



De Soto Scouter

Conquistador District
Loblolly District
Three Rivers District

Boy Scouts of America

July
2011

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

New District Executive Michael R. Dirks

Mike Dirks was born and raised in Effingham, Illinois. Mike Served on active duty in the Air Force as a Security Forces member earning the rank of Senior Airman. Mike attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and earned a bachelor's degree in Forestry Resource Management.



Mike and his Wife, Sarah, have been happily married for one year.

Mike accepted the position of District Executive of the De Soto Area Council on July 1st 2011. Be sure to welcome Mike to our Scouting Family.



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A Note from Mayor Frank Hash of El Dorado

Thanks for the many events that you have participated in by providing a color guard. Our ceremonies would not be complete without our flags being properly honored. You all look good in uniform and demonstrate a true love for your country. Well Done!

Summer Camp

Another great year of summer camp at Camp De Soto has come and gone. The De Soto Area Council would like to thank all campers, volunteers, and staff that made this camping season one to remember. The De Soto Area Council would like constructive feedback on what went right, what went wrong, and how we can improve camp for the years to come. All feed back can be emailed to hughwilderbragg@yahoo.com or you can call (870) 918-0659. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



We accept credit cards.
More details on page 7.

Calendar—Mark These Dates

July

~~22-24~~ OA Summer Pilgrimage has be postponed and will be held September 9-11.



August

11 Popcorn Kickoff
19-21 OA Aquatics Weekend

September

5 Labor Day- Office Closed
9-11 OA Summer Pilgrimage
16-18 CS Adventure Weekend
26-30 Scouting for Food – bag distribution.



2011 Popcorn Sale—Kick Off August 11th



Rock Your Sales!

The Popcorn sale isn't too far away. Each leader will receive a packet regarding the 2011 incentive structure and the forms that are needed in early August.

Popcorn kick-off 2011 will be held August 11, 2011. Come on out and learn about some new selling techniques, win some awesome prizes, and gather information about the 2011 program year.

A quick peek at some new components of the 2011 sell:

- New non popcorn item(s)

- Unit friendly tiered commission system (you decide how much your profit can be)

- Proven methods for show-n-sell

What better way to retain your scouts than to provide them and their parents a sure fire way to pay for their year of Scouting. The annual popcorn sale is a proven way to make that happen!

Why should I support the popcorn sale? How does it benefit me? Both of these questions are frequently asked questions. The popcorn sale is not only about raising funds for your Scouting experience but it also provides you with some valuable life lessons. First and foremost, we are not selling popcorn...we are selling ourselves with the popcorn or another product as the device. We also learn or reinforce the idea of being polite (please and thank you!) There are many reasons to support the sale but remember all of the activities that you get to do because of the popcorn sale. Remind other parents, leaders, and youth at various events that your pack or troop conduct that, "This event was made possible because of their help with the popcorn sale".

Budget and Calendar



Does your unit have a budget? Does your unit have a calendar for the year? These two items are very important in the life of a Cub Scout and Boy Scout unit. There are four easy steps in the budgeting/calendar process. Step one is to conduct a brainstorming session with all leaders and parents to gather all of the ideas that your unit would potentially like to do. Think big! Does your unit want to take a trip to Disney World? Step two is to determine what your unit wants to do each month. Some of the main staples for Cub Scouts are the pinewood derby, rain gutter regatta, blue and gold banquet, and day camp. Step three is to put a price on each of your activities, outings, events and weekly meetings. This will determine the cost per boy for the program year. Don't forget to factor in the registration fee and Boys' Life magazine when you are determining the cost per boy. Step four is to determine what you are going to do to raise the needed monies to support the program of your Scouting unit. We suggest doing one fundraiser for the year and raising all of the needed funds from that fundraiser. We have found that the popcorn sale that we conduct in the fall is a very effective fundraiser and you can raise the most money for your unit per boy with this sale. There are other fundraising ideas but most of them don't earn you as much money as the popcorn sale. If you follow this four step process, your unit will have a successful fun-filled program year. Also, we would be more than willing to come to your pack or troop to help facilitate a budget and calendar meeting. If you want Mike, Hugh or Rob to come help facilitate this meeting, please call the council office at 866-5166.



Cub Scout Adventure Weekend Sept. 16-18

On September 16-18, the Scouts will be enjoying a weekend of nature with their Scouting friends. There will be a movie night with popcorn for Friday night. Saturday Morning we will have the usual activities such as canoeing, archery, fishing, BB gun shooting, leatherwork and crafts. **Cost for the weekend will be \$10.00 per person**, which includes lunch on Saturday, activities, a patch and camp.

Stuff to bring:

Camping equipment: i.e. sleeping bags, camp chair (we have tents you may rent); snacks, food and drinks for your family for Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning (cooking equipment if needed); fishing poles and bait if you plan to fish; insect repellent; comfortable clothes; personal items; walking shoes; rain gear.



Preregistration Deadline is September 14th
Payment at the gate or payment received after
September 14th is \$15.00 per person

Check-in/Registration will be Friday, 5:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

If arriving later, please see staff at the camp office

Any Questions please contact the council office at 863-5166

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 Nooner 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](#)





Leader Training

Did you know that all training is provided “free” online and can be accessed through www.myscouting.org?

Does your unit have someone keeping track of who is trained and who is not trained? Every unit should conduct an inventory of training in their unit. Like everything in Scouting, someone has to keep track of who advanced, who has training, who is going on the campout, who has paid their dues, etc. For any questions please call the council office at 866-5166.

Wood Badge for the 21st Century

Louisiana Purchase Council



Who Should Attend? All BSA leaders; Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venture, District and Council.

What is Required? Be a registered adult leader in your council and have completed Cub, Boy or Venture New Leader Essentials Training before the course starts.

What is the Cost? The fee is \$250. This fee covers all food, materials, and special equipment that is necessary. A deposit of \$60 is due with your registration. This deposit is non refundable.

The full \$250 must be received July 25th by 5:00 p.m.

Weekend One: August 12-14

Weekend Two: September 23-25

The Course will start at 8:00 a.m. Friday and end 5:00 p.m. for both sessions. The course will be held at Camp Attakapas the first weekend and Camp TL James the second weekend. Detailed instructions, directions to camp, personal equipment list, and other information will be sent to each participant when registration is completed. For more information contact: Louisiana Purchase Council, 2405 Oliver Rd. Monroe, LA 71701 or visit the website at www.louisianapurchasecouncil.org. or e-mail: dgantt@gmail.com.

Sporting Clays Event

October 15, 2011

Camp De Soto

174 Camp De Soto Road
El Dorado AR
71730



For More Information Contact De Soto Area Council
(870) 863-5166 or Hugh Bragg (870) 918-0659



Journey to Excellence

“Scouting’s Journey to Excellence” is the BSA’s new council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is replacing the Centennial Quality Awards Program as a means of encouraging excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA. Please click on the Journey to Excellence title to go to that page. We encourage every unit to utilize the appropriate scorecard. You will notice a service hours link for you to log all service hours your pack, den, troop or patrol do anytime during the year. If you have any questions, please contact us.



James E. West Fellowship

The James E. West Fellowship Award is a national recognition for individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more in cash or securities to their local council endowment trust fund. This contribution is in addition to, and does not diminish or replace, the donor’s annual gift to the council’s Friends of Scouting Enrollment Campaign.

An individual can contribute \$1,000 over 5 years or less to be recognized as a James E. West Fellow but the actual recognition is not given until the individual makes their last contribution. Organizations or individuals may contribute an award in honor of someone....an Eagle Scout, a Silver Beaver recipient, Council President, Scoutmaster or Cubmaster, or in memory of a parted loved one, business associate, or a special Scouter.

A contribution that makes an impact for life!

Form of Recognition

The James E. West Fellowship Award is an attractive 8 by 10 inch certificate, personalized with the donor’s name, date of gift, and council name. In addition, there will be a distinctive lapel pin/charm and an embroidered square knot for uniform wear. While it is a national recognition, the James E. West Fellowship Award is authorized and presented by the local council.



All funds derived from the James E. West Fellowship program is placed within the De Soto Area Council Trust Fund where it is administered by a local bank and the De Soto Area Council’s Trust Committee. Only the investment income and not the principal may be used for the purposes of further promoting the Scouting program within our council territory.

This is a gift that will keep on giving to youth forever.

Background and Significance

The award is named after the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America who exemplified Ralph Waldo Emerson’s observation that “an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.” Scouting today is the “lengthened shadow” of more than three decades of the farseeing and dedicated leadership of Dr. James E. West.

Those who are recognized by the James E. West Fellowship Award will cast their own “lengthened shadow” as they help ensure the Scouting legacy for future generation of young people and create the financial stability of the program in the twenty-first century of our local De Soto Area Council.

For more information, please contact Rob Lavoie.



2011 Eagle Scouts

William Barker—Troop 99/Lone Scout
Sateh A.J. Hampton—Troop 39

Ryan Mann—Troop 39
Nathan Odom—Troop 18



Are you an Eagle Scout?

If you know of any other Eagle Scouts, please tell them ...

All of you are invited to join NESAs

NESA is the National Eagle Scout Association, a 40-year-old organization made up of Eagle Scouts of all ages. It awards scholarships to Eagle Scouts and honors others with the NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award and Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Local council NESA members organize events and activities for local Eagle Scouts.

Benefits of your NESAs membership include:

- Eagle Scout Magazine—a full-color, quarterly magazine
- The member section at NESAs.org, which includes an Eagle Scout alumni search tool, discussion groups, a career center, a permanent NESAs e-mail address, and more
- Monthly e-mail newsletters from the national NESAs office about things important to Eagle Scouts
- And more!

Go to www.nesa.org. Click on Join to get started!



The Alumni Connection

Reconnecting Scouts, Rekindling Memories

You, too, should register as BSA alumni!

BSA alumni include ... everyone positively and personally impacted by the Boy Scouts of America—former Scouts, family members of Scouts past and present, volunteers past and present, community leaders, and the millions of Americans who benefit from Scouting in their communities every day.

Benefits for alumni include:

- The Alumni Alive! Quarterly electronic newsletter
- Access to the online Alumni Scrapbook, where you can post your own Scouting Stories
- A free one-year membership to the National Scouting Museum
- Free cell phone ring tones of familiar bugle calls
- A discounted subscription rate for Scouting magazine
- And more!

We invite you to explore the web site and participate in new BSA alumni activities. Find friends, share stories, and re-engage in Scouting.

Join us now! Go to BSAalumni.org, to register. It's easy and free!



Top Ten List

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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 | 7 Picnic Tables |
| 1 2 Weed Eaters | 1 LCD Projector |
| 3 Screen Doors | 300 Feet of 1/2" Nylon Rope Done |



Scout Shop News

School Round Ups and the Popcorn Kick-off will soon be upon us. Is your uniform ready for action? Have you lost a patch or did you have a growth spurt and now nothing fits. Come to the Scout Shop and we will fix you up.

For anyone **new** to scouting, we will once again offer our 15% discount on complete uniforms (from the belt up). Be sure to tell your buddies.

We are having a sale on all Day Camp and Summer Camp T-shirts. They are now \$5.00 each. Is the troop merit badge library complete? All black and white merit badge books are \$1.00 each.

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 sywwray@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.

Rob Lavoie, Scout Executive
Hugh Bragg, Senior District Executive
Michael Dirks, District Executive
Max Aycock, Camp Ranger
Patti Dumas, Accounting Specialist
Sylvia Wray, Registrar/Scout Shop

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

