



De Soto Scouter

Conquistador District
Loblolly District
Three Rivers District

Boy Scouts of America

November
2011

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

Welcome to Scouting!

Beginning in August we have recruited over 350 new youth into the Scouting program. We want to extend a warm welcome to all of you with the hope that you have earned your first rank badge in Scouts. We especially want to welcome the following new organizations to our Council. They are Pack 120 chartered to the First United Methodist Church in Smackover, Pack 217 chartered to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lake Village and Troop 70 chartered to First United Methodist Church in Hamburg.



Inside this issue:

Popcorn	2
Fall Camporee	2
Shooting for Heritage	2
Cub Scout Carnival	3
Silver Beaver	4
OA Fall Fellowship	4
Council Annual Meeting	4
'Tis the Season	5
Winter Camp	5
National Jamboree	6
Journey to Excellence	6
SCOUTStrong PALA	7
NOVA	7
Top Ten	8
Scout Shop	8



Scouting for Food

Over 1,000 Scouts and their families recently participated in our largest service project as a Council. Scouts from across the Council collected food during the month of October to help feed the hungry in your neighborhood. In Taylor, over 250 bags of food was collected. In El Dorado, over 17,000 pounds of food was distributed to three area food pantries. In Hamburg, the Scouts collected 1160 pounds of food.

One of the major goals with the Journey to Excellence is service to the community. Scouts are typically out conducting service projects and are not looking for recognition. The Journey to Excellence service hours log is not about bragging. It is all about communicating the simple fact of how many hours of service Scouting does for each of our communities. We, the De Soto Area Council, are always being asked "How many hours of service did the Scouts provide last year?" The simplest way to know the answer is through the Journey to Excellence. Please help us by logging your hours.



We accept credit cards.
More details on page 8.

Calendar—Mark These Dates

November

- 24 Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed
- 25 Office Closed



December

- 2 All popcorn and battery monies Due
Deadline for Silver Beaver nominations
- 2-4 OA Fall Fellowship
- 13 Council Annual Meeting
- 23 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday





**You Rocked
Your Sales!**

2011 Popcorn Sale

The 2011 Popcorn Sale has almost come and gone. Please remember that all monies are due to the Council Service Center no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 1st. Each payment should be submitted by the unit in the form of ONE check or money order.

Units that have not submitted prize orders may do so anytime between now and December 1st. Prizes will be ordered and released to ship only after each unit has submitted payment to the Service Center.

Please remember to check your balance due if you have added any product since the orders were distributed. If you have any questions please inquire by contacting the service center

Thanks again for all your hard work to make this year's sale a success!!!!



Fall Camporee on Petit Jean Mountain

Scouts from Troops 18, 32, and 96 camped at Camp Mitchell on the weekend of October 28-30. All of the Scouts hiked the 12 mile BSA Rockefeller Trail around Petit Jean State Park discovering the 12 geocaches along the way; one for each point of the Scout Law. They also cleaned up the trail for a service project. The "Potluck Soup" was pretty good followed by campfire, a few skits and lights out.

Hope to see you at the next Council Camp-out.



Shooting for Heritage



The inaugural "Shooting for Heritage" sporting clays event was held on October 15 at Red T Farm in Magnolia. A special thank you to Entegra Power Group for being our title sponsor.

Morning flight winners:

First place: Entegra Power Group

Second place: Bobby Edmonds team

Third place: First Financial Bank

Afternoon flight winners:

First Place: Tommy Bourn Trucking

Second Place: Mr. Pepper's team

Third Place: Frank Thompson Transportation

We would also like to thank Mike Stratton, Larkin Wilson, Greg Downum, Magen Parker, Rob Robinson and Hugh Bragg for organizing this event.



Carnival Time at Camp De Soto!



Hoop Shoot



Darts & Balloons

Cork Guns



Hay Ride



Potty Toss



(Create your own Caption)



Stomp Rocket



Bean Bag Toss



Raindrops keep falling on my head . .

Can you remember the last time it rained in South Arkansas? We are sure that Sylvia Wray will never forget that she received Scouting's highest training award during a beading ceremony at lunch during the Cub Scout Carnival...oh, it was raining during the ceremony. The carnival featured a record attendance of Cub Scouts and their families. They enjoyed the nighttime hayride, the BB shooting, Archery, canoeing and campfire on Saturday night. A big "THANK YOU" to all of the volunteers who helped make the weekend such a success.



Silver Beaver Deadline is December 2, 2011



Now is the time to really put on your thinking cap. Who has served tirelessly in your unit or for Scouting? Who has served those youth members week after week? Who thinks of the youth ahead of themselves? If you can name some people it's time to put in a form to recognize them for the Council Silver Beaver Award. The Silver Beaver is the highest award a Council can bestow upon an individual that is registered in the Scouting program within a local council. The individual should be positive in all aspects of Scouting and always be willing to help. If you know of someone, consider [nominating](#) them with this form.

Fall Fellowship—December 2nd, 3rd and 4th



Each year, as the leaves are changing colors, Aboikpaagun Lodge meets at Camp DeSoto for its annual Fall Fellowship. This is generally regarded as the biggest event of the year, where we celebrate our accomplishments from the previous year, induct our new Vigil Honor candidates, elect new lodge officers, and lay out our plans for the upcoming year. If you love Native American dancing and drumming, be sure to show up to Fall Fellowship for a special introduction to these fantastic features of our Order. Ceremonies and Dancing are both important parts of the Order of the Arrow, and a big draw to events both locally and on a sectional and national level. If you are interested in any capacity, please don't hesitate to ask for further information! Remember to bring your own tent! This will be a fun weekend. Register early and avoid a \$15.00 late fee. OA dues of \$15 are also due at Fall Fellowship. If they are paid after Fall Fellowship the dues are \$20.00

So sign up now and pay your dues for 2012!

Council Annual Meeting



The De Soto Area Council is conducting our annual meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at Simmons First Bank. Anyone wishing to nominate individuals to serve on the executive board must do so prior to November 18. No nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. The voting members of the Council are the Chartered Organization representatives, Council Members at Large and current Executive Board Members. At the Annual meeting, we will be electing the 2012 Board of Directors, Officers of the Board and the Representative(s) to the National Council. Please RSVP your attendance plans to Sylvia at 870-863-5166 or e-mail her at the following address: sywray@bsamail.org.



'Tis the Season . . . To “Help Other People” and “Do a Good Turn Daily”

I know what your thinking. We are scouts, we live by those words every day. We don't need a season to do good will. And you are right. But holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas offer extra opportunities. For example, many communities offer a Thanksgiving or Christmas Meal free to those in need. Go help cook or serve the food. The Salvation Army needs volunteers to ring the bell. I know Capt. Marvels would love to hear from you. Work on a toy drive or do another food drive. Food pantries are in dire need of canned goods. Go Christmas Caroling in the nursing home or to the homes of shut-ins. If you can't sing just go visit with the residents. For some, the holidays are the loneliest and saddest time of the year. Help a senior citizen hang their Christmas lights and decorations. Help wrap gifts for the needy. Open and hold the door for the person with all those packages. Better yet, help carry the packages. Smile at everyone you meet; smiles can be contagious. The little things can mean more than you think. And remember, not all gifts come in boxes with bows.



Have a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas
and a happy Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Winter Camp 2012– 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. Winter Camp 2012 will happen on the weekend of January 13-15. Please download leader guide. The Order of the Arrow will be conducting a call out ceremony at the Saturday night campfire. All meals including Friday night through Sunday morning is included in the \$40/person price. Of course, the \$40/person needs to be paid on or before December 31, 2011. After December 31, the price is \$60/person. Please contact the service center with any questions.



Merit Badges

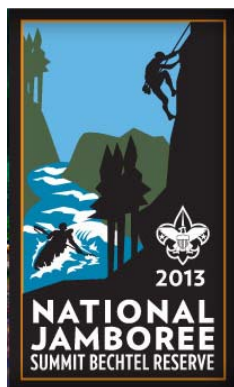
Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Climbing
Emergency Preparedness
Engineering
Fish and Wildlife
Golf
Medicine
Orienteering
Robotics
Scouting Heritage
Space Exploration

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



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](#)



[Journey to Excellence—10/13](#)

“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. There are 13 requirements but you only need to do 10.

Service Projects—Journey to Excellence Objective

Another objective is the pack participates in service projects, with one benefitting your chartering organization. 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.

Leader Training—Journey to Excellence Objective

Did you know that leader training is one of the 13 requirements for the new recognition program? This one should be easy to complete because 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.



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.

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 for more information about this unique opportunity.



2011 Top Ten List—New list coming for 2012

- ~~Shingles~~ **Done**
- ~~Window Blinds for Staff Cabins~~ **Done**
- New Exterior Door for (D.H.) Bathroom
- ~~2 Weed Eaters~~ **Done**
- 3 Screen Doors
- 2 Patio Sets for Swimming Pool
- 2 Portable Lifeguard Chairs
- ~~5 Picnic Tables~~
- 1 LCD Projector
- ~~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. Cubmasters, If you want to use the new Regatta Racing Trimaran Kit, please let me know how many you 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 every item except A, B, D, and E .

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@bsamail.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

