



De Soto Scouter

Conquistador District
Loblolly District
Three Rivers District

Boy Scouts of America

December
2011

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DE SOTO AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, COVERING ELEVEN ARKANSAS COUNTIES

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

The staff of the De Soto Area Council wishes all of you a blessed holiday season! As we reflect on this time of year, it is about family and gathering with our loved ones. It is also a time to rejoice, give thanks and reflect. It is also a time when people are kinder and more compassionate. Scouting has been like a family to many of us including myself. I think of Scouts as my extended family.



Thank you to every leader and parent who has helped a boy this year earn a rank advancement. Without you, the Scouting program wouldn't happen.

Every year Christmas reminds me that our children love and crave rewards. Boys stay in the program when they are having fun and advancing in rank. Do they get that instant recognition at the den meetings? Troop meetings? Do they have a sense of pride about wearing the uniform?

This is also a time of reflection. There is a song that goes something like this... "you better be good for goodness sake". I think most of us know that song and will remind our children about that constantly. At the same time, it reminds us of the things we should be doing all year. Have you asked a family that has stopped coming to Scouts to come back? You might find that the answer is that they didn't know they were still invited or maybe they didn't even know when the meetings were anymore.

May all of you have a blessed and happy holiday!

Rob Lavoie Hugh Bragg Patti Dumas

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We accept credit cards.
More details on page 8.

Calendar—Mark These Dates

December

- 23 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 30 Office Closed for New Year's Eve
- 31 Winter Camp Early Bird Deadline

January

- 13 Charter Renewal Deadline
- 13-15 Winter Camp—Camp De Soto
- 16 Office Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr
- 24 Leaders' Meeting





Year end giving

2011 is rapidly coming to an end. As holiday activities and year end financial decisions are made, please keep the De Soto Area Council, Boy Scouts of America in mind. Statistically, almost 20% of charitable decisions come in the last month of the year - in fact about 8% in the last few days of the year.



Help the Scouting program in lower Arkansas continue to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime. This is what Boy Scouts is committed to - although some might think it is all about camping, hiking, and canoeing; indeed Scouting is a lot more than that.

One of the greatest contributions an individual can make is that of time in service to the community and other people. Our volunteers in the Scouting program make that contribution week after week and rely upon donors to make sure that there are funds available to provide the necessary resources. The De Soto Area Council needs your financial support so volunteers can sit on an old tree log to teach knots or guide Scouts through the maze of making ethical decisions to become the responsible citizens and the leaders of tomorrow. Please support the De Soto Area Council and the youth of our area with a year-end gift.

Annual Meeting



On December 13, 2012, the De Soto Area Council came together to elect a new Board of Directors and Officers. Thank you to everyone on the Executive Board for agreeing to serve the youth of South Arkansas. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2012. The newly elected officers of the Council are:

President- Rob Robinson

VP Fundraising- James Graves

Council Commissioner- Keith Everett

VP Program- Dale Smart

Immediate Past President- Greg Downum

VP Membership- John Dawson III

Treasurer- Gina Williams

VP Marketing- Magen Parker

VP Finance- Robert Reynolds

Family Friends of Scouting



Thanks to dedicated volunteers and parents like you throughout the Council, we have been able to deliver a quality Scouting program to our youth. We are all part of the worlds largest youth movement....the Boy Scouts of America. The De Soto Area Council provides a lot of services for Scouting to come alive here in South Arkansas like Camp De Soto. Every year we make an appeal for our Friends of Scouting campaign to raise the needed funds to support the program. A representative of the Council will be coming to your Pack or Troop in February-April to make this appeal to you. Please help support the Scouting movement here. We will send a notice home to you prior to your Pack or Troop meeting alerting you of the night we will be making the appeal. If your pack or troop has not scheduled a presentation yet, please contact Hugh or Mike at the Council office.



OA News

Fall Fellowship has come and gone. The weekend began on Friday night, December 2nd and concluded on the 4th. It was a weekend of fun (video game tournament), food (“thank you” to our cooks for all the excellent meals) and fellowship. The OA building is looking good. On the spur of the moment, the boys and Dr. Bob decided to paint the interior walls.

Our newly elected officers are: Lodge Chief-Nich Miller, Vice Chief of Administration is Andisheah Dadgar, Vice Chief of Inductions is Truitt Key, Vice Chief of Communications is Bijan Dadgar and Vice Chief of Events is Ross Weatherford.

Congratulation to our 3 arrowmen that now hold the Vigil Honor; Dalton Walthall, Doug Weatherford and Paul Weatherford.



Winter Camp 2012– Early Bird Deadline-12/31/11

The deadline for early bird/on time registration is fast approaching. Have you sent in your registration? It will be \$20 more per person after the 31st of December so hurry and register. The t-shirts are \$10 each and must be ordered by December 30th. Winter Camp 2012 will happen on the weekend of January 13-15. Do you have your Scout skills honed? When was the last time you saw a compass? The patrol competition will feature some Scout Skills along with some diversity training. The Order of the Arrow will be conducting a call out ceremony at the Saturday night campfire. Please download the leader guide and contact the service center with any questions. (Please note we have added the aviation merit badge.)



Merit Badges

Citizenship in the Community
 Citizenship in the Nation
 Citizenship in the World
 Climbing
 Emergency Preparedness
 Engineering
 Fish and Wildlife
 Golf
 Medicine
 Orienteering
 Robotics
 Scouting Heritage
 Space Exploration
 Aviation

Webelos Activity

Forester
 Naturalist
 Outdoorsman
 Readyman

Afternoon Event

Patrol Competition
 (7 to 8 boys per patrol)
 Canoe Race
 2K Run
 Rifle Shoot
 Orienteering
 Obstacle Course
 Pioneering



Recharter Time is January

Recharter deadline is Friday, January 13th. The registration fees for youth and adults are \$15, Insurance is \$2, and Boy's Life is \$12.00. We are offering each unit the opportunity to renew their charter on-line. Go to the Council website www.desotoareacouncil.org. Scroll down and click on the heading "Charter Renewal". This will take you to the on line recharter tutorial. When you complete the tutorial, go to the "Recharter Now" button. Pick the "New User" button to access this year's recharter. Enter the Access Code (found in your recharter packet) and your unit type and number. After you create your personal password, upload the recharter roster from the council. Make your corrections and additions, print your paperwork and submit to the Council Office by January 13th. If you have not received your recharter paperwork please contact Hugh Bragg. If you have any questions, please call the Council Office. And remember, **If a volunteer's Youth Protection Training record is not current at charter renewal time, the volunteer will not be re-registered.**



Youth Protection Training Policies

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2010: Youth Protection Training is required for all registered volunteers regardless of their position in Scouting. The purpose of YPT is to increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse that already exist today in Scouting. New leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training before they submit their application for registration. The printed certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time an application is submitted and must be done before volunteer service with youth begins. Youth Protection Training must be taken every two years. **If a volunteer's Youth Protection Training record is not current at charter renewal time, the volunteer will not be re-registered.**

Eagle Banquet—February 18th



The 2012 Eagle Dinner celebrating the 2011 class of eagles has be scheduled for February 18th and will be held at the College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado. This is a great time to celebrate Scouting and honor the young men that have accomplished such high achievement. We hope each and every one of you will join us for this special celebration. As always, the night will end with Dr. Bob's 2012 closing video. It will be a night you will not want to miss. Our 2011 Eagle Scouts are:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| William Barker | Troop 99/Lone Scout |
| A. J. Hampton | Troop 39 |
| Ryan Mann | Troop 39 |
| Nathan Odom | Troop 18 |
| Dallas McCullough | Troop 6 |
| John Schonefeld | Troop 18 |



Its Pinewood Derby Time!



Pinewood Derby cars will soon be built, painted and tweaked, preparing to race at the pack derbies with their sites on the District Derbies. Remember, the new track is available for any unit to use on a first come, first serve basis. Just call the Council Office to reserve it. Pack 6 of Camden will race on January 28th and Pack 404 in Harmony Grove is racing March 3rd.

Three Rivers District will have their derby February 25th in Dumas

Conquistador District Derby is March 12th at College Ave Church of Christ in El Dorado.

Loblolly District Derby will also be on March 12th with the location to be announced.

Unit's Journey to Excellence FAQ's



1. What is it?
 - A. It is a performance recognition program that changes the basic way we measure and recognize success in the Boy Scouts of America.
2. What does the program consist of?
 - A. The program has 13 different objectives. In each objective there are three levels (bronze, silver, and gold) that are earned by meeting a specific standard. For each level there are points assigned that contributes to the units total score.
3. What is the purpose of this program?
 - A. The purpose of this program is to reward success in units, to measure performance versus process and overall to achieve Scouting's mission of serving more youth with a higher-quality program.
4. Where can I find out more about the Journey to Excellence Program?
 - A, You can find out more by visiting:
www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx or by calling the Council Office at 870-863-5166.

Service Hours

“Scouting’s Journey to Excellence” is the BSA’s new council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measured the performance of our units, districts, and councils. Part of the Journey to Excellence are service hours. As a pack or troop, we know you are asking all leaders in the pack and troop to enter your hours online in the Journey to Excellence program. This process is very simple. Just log onto www.goodturnforamerica.org and click on the “service hour website: link. This will open a new window where you can log on and easily enter your hours. We ask that each unit accomplish this. If there are any questions please contact the office.





Take The SCOUTStrong PALA Challenge!



Click here to download the SCOUTStrong PALA Challenge Overview



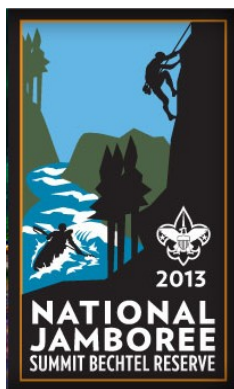
Click here to download the SCOUTStrong PALA Activity Log

We, the Staff of De Soto Area Council, challenges every registered Scout and Scouter, BSA Parent, BSA Volunteer, BSA Alumni, Board Member and Friend of Scouting to earn the SCOUTStrong PALA Award.

PALA stands for the **P**residential **A**ctive **L**ifestyle **A**ward, an activity challenge of the President’s Challenge program. The President’s Challenge is a program of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition (PCFSN). PALA is designed to motivate participants to be physically active on a regular basis by allowing them to participate in activities they enjoy. *Earning a PALA is definitely doable by ANYONE at ANY fitness level.*

What is the Scoutstrong PALA Challenge? It is a Scout-specific PALA challenge. Each BSA local council will have its own PALA group. The **entire** BSA organization is being encouraged to earn their Scoutstrong PALA Challenge award. To earn this award, you are required to meet a daily activity goal of 30 minutes a day for adults and 60 minutes a day for kids under 18 for at least five days a week, for six out of eight weeks. Stick with the program and you’ll earn an award in less than two months. For more detailed information, click on the icons above.

National Jamboree - Only Nine Spots Left!



Once every four years Scouts from around the Country converge for a week long campout that is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. The next jamboree starts on July 15, 2013. Since the early 1980’s the National Jamboree has been located at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia. Early last year, 2010, the Boy Scouts of America broke ground building a brand new jamboree site located in West Virginia. For details on the site go to [Summit Bechtel Reserve](#).

The Council has selected the following adult volunteers to serve as our contingent leaders for the Jamboree. John Ziegler will be our Scoutmaster. Dan Noonon and Mike Stratton will be the Assistant Scoutmasters. Andishaeh Dadgar will be the Third Assistant Scoutmaster.

We have space for 36 youth to attend the Jamboree with our contingent. Currently, we have 27 spots filled. **ONLY 9 spots remain.** The cost to attend is \$2,500 which includes the flight to and from Washington D.C., several days touring our Washington D.C, and a week at the Jamboree. All youth and adults that are currently registered with the De Soto Area Council contingent need to formally register for the Jamboree through the [2013 National Scout Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve](#)



2011 Top Ten List—New list coming for 2012

Shingles Done	2 Patio Sets for Swimming Pool
Window Blinds for Staff Cabins Done	2 Portable Lifeguard Chairs
New Exterior Door for (D.H.) Bathroom	5 Picnic Tables
2 Weed Eaters Done	1 LCD Projector
3 Screen Doors	300 Feet of 1/2" Nylon Rope Done



Scout Shop News

The new 2011 winter/gift catalog has arrived and is full of great holiday gift ideas for your favorite scout or scouter. It also contains the new trophies, medals, and patches for Pinewood, Space and Regatta Derbies. It also has the **2012 Scout Sunday** patch and neckerchief. Please let me know how many you think you will need.

We have five cases of Pinewood Derby car kits at the Scout Shop. Be sure to come by and purchase yours. Get a head start on your design over the holidays.

If you still need some popcorn or magazine subscriptions, we have a few boxes of the 7-pack butter and summer roasted microwave, 3 cases of Kettle corn, 2 cases of the 9 oz. Caramel corn, a few tins of the Chocolatey Caramel.

We are still having a \$1.00 sale on all black and white merit badge books.

Remember, we now take credit cards (Visa, Master Card and Discover) and we can order anything you see online or in the catalog. We can ship to you as well if needed. Please give us the opportunity to help you first!!

DON'T FORGET YOU MAY CALL US AT 870-863-5166 OR EMAIL YOUR ORDER DIRECTLY TO Sylvia Wray at sywray@bsaemail.org

E-Mail Version of the De Soto Scouter

If you would like to sign up to receive the De Soto Scouter electronically, please e-mail Rob Lavoie at rob.lavoie@scouting.org.



The De Soto Scouter is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the De Soto Area Council, BSA. Deadline for articles or information for the newsletter is the 20th of the month.

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FOR LOTS OF NEW SCOUTING INFORMATION
www.youtube.com/bsa100years
www.joincubscouting.com
www.usscouts.org
www.scoutingbsa.org
www.scouting.org

