



Up Etowah Creek...



Etowah Creek District BSA Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 8 March 2002

Welcome to Etowah Creek District [ECD] Cub Scout Leader and Boy Scout Leader Roundtable in Columbia, South Carolina. This showcase for Leaders 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.) Be sure to pick up a copy of Smoke Signals, our Council newspaper, and a packet of handouts. Take a minute to read this newsletter, as that will keep the number of announcements to a minimum! This newsletter is also available online at www.etowahcreek.com/rtnews/eecd-0302news.htm Welcome!
Lorie McGraw 750-0626 lmcgraw@sc.rr.com Webmaster for ECD

Cub Roundtable

April Theme:

For ces of Nat ur e

Get Your Handouts Online!

The ECDVirtualRT group at YahooGroups is a free, easy-to-use online service for Etowah Creek District members of Boy Scouts/ Cub Scouts of America. Members will be able to share ideas, ask questions, and get the current and past packets of games, ceremonies, and crafts.

Download and print out exactly what you need each month for all program areas.

Put together your own custom packet of ideas for Den Leaders, Den and Crew Chiefs, and PLCs. Join today!

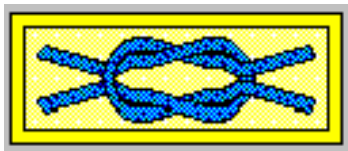
To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

ECDVirtualRT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

A Knotty Problem

Would you like to award your adult leaders the Square Knot patch for their position, but you aren't sure how many Roundtables they've attended?

Would you like to apply for a square knot but you are not sure if you have attended enough Roundtables?



For most positions in Scouting the leader must attend at least 4 Roundtables in a 12 month period of time. We've started a new database for Cub Scout Roundtable that tracks the Roundtables that leaders have attended. Contact Sheryl Wechsler (407-1095, sherylw@sc.rr.com) for more information.

But remember that your attendance won't be recorded if you don't come and sign in!

How do you honor your volunteers?

Awards season is here!

Don't forget to nominate your fellow Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Scouters, and Scouting Families for the annual Volunteer Awards to be presented at the *District Volunteers Awards Banquet* in April. These are Unit Awards and District-wide awards, too.

What a perfect way to say Thank You

for the hard work they do all year.

Awards information is being mailed to all ECD Scouters and may also be picked up at Roundtable or at the Council Office.



Nominations for the *Scouter of the Year Award* are due to the Council Office by March 21, 2002. Categories of this award include Scoutmaster, Asst. Scoutmaster, Scouter, Scout Family, Commissioner, Cubmaster, Den Leader.

Announcements for the 2002 *Shield of Service Award* are due to the Council Office by March 21, 2002. This is a special unit level recognition. Since only award per unit is given, the award should be submitted by the unit committee or unit leadership. No letter of nomination is needed.

Calling All Scouters! Roundtable is in need of a few good men and women!

Do you have skills that you can share? Of course you do! Roundtable is in need of volunteers for several tasks such as: helping with skits, leading games or songs, helping with crafts, bringing door prizes or food, or being available to fill in the gaps. If there is something in particular that you'd like to assist with at Roundtable, please contact Sheryl Wechsler (407-1095, sherylw@sc.rr.com), or better yet, come to Roundtable on the second Thursday of the month and let me know what you'd like to do!

Etowah Creek District Annual

Volunteer Recognition Banquet

April 20, 2002

6:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

1132 Gunner Circle

West Columbia, SC

Etowah Creek District will hold its annual Volunteer Awards and Recognition Banquet on Saturday, April 20, 2002.

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a catered meal from Shealy's Barbeque Restaurant.

Highlighting the evening will be the presentation of awards and recognition for **scouting volunteers** throughout the

district. Make plans now to attend by reserving a place at this annual event. Your early reservations by April 11, 2002 help us plan accordingly and are greatly appreciated. Reservation forms can be found at the Scout Shop, or you may send a check for \$12.00 per person to

Indian Waters Council BSA/Etowah Creek District Banquet
PO Box 144
Columbia, SC 29202

Questions or offers of assistance should be directed to Travis Wechsler 407-1095 or e-mail travisw@gwm.sc.edu



ATTENTION WOOD BADGE PARTICIPANTS!

Etowah Creek District has many opportunities for you to take advantage of when you write your ticket for the Wood Badge program.

Cub Scout Outdoor Program has several slots involving the preparations and/or operation of Family Camping Weekend 2002 or 2003, Haunted Forest Weekend 2002, Cub Resident Camp 2002, and Day Camp Coordination/Evaluation for the 2003 season. Also help is needed in Cub Scout Roundtable, Cub Leader Training, and Cub Recruitment. Travis Weschler 407-1095 Robert Croom - home 748-9011.

Boy Scout Outdoor Program is looking for help in Boy Scout Training, Teaching Outdoor Skills, Campmaster Program, Boy Scout Roundtable help, Order of the Arrow Service, and Summer Camp Improvements. Call Lorie McGraw 750-0626 or e-mail lmcgraw@sc.rr.com and she will direct you to the proper program coordinator. Or contact your Wood Badge Counselor and staff.



WHAT CAN YOU DEDUCT AS A VOLUNTEER?

Since we get a lot of questions about what will be tax deductible to our Scouting volunteers, here is a quick overview of the subject (though you should always double-check these matters with your own attorney or tax advisor). The general rule is that you will be allowed a charitable tax deduction for un-reimbursed, out-of-pocket expenses directly connected with the performance of services for the local council. Most donors will be able to deduct expenses incurred as volunteers to the BSA up to 50% of their adjusted gross income. So what counts?

- Your Uniform: Yours, but not your son's. Both cost and upkeep of the uniform is allowed.
- Books and training manuals: Again, ones that you use (training manuals, craft books, leader handbooks, etc.) not ones that your son uses (his handbook, etc.)
- Training Expenses: Fees for Wood Badge, Basic Leader Trainings, University of Scouting, etc.
- Mileage to and from Scouting Events if you are serving as a volunteer for the event or if you are attending training at that event.
- Donations of materials for crafts, projects, and community service (keep your receipts) when not reimbursed by your unit.
- Other travel: If you stay overnight you may deduct lodging and reasonable meals costs. These expenses will only be deductible, though, if there is "no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation" in the trip. So, for example, because of the large portion of volunteer service you would render as a staff member to the National Scout Jamboree, your expenses would be tax deductible (even if you had a great time!). But if you attended a training event in Florida and golfed every day, or spent a few days at Disney World after the meeting, you would likely lose much of your travel expense deductions for the trip.

Be sure in all cases that you keep receipts and note dates and times that you attend trainings and events. Be prepared to document dates and attendance. Also, you cannot deduct travel, meals, lodging, or other expenses for a spouse or children.

Pinewood Derby



Deadline for Council Pinewood Derby Registration is April 11th.

Check out www.etowahcreek.com

for Pinewood Derby links and helps.

Official Rules and Regulations for Expo Pinewood Derby Council-Level Race and the Schedules are online at

www.etowahcreek.com/pinewood.htm

Cub Day Camp

June 10-14 at Cornerstone

**Wild Wild West
Register Now for a Rootin' Tootin'
Cowboy Time!**



*Etowah Creek Cub Scout Day Camp
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church*

5637 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC

Your Cowpokes and Buckaroos don't want to miss this trip to the past! Go back with us to the Wild West! The Town of Cornerstone has it all! The Round up begins at 5pm - 9 pm, June 10th - 14th. Come follow the path to the Reservation, stop by the O. K. Corral, and Kick up your heels at the Stompin' Ground. There will be fun for all, so jump on your buckboard and join us! Send your form and fee to the Scout Shop early! Don't wait, send it in today! This camp fills up quickly and there is limited space!

The Registration fee is \$40.00 by May 2nd, \$45.00 by May 24th. In the past we have had this camp fill up as early as May 5, so do not delay.

Parents and Leaders: Don't let the boys have ALL the FUN... **Join the Wagon Train NOW!** Volunteers are needed to help us provide a quality camp for the boys.

Contact: Peggy Smith, Camp Director, 755-9466
mpesmith@aol.com, or Angela Bouknight, Program Director, 781-9094 aboukn3784@aol.com



FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

April 12 - 14, 2002

Camp Barstow

Register by Pack immediately.

The camp will be closed when full.

For more information refer to your flyer, call the Council Office, or contact Jay Specter - home phone 736-0500, email is jspecter@insurall.com, office phone 741-2000 ext. 2.

Attention Scoutmasters: There is a need for Boy Scouts to serve as Campsite Marshals. Campsite Marshals

would give new campers a helping hand with a new or unfamiliar tent and help new campers with the finer points of fire safety and Leave No Trace advice. There are also numerous other chances for Boy Scouts to work service hours. For more information on the Campsite Marshal opportunity call Stan Haines at 788-4122.

If you haven't volunteered to participate in the planning or operation of the event - *consider this your invitation.*



Pirate Waters Cub Resident Camp

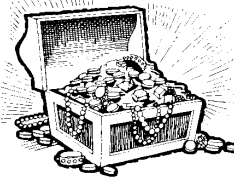
Join the rugged Pirate Crew on June 7,8, and 9 at Camp Barstow

This is a residential (overnight) mini-camp for ALL Cub Scouts (RISING Wolves through Webelos). Registration for camp will be by Pack only.

Register by March 15!

Flyers were mailed to your home. Call your Cubmaster today!

We need your talents and skills to have a successful camp! **To volunteer** with this fantastic adventure, call Travis Wechsler at 407-1095 or e-mail him at iwccubresident@yahoo.com



Attention Troops!

Beaver Day At Barstow

May 18

Beaver Day is an opportunity for troops to set program (merit badge) schedules for summer camp, complete advance swim checks, tour Camp Barstow, perform a Beaver Day Service Project, meet the camp staff, interview for Camp Staff and CIT positions, and have a good time. Reservation forms are available in Smokes and at the Council Office



Expo is Coming!

Scout Expo is the annual Scouting Exposition held at the State Fairgrounds on April 27. Selling tickets for Expo earns prizes for the boys and money for your unit. Call Elizabeth Hinen at 345-6515 for more details. **Showcase your unit at Expo!** There are hundreds of things that your units could do. Make sure that your pack/troup/crew has signed up for your space! These are on a first-come-first-served basis.



**Double Ticket deadline is April 11
Booth Application Deadline is April 11th.**

Boy Scout Leader Basic Training

2-Part Course

1) Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training (LST)

Sat. April 13, 2002 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Swearingen Center, USC

This Course provides Scoutmasters, Assistant SMs, and other adults that work with the boys with a good working knowledge of troop operations and all of the nuts and bolts of the troop program.

2) Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Fri. May 3-Sun. May 5 Camp Barstow

This Course is an overview of basic Scout-crafts (knots, fire building etc.), basic camping skills, BSA Camping rules and procedures, and, most importantly, how to teach these skills to 11-18 year old Scouts. The skills taught are based on the outdoor skills found in The Boy Scout Handbook. Webelos leaders, Venture Crew advisors, and other adult leaders are also encouraged to attend this course.

Attend for \$35 if paid by April 2 and Save!

All Fees include meals and course materials

Course size is limited to

36 participants.

Contact: Robert Sears

957-8490 or

robsears@usit.net or

Kathleen Shutt 957-5412

kshutt@harscotrack.com

Train your Scout Adults NOW
before Summer Camp!

NLE (New Leaders Essentials) required for Trained status and patch.



Important Dates

District Calendar is Online!

Training Dates, Events, District Meeting info, Council Events, etc. Check on the www.etowahcreek.com website and click on District Calendar.

March

14 7:00p Roundtable

14 Expo Triple Points Deadline

18 Youth Protection Training Call Lorie 750-0626

21 6:30p Council Annual Recognition Banquet

22-24 OA Spring Fellowship

23 Boy Scout Merit Badge University

29 Service Center Closed

29-Apr 7 Lex. 5 and Lex 2 Spring Breaks

April

3 District Commissioners Meeting

4 District Committee Meeting

5-7 Wood Badge Weekend #2

11 Roundtable 7:00p

11 Expo Double Point and Booth Deadlines

11 Registration Deadline for Council Pinewood Derby

12-14 Cub Family Camping Weekend Barstow

13 Part 1 **Scout Leader Basic**: Leader Specific Training

20 **Etowah Creek District Volunteer Recognition Banquet**

27 Scout Expo Fairgrounds 11:00a -4:00p

May

3-5 Part 2 **Scout Leader Basic**: Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (for Webelos and Venture, too)

16 Council Program Preview .Contact Vance Lackey at 750-9868 for more information.

17-19 OA Ordeal/Induction

18 Beaver Day at Barstow Bring your tools

21 Lex. 2 student last day of school

27 Service Center Closed

30 Lex. 5 Last Day of School



Webelos to Scout Transition

Are you a parent of a Webelos and not sure what to ask of the troops that you visit? Is your den only visiting one troop because you are not aware of any others in the area? A flyer called "Webelos to Scout Transition: A Guide for Parents and Leaders" is now available. Also available is a Troop Contact List for all troops in Lexington School Districts 2 and 5.

Copies will be available at Roundtable, at the Scout Shop, and on the Web at www.etowahcreek.com or email at lmcgrow@sc.rr.com or phone 750-0626 and ask Lorie for a copy.

Coming Up at **2001-2002** Etowah Creek District

Cub Scout Roundtable

Remember that Roundtable takes the Theme from the following month, giving you time to prepare your program.

April 2002 Abracadabra (May)

May 2002 Critters, Cubs & Campfires (June)

July and Aug. 2002 Themes: Inside Out and Backwards

Sports Extravaganza

Scouting For Food

Congratulations to Etowah Creek for gathering **24,754** items of food for our neighborhood food banks during February's Scouting For Food. The Council totals are not in yet, but we can be proud of the effort that was given by all of the fine Scouts in our district.

Top Pack is **Pack 410** with 2384 items and top Troop was **Troop 91** with 1733 items. 17 Packs collected 16327 items, while 11 Troops collected 8247 items. We had 10 new units helping this year for the first time. We had 28 units participate in total, which is more than last year, yet our District totals remained the same. This is a national trend. Many thanks again to all who helped. The Sept. 11 disaster relief has stretched the community's capacity for donations, and the shelters and food banks are still feeling the effects. Be sure to continue to donate when and where you can.

