

All staff must follow instructions given by the Camp Director, Program Director, and Scoutmasters. Parents will be notified of any misbehavior and the staff member will be dismissed.

This will be a fun and exciting camp with the opportunity to use program equipment after Cubs leave. We will also go swimming one night at Osage Hills, so bring a swimsuit.

If you are selected for Camp Staff you will be notified on or before May 11, 2012.

Boy Scout staff application:

<http://www.cherokeebesa.org/activities/2012StaffApplication.pdf>

Grand Lake District

Grand Lake District's Cub Scout Day Camp will start on Wednesday, June 13, and run through Friday, June 15.

Registration material will be mailed to each Cub Scout and will be available online soon.

Boy Scouts are needed to staff both Day Camps. Staff applications will be available online soon.

Boots on the Ground June 4

America's largest outdoor-trails event, **National Trails Day**, turns 20 on June 4. It's not too early to start planning your unit's celebration. "As an organization with a rich history of service, we see National Trails Day as a time to get out and help maintain those trails for

future Scouts and the public in general,” says Frank Reigelman, the BSA’s team leader of outdoor programs.

The nationwide event promotes access to trails for all and alerts the public to outdoor recreational opportunities. Not surprising, then, that Scouting would take a special interest in the nation’s 200,000 miles of trails.

Gregory Miller, president of the American Hiking Society and a former Life Scout, says National Trails Day, which is supported by all federal land- and water-management agencies, has seen spectacular growth – a 70 percent increase in planned NTD events between 2006 and 2011. And last year, he says, more than 3,400 miles of trails were maintained or constructed.

“There are so many opportunities to get involved,” Miller says. “Consider hiking, biking, equestrian activities, trail work, and environmental education. The important thing is to connect people with the trails.”

Miller also notes that about 200 Scout troops took part in last year’s event. “Our partnership with the BSA is very important, and we’d love to see more troops involved,” he says. “Any troop can do an NTD event in their community.”

For more information and to register your events, go to www.americanhiking.org

Tulsa Drillers Scout Sleepover July 27

The Tulsa Drillers 2012 Sleepover Under the Stars will be held at ONEOK Field on July 27th at 7 pm. Cost of the Campout is \$18.50 and includes:

- Field reserved seat
- Meal coupon
- Camp out on the outfield grass
- Movie on the Tulsa Drillers Video Board
- Snack after the game
- Light breakfast the next morning

Order your tickets today! Call Geoff Beaty at 918-574-8309 or e-mail geoff@tulsadrillers.com or mail the order form to 201 N. Elgin Ave Tulsa OK 74120

Order form –

<http://www.cherokeebbsa.org/activities/Tulsa-Drillers-Sleepover.pdf>

Individual field reserved seats at \$8.50 (sleepover/meal coupon not included)

NOAC 2012 July 30-August 4 Michigan State University

Sign up for the Council's NOAC contingent at the Scout office. **A \$100 deposit is needed to secure your spot.**

Questions? Call the contingent leader, Sean Urban, at 918-271-4816.

Training completed

One of the training requirements for Scoutmasters and Asst. Scoutmasters and Outdoor Venturing Crew leaders is *Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills*. Randy Wells conducted a session at Camp McClintock during March, and several in the council were trained. These included:

- Luis Acosta (T5)
- Curtis Acree (T1)
- Brian Coordsen (T3)
- Jason Horn (T2000)
- Doug Patterson (T2)
- Joshua Russ (T110)
- Telithia Russ (T110)
- Gary Warlick (T8).

We appreciate these leaders taking the training so that they can increase the quality of the program delivered in their units. Getting your top leaders trained is a major step in being able to provide a program that attracts and retains youth in your unit.

Indian Nations Council Resident Camp

Resident Camp is an overnight camping program held at [Babbitt Cub World at Zink Scout Ranch](#). Resident camp operates for **3 days and 2 nights** under the leadership

of Indian Nations Council. Campers have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs including **sports, handicrafts, nature, water activities, archery, BB guns** and much more.

- For Cub Scouts (first grade in the fall) and Webelos.
- You can camp as a Pack or as a Cub Scout and parent.
- There are comfortable tents, cots and modern bathroom facilities with private showers.
- Meals are prepared and in the Longhorn Palace dining hall.
- [Directions to Zink Scout Ranch.](#)

RESIDENT CAMP SESSIONS

Session 1	June 8-10
Session 2	June 15-17
Session 3	June 22-24
Session 4	June 29-July 1

- Check in starts Friday at 1 p.m.
- The first meal provided is dinner on Friday.
- You will depart after lunch on Sunday.

For more information see the Indian Nations Council web site <http://tinyurl.com/6t7ar3o>

Jamboree 2013 July 15-24, 2013

Perhaps you've been thinking about signing up for the 2013 National Scout Jamboree.

But wait! Not sure if you're into all that high adventure, all the time? Well, have no fear—the 2013 National Scout Jamboree will indeed be packed full of fun ... *all* kinds of fun!

[At the 2013 National Scout Jamboree](#), participants will get to trade patches like they never have before, check out Technology Quest, work on merit badge requirements, and have lots of free time to do whatever their hearts desire.

In the coming months, the [Summit Blog](#) will focus on a series of stories that detail "a day in the life" at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. Stay tuned there for all the

latest news and information about the jamboree and its exciting new high-adventure base home.

In the meantime, what are you waiting for? You don't want to miss out on being a part of something historic. [Register](#) for the 2013 jamboree today!

Jamboree Band

The Jamboree Band is now forming and is looking for musicians. The staff band will supply music for ceremonies, events, concerts, arena shows, and will entertain the many thousands of Scouts and visitors to the 18th National Jamboree.

Repertoire will include popular and patriotic music, marches, and pep band tunes.

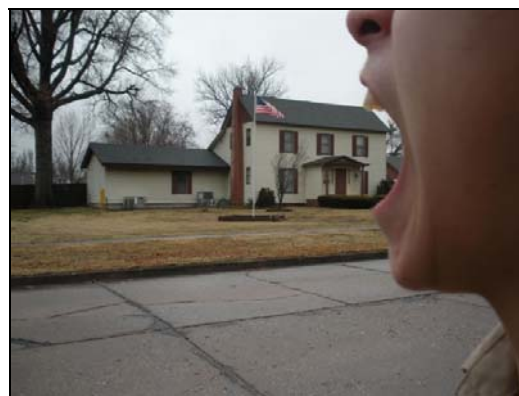
Scout/musicians who can double on set, guitar, bass and keyboard are needed for the 16 piece jazz band.

Scouts and Venturers ages 16 - 25 may apply. Adults (26 and up) may apply, however initial preference will go to youth staff.

For information about the band and how to apply, please visit jamboband.org or feel free to email the director George.Pinchock@villanova.edu

Grand Lake District News

Scouts in the GL District conducted "Scouting for Food" while playing a fun treasure hunt game with a camera



Scout eating a house
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



Our Scouting for Food crew
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



Scouts with one of our Pinewood derby sponsors!
Shout N Sack in Vinita.
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)

Spring Camporee Pictures



Paul Fuhrmeister, master of the log cutting competition
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



Molten Fudge Cake – Narwal Patrol
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



The golden dragon patrol Dutch oven cinnamon rolls.
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



Champion apple turnovers from T-66 leader patrol!
(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)



(Photo courtesy of Dan Childers)

BSA Endowment Corner Vacations And Wills

Would you consider going on a vacation trip without some advance planning? Selecting the destination and travel itinerary, making the needed reservations, choosing the appropriate clothing and notifying friends or neighbors of your plans are important elements of a pleasant vacation experience.

One item that many people overlook is the need to review your will prior to departing for vacation. Has your family situation, or other factors, changed such that it would warrant the appropriate changes in your will?

Many people find it difficult to face their own mortality. As a result, they put off doing something that could greatly benefit the people and organizations they love and who rely upon them. Preparing for the future and protecting your loved ones is an important way to apply the Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared". This small investment in time will ensure that your desires with respect to family, friends, and worthy organizations like Scouting will be carried out.

If you would like more information about this or other ways to make a charitable gift, please contact John Howk. You can reach him at 918-293-7572 or contact the Scout Service center to arrange an appointment.

Please note: The information in this communication is not legal or tax advice. The BSA Cherokee Area Council # 469 is pleased to offer complimentary gift and estate planning assistance, however, we urge you to seek the advice of a competent professional before implementing any ideas we suggest to you.

WANTED-BOY SCOUT CAMP STAFF

Are you 14 years old and want to serve the youth of our Scouting community by being a member of our Cimarron Council Will Rogers Scout Reservation Camp Staff team?

Do you want to have some fun this summer and work with us to provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for the scouts and ourselves?

Can you be friendly and willing to serve while completing your assigned duty?

If your answer is YES!!!!, then download a Boy Scout Summer Camp staff application from www.cimarronbsa.org and get it in to Brian Lechner at the Scout Office (317 N Grand, Enid OK 73701).

On Increasing Advancement Integrating Advancement Activities in the Unit

Is advancement an integral part of the fun and program in your unit? Are you using advancement as a tool as you play Baden-Powell's "game with a purpose"? On the other hand, perhaps there isn't much advancement in your unit and you're not sure why. An example might reveal some ways to make improvements. Let's say your patrol leaders' council has decided on an upcoming campout where the featured activity will be to build a trebuchet. Let's see how we might prepare for this exciting weekend activity.

In the weeks leading up to the campout, the meeting activities would include instruction on splicing and lashing, making a rope, building a scale model of a signal tower or monkey bridge, building trestles, and making a commando rope.

Games at the meetings would include knot-tying games, splicing games, and lashing games.

Some of the older Scouts would make presentations on "What in the world is a trebuchet?" and cover the design of the trebuchet, ropes and how to care for them, use of rope tackle, throwing a rope, and how to build trestles.

In patrol meetings, patrol leaders would review first aid for injuries or illness that could occur while working on pioneering projects, Tenderfoot and First Class knot requirements, and menu preparation for the campout.

Activities at the campout would include throwing a rope, using a rope tackle, building trestles, patrol cooked meals, and finally, building a trebuchet and using it to propel water balloons downfield at a target the Scouts might deem interesting.

What have you accomplished as you prepare your Scouts for fun on a campout? With a little background administration, every Scout who participated fully will have earned the Pioneering merit badge. Some will have completed a number of requirements for the

Communications and Camping merit badges. Many younger Scouts will have completed first aid, knots, camping, and cooking requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class.

Was there a motivation for all of these activities? Certainly! It was all about getting ready for an exciting activity. It was to prepare for fun. Nobody was sitting around in a troop meeting “classroom” because “we need this stuff for advancement.” This is the method of advancement in action. In fact, this is advancement defined: recognizing Scouts for what they achieve while they have fun. In this way your unit will grow and you’ll have many opportunities to influence character in your youth. Isn’t this what we’re all about?

The Cub Scout Angle What Is “Do Your Best”?

Do Your Best. Not only is it the Cub Scout motto, but it is the standard for Cub Scout advancement performance. Even though Cub Scout-age youth can have very different developmental timetables, we know they can succeed if we teach them to always do their best. Thus, Do Your Best means to do one’s own personal best. It is not a competitive standard. For example, D.J.’s personal best may be quantitatively better than his fellow Cub Scout Brian’s best, but as long as D.J. and Brian each do their own personal best, both have met the standard. Do Your Best does not mean do it perfectly. When a boy has done his very best, accomplishment is noted and the requirement is met. See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.1.0.4.

As a boy begins in Cub Scouting, his parent or adult partner should sign off in his handbook for the Bobcat trail and Tiger Cub achievements. The den leader then approves, as progress is recorded in the den’s advancement record. For Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light, den leaders and their assistants take the lead in approving requirements. Additionally, parents or guardians who help at meetings may be asked to assist.

Generally, between the parent or guardian, den leader, and assistants, they will know if effort put forth is truly a Cub Scout’s best or if he should be reminded to give the requirement another try with his own personal best. When Do Your Best is the evaluation and parents or guardians get involved, Cub Scout advancement achieves success.

Join BSA’S Scouting Research Panels

Would you like to become part of our Scouting research panel? By signing up, you agree to receive surveys via e-mail on a variety of topics related to your Scouting experience, the Scouting program, or other areas of interest to Scouting.

Your information will only be used for research purposes by the national office of the Boy Scouts of America. Your identity in all surveys is kept confidential and results of the surveys are only reported as a group; no individual responses will be identified. We will not send you more than four surveys a year.

(Please have your membership card available.)

To sign up for a panel:

Boy Scout and Venturing youth (14 years old and older) click here

<http://bsa2.allegiantech.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=BNSS2G>

Parents of Cub Scouts click here

<http://bsa2.allegiantech.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=7C5PTU>

Registered volunteers click here

<http://bsa2.allegiantech.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=UWN7QV>

Innovation Challenge

BSA and Edison Nation®, an idea-to-shelf product developer, have launched the **Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge**. The Innovation Challenge is looking to today’s kids to develop tomorrow’s products. Whether the invention solves a problem around the house, the yard, or at school; helps you take better care of your pet; or creates a new way to learn or play, the goal is to inspire young minds to submit creative, new product ideas.

Open to all boys and girls ages 7 to 21 years old, the challenge does not require that the young person be a member of BSA in order to participate.



Edison Nation works with everyday people and inventors to turn their extraordinary ideas into products sold by major retailers. It is free to join the Edison Nation® online community and costs \$25 to submit an idea (just \$10 for current Boy Scouts of America members who submit a challenge idea). Because the Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge is for youth inventors, a parent or guardian is required to be involved during the submission process for those under the age of 18.

To help promote the Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge to our membership, we've created banner promotions that can be used on your local council website, or by units of your council if they so choose. Instructions for using the banners are included. To request these email banners or promotional material, contact Mallori Winters at mallori.winters@scouting.org. In addition, ready-to-use social media blurbs are also available.

The Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge ends May 7, 2012. To learn more about the challenge or to submit an idea, visit:

www.edisonnation.com/boyscouts

National Outdoor Badges

Do you enjoy camping under the stars, rafting a whitewater river, or hitting the trail afoot, on a bike, or even on a horse? Can you pitch a tent, find your way, and bandage an ankle using only materials in your pack? Are you prepared to do any of these in rain, snow, sleet, or heat? If so, the National Outdoor Awards are for you. There is nothing virtual about these awards—you can earn them only by demonstrating knowledge and experience in the outdoors. So, if you are a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout and think you are tough and disciplined enough to hike or ride the miles, camp the nights, and run the rivers or lakes, then read on and see if the

National Outdoor badges or possibly the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement could be for you!

National Outdoor Badges for Camping, Hiking, Aquatics, Riding, and Adventure

Now when a Scout excels in outdoor participation, there are new awards to show for it! This program, conceived by the National Camping Task Force of the BSA®, includes a series of five badges designed to recognize a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who has exemplary knowledge and experience in performing high-level outdoor activities.



The award consists of five emblem segments positioned around the perimeter of a beautiful center emblem. All are embroidered in full color. The segments represent five areas of emphasis: Riding, Hiking, Camping, Aquatics, and Adventure, with rigorous requirements to earn each segment. The center emblem features an outdoor scene with fleur-de-lis and the words "National Outdoor Awards."

For more information, see the BSA web site <http://scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards/NOA.aspx>

Scout Challenge

Scout Challenge is a fun program to reward scouts for actively participating in scout events and expanding the Scouting influence in their every-day lives. By encouraging scouts to complete certain tasks, the depth and breadth of your unit's scouting grows the direction you want.

Scouts

You track your completion of the current Scout Challenge and receive recognition when you finish.

- The Scout Challenge is completely *On Your Honor* and you track your progress.
- When a Challenge Item is completed, enter your completion date.

- Receive recognition patches and year pins to collect.

Unit Leaders

You design and monitor your unit's customized Scout Challenge - see a Sample Challenge

<http://scoutchallenge.com/sample.php>

- Completely customized to your unit's goals. Would you like scouts to complete more merit badges, or get better at knots, or provide more service? Add more Challenge Items that promote your goals.
- Create Challenge Items specific for your unit, or choose from a long list of premade tasks.
- View the status of each scout towards completion.
- View past Scout Challenges to help prepare upcoming years.
- Encourage Packs or Troops in your area to start their own Scout Challenge so Cubs can continue their collection of year pins all the way through their Scouting career.
- Order recognition patches and year pins for your scouts.
- Two patch style choices.
- Annual pins "2011", "2012", ... recognize scouts every year.
- Consider adding 'adult only' Challenge Items so those great volunteers can also be recognized each year.



Why Bother?

- Use *Scout Challenge* because it's an easy, fun, and inexpensive way to make your program more interesting and rewarding.
- How many awards are there that grow with a Cub Scout as he progresses through to Boy Scouts and Venturing? **There are none**

- Would your scouts like a patch to which a pin can be added every year? **Absolutely**
- When Cub Scouts cross over into a Boy Scout troop, they can continue to earn year pins.
- The award has significance each year since the requirements change.
- There are many helpful activities scouts do that receive no recognition. With *Scout Challenge*, you can encourage those activities and recognize them in a fun, tangible way.
- It provides continuity from Pack to Troop, promoting improved retention.
- Older scouts can be challenged to push themselves and remain active.

For more information, see the Scout Challenge web site <http://scoutchallenge.com/default.php>

New Troop Leadership Training for Bronze JTE

A new program for training Scouts called **Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops** has been released by BSA. This is a required item to achieve bronze level of performance for your troop (item 4 Trained Leadership) in the Journey to excellence. This level has training requirements for youth leader positions and adult SM and ASMs.

It is noted that Scoutmaster and all Asst. SMs (paid or multiple registration) have completed Leader Specific Training. The youth leadership needs to have been through this new leadership training program. The description of it is below, with a link to the syllabus for leaders to use.

The Silver level adds Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills for SM and all ASMs, or if new within six months of joining. The Gold level adds all troop committee members have completed Troop Committee Challenge.

About This Course

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops is a guide meant to offer the Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader a flexible training program for troop leaders. It is not a syllabus to be followed verbatim; every troop is different. Trainers can review the resource material and adapt it to their individual troop's needs Training Boy

Scouts to be leaders is an ongoing process that begins immediately when a Scout accepts a leadership position in his troop.

Leadership experiences can be frustrating and disappointing for a Scout who is not given the knowledge, skills, and encouragement that he must have to fulfill his leadership assignment. It is the Scoutmaster's responsibility to make sure the Scout has all the necessary tools and to coach and mentor the Scout to be successful.

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops is organized into three modules, each of which should take 60 to 90 minutes to complete, with additional optional games and challenges to enhance the leadership lessons (and fun) of the course.

- **Module One—Troop Organization** includes a description of each leadership position in the troop, including roles and responsibilities, troop organization, and introductions to vision and servant leadership.

- **Module Two—Tools of the Trade** covers some core skill sets to help the Scout lead, including communicating, planning, and teaching.

- **Module Three—Leadership and Teamwork** incorporates additional leadership tools for the Scout, including discussions of teams and team characteristics, the stages of team development and leadership, inclusion/using your team, ethics and values of a leader, and a more in-depth review of vision.

This course may be conducted over three different days, one module at a time, perhaps before a regular troop meeting that incorporates some of the optional games.

The course may also be conducted in one session. If this single-day format is used, it is important to include several breaks for two reasons: Without breaks, participants will become overloaded and bored; and participants often benefit from being able to immediately spend some time thinking about, discussing, and even applying new leadership skills to their positions (perhaps by writing goals or brainstorming about new activity ideas).

A preferred option is to spread this course over a weekend activity with meals, camping, or other activities interspersed between the modules.

Make the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops experience a fun event for the entire troop to look forward to.

Link to online syllabus:

<http://scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/ILST%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-016.pdf>

Newest Merit Badges

Kayaking

Estimated release: May 2012

Requirements: Coming soon!

Description: A basic-level merit badge for flat-water kayaking — whitewater kayaking will still fall under [Whitewater merit badge](#).



Search and Rescue

Estimated release: June 2012

Requirements: Coming soon!

Description: Scouts won't fly helicopters, but they'll get practice in finding and rescuing people in case a real emergency ever happens.



Game Design

Estimated release: 2013

Requirements: TBD

Description: Slated to include both traditional games and video games, this sure-to-be-popular merit badge will test Scouts' creativity, computer skills, and planning abilities.



BEST METHODS Portal now available to all Commissioners

If you have a Best Method Practice that is successful and working in your council, district, or units that you serve related to Unit Service, feel free to share it with others by following the instructions below: The system is extremely easy to use.

Submission Instructions:

1. Sign into www.myscouting.org .
2. Enter your user name and password. (This is the same user name and password that you used for Youth Protection Training, etc.). If you have lost it or do not have one, please contact the BSA Help Desk at 972-580-2267.
3. In the MyScouting home page, select the last item in the left navigation column, "Best Practices."
4. Please feel free to use all types of data (PDF, jpg, Word, Excel, videos, etc.).
5. Once inside the Best Practices Portal, click the button "Submit a Best Practice" and complete the requested entry fields.

Thank you for sharing your "Unit Service Best Methods" with your fellow Commissioners who serve to support Units in our local councils. You truly are making a difference in the lives of Scouting youth!

Update to Campfire Songs Scout App

Dan from ScoutApps.net would like to announce an update for the Campfire Songs Scout app on the iOS. Dan's also the creator of [Helleniechsin](#) featured here last month.

New in Version 1.3

20 new songs (some submitted by Megan and by Ginger Mikulich-Lapsansky) bringing the total up to 170 songs!



Another round of cleanup on the song book, with improvements in lyrics and in the names of the tunes to which they are sung.

The biggest new feature has also been one of the most requested features for this Scout app. Tune playback under iOS 5. Currently there is only a limited selection of songs. It's using Midi files to keep the size down. So the tune is very basic, however the feature is intended to help learn new songs and not to groove on while driving.



Trail to Eagle Scout App

Following the great theme of great Scout Apps hitting the market lately, another is rolling out.

[Trail to Eagle](#) is a Boy Scout reference for your Smartphone available on iOS, [Android](#), and Windows Phone 7. With the Trail to Eagle a Scout can quickly look up the Scout Oath or Promise, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, or Outdoor Code. They can track their progress along their trail to Eagle, including all ranks; Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle are available. Scouts can also review merit badge requirements.

After test driving Trail to Eagle, the features are easy to use. The Merit Badge requirements are easy to access and rather complete; however the new Welding MB is not listed. Tracking progress is accomplished by checking boxes next to the requirements. Having the ability to type in completed merit badges for each rank would enhance the functionality.



About the Developer

Peter is an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 10 in Augusta, GA. He's a software developer by trade and had been interested in developing an application for Android and iOS but could never find anything too motivating. One day he noticed that boys carried smart phones more often than their Scout books which made him think that it would be much easier to get the Scouting materials in front of the boys if he put it on their smart phones. Trail2Eagle was born. Improvements are in the works including adding a social/achievement part to the Scout app by integrating it with [Facebook](#) and/or Twitter.

Cub Scouts Give Thanks Theme for April



Each month, the Cub Scout program focuses on a core value. The Cub Scout April theme is [Faith](#). BSA has started releasing theme based pack meeting plans for each of these core values. I hear that the new April theme will be [Cub Scouts Give Thanks](#). So this month, I'll be highlighting some ways that thankfulness can be

incorporated into the Cub Scout program on my site [ScouterMom.com](#).

This April theme for Cub Scouts brings to mind both thankfulness to the Creator and remembering to show appreciation to each other. This thankfulness theme also presents a good opportunity for your Cub Scouts to thank everyone who helps them with the program – their parents, their leaders, and the chartering organization. Have your Cub Scouts spend some time writing thank you notes to them, or come up with a creative way for the Cubs to show their appreciation.

RELATED CUB SCOUT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

Bear Achievement 18 – Jot It Down

- Requirement e: Write a thank you note.

Good Manners Belt Loop

- Requirement 3: Write a thank-you note to someone who has given you something or done something nice for you.

Computers Pin

- Requirement 6: Use a computer to prepare a thank-you letter to someone.

Spring Backpacking Season – Get Ready

The following is a Guest Article by Mike Dubrall. Mike "Uncle Dub Zero" Blogs and writes informative articles on backpacking and snow camping at [50Miler.com](#).

It's Spring – a time when every good Scout starts thinking about his backpack. Across the country, people are pulling their packs out of the closet, cleaning out the leftover food from last year, and getting ready for the practice hikes ahead. Many with the goal of completing a 50 mile backpacking trip before the end of the summer.

Everyone agrees that wilderness backpacking embodies all of the core Scouting values. Accordingly Scout leaders often ask, "How do we start a backpacking program in our Troop or Crew?" It's not really complex, but here is a straight-forward plan for getting your guys onto the trail. The steps are not necessarily in chronological order but ,the last step loops back to the first step every year.



Promote the backpacking program with pictures and exciting stories.

1. Promote backpacking in your Troop: Younger Scouts and many adults will not associate the idea of carry heavy packs over long distances with fun – so they have to be convinced. Start slowly, schedule a few short trips and propagate stories about success and overcoming adversity. Then get everyone to agree on a goal of completing a 50miler or going to Philmont in the near future. Remember, it's not just the older Scouts and Scouters that have to be won over – parents also have to understand the benefits of a backpacking program.

2. Pick Dates for the adventure: With everyone's busy schedules, spontaneity is not possible. Select a week for the big trip about six months in advance and let everyone know so they can arrange their calendars accordingly. (If you want to have your hike in August, then select the dates in February.) Most of the details, including where you are going, can be worked out later. (Philmont participants usually have to commit to their dates 18 months in advance!)

Schedule a 50 miler six months ahead of time.

3. Have a planning meeting: Schedule a gathering of potential hikers and then advertise it in ways that attract most of the target audience. This planning meeting is about building enthusiasm for the backpacking program, scheduling practice hikes, assigning responsibilities, discussing dietary restrictions or physical challenges, and electing leaders. It is also a great opportunity to talk about the dates of the 50 miler and potential locations.

4. Publish a Pack List: Successful youth backpacking trips require good pack lists and the leadership to enforce their use. However, developing a pack list is a philosophical exercise with many possible and

contradictory outcomes. Every unit has their own list, based upon location, leadership philosophy, anticipated routes, and even hiking history. (leaders can be very passionate about their own lists!) Publishing the pack list (months or years) ahead of time allows parents to buy what they need without pressure. Set a deadline about a month before the 50 miler for acquiring all the gear and conduct a rigorous pack check about a week before you leave.

5. Conduct Practice Hikes: Arm the group with a practice hike schedule that includes dates, times, required pack weights, locations, responsibilities, and discussion topics. Each hike, in addition to the conditioning aspect, is an opportunity to increase the group's knowledge about topics like wilderness first aid, maps and compass, bear bagging, water purification, hygiene, trail safety, and cooking. In addition to the regular outing schedule, our Troop schedules ten Venture practice hikes including three overnights every Spring. The minimum requirement in order to go on the 50 miler that summer is four hikes with appropriate weights, including one overnights.



Practice hikes are an important part of the 50 miler experience.

6. Complete the 50 miler: Armed with a map, permits, medical forms, emergency plan, food, and all the equipment on the pack list the group is transported to the trailhead for their big adventure. Remember to take lots of pictures for the Court of Honor. It's also nice to have parents waiting at the end with fruit, root beer floats, and pizza to welcome home their young warriors and listen to them talk about their misfortunes and exploits.

Unfortunately, many potential hikers (and parents) balk at wilderness backpacking because of the perceived risks and potential hardships – or because they fear the unknown. Other families are hesitant because they panic at the thought of investing in equipment before they even know if their son or daughter is going to enjoy the experience. This irrational fear, panic, and paranoia keeps too many Scouts and Scouters at home.

However, it is not uncommon for Scouts to stand up at their Eagle Courts of Honor and talk enthusiastically about how backpacking experiences changed their lives or inspired them to new achievements. One said, “I don’t remember many days of my life, but I do remember vividly every day of every 50 miler I have ever been on.” With this kind of testimonial, adult leaders should do everything in their power to provide opportunities for Scouts to experience wilderness backpacking as often as possible.

Mike Dubrall writes about backpacking, snow camping, and other high adventure outings at 50Miler.com. His email is miked@50miler.com or you can be connected through the [50miler.com Outing Resource Center on Facebook](#)

Philmont Scout Ranch Trails Map

Mark Hinch has recently posted a Garmin-compatible "IMG" file on gpsfiledepot.com showing almost all Philmont trails. This is a compilation of tracks from his own treks to Philmont plus info from MANY other people and is all double checked against available satellite imagery.

The file represents about 94% of the trails at Philmont. The commentary at gpsfiledepot.com describes what is missing.

Any comments on making this all more useful would be welcome.

Enjoy Philmont, aka Scouting Heaven!

Upcoming Key Dates

Check the Council web site (<http://www.cherokeebesa.org>) for more information about these events.

Apr. 5 – OH District Roundtable, Unit Commissioners, and OA Chapter meeting

Apr. 12 – OH District Eagle Boards of Review

Apr. 12 – GL District Roundtable and OA Chapter meeting

Apr. 13-15 – OA Spring Fellowship

Apr. 27-28 – Cub and One

Apr. 27-29 – OA Section Conclave

May 3 - OH District Roundtable, Unit Commissioners, and OA Chapter meeting

May 5 – BALOO training, First Methodist Church, Grove

May 10 – OH District Eagle Boards of Review

May 10 – GL District Roundtable and OA Chapter meeting

June 5-8 – OH District Cub Scout Day Camp

June 13-16 – GL District Cub Scout Day Camp