



smoke signals

VOICE OF THE PIEDMONT COUNCIL

www.PiedmontCouncilBSA.org

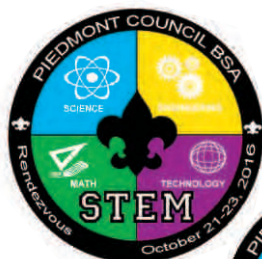
March-April 2016

Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America

Volume XXXII, Issue 2

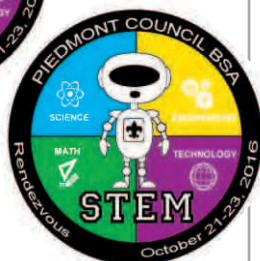
RENDEZVOUS 2016

Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venture Advisers, Explorer Advisers, Scouts and Scouters of all ages! It's RENDEZVOUS year!



**RENDEZVOUS
LOGO CONTEST
WINNER!**

**Congratulations to
Ramon Santiago,
Two Rivers Member
at Large, for winning
the Rendezvous Logo
Contest!**



Make sure you mark the weekend of **October 21 through 23** on your calendar! We will fill the **Cleveland County Fairgrounds** with exhibits, activities and all-around food and fun. Everyone in the 11-county Piedmont Council will be there!

More details will follow each month in *Smoke Signals* and at Roundtable.

Registration will start a little later in the spring, but for now, mark your calendar, and plan to attend.

Merit Badge Counseling: How to Get Started

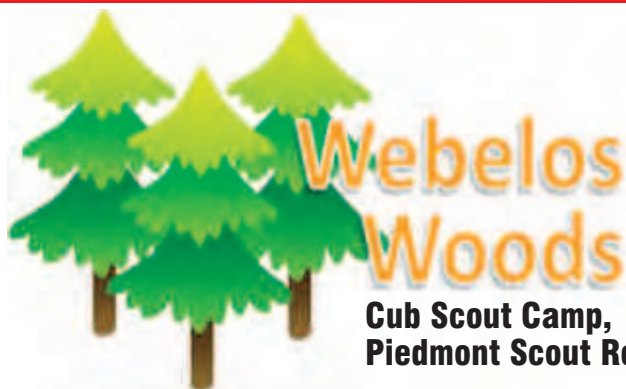
Do you enjoy working with youth? Are you interested in sharing your enthusiasm for your career, hobby or favorite sport? Consider signing up as a Merit Badge Counselor!

With 136 Merit Badges in 14 subject areas – from careers, citizenship, fitness, and hobbies, to life skills – you may be interested and qualified to lead more than one.

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**Cub Scout Camp,
Piedmont Scout Reservation**

March 18-20, 2016 • Check-In 4:00-8:30 pm

This event is an outdoor camping/training experience for Webelos as well as an orientation of the Boy Scout Program by older scouts!

Each den is encouraged to learn cooking skills by preparing the following meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast. **All food and cookware must be provided by Webelos Leaders for their unit.**

This weekend of outdoor activities and instruction will encourage your second year Webelos to advance in Scouting and will peak the interest and retention of your first year Webelos

through direct contact with older scouts.

Online Registration Available

To ensure your pack's attendance in a timely manner, register online at www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org. You can pay online using several different payment methods. If you choose to pay online there will be a convenience fee added to your total. You may also use the mail-in option but will need to send to Council Office with-in five business days of submitting application. The deadline for registration will be March 20 unless the event is not full. Registration will be limited, so register early!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



PIEDMONT COUNCIL CALENDAR

VISIT THE PIEDMONT COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR CALENDAR UPDATES

MARCH

- 8-9 Pangea Model United Nations –
Lenoir Rhyne University
- 11-12 Exploring Emergency Prep. Weekend
- 16 Executive Board Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18-19 Webelos Woods
- 23 Commissioner Meeting
- 25 Good Friday – Scout Shop open;
Scout Office closed
- 26-27 Camp Closed for Easter
- 27 Easter
- 28-31 Spring Break

APRIL

- 1-3 Woodbadge – weekend 1
- 5 Exploring Banquet
- 9 Cub Scout Shooting Sports Day
- 15-16 Woodbadge – weekend 2
- 20 Eagle Recognition Banquet –
Catawba Valley Community College
- 22-23 Climbing Instructor course
- 29-30 Summer Camp Staff Development



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Please bring part "A & B" of the BSA Annual Medical Record with you. This health form is required for both youth and adults, and is available on the council website.

The cost of this event will be \$15.00 per person (per scout and adult) if postmarked after March 20, the cost will be \$20.00 per person. If you need to use Council Tents there will be an additional \$2.00 per tent charge. Registration is on a first-come/first-serve basis.

Only one vehicle will be allowed per Unit to drop off equipment at your assigned campsite on Friday and to pick

up equipment on Sunday. All vehicles will require a staff escort. No vehicles will remain at the campsites.

Please notify us of any medical needs or special accommodations due to medical needs when you register.

Packs can bring their own tents or rent Council platform wall tents at \$2.00 a tent. Units cannot split their tent preference and camp together. Please indicate on this registration form if you will be using Council Tents and the amount you will need (sleeps 3) or if you will be bringing your tent and how many.

Friday Night Campfire "Bridging Ceremony" for fifth grade Webelos conducted by the Arrow of Light.

We will be emailing information to the contact name given for your pack. Please make sure to include an email address when you register.

2016 Webelos Woods Registration Form

PACK: _____ DISTRICT: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ # of Personal Tents _____ # of Council Tents @ \$2 _____

WEBELOS NAME: (Circle W1 or W2; use 2nd sheet or copy form for additional names)

1. _____ W1 or W2
2. _____ W1 or W2
3. _____ W1 or W2
4. _____ W1 or W2
5. _____ W1 or W2
6. _____ W1 or W2
7. _____ W1 or W2
8. _____ W1 or W2
9. _____ W1 or W2
10. _____ W1 or W2

LIST ALL WEBELOS, ADULT LEADERS AND ADDITIONAL ADULTS ATTENDING

(Two-deep leadership and one leader for every four Webelos.)

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

LEADER/ADULT _____ POSITION _____

Mail to: Piedmont Council, BSA, C/O Webelos Woods, PO Box 1059 Gastonia, NC 28053
or register online at www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org



MEMORIALS

*We gratefully acknowledge
the following friends
who recently presented memorial gifts
to the Piedmont Council:*

In Memory of:

NORRIS PLOTT

Frances Harris
Charles & Melinda Pierce
Kay Riggins

In Memory of:

EDWARD OWEN

Christopher Owen

In Honor of:

PHILIP & JUNE HAMRICK

Scott Hamrick

Merit Badge Counseling: How to Get Started

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A good way to get started is to check out the merit badges online at: www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges. Or, visit the Council Scout Shop or ScoutStuff.org and pick up a copy of the latest Merit Badge pamphlets in your area(s) of interest.

There are four basic requirements to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor:

- At least 18 years of age
- Good character

- Recognized as having skills and education in the subject area
- Good rapport with leaders and Scout-age youth

To sign up to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor, you must:

- Complete a New Adult Leader Application (*It's free!*)
 - ♦ Position Code 42
 - ♦ Scouting Position Merit Badge Counselor
- Fill out a BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information form, online at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf
- Complete Youth Protection Training, available on my.scouting.org

- Submit your forms to the Piedmont Council BSA office.

Merit Badge Counselor Applications will be checked for completeness, entered, and vetted by the Council Advancement Team. If additional information is needed, you will be contacted directly. Remember, some Merit Badges require special training or certification, so see the *Guide to Advancement*, section 7.0.1.0.

If you would like more information about signing as a Merit Badge Counselor, or are interested in hosting a Merit Badge Counselor Orientation in your District, please contact Amy Green at amybgreen@gmail.com.

SEE RELATED CONTENT ON PAGE 18 ►



B.A.L.O.O. is a one-day training course in basic outdoor camping, in accordance with BSA policy. This course is design to introduce new leaders and parents in preparing for pack overnights. At least one B.A.L.O.O. trained leader in attendance is mandatory for packs to camp overnight.

B.A.L.O.O. covers:

- Aims & Purposes of Cub Scout outdoor programs
- Campfire Programs
- Planning an Overnight Outing
- Cooking
- Health & Safety
- First Aid & Sanitation
- Outdoor Ethics
- Stoves, Lanterns & Fire Safety
- Outdoor Activities
- Equipment

B.A.L.O.O.
Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation

WHEN: Saturday, March 5, 2016,
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m

WHERE: Smith Training Lodge at Cub Camp, Piedmont Scout Reservation, 668 Boy Scout Rd, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

COST: \$15.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

OTHER INFORMATION: Please wear your uniform.

Please bring a pencil and notepad for notes. Sessions will be held outside, please dress accordingly as this will be a rain, or shine event. Lunch and materials provided. **NOTE: This is an adult training class, with limited outdoor activity that is required by National BSA for Cub Scout Leaders to take Cubs camping.**

QUESTIONS? Please contact Pierre Rheeder, scouter-pierre@usa.com, 828-238-8630



Register online at the council website: www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org, or, send completed form by Snail Mail to: Piedmont Council, BSA, Attn: BALOO, P.O. Box 1059, Gastonia, NC 28053

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation Registration – Saturday, March 5, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

District: _____ Unit: _____ Unit Position: _____

PIEDMONT COUNCIL WOOD BADGE EXPERIENCE 2016

Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 3, AND Friday, April 15 - Sunday, April 17, 2016

Now is the time for you to gain a mountain top experience by participating in the Piedmont Council's Wood Badge leadership training course. This premier adult training course will be held in the spring of 2016. This innovative training program provides advanced training for leaders in all five divisions – Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Exploring, and Council/ District operations.

Reflecting on the best of nearly a century of Scouting experience, Wood Badge also draws upon the most current leadership models being used by corporate America, academic circles, and successful outdoor leadership organizations throughout the country.

The ultimate goals of the Wood Badge experience are to build a quality program for Scouts of all ages, while helping Scouters develop their leadership potential. The course is filled with exciting sessions to help volunteers understand how leadership roles interact with each other, with topics including: Managing Conflict; Communicating; Listening to Learn; Valuing People and Leveraging Diversity; Stages of Team Development; Team and Individual Leadership; Coaching and Mentoring; Project Planning; and much, much more. Once the classroom portion is complete, the practical portion begins: completing the Wood Badge ticket. Over a period of up to eighteen months, participants complete various projects in service to others, service to the unit, and personal



growth. Leaders desiring a deeper dedicated involvement in the Scouting program will find this advanced training highly rewarding.

The 2016 Wood Badge Course will be a two week-end course conducted at Camp Bud Schiele in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. Course dates are April 1-3 and April 15-17, 2016 and the cost of the training is \$200 per participant. Each

weekend is comprised of three full days of training, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Attendance at both weekends is required for completion of the course. You will camp in the platform tents in Cub World the first weekend, and camp in your tent the second weekend. A pre-course meeting will be held in March.

Registration will be limited to a course of 48 participants. Interested candidates are encouraged to complete the information sheet below and remit a \$50.00 deposit to hold a spot for the course. You should have completed Leader Specific Training for your registered position in Scouting prior to taking the course.

Course Director: Dean Perry – Email, ddjperry@bellsouth.net, phone, 828-289-0422



Wood Badge Experience 2016 April 1-3 AND April 15-17, 2016 Camp Bud Schiele

Name _____

Unit _____ Leadership Position in Scouting _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email: _____

Brief Background of Scouting Experience _____

Clip and return this form to: Piedmont Council Wood Badge 2016
PO Box 1059, Gastonia, NC 28053





Opportunity for Venturers to Travel to Ecuador

Venturing Crews: your leadership in Southern Region Venturing are looking into putting together a Venturing contingent for the 2016-2017 Ecuador Scout Jamboree. They are hoping to take 30-50 Venturers to JamCam Ecuador for an amazing Scouting experience.

JamCam Ecuador, will be held from December 27, 2016, to January 2, 2017, in the Park "Los Samanes" in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador. More info on the jamboree can be found at: scoutsecuador.org/jamcamecuador

This will be a great trip and a wonderful opportunity to experiencing Scouting in another country. Fill out the interest survey form found here: tinyurl.com/2016jamcam

The survey form is not a commitment; so don't be afraid to fill it out! The form is so you can be kept informed as plans are made. As soon as plans are in place and costs are determined you will be notified so you can be ready when registration opens.

If you have any questions, email Douglas Taylor, Southern Region Venturing President at Dbtaylor008@gmail.com.



PANGAEA MUN Puts Scouts On The World Stage

Not many international movements have proven themselves by working across cultural and geographic borders, but Scouting has excelled at it. An important aspect of Scouting is that it allows Scouts to develop valuable communication skills from the exchange with other Scouts all over the world.

Model United Nations provides a fun way for young people to learn about their world, practice leadership skills, and discover possible careers. That's why the Piedmont Council is a proud sponsor of the Pangea Model United Nations Conference through its International Committee and Exploring program, along with the Hickory International Council, and Lenoir-Rhyne University.

This year, Pangea Model UN will be held at Lenoir-Rhyne on March 8-9, 2016. Exploring units from area High

Schools and Middle Schools, and other Scouting units will gather and represent UN Member Countries in delegations that will debate real world issues like Combating ISIS, Cyber Warfare, and Torture as a Means of Interrogation.

Pangea Model UN is a fun exercise in research, public speaking, and teamwork. Our world becomes more tightly linked everyday. MUN develops leadership skills that young people will need throughout their lives by giving them a chance to practice them in a formal setting.

For more information on the conference, please visit pangeamun.org



APRIL 9, 2016, IS PIEDMONT COUNCIL'S CUB SCOUT SHOOTING SPORTS DAY!

The annual Cub Scout Shooting Sports Day offers your Cub Scouts an opportunity, other than Day Camp, to earn the BB and Archery Pin and Loop awarded at Pack Meetings. **No meals provided. Bring a picnic for the family!** Lake is open to fish; bring your own gear. No license required, just catch and release.

DATE/TIME: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., April 9, 2016. **Register by MARCH 30, 2016 (no exceptions; event may fill before deadline).** Please arrive and check in at least 15 minutes before you are scheduled to begin.

LOCATION: Cub Camp, Piedmont Scout Reservation, 668 Boy Scout Rd, Rutherfordton, NC.

COST: Both ranges: \$12.00 per Cub Scout. One range: \$7.00 per Cub Scout (includes shooting supplies).

REGISTRATION: You must sign up for a block of time **ONLINE ONLY** at the council website. Once you have completed the registration process, either choose credit card option to pay (convenience fees apply) or choose mail-in option.



Attention Scouts: A Free Field Trip and an Opportunity to Earn the Geology Merit Badge

April 1, 2, and 3, 2016 • Hickory Metro Convention Center



The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will hold their forty-sixth annual gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry show on **April 1, 2, and 3, 2016**, at the **Hickory Metro Convention Center**. Hours are 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Chaperoned school, boy or girl scouts, 4-H, church youth, day care, retirement home groups, and law enforcement officers in uniform will be **admitted free anytime during this three-day event**. The show theme is "North Carolina Emeralds." The feature exhibit this year will be Crabtree Mine Emeralds from Mitchel County and Hiddenite Emeralds from Alexander County. On Saturday, a display will feature the last verified North Carolina diamond discovered by Roger Grinnell. Club members and several vendors will provide outstanding displays of various precious stones from around the world for enjoyment by show visitors.

A special area will be in place where **Boy Scouts** may complete requirements for the geology merit badge on **Saturday, April 2, from 9:30-3:30 PM**. Scouts wishing to complete requirements should bring the merit badge card to be signed by the merit badge counselor. Scouts should have reviewed the requirements before coming to the show in order to be prepared to complete these requirements. Scout masters should allocate 2-3 hours for participation in this activity. When arriving at the show, boy scouts will be provided a guide to follow during their time completing the merit badge.

Cub Scouts packs will be provided special activities when they visit the show. An educational area will house a hands-on display where cub scouts are encouraged to actually handle labeled specimens and to study them with the aid of a magnifying lens.

Demonstrations of the lapidary arts of faceting, cabachon cutting, and tumbling will also be provided by club members. A number of education displays will be available for viewing. An area with black lights will allow visitors to see fluorescent minerals. A special non-touch area will provide an educational experience with fossils such as sharks' teeth. Cub scouts will enjoy searching for free specimens at a sand table. Cub scouts are invited to bring gem and mineral samples for identification at a booth in the education area staffed by a geologist. Over twenty vendors will be on hand to sell during the

show. The club will be selling grab bags containing minerals and

The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club also has an education committee that will provide programs related to gems, minerals, and fossils in local schools and for various youth groups. Dr. George Max serves as chairman of the education committee. His phone number is (828) 328-9107.

Scout and youth groups not requiring assistance with merit badges may visit during any open show times. Please email Dr. Warren Hollar, club educational liaison, at whollar@charter.net or call him at (828) 446-5400 with the name of the troop, pack, or group, number of scouts, date of attendance, time of arrival, or any special needs of your group. The web page for the club is www.cvgmc.com/.



14th Annual

NC Railroad Expo!

This event is great fun, and Scouts have an opportunity to work on a **Railroading Merit Badge**. Great go-see-it for cubs as well. See 275 tables of model trains, videos, books, locks, and lanterns, Plus, see five operating layouts! Admission: adults \$5, under 12, free; **Scouts in uniform, free if accompanied by an adult.**



Saturday, April 16 • 9 am - 3 pm • Hickory Metro Center

2016 National Youth Leadership Training

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed for Councils to provide youth members with leadership skills, and experience they can use in their home units and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. Basic outdoor and cooking skills are necessary.

Each participant must hold or intend to hold a Troop or Crew leadership position. A Scout must have participated in Introductions to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) or Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC). All must be mature and responsible enough to spend six (6) full continuous days camping. Each participant must have his/her Parent's and Unit Leader's approval.

All courses will be capped at six patrols of six participants. (36 Scouts maximum).

DO NOT BRING: Fireworks, sheath knives, tobacco products, laser pointers, MP3 players, video games or similar items. Cell Phones may be used according to Course guidelines.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Tent & Stakes	Book Bag/Day Pack
Sleeping Bag	Flashlight
Cot (if Desired)	Spare Batteries
Ground Cloth	Water Bottle
Foam Pad	Watch
Cup	Alarm Clock
Soap	Personal First Aid Kit
Toothbrush	Shoes For Hiking
Dental Floss	Camp Shoes
Towel	Uniform Shirt
Scout Uniform	Uniform Pants
Rain Gear	Uniform Belt
Sun Protection	Socks For Hiking
Bug Replant	Medical Form
Compass	GPS (if you have one)
Necessary Medicine	Small Pocket Knife
BSA Handbook	100 Ft Pf 1/8" Par Cord
Positive Attitude	Spiral Notebook
Camera	Pen & Pencil
Religious Books	



FOR VENTURERS AND BOY SCOUTS

SUMMER WEEK-LONG TRAINING

June 26-July 1, 2016 (Week 2)

or

July 29-July 29, 2016 (Week 6)

Check-In: Sunday, 12:30 p.m. (no lunch)

Check-Out: Friday, 4: 30 p.m.

Participants with Troops attending Summer Camp, can be dismissed to their campsite.

COST

\$230 per In-Council Camper

\$260 Outside-Council camper

\$100 deposit due 3/31/2016

Balance due by June 10, for Week 2

Balance due by July 8, for Week 6

No refunds beyond May 13, 2016

(Substitutions are permitted.)

FALL TRAINING

September 10, 23-25,

and

October 7-9, 2016

Sep. 10: 8:00 AM – Noon

Weekends:

Fri. 5:30 PM – Sunday 3:30 PM

COST

\$230 per In-Council Camper

\$260 Outside-Council Camper

REGISTRATION

Register online or clip and mail form to:

National Youth Leadership Training

PO Box 1059, Gastonia, NC 28053

Make checks payable to

Boy Scouts of America

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For Week 2:

Michael Montgomery

828-962-6069,

michael.montgomery@scouting.org (LL)

For Week 6:

Michael Hovis, 980-241-6636,

michael.hovis@scouting.org (BG)

For Fall:

Travis Walker, 828-286-3394

travis.walker@scouting.org (CR)

2016 National Youth Leadership Training REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email: _____

Troop or Crew Number _____ Birth Date _____

T-Shirt Size: ☐ SM ☐ MD ☐ LG ☐ XL ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL

Leadership Position _____ Week: ☐ Summer/Wk 2 ☐ Summer/Wk 6 ☐ Fall

Unit Leader Name _____

Unit Leader Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent & Unit Leader Approval: parent: _____ leader: _____



PIEDMONT COUNCIL DISTRICT NEWS

BATTLEGROUND

Serving Cleveland County

District Chairman
Larry Hamrick, Jr. 704-739-3611
larry@kminsure.com

District Commissioner
Alan Morgan 704-284-3495
scoutman95@aol.com

District Executive
Michael Hovis 980-241-6636
michael.hovis@scouting.org

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Eagle Board
- 3 Committee/Commissioners Meeting – 6:30 PM, Aldersgate UMC
- 10 Roundtable – 6:30 PM, Aldersgate UMC
- 18-19 Webelos Woods
- 28-April 1 Spring Break – Cleveland County Schools

APRIL

- 1-2 Woodbadge – Weekend 1
- 5 Eagle Board
- 7 Committee/Commissioners Meeting – 6:30 PM, Aldersgate UMC
- 9 Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Day
- 14 Roundtable – 6:30 PM, Aldersgate UMC
- 15-16 Woodbadge Weekend 2
- 20 Council Eagle Scout Banquet
- 29-May 1 Battleground Spring Camporee

BATTLEGROUND DISTRICT NEWS

2016 FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

If we have not scheduled or held a 2016 Family Friends of Scouting campaign at your Pack/Troop/Crew, please contact Michael Hovis (980-241-6636) so that we may get you on our schedule this year. We want to be able to continue supporting the Scouting program, and the Friends of Scouting campaign is a great way that the local community can help.

CAMP CARD SALE

It is that time of year again. The 2016 Camp Card Sale is now underway. This year's cards have many incredible offers for the Battleground District. There are two cards that are available this year: Kings Mountain and Shelby. As always, the cards are selling for \$10, but the buyer is able to save more than that using the snap-off portions alone. If your unit needs more Camp Cards or is interested in selling, please let Michael Hovis know. (michael.hovis@scouting.org)

MEDIA

As always, if your unit is working on something in the community that you would like to have published in the local newspaper, please contact Michael Hovis by email at michael.hovis@scouting.org, and let him know. It is very important for our community to be able to see what great things we are doing. Great job to Don Crawford and the *Kings Mountain Herald* for their article in the February 3 edition spotlighting the Battleground District Banquet.

CHIMNEY ROCK

Serving Rutherford and Polk Counties

District Committee Chairman
Cooper Flack 828-245-8061
District Commissioner
Bill Giles 828-286-0273
Assistant District Commissioners
Dr. Mark McCall 828-859-5839
Rodney Blanton 828-305-3404
District Executive
Travis Walker 828-286-3394
travis.walker@scouting.org

CHIMNEY ROCK DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3 Chimney Rock District Roundtable – Rutherfordton Scout Hut, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 District Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting – Scout Hut, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

- 7 Chimney Rock District Roundtable – Rutherfordton Scout Hut, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 District Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting – Scout Hut, 7:00 p.m.

CHIMNEY ROCK DISTRICT NEWS

ROUNDTABLES

It is extremely vital to the success of your unit that you have representation at the monthly District Roundtables. It is at these meetings that you will get important materials and information that will allow for your program to flourish! We have a blast at our Roundtables, and it always makes me feel like I am going to my monthly “family reunion.” I hope to see each of you there! Please don't forget that we have Pack 165 & Troop 132 hosting the Chimney Rock District Roundtable every 1st Thursday of each.

PUBLICITY

Another great month has passed with super articles in the paper! I hope everyone in the District will keep up the great work in getting Scouting out to the public. If you have any pictures or stories you would like to get in the paper, please contact the local paper or get in touch with me and I would love to help you out! If you do get articles in the paper, please try to retain a copy to give Travis Walker so that I may take it to the Piedmont Council Scout Office to show how Scouting is getting out into the community.

2016 FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

If we have not scheduled or held a 2016 Family Friends of Scouting campaign at your Pack/Troop/Crew, please contact Travis Walker (828-447-4194) so that we may get you on our schedule this year. In order for us to continue to grow the Scouting movement, we must ensure its financial security by giving as many Scouting supporters as possible the opportunity to be a part of helping this great program continue for years to come. We have already begun with great success in the District this year with the groups we have spoken to, and look forward to having you all be a part of this campaign this year.



2016 CAMP CARD SALES

Great JOB so far this year Chimney Rock District! Keep up the hard work and effort to make this the greatest benefit possible to all the Scouts in Chimney Rock District. The highest selling Cub Scout in the Chimney Rock District will receive a FREE week of Day Camp this summer, and the highest selling Boy Scout will receive a FREE week of Summer Camp this year at Camp Bud Schiele. The opportunities are endless, and not to mention that your Pack/Troop/Crew can earn as much as \$5 for every single card sold! That is absolutely AMAZING! Continue with your strong efforts all the way through this sale, and let's see the Chimney Rock District exceed \$38,000 in sales this year and set our highest mark EVER! Don't forget that if we are able to hit \$55,000 in Camp Card sales this year, I will let you all SHAVE MY HEAD completely BALD.

FOOTHILLS

Serving Caldwell and Alexander

District Chairman

Jon Blair828-758-1414

District Commissioner

Paula Castleman828-850-0766

Senior District Executive

Chris Scruggs828-851-1302
scruffy0007@embarqmail.com

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT CALENDAR**MARCH**

- 1 Ski Beech event
- 2 District Committee meeting – 6:30 pm
- 2 Foothills Roundtable leaders meeting – 7:30 pm
- 5 CBS – Camp Day of service
- 11-13 Foothills Spring Camporee
- 8-9 Model United Nations Conference
- 11-12 Exploring Emergency Preparedness Event – Camp Bud Schiele
- 18-20 OA Spring Fellowship
- 18-20 Webelos Woods
- 23 Council Commissioner meeting
- 24 Foothills District Commissioner meeting – 6:30 pm, Whitnel UMC

APRIL

- 1-3 Woodbadge weekend #1
- 1-3 Kodiak weekend #1
- 5 Council Exploring Banquet
- 6 Foothills District Committee meeting – 6:30 pm
- 6 Foothills Roundtable Meeting – 7:30 pm

15-16 Woodbadge weekend #2

15-16 Kodiak weekend #2

20 Piedmont Council Eagle Banquet

21 Foothills Camp Card Turn-In meeting

22-24 OA Dixie Conclave

22-24 Climbing Instructor Course – CBS

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT NEWS**WEBELOS WOODS – MARCH 18-20**

Please put in your calendar and promote this great event. This camping experience is a great way to let your Webelos see what the Boy Scout Program is about and also visit the camp. There will be a great crossover ceremony for the second year Webelos conducted by the Piedmont Council Order of the Arrow. Your boys will gain valuable knowledge and skills from older scouts as well as just have some good old fun in the outdoors. For more information contact Chris Scruggs or you can log onto the council website to register!

FOOTHILLS BANQUET

Congratulations to those leaders that were recognized at the Foothills District Recognition Banquet! We would also like to thank all of the committee that helped with the banquet!

D.E. NOTES

I would like to thank each volunteer for their hard work and dedication to youth in our area! Remember, what we do is for the YOUTH!

GEMSTONE

Serving Iredell County

District Chairman

Dr. Tim Brewer704-437-0944

District Commissioner

Mike Bernhardt704-252-2850

District Executive:

Dwayne Cloarc.704-495-5564
dcloar@bsaemail.org

Visit our district Website at
www.gemstonedistrict.com

GEMSTONE DISTRICT CALENDAR**MARCH**

- 1 BS Roundtable
- 3 CS Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 District Committee/Commissioner Meeting
- 16 Day Camp Training
- 21 Eagle Board
- 22 Day Camp Training

APRIL

- 5 BS Roundtable
- 7 CS Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter in Mooresville
- 16 Scout Show and Arbor Day Celebration
- 19 District Committee/Commissioner Meeting
- 18 Eagle Board
- 23 Pinewood Derby
- 29-1 Camporee

GEMSTONE DISTRICT NEWS**TRAINING**

Cub Leader Training, Youth Protection Training, Fast Start for position, and New Leader Essentials Training can all be completed online at www.scouting.org. If you have questions, or trouble getting online, contact Lee Barnes by emailing lee.barnes420@yahoo.com. There are links on the Gemstone District website, gemstonedistrict.com, with information on the new Cub Scout Program. You can also visit scouting.org/scoutsource, and click on Program Updates.

RECHARTERS

Please remember that all charters are due at the roundtable of the month that the recharter is due. This allows time to review the paperwork and get any corrections made before the month end. Also, Journey to Excellence forms are required with your charter paperwork. Please print off all internet rechartering papers and get the proper signatures before turning them in.

CAMP CARDS

Camp card season is here! The 2016 camp cards will be available at the February roundtable. This is a great way to raise funds for your pack, support the council and local businesses. The sale will run through the end of April.

SCOUT SHOW

We are once again joining the City of Statesville for the Arbor Day Celebration again this year. This is a great chance for the community to see Scouting in action. Over 500 people come through this event. Please begin to plan what activity your unit would like to facilitate this year. Please contact Melba if you have questions.



SPRING CAMPOREE

The Spring Camporee is April 29 through May 1 at Van Hoy Farms. The theme is Olympics. Please let us know if you would like to be on the committee.

DAY CAMP

Day Camp will be here before you know it. Cam is June 13 through the 17 at Van Hoy Farms. The theme is Scouting Around the World. Please start promoting this and planning to attend. Day camp Training will be held on March 16 and 22 at Vandenberg United Methodist Church. You must attend one of these trainings to work at camp.

DISTRICT WEBSITE

Check www.gemstonedistrict.com for updates on upcoming events, contact information, or to check out what is going on in our District. If you have information you would like to have posted, contact Seth Overcash at 704-664-0820 or email seth.overcash@windstream.net.

SUBMIT PICTURES OF YOUR SCOUTS TO THE PAPERS

Thank you to everyone for submitting pictures and articles to the newspaper. Send pictures of Scouts in action to our local papers and the council *Smoke Signals* newsletter! Encourage your Scouts to wear their uniform to Scout field trips and events. When submitting photos and articles, please include this: "For more information on local Scouting, contact the Piedmont Council at 704864-2694 or visit www.scouting.org." Photos can be submitted to: *Neighbors of Lake Norman* (was *Iredell Neighbors*), *The Charlotte Observer*, 20916 Torrence Chapel Road, Cornelius, N. C. 28031; *Mooreville Weekly*, 209 Delburg Street, Suite 209, Davidson, NC 28036; *Statesville Record and Landmark*, 222 East Broad Street, Statesville, NC 28677.

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at [facebook.com/PCBSA](https://www.facebook.com/PCBSA)

HEARTLAND

Serving Lincoln County and North Gaston County, including Denver, Lincolnton, Cherryville, Mount Holly, and Stanley.

District Chairman

Ed Blackburn.....704-685-4997
eiblackburn01@gmail.com

District Commissioner

Mike Strader.....704-914-6389
mike.strader84@gmail.com

District Executive

Adam McCarrison.....412-477-7349
adam.mccarrison@scouting.org

District Website:

www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org/districts/heartland-district/19090

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/Heartland-District-of-Piedmont-Council-BSA-191162468581/

HEARTLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR**MARCH**

- 3 District Banquet – 6-8 P.M., Boger City U.M.C., Boger City, N.C.
- 7 Committee / Roundtable Meeting – 6-8 P.M., 1st U.M.C., Lincolnton, N.C.

APRIL

- 7 Committee / Commissioner / Roundtable Meeting – 6-8 P.M., 1st U.M.C., Lincolnton, N.C.

HEARTLAND DISTRICT NEWS**FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING (FOS) 2016**

Is there an event or evening where a family presentation could be made in your local community or unit? Please look at your calendars in March and April, and let us know at our next Roundtable meeting, and we will make it happen for your local unit. Our dedicated chairperson is currently coordinating our Family Friends of Scouting Campaign this year for the Heartland District. They have done a great job working with our local units in the past for the Heartland District. Currently, it costs the Piedmont Council approximately \$175 per youth to run the program. The vast majority of this funding comes from the Friends of Scouting Campaign. For as little as \$15 per month, you can sponsor one scout and make a difference in the lives of youth in your community. Many of you have already given your time, talent, and treasure to support Scouting and for that,

I would like to personally thank you. If your unit has not selected a date for your presentation, please contact your District Executive. It is our goal to give all of the families in the Heartland District an opportunity to give to the Friends of Scouting Campaign and learn how their individual financial donation helps deliver the program in their local community.

HEARTLAND DISTRICT BANQUET 2016

Unit Leaders, please continue to nominate for our Leader of the Year Awards. We have awards in Den Leader, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, Committee Member, and Committee Chairman. Final decisions will be made by the District Committee after reviewing letters of recommendation written by volunteers. If you wish to nominate someone, please write a personal letter, put it into an envelope, and give it to one of our Key 3 members (listed above) or turn it in at the Gastonia office. Unit awards are chosen by the District Committee after reviewing the record of each unit for the year. District Award of Merit is given by a separate committee of past District Award of Merit recipients in the district.

CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP STAFF 2016

We are in the planning stages for Cub Scout Day Camp 2016! If you have participated on staff in the past or would like to be a first time staff member, please let us know immediately. We are looking for adult volunteers and Boy Scout youth volunteers who can serve for one, two, three, four, or all five days of day camp for this current season. Please e-mail your contact information and which activities you would be interested in helping with (examples: Scout Skills, Arts & Crafts, and/or Archery) or if you would like to be considered for Cub Scout Day Camp staff.



LAKELAND

Serving Catawba County

District Chairman.....Mike Carpenter
mike.carpenter@prysmiangroup.com

District CommissionerCurtis Hamlin
bsaldr@embarqmail.com

District Director

Michael Montgomery, 828-962-6069
michael.montgomery@scouting.org

LAKELAND DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 2 District Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM at Partnership for Children, 738 4th Street SW, Hickory, NC
- 3 Roundtable – 7 PM at First United Methodist Church, 410 1st Ave N, Conover, NC
- 17 Eagle Board – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1686 6th St SE, Hickory, NC

APRIL

- 6 District Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM at Partnership for Children, 738 4th Street SW, Hickory, NC
- 7 Roundtable – 7 PM at First United Methodist Church, 410 1st Ave N, Conover, NC
- 21 Eagle Board, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1686 6th St SE, Hickory, NC
- 29-May 1 Spring Camporee – Camp Bud Schiele

LAKELAND DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT BANQUET

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Lakeland District Banquet. The banquet was held at First United Methodist Church in Conover on Feb. 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Mayor Lee Moritz of Conover was the emcee. A special thanks to Troop 322 for hosting the banquet this year. Also a special thanks to Cheryl Martin, who was the awards chair for this year's banquet.

At the banquet, the following Scouters and units were recognized:

District Award of Merit –

Pierre Rheeder, Pack 322

Claude Abernethy Award –

Dale Hollar, Troop 238

Commissioner of the Year – Gene Annas

Scoutmaster of the Year –

Fred Roseman, Troop 327

Scouter of the Year – Bill Roberts, Troop 250

Troop of the Year – Troop 250

Cubmaster of the Year – Brady Shepherd,
Pack 341

Cub Scouter of the Year –

Mike Charles, Pack 322

Den Leader of the Year – Joel Fish, Pack 238

Pack of the Year – Troop 341

Unit Leader Award of Merit –

Gerald Loftin, Troop 322

SPRING CAMPOREE

Boy Scout Troops, mark your calendars for April 29-May 1, 2016. These are the dates for the spring camporee. The camporee will be held at Camp Bud Schiele and it will be hosted by Troop 250 of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Hickory. Cost is \$5 per person. All troops are encouraged to participate. The camporee will be based on backpacking skills. Stay tuned to the Lakeland District News E-mails for updates.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

This year's Friends of Scouting Campaign, or FOS, is well underway. Friends of Scouting is the Piedmont Council's annual fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds to operate. Money raised through FOS pays for the following: "free" rank advancement to our Scouting units, operation and maintenance of Camp Bud Schiele, the Smoke Signals newsletter, operation of the Scout Service Center, Camperships for Scouts whose families need financial assistance so that the Scouts can attend camp, a professional staff to work with our

volunteers, and program support and trainings for our volunteers. We need the help of our entire Scouting community to make this year's campaign a success. Many business leaders and volunteers have already given a lot of their financial resources to keep Scouting strong so that we can continue to operate. We also need the help of our Scouting families to make the campaign a success. It costs about \$175 per Scout to operate our council for one year. If your unit has not scheduled a Family FOS presentation for your next Pack meeting, Court of Honor, or Crew Meeting, contact Pierre Rheeder at scouter-pierre@usa.com.

CAMP CARD SALE

The Camp Card Sale is now underway! Camp Cards are a great way for our Scouts to earn their way and gives them the ability to fully fund their Scouting program year. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers can pay their way to Summer Camp, Day Camp and other Scouting activities throughout the year by selling Camp Cards. If you missed the initial distribution on or just need more cards, we can help you. Contact Michael Montgomery at michael.montgomery@scouting.org to request camp cards. This is a great fundraiser and the cards are easy to sell. With the variety of reusable deals along with the one time snap-off deals from businesses in our community, the value of the card goes well beyond the \$10 price we sell them for. When preparing your Scouts to sell the cards, don't forget to coach them to ask, "How many cards would you like to buy?" Join us again for this year's 2016 Camp Card Sale!

CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP

Day Camp this year will be held June 20-24, 2016. We are still in the planning stages for this event. Mary Bolton is the Day Camp Director. Pierre Rheeder is our program director for this year. If you are interested in volunteering for Day Camp (and we do need your help), then please e-mail Mary at jasonmarybolt@aol.com or call her at 704-942-1676. Cost for this year's camp is \$70 before June 3 and \$80 after June 3. This year's theme is Scouting Around the World. You may go to the council website to get the Lakeland Day Camp Flyer.



If your Scout or Unit has gone on an outing, participated in an activity, or if you just have an interesting Scouting story, please share it!

Email stories and pictures to Kim Deese at kim.deese@scouting.org. Please send images as attached files, and do not insert pictures into another program such as Word or Publisher. Or, send prints and LEGIBLE stories to: **Smoke Signals: Scouting in Action, PO Box 1059, Gastonia, NC 28053**

Sorry – prints can't be returned. We look forward to sharing your stories and photos with everyone in the Piedmont Council!



TABLE ROCK/ SWAMPFOX

*Table Rock – Serving Burke County;
Swampfox – Serving McDowell County*

Table Rock District Chair Robert Patton
District Commissioner..... Paul Vanover
Swamp Fox District Chair Vacant
District Commissioner Butch Wilson

Table Rock/ Swamp Fox District Executive
Clint Beilke 828-559-7699
Clint.Beilke@scouting.org
District Website www.swampfoxbsa.org

TABLE ROCK/SWAMP FOX DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 TR Roundtable – FUMC Morganton, 7pm
- 1 TR OA Chapter Meeting – FUMC Morganton, 7pm
- 3 SF Roundtable – FUMC Marion, 7pm
- 9 Council Day Camp Meeting, 7pm
- 10 TR District Committee – Grace Hospital
- 18-19 OA Spring Fellowship

APRIL

- 5 TR Roundtable/Recharter Due – FUMC Morganton, 7pm
- 5 TR OA Chapter Meeting – FUMC Morganton, 7pm
- 7 SF Roundtable – FUMC Marion, 7pm
- 7-9 Swamp Fox Pinewood Derby – FUMC Marion
- 14 TR District Committee Meeting – Grace Hospital
- 16 Tablerock Pinewood Derby – Valdese UMC
- 22-24 OA Dixie Conclave

TABLE ROCK/SWAMP FOX DISTRICT NEWS

NEW CUB SCOUT ROUNDTABLE COMMISSIONER

We are pleased to announce we have a brand new Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner for Tablerock District! Her name is Karen Barton.

CAMP CARD SALE

With our camp cards coming out early again this year, we are now running full speed for our 2016 Camp Card sale! This is a great way for your Scouts to earn money for upcoming summer events, such as Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scouts Summer Camp. We have reworked the cards from last year and have many great discounts, so please be sure to make the most of this easy

fundraiser for you and your unit! For additional cards in Swamp Fox, please call Nicole Smith at 828-442-0816; in Tablerock call Clint Beilke at 828-559-7699.

Tips: Many units across the council have had amazing success selling cards in front of stores. As always, it's best to schedule with the store manager when planning to sell in front of their store.

FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING PRESENTATIONS

Family FOS presentations are being scheduled through May. If your Pack or Troop has not signed up, please do so and join the many others who already have! We are forming a team of Scouters to conduct the presentations. If you would like to help, contact either Clint Beilke or Karen Barton. Please schedule a time for a brief (5-10 minute) presentation about Friends of Scouting at an upcoming Pack Meeting, Blue & Gold, or Court of Honor.

Scout families from all the units that supported last year showed generous support of Scouting, which was critical to keeping the Boy Scout program healthy in this district and council. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far!

PINEWOOD DERBY

Swamp Fox pinewood derby will take place at FUMC of Marion on Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9. The track will be set up in the fellowship so that all packs can determine who will play in the finals on Saturday.

Tablerock pinewood derby will take place on Saturday, April 16 at Valdese First Methodist Church.

OA UNIT ELECTIONS

It is that time of year. Please schedule your unit elections for the OA with John Tudor, jrtudor@bellsouth.net. Also SCOUTMASTERS, please encourage all youth that are currently members of the OA to attend monthly Chapter meetings. There are several events coming up that are being discussed. Chapter meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Tablerock Roundtable, FUMC Morganton, 7pm.

TWO RIVERS

Serving Gaston County

District Chairman

Duane Jenkins 704-400-5319
mentact@gmail.com

District Commissioner

Joe Styers jstyers@bellsouth.net

District Executive ...vacant (704-864-2694)

Field Director Kirk Setzer
kirk.setzer@scouting.org

TWO RIVERS DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Roundtables – 7pm (CS), 7:30 (BS), 1st Pres. Gastonia
- 28-April 1 Gaston County Spring Break

APRIL

- 5 Roundtables – 7pm (CS), 7:30 (BS), 1st Pres. Gastonia
- 7 District Committee Meeting – 7pm, Scout Office
- 16 Run for the Money – Downtown Gastonia
- 23 District Pinewood Derby Race – Tindol Ford
- 29-5/1 District Camporee

TWO RIVERS DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT – CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Duane Jenkins and Glenn Silverman who were the 2015 District Award of Merit Recipients. Both Duane and Glenn should be congratulated and thanked for their time and effort they have given to the Scouting program. Both men are Eagle Scouts and have held many positions within the Two Rivers District. Thanks again for the time, energy and effort you have given and continue to give to the Scouting programs.

CAMP CARD SALE

Camp Card Sale

FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING PRESENTATIONS

It is that time of year where we ask that EVERY unit to open your doors and allow a district volunteer to come and share the information with all parents on how Scouting is funded. Once again for 2016 the Council will continue with the Scout Law patches and prints for this year. 2016 will be "Helpful" and a great way for parents to "help" is through a small donation to Scouting. For only \$15 per month, you can sponsor ONE scout for a year of Scouting. In 2015 we had great



support from the families of Scouts at those units where presentations were held. In 2016 the goal for Two Rivers is 100% participation. Presentations will be conducted from January to May and should be held at a Pack Meeting, Blue and Gold or Troop Court of honor. If you haven't scheduled your unit's presentation you need to as soon as possible.

PUBLICITY

Don't forget, we want Scouting in the NEWS in 2016! Great things are happening across the Two Rivers district. Service Projects, Eagle Scouts, or trips that your unit may take. I would like to see more Scouting in the NEWS. If you have an article you can submit, please sent it to Wil McDonald at wmacdonald@gastongazette.com. Wil is great about sharing Scouting articles and I am sure that we have something GREAT to share EVERY week! Special prize will be awarded at the 2017 District Banquet for the unit with the most NEWS in 2016.

FROM THE FIELD DIRECTOR

I am confident that before the end of March the Two Rivers district will have a new Scouting Professional. We have conducted interviews in January of this year and are close to a final decision. As soon as a professional is hired I will send an announcement via the group emails. I want to thank Joe Styers for agreeing to serve as our new District Commissioner. If your unit needs help, or assistance of any kind, please don't hesitate to let myself or Joe know. Joe's contact email is listed above.

Make it a GREAT DAY for SCOUTING, Kirk

Exploring NEWS

Exploring Chairman
Dr. Steve Thornburg.....704-484-4004
Exploring Commissioner
Tommy King.....704-739-6319
Exploring ExecutiveRichard Churn
704-864-2694, ex. 1121
richard.churn@scouting.org



Lodge Chief
Nathan Davisnatedavis19@hotmail.com
Lodge Advisor
David Cody..... djcody@charter.net
Staff Advisors
Patrick Lally patrick.lally@scouting.org

ORDER OF THE ARROW DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

5 Camp Day of Service – Camp Bud Schiele
18-20 Spring Fellowship – CBS

APRIL

22-24 Dixie Fellowship – Lincolnton, GA 30817,
Knox Scout Reservation

MAY

13-15 Ordeal Weekend #1

JUNE

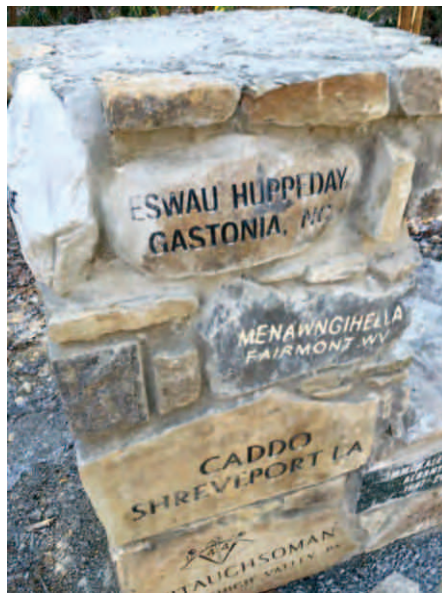
3-5 Ordeal Weekend #2

ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS CAMP DAY OF SERVICE

Open to both OA and non-OA Scouts, our annual Camp Day of Service is your chance to be a part of keeping our camp awesome!

DIXIE FELLOWSHIP

In April, our lodge will send its Dixie Contingent to Know Scout Reservation near Lincolnton, GA, for Dixie Fellowship.



Eswal Huppeday 560 Centennial Rock at the Summit Circle.

SPRING/ SUMMER ORDEALS

If your unit has Scouts or adult volunteers who are eligible for Ordeal, they have three opportunities this Spring/Summer for Ordeals at Camp Bud Schiele: May 13-15, June 3-5, and August 19-21.

LOST

If you hap across a wandering adult scouter who calls himself John Green, please notify authorities.

ORDER OF THE ARROW UNIT ELECTIONS/ORDEAL INFORMATION FOR SCOUTMASTERS – 2016

To all Scoutmasters –

Please READ and FOLLOW all the instructions!

The election forms for 2016 contain a few changes, which include additional information the Lodge requires for ordeal candidates. Please use the new forms and discard any older election forms you may have at your troop.

You can also download all the current forms from the Lodge Website at - www.eswau.net/forms/.

The Lodge is asking that you work with your OA Chapter Advisor for your election.

Basic Election Guidelines:

-Scouts must be First Class Before the Unit elections

-They must have completed at least 15 nights of camping within the last 2 years, of which only 6 days and 5 nights were at summer camp.

-The troop must have at least 50% of the registered youth present for a valid election

-Each candidate must receive 50% of the votes of the youth present during the election

-Each candidate who receives 50% is an eligible for Ordeal (1 or all can be nominated)

-You can hold only 1 election per year.

-For Adult Elections – Please review the following instructions and the entire adult nomination form.



"Selection and induction into the Order of an adult Scouter should take place only when the adult's job in Boy Scouting or Varsity Scouting will make Order of the Arrow membership more meaningful in the lives of the youth membership. It must not be for the purpose of adult recognition." Information updated in 2016 include:

1. Scoutmaster Information Sheet
2. Unit Election Form and Adult Nomination Form
3. Ordeal Information Sheet with Registration Section
4. BSA Health form part A & C
5. Lodge Code of Conduct Please complete the entire unit elections form and mail the form as soon as possible to the address listed at the bottom of the form.



Register Today For The 2017 BSA National Jamboree!

Anyone wishing to attend Jamboree as part of a contingent must submit an APPLICATION to the Council Office and also register at www.bsajamboree.org.

Staff applicants only need to apply online (staff are the only ones to make payment directly to the Jamboree office).

ALL applications must be approved at the Council level prior to being accepted at the National level.

CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION!



The Southern Region contingent at the 2016 Train The Trainer event in Fruitland Park, FL

Fill in all the blanks and sign the form. Be sure to include the elected candidate's address, phone number, and National BSA membership number (from their membership card) on the table provided with the form.

National BSA policy now requires each Lodge to review all participants' current BSA membership cards at OA events. All OA participants must be current BSA members. Please contact my Advisor Junior Sherrill, cell (704) 450-2192 or email tmsj@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.

Written by: Nelson Hart Eswau
Huppeday Unit Elections Chairman

DEAR CAROLINA INDIAN SEMINAR PARTICIPANT:

First, I would like to *thank you* for registering to attend this year's Carolina Indian Seminar. We were on goal to have one of the largest attendances on record. We had wonderful instructors and vendors coming from all over the country. Our excellent staff was excited and ready to serve. Unfortunately, Mother Nature was not so kind...

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that we have been unsuccessful in rescheduling the 2016 Carolina Indian Seminar. We made several attempts to find an alternate weekend, but either the college was booked or other events were already on the scouting calendars. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the process to try to reschedule.

Although no one wanted to make the call to cancel this year, we felt it was necessary for the safety of the participants and instructors. *I do hope this only whets your appetite for a bigger and better CIS in 2017!* Go ahead and mark your calendar for the weekend of January 20th through the 22nd. You can keep up with the 2017 Carolina Indian Seminar on our Facebook page or by visiting the Lodge website (Eswau.net).

We are enclosing a full refund and your original registration paperwork. If you sent multiple registrations for one unit, they may be returned separately. Again, we thank you for your patience and understanding.

We have had numerous requests for the patches that are normally given out with the registration packet. This year's patch was



designed by Ed deTorres and is very impressive. It is available as a participant, instructor, or staff patch. ***We are including an order form for those of you who want to keep your collection intact!*** Please note that there is NO shipping charge for the patch orders. The patches will be available on a first come / first served basis as there are a limited number available.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about next year's event and please allow me to thank you once again for registering for this year's event.

Thank you,
Tammy Miller
southernunicorn@yahoo.com

Please plan to join the 2017 Carolina Indians Seminar from January 20-22!

SCOUTING IN ACTION...



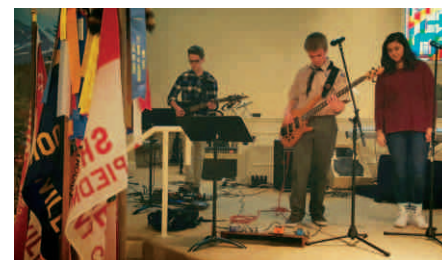
Gemstone District Vesper Service

The Gemstone District held it's Scout Vesper Service on Monday, February 8, 2016, at Landmark Church of God in Statesville, NC. Landmark Church of God is the charter sponsor for pack 314.

This service was a celebration of the 106th anniversary of Boy Scouts and was a Scout's own worship service. This was a youth lead service, planned and presented by troop chaplain aides. Gus Glover, a scout from troop 377 in Mooresville, NC, was the lead chaplain aide. He was advised and assisted by Scoutmaster, Tommy Carriker from troop 332 in Mooresville, NC.



This service included a flag ceremony, scout lead prayers, a scout worship band and a message presented by Gus Glover. This service was attended by packs and troops from all over Iredell County. The district also recognized any youth or adult that received their religious award through the P.R.A.Y. organization in 2015.



2016 CAROLINA INDIAN SEMINAR PATCHES ORDER FORM



	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Delegate Patch	\$4.00	x =	
10 or more Delegate Patches	\$3.00	x =	
Staff Patch	\$6.00	x =	
Instructor Patch	\$6.00	x =	
Full Set of 3 Patches	\$14.00	x =	
Total			

Free Shipping – Please make check or money order payable to:
Eswau Huppeday Lodge

Mail to: Eswau Huppeday Lodge, C/O Tammy Miller, 3005 Dresden Drive,
Gastonia, NC 28056

Ship patches to:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►



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www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org

and at [facebook.com/PCBSA](https://www.facebook.com/PCBSA)

facebook



NRA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING CLASS

APRIL 8-10, 2016

CAMP BUD SCHIELE, RUTHERFORDTON, NC

WHO MAY ATTEND

Any Venturer, Boy Scout, or Adult Registered BSA Leader. This course certifies you as an NRA instructor. The course does not allow you to take a troop to Camp Bud Schiele and open the ranges. Your certification **does allow** you to take a troop to a local range and sign off as a merit badge counselor for rifle or shotgun merit badges

NRA PRE-QUALIFICATIONS

A Pre-Qualification Test must be taken during the first ½ of class to determine your skill set level and a score of 80% must be achieved to be admitted to class. This score is not hard to achieve if you have had any previous shooting experience. NOTE: (These classes are open to all Venturing Youth regardless of previous shooting experience. Your score will not be a determining factor in your acceptance into this course)

DISCIPLINES TO BE TAUGHT

Basic Instructor Training and Rifle Instructor Course. Range Safety Officer will be offered, if there is enough interest.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration deadline is Friday, March 31, 2016. This deadline has been established to allow us ample time for supplies to arrive. In emergency cases we may be able to add additional individuals. Payment is due on or before the course date. Details regarding course syllabus, time schedules for the weekend, food arrangements etc will be sent to you upon your confirmation attendance.

Register your attendance for this class online:



www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org AND at www.nrainstructors.org

Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding the course:

NRA Master Training Counselor,
Mark Belli – 703-267-1550,
mbelli@nrahq.org

PRICING:

DISCIPLINE	ADULTS	YOUTH
NRA Basic Instructor	Included	Included
NRA Rifle Instructor	\$125.00	\$75.00
NRA Range Safety Officer	\$50.00	N/A

If you are not already on the Piedmont Council E-Mail Mailing List, sign-up NOW to receive *Smoke Signals* in your Inbox!



Click here, or find this icon on the council website!

SCOUTING IN ACTION...

Pack 28 visits the USS Yorktown



Over the weekend of February 5-7, some members of Pack 28 visited Patriot's Point and camped on the USS Yorktown. We all donned our new Pack 28 Yorktown t-shirts and began a journey that would take us back in time to experience what life was like as a sailor on the USS Yorktown.

We all slept in the same bunks that the crewmen used and even ate in the Chief Petty Officers' Mess on the ship. Right after breakfast we took a short boat ride to Fort Sumter. We actually helped open the fort for the day and

joined the other scouts in attendance in raising the US flag. What an honor! The rest of the day was spent exploring the USS Yorktown (aircraft carrier), USS Clamagore (destroyer), USS Laffey (submarine), the Vietnam Era US Naval Support Base, and Cold War Memorial before meeting again for supper aboard the ship. We

made sure to take time to teach the scouts about the sailors who gave so much while on those ships and while serving our country. Each of the areas was perfect for them to learn about the horrible reality of war and about the great sacrifices that members of the military have gone through for us. Some of our group enjoyed winding down while watching a movie in the ship's theater and others kept exploring



until "lights out." Sunday morning seemed to just come too quickly for our pack. Some of the scouts just didn't want to leave. We are looking forward to heading back down to Patriot's Point for our next adventure in time travel and highly recommend other units do the same.



Philmont Training Center – Summer Is Just Around the Corner

Have you been thinking about attending a conference at Philmont Training Center but are unsure of what to expect or if it would be worth the effort?

- "The advancement course at Philmont Training Center was so informative and up-lifting. I came away feeling much more prepared to fulfill my position to help more youth succeed!"
- "I totally enjoyed my experience at PTC. The advancement training was very informative and the staff was very supportive. I will definitely let others know that this is a worthwhile use of their time."

What advancement opportunities are available this summer at Philmont Training Center? Here are two in

formative conferences to consider:

• **Mechanics of Advancement: June 12-18.** Are you or someone else in your district or council struggling with understanding how advancement should work or how to assist units with proper advancement? Then this conference is just the right place for you.

This curriculum will be relevant for all advancement personnel, but will be directed particularly at those who are new to advancement or are in need of some refreshing. Every significant aspect of advancement will be covered.

• **Advancement Issues and Solutions: July 31-August 6.** Are you more experienced and want to delve deeper into the "ins and outs" of advancement?

This conference is your opportunity.

Attendees will return home with a better understanding of the proper and effective use of the *Guide to Advancement* and the confidence to handle difficult issues in their home councils.

The faculty for both conferences will consist of members of the National Advancement Task Force and National Advancement Advisory Panel, who will share the latest on advancement information, issues, and trends.

Get more information and register at www.philmontscout ranch.org/PTC.aspx.

P.S. An excellent family program is also available, so bring the family for a week of adventure they won't forget!

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR ORIENTATION

★ *Yes, you need this instruction!!*

Per the *Guide to Advancement 2015*, each MB Counselor is required to have:

- a) Youth Protection Training, and
- b) Merit Badge Counselor Orientation.

Paperwork necessary is a BSA membership document (no charge for code 42) and a MB Counselor information sheet.

MB Counselor Orientations will be next held on:

Saturday, March 19, 11 a.m.

Wesley Memorial Church Scout Hut, Statesville
(Across from YMCA)

RSVP to Lee.Barnes420@yahoo.com

Wednesday, April 6, 6:15 p.m.

Philadelphia Lutheran Church, Granite Falls
RSVP to amybgreen@gmail.com

Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, Marion
RSVP to amybgreen@gmail.com



Earn a GAME DESIGN Merit Badge!

Saturdays, April 2, 9 & 16 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lutheran Chapel Church, 702 North New Hope Rd, Gastonia

Spend three Saturdays working toward your Game Design Merit Badge with **MB Counselor Jacob Cooper!** Hurry and register now – first-come, first-served – only 30 spots available in this class!

Scouts, wear your “Class A” uniform (may be allowed to change to “Class B” later, weather permitting).

Bring your own pencil, paper, bag lunch and drink. Must provide your own blue card.

Deadline to register: MARCH 26.

Sign up electronically at www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org, or via USPS to Piedmont Council, BSA, P.O. Box 1059, Gastonia, NC 28053, Attn: Game Design MB

GAME DESIGN Merit Badge Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Troop # and Scoutmaster _____

LIVE SCOUTINGS ADVENTURE

2017 NATIONAL JAMBOREE

JULY 19 - 28



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER AT BSAJAMBOREE.ORG >