



# De Soto Scouter

Conquistador District  
Loblolly District  
Three Rivers District

Boy Scouts of America

January  
2012

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

## Advancing In Rank

Has your Scout earned his next badge of rank yet? We are half way through the program year which began when school started back in August. Every week whether you are in Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts your Scout should be earning achievements towards his next rank. Yes, I am talking about all ranks from the Bobcat Badge attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Every Cub Scout leader should have the Den and Pack Resources Book. This book is a step by step resource to help the den leader plan the den meeting so every boy in his or her den earns their badge of rank by the blue and gold banquet in February.



For Boy Scouts it is a little different but really the same exact process as Cub Scouts. Instead of achievements, you have merit badges. What do you need to finish one of those Eagle required badges? Don't forget to start on those time consuming merit badges like Family Life, Personal Management and Personal Fitness.

I firmly believe that EVERY Scout should earn a rank advancement every year all the way through earning the Eagle Scout rank. In 2011, only 45% of the boys in Cub Scouts earned a badge of rank. A badge of rank is defined in Cub Scouts as Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light. Boy Scouts ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. If a boy goes to summer camp at Camp De Soto, he will earn three merit badges and approximately 80% of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. It does get a little more difficult for the subsequent ranks but it still can be done.

I challenge you (boys, parents and leaders) to look around your den, pack, patrol or troop and seek out those boys not advancing in rank for whatever reason. Help them earn their next rank. Boys love and crave immediate recognition (don't we all). Find out what you/they need to earn before the Blue and Gold Banquet or Court of Honor in February.



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We accept credit cards.  
More details on page 7

## Calendar—Mark These Dates

### February

- 5 Scout Sunday
- 11 Scout Sabbath
- 18 Eagle Banquet
- 20 President's Day-office closed
- 25 3 Rivers District Pinewood Derby

### March

- 2-4 OA Spring Ordeal Weekend
- 10 District Pinewood Derby for Conquistador and Loblolly
- 13 Beth Anne Rankin, El Dorado FOS Luncheon





## Recharter Deadline was January 13th

Please get your paperwork to the Council Office as soon as possible. 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](http://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. 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.**

## Leaders' Meeting—Tuesday, January 24th

Don't forget about our quarterly Leaders' Meeting on the 24th, 7:00 p.m. at the Council Office on 118 West Peach Street in El Dorado AR. The meeting is open to any and all leaders and parents. There is nothing like having an information meeting where leaders and parents can exchange ideas about what works best for them. This is especially helpful to the parents who have never been a leader in Scouting before. The leader meetings will have a mini training experience, program suggestions for upcoming months, and a forum to discuss upcoming events.



## Family Friends of Scouting

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 be awarding two scholarships to our Day Camp or Summer Camp for this year. We will be basing it on a percentage of givers within your units. We will take the number of givers in the unit divided by the total number of members of the unit. The unit with the highest percentage will receive these scholarships from the council. 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.





## 89th Anniversary Eagle Banquet—February 18th

The 2012 Eagle Dinner celebrating the 2011 Class of Eagles has been scheduled for February 18th, 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado. Reservations are \$20.00 each or you can purchase your ticket for \$25.00 at the door. 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	Dallas McCullough	Troop 6
A. J. Hampton	Troop 39	Nathan Odom	Troop 18
Ryan Mann	Troop 39	John Schonefeld	Troop 18

Please detach and return to the council office: 118 West Peach Street, El Dorado AR 71730

### De Soto Area Council

### 89<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Eagle Banquet Reservations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

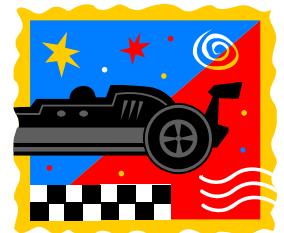
Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 at the door)

Number of DVDs \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free

Total Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## It's 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 of Harmony Grove is racing March 3rd.



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

Conquistador District Derby is March 10th at College Ave Church of Christ in El Dorado.

Loblolly District Derby will also be on March 10th with the location to be announced.

Anyone can race in any or all of the District Derbies.

First through third place trophies will be awarded in all divisions (Over All, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Open) and a best of show.



### OA News—Upcoming events

Be sure to pay your membership dues (\$20) to be eligible to participate in OA events and activities.

#### OA Spring Ordeal - March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th

Be sure to mark your calendars for this event.

#### OA Conclave - April 27th, 28th, and 29th

The 2012 OA Conclave is being held at the Blass Scout Reservation of Quapaw Council at Damascus, Arkansas. We would like to double our attendance from last year's conclave so be sure to encourage your fellow arrowmen to attend. Go on line <http://sr8.oaevent.com> to register and pre-order your t-shirt, extra patches and other items from the trading post. Print your registration confirmation and medical forms and send them to the Council Office with your payment. I know April seems a long way off but it will be here before you know it. Register now and get the early bird price of \$25.00. Don't put it off or you might forget. Early Bird Deadline is March 23rd. Regular Deadline is April 13th. Late registration is on or after April 14th. The earlier you register, the less it will cost.

#### Summer Pilgrimage—July 20th, 21st and 22nd

**NOAC** - July 30th through August 4th - Lansing, Michigan. If you are interested in going to NOAC, please contact Dr. Bobby Olive.

### Winter Camp



Winter Camp this year took place on the second weekend in January at Camp De Soto. A big thanks goes out to all who attended Winter Camp 2012. The volunteers and troops made it a great weekend. A big thank you to the cook who prepared our delicious meals. Some of the highlights included below freezing temperatures (28 degrees Friday), a relay race (consisting of running, bb gun shooting, knot tying, canoeing, and fire starting) won by Troop 120, and the Order of the Arrow call out at campfire Saturday evening. Twenty seven candidates were called out. They were:

- |                       |                |                  |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Fredrick Weatherspoon | DB Beaver      | Mickey Peace     |
| Greyson Glass         | Cade Renfro    | Brandon Miller   |
| Brad Reeves           | Steve Jennings | Grady Jennings   |
| Tyler Collier         | Kevin Miller   | Colton Miller    |
| Cris Reeves           | Michael Dirks  | Hayden Hicks     |
| Selena Blair          | Jackson Rhodes | Trent Rana       |
| Kyle Kunkle           | Caleb Blair    | Matthew Dillard  |
| Martin Boerwinkle     | Curt Jennings  | Juan Buenrostro  |
| Hunter West           | Joey Kaar      | Brandon Robinson |

Everyone who camped out in the 28 degree weather qualifies for the De Soto Council Stone Cold Camper patch. Some of the units did not pick up their Winter Camp patches. Please come by or contact the Council office to receive them.



## National Jamboree - Only Seven Spots Left!

Currently, we have 29 of the 36 spots filled. Only **7 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](#) .



I can guarantee you will have an awesome adventure, an experience you will remember for the rest of your life. Sign up today and get ready to go. It's only a quick 18 months away.

## 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](http://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](http://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!

*Earning a PALA is definitely doable by ANYONE at ANY fitness level.*

What is the Scoutstrong PALA Challenge? It is a Scout-specific Presidential Activity Lifestyle Award 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.

### *How Do I Get Started With the SCOUTStrong PALA CHALLENGE?*

Participants can enroll and track their progress either online with a free Online Activity Tracker or on a paper Active Lifestyle Activity Log.

#### **ONLINE:**

- Participant begins by visiting [www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA](http://www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA).
- Participant uses the appropriate dropdown menu to pick the state that the council/organization they want to be affiliated with is located in.
- Participant use the appropriate dropdown menu to pick the council/organization with which they want to be affiliated with.
- Participant clicks [START THE SCOUTStrong PALA CHALLENGE].
- The participant should be at the PALA page of their affiliated council/organization. They should click [CREATE AN ACCOUNT].
- The participant should complete the required fields and click [REGISTER].
- They'll arrive on their activity tracker homepage, which they will see each time they log into their account. From this screen they can track their activities, join a group, see their award progress, and adjust their account preferences.
- Upon completion of the six-week program, the participant will receive a congratulatory email from the President's Challenge. Participants should print and submit this email to their Scout leader.

#### **ON PAPER:**

- Participants will need to have an Active Lifestyle Activity Log; these can be downloaded for free at [www.presidentschallenge.org/tools-resources/docs/PALA\\_log.pdf](http://www.presidentschallenge.org/tools-resources/docs/PALA_log.pdf).
- Participants should track their daily activity using the Active Lifestyle Activity Log.
- Upon completion of the six-week program, participants should self-certify the results at the bottom of the Activity Log and submit it to their Scout leader.

Links for More information:

About SCOUTStrong:

[www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA](http://www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA)

List of SCOUTStrong PALA challenge activities

[www.presidentschallenge.org/challenge/activities.shtml](http://www.presidentschallenge.org/challenge/activities.shtml)



### Scout Shop News

Have you bought your Pinewood Derby car kits yet? They are going fast. Be sure to let us know if you need any so we can have them on hand when you come by to purchase yours.

Remember, February 5th is Scout Sunday. Does your church need program/bulletin covers? Have you seen the **2012 Scout Sunday** patch and neckerchief? They sure are nice this year. Please let me know how many you think you will need.


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



**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**  
Coming Soon to Your Local Council



**Scouting's NOVA Award**  
Starting early 2012, Scouts of all ages can earn the Boy Scouts of America's trailblazing NOVA Award, based on the STEM program—Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. Go to [www.scouting.org/STEM](http://www.scouting.org/STEM) for more information about this unique opportunity.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/bsa100years)  
[www.joincubscouting.com](http://www.joincubscouting.com)  
[www.usscouts.org](http://www.usscouts.org)  
[www.scoutingbsa.org](http://www.scoutingbsa.org)  
[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

