



Up Etowah Creek...

Etowah Creek District BSA Newsletter
Indian Waters Council in the Midlands of South Carolina, USA



Vol. 6 No. 8 May 2008

Welcome to Etowah Creek District [ECD] Scout Roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina.

This showcase for Leaders and older youth is held on the 2nd Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 p.m. We meet at Ashland Methodist Church on Ashland Rd. (off of St. Andrew's Rd.). Take a minute to read this newsletter, as that will keep the number of announcements to a minimum! This newsletter is always available at Roundtable, through your Unit Commissioners and Training Team, and from your DE, Tom McGrath. Please photocopy and distribute this freely to your units and leaders. Call me or email me if you need additional hard copies or an electronic copy, or if you spot an error.

Welcome! ~ ~ "Up Etowah Creek" Editor Lorie McGraw
750-0626 lmcgraw@sc.rr.com **BSRT Commissioner and Editor**
Tom McGrath *District Executive* tmcgrath@bsaemail.org
750-9868 Ext 110 Cell (803) 622-8029

See you in August!

Our next Leader Roundtable will be August 14, for the Program Preview for Etowah Creek District.

September Roundtable will be the Leader Kickoff.

Stay tuned to www.etowahcreek.com for topics and updates, as the website is redesigned and resources are added.

Subscribe to the site at www.etowahcreek.com

New Tour Permit Online

The new Tour Permit

BSA has issued a new version of the Tour Permit. It is editable and you can save your edited version on your computer for ease of filing and for revision for future events. *There are some changes and additions in the requirements.*

Form #34426 Revised December 2007: 2008 Printing
www.etowahcreek.com/forms/34426-TourPermit-Editable-Rev2007-2008Printing.pdf

"Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather"



The new course to go with the new Tour Permit Requirements is now online at the Online Learning Center <http://olc.scouting.org>
Remember! Don't wait until the last minute! Tour Permits must be submitted 2 weeks in advance. If plans change, updates can be made.

Important Note: if you file the Tour Permit late, it may not be returned to you in time for your trip. If you are camping without a signed and filed

Tour Permit you and your Chartered Organization may be liable for any injury, damage, or lawsuits resulting from your unit event. Please follow all guidelines and procedures to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for your Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers. See Council "Smoke Signals" for details.

Fireside Chat

with Council Scout Executive Larry Brown

Do you have a question about Scouting in our Council and District? Do you have a suggestion for an event, a policy, or a better way to bring the program to your son or unit? Come and talk to Larry Brown, our Scout Executive, on **Thursday June 5 at 7pm** at Ashland United Methodist Church. All Scouters and parents of Scouts are invited to this meeting.

Council Kickoff

Planning the Scout Calendar for 2008-09?

Thursday May 15th 6:30 is program kickoff for the Council. Be sure to come by and get your Council calendars for the dates for all events next year.

Westminster Presbyterian Church on Broad River Rd. next to Dutch Square 6:30PM

Criminal Background Checks for All Leaders to be Completed

To ensure Youth Protection, our organization has conducted criminal background checks (CBC) on all new volunteers since April 2003. Volunteers who have not had a background check will receive a letter in early June from Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca, The letter will direct the volunteer to a website to authorize a CBC (which report criminal activity, not credit or financial history). The site will be active from June 1 until August 1, 2008.

- This applies to adults registered in the BSA prior to April 2003.
- Letters to leaders should be going out in late May/Early June.
- Make sure that your contact addresses are correct for all memberships on your charter.
- If a leader does not have Internet access, please notify the Scout Office once a letter has been received or provide Internet access to him/her
- There is no charge.
- August 1, 2008 is the deadline.
- Volunteers who decline the authorization for a background check will lose their BSA membership.



This document is available online

at www.etowahcreek.com/downloads/136_CriminalBkgrndCheck_handout_bsa.pdf

and at www.bsacac.org/news/136_cbc_handout_bsa.pdf

International Young Eagles Day Fly for Free on May 10, June 14

Go flying for Free! If you are between 8 and 17 years old, the EAA Young Eagles program wants to offer you the chance of a lifetime. Turn your dreams into reality



on a free Young Eagles flight and become one of over 1 Million Young Eagles! The EAA Young Eagles program was launched in 1992 to give interested young people,

ages 8 - 17, and an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers

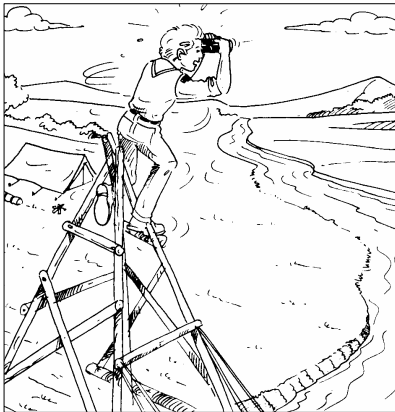
June 14, 2008 Owens Airport, Columbia, SC Call for more information Ronald Shelton at 803-796-1892.

Flights also available on May 10
www.young eagles.org

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.

Save the Date! 2008 Etowah Creek District Camporee November 21-23, 2008



For all Boy Scouts and Venturers

Webelos II may attend with a troop Harbison State Forest, Broad River Rd.

Camporee is a week-end long Scouting experience for Boy Scouts and Venturers For your initial planning:

* Watch for the opening of registration

and register early: There is limited space at the Camporee

* www.etowahcreek.com/ecc-camporee.htm

Would you like to help? Email Camporee Director Don Stowe: Camporee@EtowahCreek.com

Guide to Safe Scouting

The Guide to Safe Scouting is Free Online!

www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/ageguides.pdf

Remember that you must have a copy of the Guide to Safe Scouting with you at all outings!

Buy one at the Scout Shop or download it for free.

Calling all Cub Scouts

Join us as we "travel" the world learning about new cultures.

Cub Scouts Around the World Twilight Camp July 14-18, 2008 5-9pm



Registration available online at

www.iwc-bsa.com

www.etowahcreek.com

Fees: \$65 Discounts are available Tiger Cubs and an adult Partner are welcome!

See the website at www.etowahcreek.com/daycamp.htm

Crafts—Map and compass—GeoCache—Games—BB's and Archery Ranges each night plus a World's Fair!

Questions? CubDayCamp@etowahcreek.com

See you there!

2008 Etowah Creek District Award Recipients

Thank You to the folks that help us all bear the load!

Special Awards

2008 Etowah Creek District Award of Merit

Mr. Rushmore "Rush" Houghton MC Troop 411, Chapin

Thomas "Jerry" Hilbish SM Troop 91, Columbia

2008 Silver Beaver Award

Billy Griffin Troop 411

Scott Janoch Etowah Training Team

- * Commissioner of the Year:
Emmitt Sherron /Unit Commissioner
- * Cubmaster of the Year:
Robert "Tye" Whitaker /Pack 48
- * Scoutmaster of the Year:
William "Bill" Barton /Troop 870
- * Venturing Advisor of the Year:
Charles Weber /Crew 411
- * Den Leader of the Year:
Judi Platt /Pack 411
- * Assistant Scoutmaster of the Year:
Jim Kent /Troop 95
- * Scouter of the Year:
Beverly "Bev" Kubik /Troop and Team 576
- * Scout Family of the Year:
Cynthia and Gary Rippon, Glenn Rippon /Troop 91
- Distinguished Commissioner Award
William McCracken: UC and past District Commissioner
- Commissioner Silver Arrowhead Award
Lorie McGraw: Boy Scout Roundtable Cmsr and past Cub Scout RT Cmsr



AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and Presto! The blockage will be almost instantly removed.

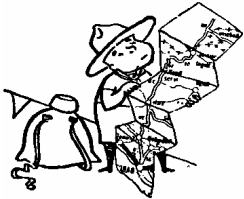
Safety Alert: Important Notice about Nalgene® Water Bottles Recall

Customers who have previously purchased Nalgene® bottles from the BSA should stop using the product and contact the Scout Shop. Then you should wait until arrangements are made by Nalgene to receive an alternate product. Call the Scout Shop for details.

If you have an item for the newsletter, please submit it by the second Monday of the month to lmcgraw@sc.rr.com

Attention

Check Online for Summer Camp Merit Badge Classes Registration is online Now! See www.indianwaters.org



So how hard is that Merit Badge??

Mr. D's Merit Badge Review 2008

www.usscouts.org/advance/docs/MrDsReview.html

FamilyWatchdog.us Check for the presence of sex offenders in your neighborhood, near your schools, and near your pack, troop, or crew meeting sites and get email alerts if one moves nearby. Free.

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

Have a bad toothache? Smash your thumb with a hammer and you will forget about the toothache.

Attention Scoutmasters and Senior Patrol Leaders

A power point presentation of "Troop Leadership Training" (TLT) is now available on the National BSA training website:

www.olg.scouting.org/resources/index.html

www.olg.scouting.org/resources/TLT.ppt

This training replaces the old Junior Leadership Training (JLT) Troop-level leadership training for your Leadership Corps.

Scouting Green Tip

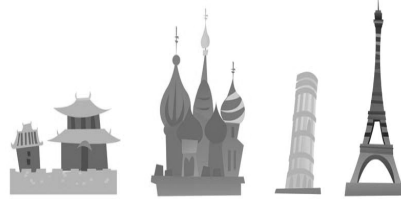
Did you know that the pilot light on a gas fireplace can use 1/2 the total gas that a gas fireplace burns in a year? Switching off the pilot light on your fireplace or furnace during warm summer months will save loads of natural gas. Depending on gas prices in your area, you can save about \$50 on bills each year if you turn off a pilot light during warm months. Once you know where the valve is and how to turn it off, it'll take you just a couple minutes each year.

A Scout is Thrifty!

Cub Scout Twilight Camp Needs Your Help!

Wanted: Energetic, fun loving volunteers to help out at the upcoming Cub Scout Twilight Camp in July.

We're looking for assistance in the following area; crafts, nature, games, Archery and BB gun range, Den Leaders and Assistants for the Den Leaders. **Boy scouts 14 or older are welcome as Den Walkers** (escorting Dens



from and from the program areas), Runners/Messengers and for general assistance in crafts, games, and other program areas.

A list of needed supplies has been gathered.

We're looking to borrow **canopy type shelters** to provide shade on the range.

Also, looking for donations of

- ~ men's neckties ~ Fluorescent glow-sticks for kids ~ newspapers ~ wooden drumsticks ~ 2x2 gauze bandages for First Aid Skills ~ alcohol wipes ~ maps of the local area (age-graduated for different ages and skills)

Decorations Needed: posters and items related to **France Mexico Germany China**

Our final night will encompass a World's Fair including dinner. **We're looking for a restaurant or caterer that will be willing to donate or discount food and drinks.**

If you are willing to help us out please contact Malanie DeVore, Camp Director at 781-5340 or Kim Johnson, Program Director at 528-3612

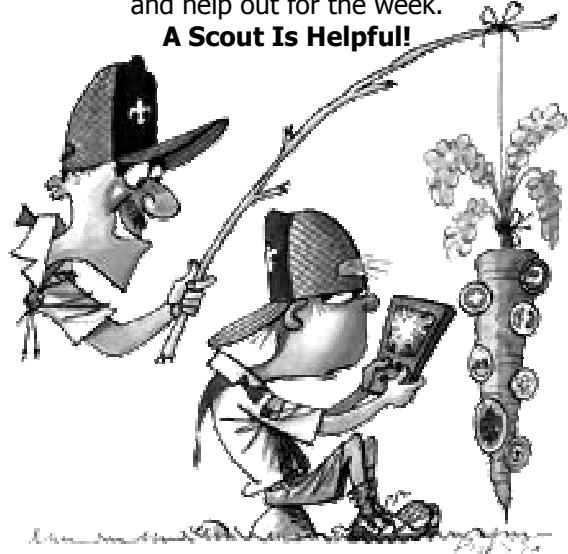
Daycamp email: CubDayCamp@etowahcreek.com

Cub Scouts Around the World Twilight Camp

July 14-18, 2008 5-9pm

There will be a discount available to Parents who stay and help out for the week.

A Scout Is Helpful!



Millennium Goals

To help combat social injustice, we need to help develop greater awareness of human needs (access to water, health care, human rights, etc.). Each of us can take action to help bring about social changes that can make the world a more just and human place.

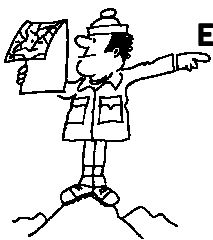
~WOSM – Youth Of The World/Scouts Of The World
www.youthoftheworld.net

Eagle Application News:

Changes for 2008

The new printing of the Eagle Scout Rank Application, No. 58-728, has a notable change. Now, under Requirement 5, the name of the candidate's Eagle project is required, as well as the grand total of hours devoted to it (from page 10 of the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook). **The new application**

will be required beginning May 1, 2008.



Etowah Creek District Website is being updated! Subscribe today www.etowahcreek.com



Notes from Tom

Tom McGrath, our District Executive, wants to make sure that you remember the following items:

Centennial Quality Units:

Make sure you recharter on time, as it is part of the Centennial Quality Unit (CQU) goals. Call or email Tom.

- ✦ Make sure to get your registration in for Summer Camp (both Troops and Packs) as the weeks are starting to fill up. There is a \$50/ Troop deposit for the reservation.

Tom McGrath *District Executive*
tmcgrath@bsaemail.org
750-9868 Ext 110 Cell (803) 622-8029



Have Fun and Get Paid, Too!

Staff is still needed for several areas

Apply today

Be on the Summer Camp Staff

Ages 15 and up. Go to the Camp Barstow website for an application.

www.campbarstow.org

Tom McGrath District Executive



Calling All Unit Commissioners

What does a Commissioner do?

Commissioners are district and council leaders who help Scout units succeed. They coach and consult with adult leaders of Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews.

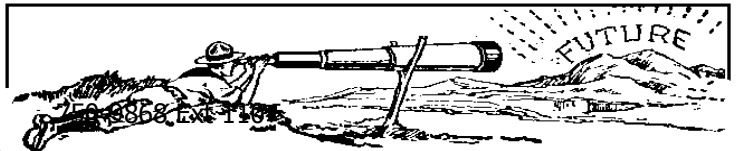
Unit Commissioners are appointed by the district commissioner with the approval of the council executive board. Unit commissioners should

- Have excellent people skills
- Have a Scouting background or be fast-track learners
- Know and practice Scouting ideals

If you wish to be considered for a position as a Unit Commissioner, or want more information about it, please email our District Commissioner, **Milton Quattlebaum** mpqandrhq@bellsouth.net or call **Emmitt Sherron** (803)405-0885 sherrone@bellsouth.net to see about availability and training. scouting.org/commissioners

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.



Dates to Remember!

Check the Council Calendar! www.indianwaters.org
Online Training is also available on the Council Website

May

8 Roundtable – Summer Camp Follies!

15 – Council Kickoff- get your calendar and updates
Westminster Pres. 6:30 PM

June

5 Fireside Chat with Council Scout Exec. **Larry Brown** 7pm
Ashland

12-15 Cub Scout Resident Camp

16-28 Camp Barstow Summer Camp weeks

29-July 2 – Webelos Waters session 1 Barstow

July

2-5 Webelos Waters session 2 Barstow

6-12 Camp Barstow Summer Camp Week 3

14-18 Etowah Twilight **Cub Day Camp** –
Cornerstone 5-9pm

August

14 – Program Preview and Kickoff – Ashland UMC 7 PM

November

21-23 Etowah Camporee – Harbison State Forest

Mark Your Calendars:

2009

March 20-22 **Woodbadge** Training weekend 1

April 17-19 **Woodbadge** Training weekend 2

Call Bruce Cannon 787-5763 or email bcannon3@sc.rr.com

Etowah Creek District Trainings:

Call Joan Janoch 345-5700 for more info





"The Dump"

Resources For Free Vintage Scouting Books
www.thedump.scoutscan.com

Cubcasts! CubScout Leader Podcasts:

New on the SCOUTING.ORG site!

Cubcast is an audio podcast from BSA featuring a variety of how-to and information topics for Cub Scout leaders and parents.

www.scouting.org/cubscouts/podcast

Subscribe to the RSS automatic feed or download individual episodes.

Go for the Gold, Roundtable Meetings - May 2008

Our May 2008 Cubcast features great ideas on how to integrate June's "Go for the Gold" theme into your den meetings. And we'll visit with the volunteer who literally wrote the book on roundtable; she has insights galore on the value of roundtable meetings. Plus timely summer reminders.



Cub Scout Program Helps

The annual *Cub Scout Program Helps* is such an important resource for Cub Scout leaders that it has often been called "the foundation for successful Cub Scouting." These Program Helps provide a detailed, easy-to-follow program to assist leaders in planning meetings. The *Cub Scout Program Helps* book, containing an entire year's worth of program planning assistance, is available from your local council service center. Ask for item number 34304.

For your convenience, the current and next month's program helps may also be downloaded as Acrobat PDF files. Go online to the Cub Scouting section and look for Leader Resources

www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/CubScoutHelps



AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.

Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award

Tiger Cubs, Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts have the opportunity to earn the **Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award**. Boys may earn the award in each of the program years as long as the requirements are completed each year. The first time the award is earned, the boy will receive the **pocket flap award**, which is to be worn on the right pocket flap of the uniform shirt. Each successive time the award is earned, a wolf track pin may be added to the flap. Leaders should encourage boys to build on skills and experiences from previous years when working on the award for a successive year.



AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

Record your "Good Turn" hours on the web

The BSA, through their **Good Turn for America** program, are focusing on supporting issues connected to food, shelter, and good health habits. Their project is a call to service to help provide adequate food and shelter and to develop good health habits in the country. The Scouts can record their service hours and to inform people of what they have done on the project's website www.goodturnforamerica.org

Free Online Scouting for Boys

The Baden-Powell original work that started it all

www.thedump.scoutscan.com/s4b.html

The definitive manual for Scouts. This is the book that started Scouting. Complete with illustrations by Baden-Powell Free to download and share.



Muscogee Lodge Order of the Arrow

www.muscogeeodge.org

Spring Ordeal May 16-18, 2008 Camp

Barstow.

Southern Region Venturing Website

srventuring-bsa.org

Includes Facebook Link



VENTURING - BSA



GeekCreek

Up Etowah Creek's Scouting picks
for techies, Electronic Entertainment, and the web.

FREE TOOLS OF THE MONTH

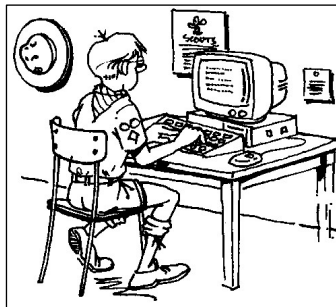
Free Audio Editing Software Wavosaur www.wavosaur.com

With **podcasting** more popular than ever, more and more people are now looking for easy ways to record, edit, mix, and save sound on their PCs.

In fact, people don't want to simply record only their voices for their **podcasts**. They are now making entire downloadable shows that are edited and mixed to such quality, that they sound almost as good as the pros. Software that can do all this editing has been, historically, very expensive (like the \$349 Adobe Audition) but excellent free products are now available that will give you that professional touch you desire for your recordings. Wavosaur weighs in at a total uncompressed file size of 491K, and requires no installation, making it extremely portable. What surprised me about it was that, for such a small program, Wavosaur packs a lot of advanced features, including resample, bit-depth convert (8,16,24,32 bits), pitch shift, vocal removal, and export of multiple .wav files from regions. **Free**

Free PDF to Word Converter Convert PDF Files to Word Doc Files for Free www.zamzar.com

Sooner or later you will need to convert an Adobe PDF file to a Microsoft Word DOC file. They are, after all, two of the most common document file formats around. ZamZar is an excellent general file conversion site, and PDF to DOC is one of the many conversion options available. In a test file that was sent the two column layout was preserved, the images were reproduced in their correct locations and the varying fonts rendered well, given that Word had no exact matching fonts. Importantly, all the text could be edited from within Word. This free conversion service is useful when you have to convert a PDF to editable Word. *Note: if the email link does not work, try copy and pasting it into the browser.* **www.zamzar.com**



Philmont Backpacking Light

<http://tinyurl.com/4xwdvx>

Great article on what to take to Philmont!



Webmaster Free Tool of the Month

FavIcon Generator

<http://tools.dynamicdrive.com/favicon/>

Use this online tool to easily create a favicon (favorites icon) for your site or your computer. A **favicon** is a small, 16x16 image that is shown inside the browser's location bar and bookmark menu when your site is called up. Easy to use, just find a picture file on your computer (limited to 150kb) and upload. It makes your file into a 16x16 ico file. For non-webmasters, options include a 32x32 or 48x48 file for your desktop or as an avatar. Instant and Easy!!



Free Google Sketchup and Sketchup Viewer

Make 3-D sketches simply and easily for pioneering projects, gadgets, Eagle Projects, and more.
sketchup.google.com/gsu6/download.html

Watch the Sky!!

What will be flying over your next campout?

Free Simple Satellite Tracking

spaceweather.com/flybys

Enter in your zipcode and you will be given a list of a half-dozen or so of the most interesting local upcoming nightly satellite/spacecraft flybys, including the time, duration, and direction. **Free.** There are hundreds of spacecraft in Earth orbit. At the moment they are monitoring the ESA's **Jules Verne cargo carrier**, the **International Space Station**, **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope** and the **Genesis prototype space hotel**. Their main site has a daily update, spaceweather.com or you can get a

Spaceweather Phone Alert (small monthly fee) to find out when something is passing by (and it is supposed to be a great gift, too).

For Cub Scouts

Monthly Resources on the web Scouting the Net

www.scoutingthenet.com/Training/Roundtable

Baloo's Bugle usscouts.org

ScoutParents Join in today! www.scoutparents.org



Overheard at a Scout Meeting last week:

- ✿ A 17-year-old Senior Patrol Leader, trying to ride herd on New Scouts: "I'm getting too old for this."
- ✿ One of the New Scout dads: "Do they eventually calm down?"
- ✿ An ASM, observing a leader doing a bit too much "demonstrating" and not enough "enabling": "You know how there are two kinds of leaders? He's the other kind."



Save the Date: Outdoor Family Adventure Oct. 4

The SC Wildlife Federation and SC Department of Natural Resources are again hosting An Outdoor Family Adventure: Celebration of National Hunting & Fishing Day on October 4 at the Cohen Campbell Fisheries Center on Fish Hatchery Road, West Columbia. It is a good opportunity to celebrate our outdoor heritage and participate in wildlife-related outdoor activities. Visitors will be able to participate in many "hands on" activities such as fishing, shooting, archery, kayaking, rock wall, fly tying, fish cleaning and cooking, lure painting, bird watching, and animal track casting. There will also be demonstrations such as fly fishing, camping, recycling, reptiles and amphibians, energy conservation, and black powder rifles. Families, dens, troops, and crews are encouraged to attend this FREE event. More info will be available at www.scwf.org as it becomes available.

The Great American Backyard Campout -June 28, 2008

The Great American Backyard Campout™ provides an opportunity for everyone to relive—or to experience for the first time—how much fun it is to spend a night sleeping under the stars and enjoying the sounds of nature at night! Held each June and now in its third year, the Great American Backyard Campout is a national event that encourages individuals, youth, friends and families to camp out together for one night. In 2007 over 40,000 individuals participated! The locations and types of campsites vary from family campouts in the backyard to public campsites with 30 or more community members. In previous years, campers have ranged in age from 3 months to 99 years old and have come from all areas of the United States. Register your campsite for 2008 at: <http://backyardcampout.org/>.

The Great American Backyard Campout supports **Great Outdoors Month** (June), celebrating the diverse and valuable recreational opportunities across the nation -- especially those linked to America's public lands and waters, which cover more than a third of the nation's surface and attract billions of visitors annually. Learn more about Great Outdoors Month and other events taking place in your neighborhood by visiting www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org.

The Archery Shoot

I recently got a letter from Kate, a friend of mine in my home town and a Scout Commissioner like me. I want to share it with you all on this last roundtable of the year for me.

"This past weekend, I took a few days of vacation and headed to Northern California on a road trip with my Dad. We spent three days in Redding, CA with extended family for an archery shoot that we all enjoy. Some of the highlights included shooting well enough to beat my uncle, and hiking through beautiful weather without getting sun-burned to a crisp.

A long-time family friend joined our group along with his 11-year old son Michael. Young Michael happens to hold several CA State archery records for his age group, and so I was looking forward to watching him shoot. At every target, he came to the line, focused and ready, noted his yardage, and loosed his two arrows in succession towards various foam critters. Over the three days of the shoot, we shot 150 arrows, and Michael missed the bulls-eye (just barely) only 8 times. By the end of the shoot, he was a mere 8 points from a perfect score of 1,650 points. In comparison, I was pretty happy to only drop an arrow 7 times (to "drop an arrow" means to miss the target completely). I was (considerably) further from a perfect score]

During the 9 hour drive back home that I shared with Dad, I had ample opportunity to consider how Michael's shooting could be applied to Scouting.

He came to the shoot well practiced and well trained.
Are you trained in your current scouting position?

He always paid close attention to his form- how he loaded the arrow on the bow, how he held the bow, how he aimed and released. ***Do you know how to apply your training to your current scouting position?***

He always noticed his target, and noted carefully exactly where to aim. ***Do you know your unit goals for the year? Think along the lines of the Centennial Quality Unit program.***

He always noted the distance to the target. ***Do you know what your unit needs to do to reach its goals? "***

Many thanks to all the volunteers who make the Scouting program happen in our district. May all of you hit your goals, and help coach our Scouts to hit their goals as well. Please come to Roundtable in the fall and bring a friend. I promise you that it will be worth your time. Thank you for allowing me to share my resources and talents with you all.

Warmest regards, Lorie McGraw : Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Etowah Creek District Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor for *Up Etowah Creek*.

Youth Protection Issues: Urgent Information to be shared

Recent events in our council regarding the sexual exploitation of a Scout by a trusted volunteer have increased the urgency of educating our parents and youth about the Youth Protection Policies of the BSA.

In addition, the burgeoning use of electronic communication such as cell-phones and text-messaging/photo sharing has created a new wrinkle and loophole that can be exploited by possible abusers to your child and the youth in your program. Technology has us playing 'catch-up' in many ways.

Careful leadership selection through background checks, letters of recommendation, and reputation are simply not enough. However, the barriers that BSA erects are 5-fold, with careful leadership selection being only one of them. The good news is that if all BSA policies are followed and known by the unit and the parents, the opportunity for abuse will likely be removed or be made so risky that the perpetrator will not risk involvement.

The solution is to have every adult and youth educated as to what is allowed and what is not allowed in the BSA program. The BSA has it covered in the unit and youth-appropriate Youth Protection Training (YPT) videos, online and in-person training, and in the Guide to Safe Scouting and other documents (available for free online).

So how will you protect yourself and your adult leaders from false accusation, your child from exploitation, and the unit from scandal and humiliation, and yet still give the ever-important adult contact and role-modeling that is so important to our program?

Some items that you should be aware of:

1) Recent changes in the **Boy Scout Requirements** (January 2008) include information about bullying and Internet abuse by cyber bullies and others.

2) **New Youth Protection videos** (that supplement the Youth Protection Training available online and through your training teams) are now available on DVD for both adults and youth in all sections (Cubs, Scouts, and Venturing) and will be available for free at Roundtable for all units and interested persons. (VHS versions may also be available upon request). The training team is always available to help you with presentations or to answer questions.

3) **Electronic threats** to your child's personal, physical, and mental well-being should be identified and discussed by your unit committee and the adults in your unit. Roundtable and the training team will have information about ways that Scouters, parents, and youth can safely use the Internet, text messaging and other electronic communications that proliferate in our culture.

4) Safety in Traveling: Know how and when to properly file a Tour Permit, know what the council has on updates on rules regarding Tour Permits, and upcoming changes in the filing of Tour Permits (there is the possibility of online filing in the future).

Scout Roundtable and the *Up Etowah Creek* Newsletter will also have information on ways that parents can find out if their child is being abused/bullied by others or is abusing others, behavioral tell-tales to watch for, how to track usage of cell phones and Internet site visits, establish security barriers for communication devices (computers, cell phones, PDAs, etc) and more.

What Every Unit Should Be Stressing:

Youth Protection Training is important for all members of the unit, adults and youth alike. **Get your unit trained**, in person or online. *And if your unit leaders say that you do not need to be trained, they are wrong.* Protect yourself and your children by knowing and enacting the policies and procedures of the BSA.

- ALL youth must be told that one-on-one contact of any sort (in person or electronically) with an adult who is not their parent is not allowed in the BSA, and what they should do if it happens.
- ALL youth need to be encouraged to watch out for each other and be made aware that bullying, hazing, and/or harassment is not tolerated in the BSA, not from adults and not from youth.
- ALL parents must be educated so that they know what the rules are and what to look for: for example, that if a leader brings their child home from a meeting, there must be another child (the leader's son for example) or 2 adults in the car with them
- ALL parents, youth, leaders, and volunteers need to know what to do and who to contact if suspicions are raised.

The BSA Youth Protection Policy is not just to protect the youth; it is also to protect the leaders from unfounded rumors, allegations, or suspicion. Lives, reputations, families, and units have been ruined by innuendo and false accusations. By following the policies, knowing the rules, and understanding reason for them, your unit will be a Safe Haven for your son and the sons of your Scouting friends.

All Youth Protection Videos are available for free in DVD and/or VHS format from the Scout Shop, your training team, or your Unit Commissioner. Training materials, helps, and guides and a complete list of available publications are also available online at <http://scouting.org/pubs/yp/index.html>

Online Youth Protection Training is available for all levels through the council website at www.indianwaters.org.

Create an account and be sure to **print off the final page** when the training is completed, so that you will get credit through your unit (pack, troop, or crew) for being currently trained. If your unit desires an in-person Youth Protection Training, please contact Joan Janoch (345-5700) or the Scout Office.

For more information, to arrange a Youth Protection Training for your unit, or to air a question or concern about Youth Protection in a pack, troop., or crew, please call Etowah Creek District YPT specialist Joan Janoch 345-5700, or email

youthprotection@etowahcreek.com

*If you have a suspicion about abuse in your pack, troop, or crew, or elsewhere in the BSA, please contact Scout Executive **Larry Brown** at lbrown@bsaemail.org, IWC 715 Betsy Drive, Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 750-9840*

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE
WWW.Scouting.org OR

WWW.INDIANWATERS.org OR

WWW.ETOWAHCREEK.COM