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Cherokee Scouter

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

February 2012

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Eagle Scouts

Tell your story in a new book

What's the greatest story never told?

Yours.

Specifically, your trail to Eagle and the ways it changed your life — both during and after.

Whether you earned Scouting's top honor six days or six decades ago, your tale is worth sharing. So submit it to the Boy Scouts



of America and licensee DK Publishing, which are teaming up to create a special book commemorating 100 years of Eagle Scouts.

A book about Eagle Scouts written by Eagle Scouts like you? Sounds sweet.

Here's the deal:

- Tell the BSA what being an Eagle Scout means to you and how it has influenced your life. Or tell them about a favorite memory along your trail to Eagle.
- Keep your submission to 250 words or less.
- E-mail your write up to licensing@scouting.org with the subject line "Eagle Scout Book."
- **Send it by midnight on Feb. 28, 2012.**
- If you have a photo of yourself in uniform and would like to share it for consideration, attach it

to your e-mail. The photo's resolution should be *at least* 300 dpi at 5-by-7 inches to be usable.

Then you wait. In early April, the BSA and DK will select testimonials to put in the book, and those Eagle Scouts will be contacted directly.

Good luck, and thanks for sharing your story!

FOS ANNUAL PATRON DINNER February 23

The Cherokee Area Council Boy Scouts of America announces its annual Patron Dinner to be held Thursday, February 23, 2012 at the Bartlesville Community Center. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm.

To honor all Friends of Scouting (FOS) Patrons and to encourage new members, the Cherokee Area Council is pleased to announce that the featured entertainer for this year is Capstone the Magician.

Master Magician Capstone has brought mystery and laughter to audiences for over 27 years. He has patterned his shows after the golden age of vaudeville. He performs old fashioned, classic shows that provide a unique experience for today's audience. On many occasions he has also appeared on television and has been featured in newspapers and magazines.

Carol Whitebook, Cherokee Area Council Executive Director shared, "FOS Patrons giving \$125 or more constitute the backbone of financial support for Scouting in Northeast Oklahoma. Attendance at the Patron Dinner on February 23, 2012 raises a substantial amount of our local council's annual operating budget. Over 3,500 youth and leaders in Northeastern Oklahoma count on area support to continue walking alongside families in teaching character education, leadership skills and promoting the traditional values found in the Scout Oath and Law. For those that may not know, the Scout Law states, A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."

To receive additional information on the Patron Dinner, or for information about getting involved in Scouting, please call 918-336-9170 or Toll Free 888-269-1328.

Winter Merit Badge Festival February 25

The annual Winter Merit Badge Festival will be held on Saturday, February 25th at Tri-County Technology Center in Bartlesville.

Information on the event is posted on the council website.

<http://www.cherokeesbsa.org/activities/wintermeritbadge/Flyer.pdf>

Units should register before February 1st to be assured of a slot. Be sure to send in your registrations early to have the best chance of getting your first choices for merit badges, as several of the sessions will fill before registrations are complete.

Registration material -

<http://www.cherokeesbsa.org/activities/wintermeritbadge/RegistrationMaterial.xls>

Merit Badge requirements list -

<http://www.cherokeesbsa.org/activities/wintermeritbadge/Requirements.pdf>

Attendance is limited to 300 Scouts, and everyone in the council can attend if they register prior to February 1st. After that date out-of-council registrations are permitted to fill any of the remaining open slots.

Several different optional merit badges are offered this year, along with 12 Eagle required merit badges that are sufficient to complete those needed for Eagle rank.

Free camping is available at Camp McClintock on both Friday and Saturday nights.

Adult training is also encouraged at the event, with sessions not offered online such as SM & ASM Leader Specific Training, American Heart Association First Aid and CPR certification (extra cost for these two sessions), and Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO for Cub Scout leaders). Leaders also have the opportunity to learn about religious awards, how to be a Campmaster at Camp McClintock, what a commissioner does and how it helps your unit, all about Journey to Excellence and how that can help improve your unit, Leave No Trace, and the latest new things in BSA such as the new Eagle project workbook and advancement procedures that are now in place.

There are a large number of online courses can also be completed, which will bring most people in the unit to a fully trained status, which is not only important for having a quality program, but it also is one of the items on the Journey to Excellence and helps units achieve the goal of free advancements.

Check out the council website for more information on the festival and other questions you have about local Scouting.

Training in February

A multitude of opportunities are available for leaders to be trained on February 25th at the Merit Badge Festival at Tri-County Technology Center in Bartlesville.

For Cub Scout leaders, the Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation is being offered which is needed for a leader on any Cub Scout overnight, and this is not available online.

Two other courses being offered are also not online: Scoutmaster/Asst. Scoutmaster Leader Specific training, and First Aid & CPR certification.

Other courses available include a session on What's New in Scouting, Leave No Trace, Journey to Excellence explained, Campmaster training, Duty to God, and Commissioner helps.

An online training lab is available where adults can take training on a host of online courses, such as Youth Protection, Hazardous Weather, Trek Safely, Climb on Safely, Safe Swim, and many more that may be required on outings or to complete training for your Scouting position.

This is an ideal time to come and get updated on your training and become a more effective leader in your Scouting unit.

Check the web site for classes that are available including a lab for any on line training.

<http://www.cherokeebbsa.org/activities/wintermeritbadge/RegistrationMaterial.xls>

Be sure to pre-register through the Scout Office to ensure you can get into the sessions, as classes have limited space and some will fill up

Questions about training: contact Donna Copeland, Council Training Chair donna@copelandappliance.com

Council Camporee March 2-4

Location: Pow Wow Campgrounds in Miami off of I44

Theme: STONE SOUP

Activities: Sled building; knife/ax safety; Geology Merit Badge & Much More

Cost: \$10 per person

More information to come

Tulsa Trade-o-Ree March 9-10

ATTENTION CUBMASTERS, SCOUTMASTERS & DEN LEADERS!

Bring your scouts to the Trade-O-Ree and see displays of Scouting memorabilia. At a Trade-o-Ree you can buy, sell, and trade Scouting patches and other memorabilia. It is also a great place to purchase a unique gift for, Eagle Scout, husband, wife, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or that special Scouter.

Scouts working on collections merit badge can see how collections are displayed and talk to collecting experts. There will be patches, uniforms, calendars, old books, pins, knives and many other scouting treasures. Admission is **FREE**.

Free Special "Limited Edition Ta Tsu Hwa " Patch for 1st 200 Scouts/Scouters Attending

Friday 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. - Saturday 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.

Live Auction 12 Noon Saturday

(Auction Proceeds Benefit OA Lodge)

Econo Lodge - 11620 East Skelly Drive (I-44 at 11th Street) - Tulsa, Oklahoma

Pinewood Derby March 10

Where: Craig County Fairgrounds

Who: Open to ANY Cub Scout; also will be an Open Class for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or adults

The cars need to be built in this school year, and follow the rules that come with each kit.

Time of the Derby and cost will be announced soon!

Council Banquet March 15

The 2012 Council Banquet and Eagle Class Recognition will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 15th at Highland Park Baptist Church in Bartlesville.

This is a memorable event will honor council volunteers, new Silver Beavers, our 2012 Eagle Honoree, and the 2011 Eagle Class!

Cost is \$12.50 per person. An Eagle Scout sponsorship is \$15.

Eagle Scouts should plan to stay after the banquet to be included in this year's Eagle Class Picture. Additionally, please be in full uniform to include merit badge sash and neckerchief.

Sign-up deadline: Noon, March 9th

For reservations call 918-336-9170 or 888-269-1328

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills March 30-31

One of the required training courses for Scoutmasters and Assistant. Scoutmasters and Outdoor Venturing Crew Advisors and Crew Leaders is the Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, which is not available online. The council is offering this course on Friday evening March 30th and Saturday March 31st, 2012.

This is a course that any adult leader going on a campout with youth can benefit greatly from having. The flyer for this is posted on the council website, and registration for this is being taken at the Scout Office. You can have more productive campouts with your unit by taking this course, and learning about the Scouting skills that will be needed for Scout outdoor advancement.

Signup now for this course, and enjoy a fun time at Camp McClintock with other leaders, and develop a new network of ideas for what your unit can do during the year.

SIGN UP BY TUESDAY March 28th, 2012

COST: \$20

Make reservations at the Scout Service Center 918-336-9170 or 888-269-1328

If you have any questions please contact Donna Copeland at 918-333-9439 or email donna@copelandappliance.com

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**

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

Merit Badge Sessions at the Council Museum

The council museum committee is excited about the new cases being built with capital campaign funds. These should be available in the next couple of months, and the committee will be using them to create a display of the wonderful array of Scouting memorabilia in the Scout Service Center. As a part of the museum operation, merit badges will be conducted on a regular basis, with the first being the [Robotics merit badge](#) offered on February 11 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Scout Service Center. Cost for this merit badge session is \$20 and includes lunch. **Pre-registration and payment is due at the Scout office by February 8th. This session is limited to 16 attendees.**

The next merit badge in the series will be a Citizenship in the Nation merit badge offered on March 13th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Scout Service Center. There is no cost for this merit badge, and those interested in taking this session should contact the Scout Office and reserve a space as there is a limited enrollment for the merit badge session.

Experiencing new things is an important part of any museum, and this one will be active in opening new areas to Scouts through merit badge sessions. Some merit badges relate directly to the museum, such as Collections, Scouting Heritage, Coin Collecting, Stamp Collecting, and Archaeology. Others are a part of the expanding your horizons as a Scout, and experiencing new areas.

Be sure to take advantage of some of these new opportunities for fun and advancement. These will be announced in e-blasts to adult leaders, the council web site, council newsletter and flyers available at Roundtables and the Scout Shop.

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.

Project 2013 begins largest Corps recruitment in OA history

Join Project 2013 to serve on staff at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree with the Order of the Arrow!

Project 2013 is recruiting 700 Arrowmen who are excited and dedicated to cheerful service to support the 40,000 Scouts attending the jamboree. This corps will be the largest in the Order's history. To learn more about Project 2013, click here <http://event.oa-bsa.org/events/jambo2013/project-2013.html>

NOAC Training

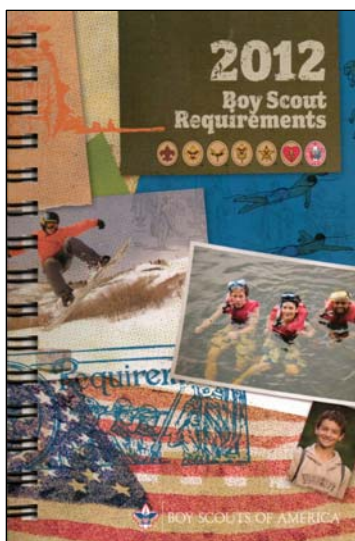
At the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference, there will be special half day training for Project 2013 Corps members. This half day event will focus on developing the corps for 2013 and will include special guest speakers. Attendees will receive a special recognition at NOAC.

Arrowmen will be able to register for the Project 2013 Corps program at NOAC through the NOAC registration system.

2012 Boy Scout Requirements books available

The Scout Office has the new 2012 Boy Scout Requirements book (\$4.99) which has the updated requirements for ranks, merit badges including the new Chess, Robotics, and Welding mbs, awards, and religious emblem information.

This is a handy book to have along on any outing or troop meeting. It tells you about any changes made for 2012, such as requirement 5 for Second Class rank (which permits multiple service



projects totaling one hour versus the previous requirement which had a requirement for a one hour service project.)

The Woodwork merit badge had requirements changed, and minor updates were made to twelve others. For any Scout wanting to know about which merit badge to work on, this is a handy guide noting what is required. This information can also be found through Internet resources such as www.ussscouts.org or www.meritbadge.com.

Korea National Jamboree August 2-8

Host: Korea Scout Association

Age: 14-18

Contingent size: 24 Scouts/Venturers + 6 adults

Contingent gathering: July 30, 2012

Location: Jamboree site in Goseong 17th World Scout Jamboree campsite, Gangwon Province, Korea (4 hours by bus from Incheon Int'l Airport)

Cost: \$2500 (includes travel, lodging, food, event fee, tent, patches, bags and more fun!!)

Interested Scout, Venturers and adults must be nominated by International Representatives and local councils.

BSA Contingent Nomination forms:
<http://www.scouting.org/international>

Nomination Deadline: March 30, 2012

Jamboree 2013 reservations July 15-24, 2013

Only 36 youth slots are available for the Cherokee Area Council for our 2013 Jamboree contingent going to the Summit in West Virginia. This is a historic Jamboree since it is the first



time the Jamboree will be held at the new Jamboree and high adventure site. The cost for the 2013 Jamboree should be less than previous Jamborees since BSA is providing much of the equipment that the contingent needs to take to Jamboree.

National Jamboree only happens once every four years, so for most Scouts this is the only time that they can attend this event. You must go online to register at www.bsajamboree.org.

New Scouting Position

A new Scouting position has been defined to reflect people who are away at college or military service, and are not actively engaged in the unit. This is a Unit College Scouter Reserve position, which is ideal for Scouts who have reached age 18, and want to continue to be registered, but are going away to college.

Since they are often not available for training, and could only be registered in the past as an Asst. Scoutmaster, this gives a new option to units, and helps with your training percentage for the unit. The only training requirement for this position is youth protection training, which is available online and the leader should be able to get this done at any location. It also applies equally well to leaders that are away on military service and want to stay connected with Scouting and your unit. The application fees and registration process are the same.

Northern Tier Canoe Base Registrations for 2013

Now is the time to make your plans for attending Northern Tier Canoe Base in 2013. This is the summer of the Jamboree, and it may be easier to get reservations at high adventure camps in 2013 than in other years.

Northern Tier still has a phone call-in for reservations which begins at 8:00 am CST on Monday April 2nd. The form that explains costs, choices, and what you will need is found at <http://www.ntier.org/filestore/NorthernTier/pdf/2013Reser>



[vationSummer.pdf](#). You can also get more information on the various types of adventures available at their website www.ntier.org/.

Some dates are open for reservations for the summer of 2012 at Northern Tier, so give them a call to check on these if you're interested.

Sea Base Online Reservations for 2013 End Feb 15th

For those working to get a crew reservation in 2013 for Sea Base need to go online to the Sea Base website www.bsaseabase.org and sign into your unit account (or create one) and then you can enter the lottery for 2013 adventures. This can be done through February 15th, 2012, so be sure not to miss the closing date if you're interested.



Also, if you get notified via e-mail that you did not get a reservation, then immediately go online to their website, and check to see what adventures are still available if you are flexible with your timing. There are always dates that people didn't request, so this is a second chance you have to get reservations. And adventures are still available for this summer - check out their website and click on 2012 reservations.

District News

OSAGE HILLS DISTRICT BANQUET

Lisa Holmes received the Chairman's Award as our new district activities chair. She has helped plan the Camporee and serves as an advisor for the Bartlesville Police Explorers and as a committee chair for Pack 110. She was responsible for leading the police post through a major leadership change this year and assumed the lead advisor role temporarily.

Kevin Brown received the Chairman's Award for his service at multiple events including staff at Day Camp,

Camporee, and Belt Loop Festival. He is a new commissioner and has worked throughout the year with all five LDS units and the Bartlesville Police Post.



David Brumbaugh received the Chairman's Award because of his continued service as a committee member of Troop 32.

Joey Stone received the Chairman's Award because of his leadership over the Pawhuska troop 33 and his constant dedication to Scouting. He is always available to help recruit youth and was a major part of the growth of Scouting this year in Wynona and Pawhuska. He also bailed us out at Day Camp by driving the bus. Joey attended Wood badge and is a common face at roundtables.

Doug Quinn received the Chairman's Award because of his hard work with disadvantaged youth. He is responsible for all recruiting work done for the Salvation Army Troop 8. He has participated in many events including the popcorn blitz day with Troop 8. He has also set up a unique incentive program for youth in Troop 8 that awards uniforms to youth that might not be able to afford them.

The Balli Family was named the Boy Scout Family of the Year,



The Shiflet Family was named the Cub Scout Family of the Year.



Donny Schroeder was awarded the District Award of Merit.



Linda Cole was awarded the District Award of Merit.



Kevin Brown received the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award.



Steve DeFrees also received the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award.



GRAND LAKE DISTRICT

The District Award of Merit was awarded to Kimberly Wynn.



Pack 66 received the summer time pack award.



Troop 66 in Vinita passed out flyers to help citizens identify neighbors who might see signs of being drug dealers so that law enforcement can be notified. The program was initiated by the County sheriff Department.



Scouts from Troop 66 conducted the flag ceremony at the Harlem Ambassadors basketball game.



Troop 66 went night skiing at Snow Creek near Kansas City.



BSA Endowment Corner YOUR WILL AND THE FUTURE OF CHARITY

We've seen some interesting statistics lately about wills and bequests in America. Did you know:

- 70% of the people in this country who are old enough to have a will do not have a will of any kind;
- 70% of those who do have wills say that their will is not up to date, or it does not dispose of their property the way they want it to;
- 20% of all the people who die each year have no surviving spouse, children, or parents to leave their estate to.

Wills provide many ways for you to benefit your local council. But, of course, you can also benefit your church, schools, and other worthy organizations you support. You can leave specific amounts or property, or you can leave a percentage of your estate. You can create memorial gifts in honor of a friend or create a charitable trust to generate income to you and your family. The possibilities are almost limitless.

A will gives you a lot of options as you decide how your estate will be distributed. But, if you have no will, you have no options. Call your local council and ask for more information about giving to Scouting through your will. It's a chance to make a significant gift to Scouting and also protect your estate for your family, loved ones and other organizations.

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.

ENDOWMENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Boy Scouts of America offers three distinct recognition awards.

THE JAMES E. WEST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

James E. West was the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, and he served in that position for more than three decades. The West Fellowship award is available for gifts of \$1,000 and up in cash or marketable securities to a council endowment fund. The gift must be in addition to – and not replace or diminish – the donor's annual Friends of Scouting support. Many individuals and corporations make these gifts either on behalf of someone else – such as in honor of an Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver recipient, a retirement, a special accomplishment, or anniversary – or in memory of a special individual.

\$1,000+	Bronze Member Level
\$5,000+	Silver Member Level
\$10,000+	Gold Member Level

\$15,000+ Diamond Member Level

SECOND CENTURY SOCIETY

An outright gift of \$25,000 or more payable over five years, or a deferred gift of \$100,000 or more, to a local council, BSA Foundation, high-adventure base, or any BSA entity for operating, capital, or endowment

Donors making outright gifts of \$100,000 or more are designated as "Members with Distinction." Donors making deferred gifts of \$500,000 or more are designated "Legacy Members." Members in these categories receive special recognition and opportunities provided by the BSA Foundation.

PRESIDENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Gifts to or through the BSA Foundation payable over five years, as part of an advised fund, designated fund, trust, or other Foundation fund structure are eligible for the Presidents Leadership Council. Gifts may be designated to benefit local councils, high-adventure facilities or other BSA entities.

Cubcast

Have you listened to the CubCast lately?

Cubcast is a monthly audio podcast featuring a variety of how-to and information topics for Cub Scout leaders and parents. It is designed to supplement training and roundtable programs.

You can listen to it on-line, download it to share, and/or subscribe to it via RSS feed. Check out www.scouting.org/Scoutcast, choose Cubcast, and give it a listen!

Are You Tougher Than A Boy Scout?

The same guy who produces *Deadliest Catch* and *Ice Road Truckers*, Thom Beers, has introduced a new unscripted show titled *Are You Tougher than a Boy Scout?* National Geographic Channel gave Original Productions the green light to start shooting this spring; shows will air later this year.

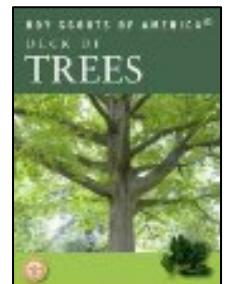
The challenges will be based on the Scout skills with adults competing against the country's top Boy Scouts. "

I was three badges short of my Eagle Scout badge, and I know I am not alone," said Beers. "This series is going to allow people like me one more chance to achieve such an incredible milestone. Plus, it's authentic, has a fun and interesting set of circumstances and underdog characters with a story to tell. And frankly, who doesn't love the Boy Scouts?"

Not only will this 6-episode series be interesting, but it will show a great audience the skills the BSA teaches young men and women every day.

DK Publishing Introduces BSA® Deck of Trees

This pocket-sized deck of 40 + cards contains all the information needed to identify the major coniferous and broad-leaved trees, as well as cactus and yucca, in North America.



Each card covers the region where the tree naturally occurs and details the characteristics of the foliage, flowers, fruit, and bark.

From the American Beech to the Yellow Birch, this deck of cards provides a useful reference tool for exploring the world of trees. Other DK decks include [BSA® Deck of Knots](#), [BSA® Deck of Stars](#), [BSA® Deck of First Aid](#), [BSA® Deck of Birds](#), and [BSA® Deck of Fishing](#).

For more information on [DK Publishing](#), please visit dk.com. Additionally, the Deck of Cards series are available in most major book stores, both online and at retail stores.

Calling All Young Inventors!

Do you have an idea for a cool, new product that you think should be made and sold in stores? **THINK!** What would make your life more fun? What would solve a problem around the house, the yard or at school? Is there something that would help you take better care of your pet or a new way to learn or play?

Now is your chance to invent the next "big thing" to be sold on store shelves!

The Boy Scouts of America and Edison Nation challenge you to get inventing in 2012.

This Innovation Challenge invites all creative thinkers 21 and under to submit their ideas and Edison Nation will spend up to \$1 million to develop the products and make them a reality. We will do everything from designing your product, making the prototypes and filing the patents—all you have to do is invent!

Selected inventors will receive royalties from the sale of their products for life, be named the “inventor” on any issued patents and have an opportunity to appear on the award-winning *Everyday Edisons* television series.

The Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge is open to all boys and girls age 7 to age 21 and is not limited to Boy Scouts of America members.

REWARD

Selected ideas will receive a \$2,500 minimum advance on 20 years percentage of sales or buyout. We split the royalties 50/50 with you on the products that we select. Royalties vary based upon the product but we always earn industry-leading rates.

REQUIREMENTS

We ask for well-communicated ideas. This includes filling out our easy-to-use submission form to the best of your ability. Upload images, sketches and any other media that support your idea. Tell us your story. We even encourage you to create a video demonstrating your innovation and why America would like it. Please keep videos to less than 2 minutes.

Because the Boy Scouts of America Innovation Challenge is for youth inventors, you'll need to have a parent or guardian involved during the submission process if you are under the age of 18.

Each idea costs just \$25. For current Boy Scouts of America members, it's just \$10 to submit an idea.

Think you have what it takes? Submit your idea today!

Deadline: Monday, May 7th, 2012 at 11:59PM Pacific Time (US & Canada)

For more information:

www.edisonnation.com/boyscouts

On Increasing Advancement

Reprinted from the Southern Region 8 Advancement Newsletter:

Occasionally we run across material written by council volunteers that does more to explain the Boy Scouts of America's advancement program than any of us at the national level have been able to create. From time to time we will run articles prepared by these gifted supporters who are more closely connected with the Scouts, and their parents and leaders, than the writers and editors for Advancement News. The following article is by Darnall Daley, who, at the time he wrote it, was council commissioner for the Hawk Mountain Council in Pennsylvania.

GUARDIAN OF THE GATE

By F. Darnall Daley Jr.*

Some of you appear to be standing guard at the gate. Like good guards you are not letting anyone pass who does not have the correct password. When someone appears at the gate who does not have the correct password, you send them away. The treasure that you believe you are guarding is the SACRED ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS. You believe that you must guard the gate to make sure that no boy advances who has not only met the requirements but who has not met the requirements 110%. Your watchword is, “We've gotten soft on the Boy Scout advancement.”

The problem is that you have gotten your orders wrong. You are guarding the wrong side of the gate. The treasure is not behind the gate but in front of it. The treasure is the character of the boys in our care. Your duty is not to prevent boys from passing through but to make sure as many boys as possible do pass through.

Advancement is a method, a tool if you will, that we use in Scouting. It is not an end in itself. The purpose of the advancement system is to build a boy's confidence and self-esteem. A boy learns something new, he is tested in that skill, he is reviewed, and he is given advancement. Whenever possible the test should be a natural part of the unit's program. For example, if the requirement is to cook a meal, the test should come when it's time to eat at a regular unit outing. Remember that we are not authorized to either add to or subtract from any

requirement. The review is to be a reflection on a boy's experience in Scouting, not a retest. The advancement recognition must come as soon after the review as possible.

Some of you may have heard that advancement recognition can only be received once. I assure you that is not true. Recognition can be made many times and as often as possible. Advancement is to be positive reinforcement for a boy's achievements. If done properly it will encourage a boy toward even more advancement and toward greater confidence in himself.

So get out in front of the gate where lies the treasure. Guard it no more. Become an advocate for our Scouts and provide the leadership that will help them through the gate. The world will be a better place tomorrow.

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Upcoming Key Dates

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

- Feb. 2 – OH District Roundtable, Unit Commissioners, and OA Chapter meeting
- Feb 4-5 – Wilderness & Remote First Aid training
- Feb. 5 – Scout Sunday
- Feb. 9 – GL District Roundtable and OA Chapter meeting
- Feb. 23 – OH District Committee
- Feb. 23 – Patron dinner
- Feb. 25 – Winter Merit Badge Festival
- Mar. 1 – OH District Roundtable, Unit Commissioners, and OA Chapter meeting
- Mar. 2-4 – Council Camporee
- Mar. 8 – GL District Roundtable and OA Chapter meeting
- Mar. 10 – Pinewood Derby
- Mar. 15 – Council Banquet
- Mar. 24 – Pinewood Derby
- Mar. 29 – OH District Committee
- Mar. 30-31 – Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
- Apr. 5 – OH District Roundtable, Unit Commissioners, and OA Chapter meeting
- 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 5 – BALOO training
- June 5-8 – OH District Cub Scout Day Camp
- June 13-16 – GL District Cub Scout Day Camp