



Up Etowah Creek...



Etowah Creek District BSA Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 5 December 2001

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-1201news.htm Welcome!

Lorie McGraw 750-0626 lmcgraw@sc.rr.com Webmaster for ECD

Cub Resident Camp is Coming!!

June 7,8, and 9 at Camp Barstow

Registration begins

January 1, 2002

Planning Committee and Key Staff now forming!! 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



Cub Roundtable

January Theme:

Did You Get My Message?

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 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.

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

If you have a US Flag, please fly it to support our troops overseas and those about to be deployed.

Pray for our troops as they go in harm's way, for our leaders that they be granted wisdom, and for the victims and families of victims of Sept.11, 2001.



Scouting For Food

February 2nd and 9th, 2001

Order your Patches NOW!

A plain generic patch will also be available for \$1 after the event. But paying in advance gets you this beautiful full color patch.

Order at the Scout Shop before January 4, 2002 for \$1.00 each. Only Prepaid Orders will receive this patch, so order yours today! Call Joan Janoch at 345-5700 for more information

LAND RUSH

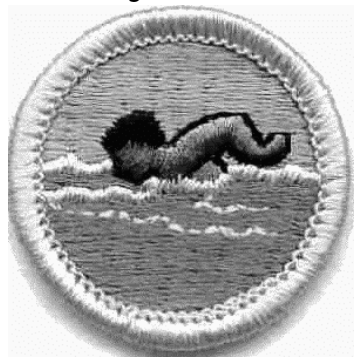
On Thursday, January 10th, 2002 Etowah will conduct a LAND RUSH for distributing the collecting territories for Scouting For Food. Units should send a representative to Ashland United Methodist Church at 6:15 PM to stake a claim on the territory that the unit will work. We will initially place each unit within a designated boundary determined by one of the elementary school districts from which they recruit their boys. Other areas will be assigned if no one claims them. The representative can select the roads that their unit wishes to work. Attention will be paid to working as many areas as possible and not just around the homes of scouts.

Plastic bags, sample of bag notes, and a list of pantries that will be open on February 9 and maps for getting to these pantries will also be at the Land Rush. Your unit is free to select any pantry for their donation of food but they must make their own arrangement if they choose a pantry not on the list.

(Are Your Scouts Helpful?)

Swimming Merit Badge Requirements Have Changed!

This just in from the National Office:



"The National Boy Scout Advancement Committee recommended changes in the requirements for the Swimming merit badge that were approved by the National Boy Scout Committee on October 16, 2001. These changes become effective on January 1, 2002. Youth have the option of doing the requirements listed in the

Boy Scout Requirements 2001 book or these new requirements.

The significant changes are:

First Class requirement 9(c) has been removed from the First Class requirements and is now requirement 4 of the Swimming merit badge.

Requirements 7 and 9 have been combined and are now requirement 8. This requirement will now read as follows:

8. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Snorkeling and scuba diving
 - (1) Demonstrate selection and fit of mask, snorkel, and fins: discuss safety in both pool and open-water snorkeling
 - (2) Demonstrate proper use of mask, snorkel, and fins for underwater search and rescue.
 - (3) Describe the sport of scuba diving or snorkeling, and demonstrate your knowledge of BSA policies and procedures relating to that sport.

OR

- b. Demonstrate the following competitive swimming skills:
 - (1) Racing dive from a pool edge or dock edge (no elevated dives from racing platforms or starting blocks)
 - (2) Racing form for 25 yards on one competitive stroke (front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, or butterfly)
 - (3) Racing turns for the stroke that you chose in 8b(2), OR, if the camp facilities cannot accommodate the racing turn, repeat 8b(2) with an additional stroke.
 - (4) Describe the sport of competitive swimming.

Requirement 11, "Assist with instruction in basic swimming skills...", *has been deleted entirely.*

Please keep these changes in mind as you prepare for the next summer camping season."

Scouts in the News!

Troop 91 was spotted on Television contributing a check to the Red Cross.

If you know of Scouters who have contributed service to others above and beyond the norm, please let the editor know (lmcgraw@sc.rr.com or 750-0626.)

Awards season is here!

Don't forget to nominate your fellow Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Scouters, and Scouting Families for the annual Volunteer Awards.

What a perfect way to say Thank You for the hard work they do all year.

These are Unit Awards and District-wide awards, too.

Pick up information at the Scout Shop, Roundtable or call Mark Gilliam 791-9753.

Be a S*T*A*R*

A Scouter That Attends Roundtable

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.

August 2001 Roundtable	All Aboard! (September Theme)
September 2001	Down on the Farm (October)
October 2001	Hometown Heroes (November)
November 2001	Works of Art (December)
December 2001	Did You Get My Message (January)
January 2002	Our Native Peoples (February)
February 2002	Dollars & Sense (March)
March 2002	Forces of Nature (April)
April 2002	Abracadabra (May)
May 2002	Critters, Cubs & Campfires (June)
July and Aug. 2002 Themes:	Inside Out and Backwards Sports Extravaganza

Therapy is like an easy game show where the answer to every question is "My Mom." -- Robin Greenspan

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

--JFK

Youth Protection Training to be offered in February

In February we will be offering **Youth Protection Training (YPT) for all parents** (not just leaders) before our monthly Roundtable (Feb. 14 at 6:30 at Ashland).

"I just don't have the time to attend."

Youth Protection Training is only 60-90 minutes, or less time than 1 football game or 2 shows of Oprah. *If you don't know what BSA policy is, how can you make sure that your den or pack is following it?* Thanks to Youth Protection training and the policies that BSA has enacted, our sons are safer in Scouting than they are in just about any other venue for youth. You will come away with a better understanding on how to protect your scouts, yourself, and your pack.

The bottom line is this: The most important way that you can be sure that your den and pack are following current policy, and therefore *doing your best* to protect your son, is to make sure that you and your unit's parents are trained in *current* Youth Protection.

All Training is done at Ashland United Methodist Church
For additional information, call Joan Janoch at 345-5700

A Prayer for the New Year

(found on the wall of an old Inn in Lancashire, England)

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun
a bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
give us all in th' struggle and splutter
our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us health, our keep to make
an' a bit to spare for poor folks sake;
give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
an' a heart to feel for all that suffers.

Give us, too, a bit of a song,
an' a tale, and a book to help us along,
an' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson
that we may prove how grief's a blessing.

Give us, Lord, a chance to be
our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
our goodly best for ourselves and others
till all men learn to live as brothers.

Amen.

The new Cub Scout Leader Book is now in the Scout Shop

Check it out!



Remember the Hometown Heroes

A Note to All Scouters from Fellow Scouters

For years, those of us serving in your Armed Forces have been enjoying the letters and cards that have been sent to us from around the world. I personally have been touched by many of them.



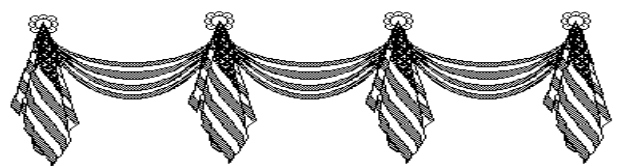
This year I propose that you send a note of thanks, or a word of encouragement to your local police or fire department.

Sure, the NYPD & FDNY are in the limelight right now; but honestly, there isn't one firefighter, paramedic, or police officer in our own cities who would not have done the same thing for us.

Terrorism has also been seen in the postal system and yet every day I have my mail hand delivered, and I expect all of my Christmas cards and packages to arrive safely due to the hands of these heroes who quietly go about their jobs. None of these people began as postal workers with the idea of experiencing any form of danger, yet most have kept on in their jobs in the face of a potential one. With no fanfare and no glory, these are very silent hometown heroes.

So this year, while it's not possible to participate in the "Any Service Member" project, I ask you to write to your local heroes and let them know how much you appreciate them for what they do.

Please remember them this holiday season.



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. Check back often, as updates will appear on a regular basis.

Training, Events, and more

All information is on the www.etowahcreek.com website or at the Council Office. For training information call Christine McNeil at 781-8275 or Joan Janoch at 345-5700

December:

13 Roundtable

24-Jan 1_ Council Service Center closed

January

5 OA Banquet

13 Roundtable

13 Scouting For Food Land Rush at RT time TBA

21 **University of Scouting**

February

2 Scouting For Food bag Drop off

3 Scout Sunday

8-9 Cub Scout Camp-in at the SC State Museum

9 Scouting For Food Pick-up of bags

14 Roundtable with Youth Protection (at 6:30)

15-16 Cub Scout Camp-in at the SC State Museum

Check out the training dates for other Districts if the Etowah Creek District Training Dates are not convenient for you.

Join the SCWF for a Winter Weekend in Nature!

You'll never feel more part of nature as you will at Middleton Place Plantation during the weekend of January 18-20 during SCWF's Lowcountry Saturnalia! The weekend will offer a wonderful, rich selection of outdoor recreational activities at Middleton Place, a historic plantation located outside of Charleston. Encounter bald eagles as you take a carriage ride through the plantation rice field. Watch egrets and herons flying above as you kayak on the Ashley River. Look for deer as you take a nature hike through lush bamboo forests and scenic woodlands. And enjoy butterflies dancing among flowers as you walk through America's oldest landscaped gardens.

<http://www.scwf.org/01/november/winter-weekend-in-nature-k012102.htm>
for more information



Your Son Deserves a
Trained Leader

Scouter's Minute

"This is the way it's always been done..."

Once a young wife was learning to cook a roast. Her husband told her that the only thing he knew about cooking roasts was the way his mother did it. She always cut the ends of the roast off and placed them on either side of the roast in the roasting pan. The young wife asked him why she did this and he stated that it was the way her mother taught her and that was the way she always did it. So the new wife called up her mother-in-law to see if this was the way to cook a roast. Her mother-in-law said that was the way that *her* mother taught her and that was the way she always did it. So the new wife called up the grandma-in-law and asked her if she always cut the ends off of the roast before cooking it. The elderly lady was thrilled to hear from her new granddaughter-in-law and replied that yes, that was what she did.

"Why do you do that?" the young wife asked.

"Because it won't fit into the pan if I don't," replied the grandmother.

As Scouters, parents, and leaders we should look at what we are doing from time-to-time and see exactly why we do things a certain way and ask if they are justified in light of new innovations, inventions and methods. Maybe the old ways need to be replaced with new ways that fit your pan a little better.

