



Local Scouts Collect Food at Thanksgiving Parade

This year's Channel 6ABC/Ikea Thanksgiving Day Parade Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade saw a record number youth from the Greater Philadelphia Area collecting canned food for the "2008 Scouting for Food Drive." People attending the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade bring canned goods to donate to Philabundance. Scouts collect the cans along the route. From Chester County Council, numerous youth and adults representing Cub Scout Packs 23, 73, 85, 91, Sea Scout Ship 5, Venturing Crews 5, 12, 23, and Boy Scout Troops 23 & 108 participated this year.



Pictures: Left: Photo by Bob Hinderliter of Scouts marching with the Scout Law. Right: This year Venture Crew 23 participated in the Thanksgiving parade for the second year; they enjoyed it so much last year they want it to be an annual crew event. Pictured are Amanda Ginter, Matt Paden, Christine Luczka, Andrew Matejunas, Chris McEntee, and Jamie McCormick. The Crew report they collected about two tons of food!

Horseshoe Trail District Holds Annual Meeting, Looks Forward to 2009

Charter Organization Reps Elect District Committee

The Horseshoe Trail District's annual meeting was held Monday, Dec 1, 2008, at Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown. At this important event, as required by BSA regulations representatives from the district's charter organizations, who host and support the Troops, Packs, and Crews, met to elect the District Committee for the coming year.

Charter Reps from about a dozen of the charter organizations and Members at Large of the District came to the meeting. They reviewed the slate of members presented by Bob Hunter, Nominating Committee Chair, and they elected Jeff Miller to continue in the position of Committee Chairman. In so doing they approved the Committee membership he recommended for the coming year.

A Typical District Committee Meeting

The Charter Representatives stayed for the regular committee meeting, and they learned about the Committee's operations, plans, and concerns as Jeff took the Committee through the agenda. This agenda is part of each month's District Committee Meeting, and demonstrates the wide range of responsibilities the volunteers on the Committee have to support the Scouting program in the Horseshoe Trail District.

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**HORSESHOE TRAIL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING (continued from Page 1)**

Reports from the regular District Committee Meeting agenda included:

- Membership: Recruiting is close to achieving its goals, but still needs more youth.
- Friends of Scouting: family-focused fund raising has exceeded its goals in pledges and is following up to bring in the funds.
- Rechartering is in progress, with the Council's online rechartering going active Dec. 1, and rechartering will be completed at the December Roundtable meeting.
- Advancement: Fifty-six Scouts achieved Eagle so far this year.
- District Executive's Report by Walt Deecki emphasized that merit badge counselors are being asked to register and/or renew this time of year. Counselors must register with an additional form, specifically as merit badge counselors, even if they register with a unit, in support of child safety requirements and to allow verification of their qualifications to counsel the badge. Forms are on the Council website. Lists of counselors are

published quarterly. And it was noted that Council is fortunate to have a Merit Badge Counselor for every merit badge in the book.

- Camping and Activities: Planning for the Koola Hula winter event ("Klondike without sleds") in February is proceeding; the detailed fact sheet will be available in a few weeks. It is noteworthy that the event planning is being done by youth staff that includes venturers.
- Training: participation in recent events was reported, and upcoming events announced.
- Newsletter: content is coming in readily, and draft of next issue is in preparation
- Other agenda topics include a report from the Commissioner on upcoming Roundtables, unit status, new unit prospects, and Unit Commissioner activities. The Committee set a date for its annual goal assessment and planning for 2009.

The District Chair, Jeff Miller, also reported on the Area 6 Leadership Conference he attended (see **District Chair's Corner**).

DISTRICT CHAIR'S CORNER - DECEMBER 2008

Jeff Miller, District Chair

The Area 6 Leadership Conference in November brought to us in this area a message of change from the Boy Scouts of America National Office. The values of Scouting remain the same, as does the program. The biggest change is the reorganization of the national organization to remove the division between the Cub, Scout, and Venturing programs. In marketing, in recruiting, in training, in all aspects, the Scouting program will be directed at the goal of "producing youth who can make ethical and moral decisions based on the Scout Oath and Law." That is the true good that the Scouting program can do; we are here to do more than just "produce Eagles." The program is for boys ages 6 to 20, with the program becoming coed at age 14. The Scouting movement will be going on the offensive against criticism, against lack of access to recruiting in schools, and work hard to tell the story of the many good things that youth are enabled to do through the Scouting program.

This message seems especially important today. We hear all around us the stories of the tough times we are in. But I believe it is in tough times that we go back to the basics . . . to the kind of basics that are embodied in Scouting. We have the potential to do well in tough times; we can recruit and grow in size and quality, because of the basic good that the Scouting program provides.

District Committee Needs You

It becomes obvious in listening to the reports at the Horseshoe Trail District committee meeting how much activity is going on at the District level. The Horseshoe Trail District is very goal-oriented. It is addressing recruiting of individual youth and formation of new units. It is providing training to the adults supporting those units, and supporting training of the youth. Behind the Activities and Camping reports are the work going on to develop and carry out events like Learn Not to Burn and Koola Hula for fun (and scout skills). Behind a report on advancement is Trail to Eagle training for prospective Eagles, Eagle Boards of Reviews, and help to register effective merit badge counselors. Behind a Friends of Scout report is the work done by volunteers to present the need to units, families, businesses, and bring in the financial support. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

BSA HORSESHOE TRAIL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Horseshoe Trail District



Chester County Council

Chester County Council

December 2008

DISTRICT CHAIR'S CORNER (continued)

While individuals at the Committee Meeting report on their subcommittees, they do not work alone, but depend on other Scouters to help them get the work done. One topic that comes up every meeting is the **need for additional Committee staffing**. There are several opportunities to contribute your skills and experience as a Scouter. There are open positions to chair subcommittees, as well as need for volunteers to staff the subcommittees and take on responsibility for specific tasks. While Horseshoe Trail District has a good number of Unit Commissioners, more are needed to get to the optimum ratio of commissioners to units. We know there are able Scouters out there, some of whom have moved out of involvement with specific units as their youth "aged out" beyond Scouting. We know there are Scouters who have proven talent and who understand the importance of the Scouting program, and who are looking for a different kind of work to do. This is a good time to become involved, as the Committee will meet in January to review its vision and mission and develop its goals for 2009. We ask these Scouters to consider becoming part of the District Committee, and to contact Jeff Miller, District Chair, at jmiller@eme-llc.com.

HORSESHOE TRAIL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Here are the members of the Horseshoe Trail

District Committee:

District Chairman: Jeff Miller
District Commissioner: Joe Crawford
Membership Chairman: Robert Knecht
Activities Chariman: Rich Rosato
Advancement Chariman: Harry Hiddleston
Camping Chairman: John McGovern
Training Chariman: Glenn Grow
Popcorn Chairman: Wayne Holmes
Family F.O.S. Chairman: Keith Chamberland
Community F.O.S. Chairman: Lillaria Steele
Project Sales Chairman: Maggie Crawford
School Night Chairman: Robert Knecht
Webelos to Scout Chairman: Mark Morris
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Harry Hiddleston
Boy Scout Camping Chairman: John McGovern
Day Camp Program Director: Mark Morris
Venturing Coordinator: Becky Muhlenberg

Some of the open positions:

District Vice Chairman
Program Chairman
Finance Chairman
Boy Scout Advancement Coordinator
Cub Scout Advancement Coordinator
Recognition Coordinator
Cub Camping Chairman
Cub Scout Training Coordinator
Boy Scout Training Coordinator
Youth Protection Training Coordinator
Order of the Arrow Advisor
Unit Commissioners

... and many of these chairmen need committee members to help get the work done!

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday's and a Happy New Year! As Scouts and Scouters, we have worked together during the past year as a family regardless of our beliefs, traditions or backgrounds. We have demonstrated to our communities that we are all members of one big family – the Scouting family. I am looking forward to the start of a new year and I pray that you all have a safe and wonderful time with your families. I appreciate everything you do in support of scouting – Thank You!

-- Walter Deecki Sr., HT District Director



Horseshoe Trail's Newest EAGLES

UNIT	EAGLE SCOUT	DATE of Eagle Board
52	Alexander B. Hubiak	11/18/08
52	Gary J. Pannone	11/18/08
125	Sean L. Loughead	11/18/08



DON'T FORGET TO PLAN NOW for Koola-Hula Winter Event

Hawaiian Theme (It's Klondike Derby Without the Sleds!)
Saturday, February 7, 2009 at French Creek State Park

winter event, a Hawaiian themed re-invention of the Klondike Derby. You won't need the sleds; leave them in your sheds. Instead, bring your enthusiasm and fiercest competitive spirit to participate in a series of activities using Scout skills and to have some Hawaiian themed FUN!

The **KOOLA-HULA Winter Event** will take place at French Creek State Park. Overnight tent camping is available. Events will be located on a hiking trail through wooded areas, with a hiking distance of about 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 miles. The following ten events will be scored, so be prepared for some challenging competition:

- ✦ Patrol Water Skiing
- ✦ Cliff Diving
- ✦ Fire Walking
- ✦ Shrunk Head
- ✦ Cannibal Captive
- ✦ Surfing BSA
- ✦ Spear Fishing
- ✦ Island Hopping
- ✦ Tiki Raising
- ✦ Will of the gods

There will be four additional activities "just for fun":

- ✦ Limbo Contest
- ✦ Erupting Volcano
- ✦ Hula skirt dance contest (for Senior Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters)
- ✦ Tiki Idol

And a Hawaiian Luau pig roast lunch is included! Details will be forthcoming, promises Horseshoe Trail District's Camping Committee Chairman John McGovern. Patrols will be informed in a "Fact Sheet" of equipment items they will need to bring for the event. Youth from several Horseshoe Trail units have worked together to plan and will staff this unique event.

Units from all districts are invited to register and participate. Webelos from Cub packs may also attend if coming with a host Boy Scout Troop.

So . . . make sure to add this activity into your unit's program NOW. The Detailed Information Sheet for Unit Leaders will be available soon, from Council website.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

(Check CCCBSA Calendar for times, registration, and additional Council events)

- December 9: District Roundtable - 7:30 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church
- Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!
- January 5, 2009: HT District Committee Meeting – Goals Evaluation and 2009 Planning
- January 13: District Roundtable - 7:30 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church
- February 2: HT District Committee Meeting
- February 13: District Roundtable - 7:30 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church
- February 14: Training: New Leader Essentials and Cub Leader Specific Training

The Cub Scout theme for January is Amazing Games. Rich Smith invites you to the December Roundtable to see what's available this month to add pizzazz to your program.



EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS and OPPORTUNITIES

Cub Scout Leader Specific Training and Scoutmaster/Asst Scoutmaster New Leader Training scheduled for February 14, 2009

The Cub Scout training is designed as five separate courses, with the first portion is common to all Cub Scout positions, and then a break-out session for each specific leadership position.

new leadership position. Topics include: The Role of the Scoutmaster in a Boy-Led Troop, The Outdoor Program and the Advancement Program, and Program Planning and Troop Administration

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training is designed to help the new Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster get up to speed quickly with their

Register online: Click www.cccbsa.org and click on TRAINING in the menu at the left.

Busy Fall / Winter Training Season

Glenn Grow, Horseshoe Trail District's Training Chairman, reports the Scouting Year started off with a busy and productive training season. Most recently, on November 22, 13 leaders took part in Cub Leader Specific Training, and 12 leaders participated in Scout Leader Specific Training. So far this year, training has been held in Spring City, Downingtown, Lionville, West Chester, and Glenmoore.

This training helps to ensure that units have the qualified leaders to support a quality program and meet the goal that every Scout has a trained leader.

Also, over 30 boys participated in Den Chief Training on November 8. Scouts serving as Den Chiefs help enrich the Cub program, serve as role models, and encourage Cubs to cross over to Scouts.



Rich Smith teaching a song at the Den Chief Training
(picture by Mary Jane Rosenberry)

UNITS ABOUT AND AROUND

Cub Scout Pack 9 participated in the Honey Brook Halloween Parade after it was delayed twice due to weather. The boy's theme was Adventures in Books and featured the Scouts dressed as characters from classic stories. Pack 9 won first prize for their theme and participation!