THE BLUE BLAZE

Newsletter of the Catoctin Mountain District (Est. June 3, 2003) **August 2008 Vol. 6 No. 8**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

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Upcoming Events

August

18-23 Camp Airy
19 Popcorn and JSN Training 7:00pm at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 610 S. Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD
23 Trainer Development Conference NCAC
26 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
27 Eagle Review

September

6 Merit Badge Day at Camp Snyder
9 Roundtable/OA 7:15pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
9 New Leader Essentials 6pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick, Contact mudrat@erols.com
9 Boy Scout Leader Specific Training Part 2 6pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick, Contact allenonthelake@comcast.net
11 District-wide Join Scouting Night
12-14 Wood Badge Part 1, Contact tpinman@comcast.net
23 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
24 Eagle Review
26-28 Goshen Bear Workend, Contact jimsundergill@comcast.net
27 District Training Day (New Leader Essentials, Tiger Den Leader Specific Training, Cub Den Leader Specific Training, Webelos Den Leader Specific Training, Cubmaster Specific Training, Pack Committee Specific Training, Boy Scout Leader Specific Training Parts 1-3, Troop Committee Challenge, Varsity Leader Specific Training, Venturing Leader Specific Training, Chartered Organization Representative Training, Den Chief Training, Contact mudrat@erols.com

October

4 2009 Camp Promotion Explosion
9 Putt Putt Inter-troop sporting competition, Contact shawnyoungberg@comcast.net
11-13 Wood Badge Part 2
14 Roundtable/OA 7:15pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick
14 Boy Scout Leader Specific Training Part 3, 6pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick, Contact mudrat@erols.com
14 Merit Badge Counselor Training, 6pm old St. John's School, 114 E 2nd St. Frederick, Contact mudrat@erols.com
16 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm LDS Chapel, Walkersville
17-19 Fall Camporee, Contact Ron Layman 301/845-6208
21 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm Church of Christ, 1305 N. Market St. Frederick
22 Eagle Review
24 Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training, Contact mudrat@erols.com

You are welcome to take training in any District

For more information, visit http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=1934

District Key 3 Leadership

Tim Richardson, District Director trichardson@boyscouts-ncac.org , 240-529-6188
Ed Clayson, District Chairman, eclays@fred.net 301-845-2015
Randy Johnson, District Commissioner, walkersville.scouts@gmail.com 240-529-7363

September Roundtable will be a Picnic!

Our September 9th Roundtable will be a picnic at Utica Park off of Old Frederick Road with catered food that includes pulled pork and fried chicken at $10 per person. This is a great opportunity to have a night out, no cooking or dishes to do. Come and enjoy the company of your fellow Scouters. Please contact Ron Layman at 301/845-6208 by September 2nd to let him know how many folks from your unit plan to attend so they can get a head count for the food.

JSN 2008!

NCAC is holding Join Scouting Night on September 11th this year. We have had our training sessions and the schools are being booked. If your school's Back to School Night is scheduled for September 11th please schedule your JSN night for another evening in the week of September 11th.

On August 19th during the Popcorn Sale Training all of the supplies needed for a successful JSN effort will be available. The training will be held in Gaithersburg at the Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church from 7-9 PM. Please see the web site, boyscouts-ncac.org, for online registration and the address for the training.

If there are any lingering questions or needs please feel free to contact Linda Morgan (lstm@aol.com or 240-367-7664) or Debbie Crabb (dcrabb@fairchildcontrols.com). We will do our very best to help you and your Pack have an outstanding Join Scouting Night this year!

Linda Morgan, Join Scouting Night Chairman
301-845-0766 - Office
240-367-7664 - Cell

Wilderness Survival Weekend

Venturing Crew 394 will be hosting another Wilderness Survival weekend at the Walkersville Watershed this year. The event will be held during the weekend of October 3-5th. This is an opportunity for scouts to earn the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge during the weekend. Scouts and Units are welcomed to come out to the Watershed on Friday evening at any time. The classes do not start until Saturday morning around 9:00 am. Every participating scout should have basic knowledge on knots and lashings. Each scout must bring his personal survival kit to the event. Units need to bring their own food for Saturday lunch and dinner as well as for Sunday breakfast. Lastly, everyone should dress for the weather. For more information and to sign up, contact Damon Allen at allenonthelake@comcast.net.

Wilderness Survival Opportunity for Venturing Crews

To all Venturing Crews in Frederick County, Crew 394 will be hosting another Wilderness Survival Weekend for the Boy Scouts this year. Any youth of a Crew who is interested in completing the Wilderness Survival Core Requirement for the Ranger Award is welcomed to sign up as a staff member. The youth will be teaching the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge to the scouts in order to complete the requirements for the award. The outing will take place at the Walkersville Watershed on the weekend of October 3-5th. If any youth are interested in being on staff at the outing, please contact Damon Allen at allenonthelake@comcast.net as soon as possible.

DEN CHIEF TRAINING
for

Catoctin Mountain District

Thursday August 21st, 2008@ 6-9 PM
at the Camp Airy
Meet at the dining hall entry at 6pm

Rank Qualified Boy Scout Leadership Position

Boy Scout Must Be 1st Class

Learn the skills needed to be a Den Chief: Games, Tricks, skits songs,

Scout skills and ceremonies.

Learn the requirements to earn the Den Chief Service Award. Help Cub Scouts understand Scouting and help them to become Boy Scouts. Learn the Den Chief Pledge. Work with Current Den Chiefs during training. Get valuable resources to help you to earn Eagle….

You should bring the Den Chief Handbook, if you can. You should try to get your Scoutmaster's approval and the approval of the Cubmaster of the Pack you would like to work with. Preregistration requested.

Register by emailing your name, rank, Troop #, Phone # to docor@comcast.net or
Call Mr. O'Connor at 240-372-8114
We need at least 4 Scouts signed up for the training to proceed.

Catoctin Mountain District

presents the Fourth Annual

Boy Scout Putt Putt Golf Tournament

Thursday, October 9, 2008

10:00 a.m.

at

I 70 Golf Range
8400 E. Patrick Street
Frederick, Md 21701

Cost: $3.00 for one game
Optional $3.00 for small bucket at the driving range

Teams consist of four scouts

Each troop must provide an adult for each team

To register and for more information contact:
Shawn Youngberg
Phone: 240-344-7733
email: shawnyoungberg@comcast.net

A Bit of Scouting Heaven by Dan Kurtenbach, Fairfax, VA

Goshen Scout Reservation is the home of six of the National Capital Area Council's resident summer camps: three Boy Scout camps, two Webelos camps, and Lenhok'sin High Adventure. While Goshen Scout Reservation has had its share of problems this summer with E.coli (see News & Events at www.boyscouts-ncac.org), if you throw away the tainted frozen hamburger, Goshen is a little bit of Scouting heaven.

Follow the link below for a photographic tribute to Goshen Scout Reservation by Dan Glass, a parent of two Scouts. And if you happened to miss summer camp this year, or just want to relive a pure Scouting experience for a few moments, sit back, relax, and click: http://www.danielglassphotography.com/gallery/5585155_CVyTK

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Recruiting Volunteers

As part of the Appalachian Trail MEGA-Transect Initiative, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has partnered with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) for **World Water Monitoring Day 2008**. ATC will be recruiting volunteers – including scouts and other supervised youth groups - to collect water samples on the Appalachian Trail for a one month period between **September 18 and October 18, 2008**.

The Appalachian Trail runs through, over and next to nearly 1800 streams, rivers and lakes. The health of these water resources impacts humans and wildlife far beyond the Trail corridor. Near the Trail, they provide drinking water for hikers, visitors and wildlife and habitat for plants and animals. Outside the corridor, they are a source of water for public water supplies, fisheries and hydropower generation.

Though Trail managers and enthusiasts know that human activities are impacting water resources, no studies have ever focused on water quality along the entire Trail. Analysis of data collected by volunteers during this event can help improve and sustain the water resources of the A.T. by providing valuable information to land managers and decision makers in Congress.

Volunteers can spend less than a day on this project and no special training is required. **Anyone who can arrange a hike on the Appalachian Trail sometime between September 18 and October 18, 2008 can participate**. It is a good learning opportunity, as well as an opportunity to give back. Simple water sampling kits are available from WEF or volunteers can use their own equipment.

Volunteers register themselves, their sampling sites and data in the online database found on the World Water Monitoring Day website. ATC will receive a report of the results after the event closes. When registering, make sure you choose "Appalachian Trail Conservancy" as one of the organizations that you are affiliated with. *We will not get a report of your data if you don't check that box.*

Get started at our website!
Visit www.appalachiantrail.org/waterquality for an overview and to register, or email waterquality@appalachiantrail.org for more information.

For more background information about the A.T. MEGA-Transect see: www.appalachiantrail.org/megatransect

Please pass this message on to anyone you think would be interested!

Jeanne Mahoney, Volunteer Resources Coordinator Appalachian Trail Conservancy
799 Washington Street, P. O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
www.appalachiantrail.org
jmahoney@appalachiantrail.org
304-535-6331, ext.107

District Popcorn Chairman Needed

If you would be interested in helping out at the District level with the Popcorn campaign, please contact Tim Richardson at trichardson@boyscouts-ncac.org or call 240-529-6188.

Unit Popcorn Chairmen

Please contact Tim Richardson as soon as possible with the name, phone number and email address of your unit Popcorn Chairman. Tim will be coordinating the Popcorn campaign until a chairman can be found.

Fall Camporee

The Fall Camporee will be held at Mount St. Mary's College near Emmitsburg October 17-19 with an Olympic theme. Participants will have use of the pool and track for events. The cost will be approximately $20 per person. For more information, you can contact Ron Layman at 301/845-6208 and watch The Blue Blaze for details as they become available.

Unit of the Year Awards by Randy Johnson, District Commissioner

Hello everyone,
I've had a few questions about the Unit of the Year awards and wanted to address some of them for you all. Points for Unit of the Year can be earned from activities starting in May 2008 through April 2009, and only Centennial Quality Units for 2008 will be eligible for the award. An electronic copy of the posters from roundtable will be sent out with the Blue Blaze this month, which you can use for your personal reference and record keeping. For example, each new leader who completes fast start training within 2 weeks (between May 2008 and April 2009) will earn their unit 1 point. If a pack has fully trained Cubmaster, committee chair, and assistant Cubmasters before April 2009, the unit will earn 10 additional points.
Look over your options, and please feel free to ask your friendly commissioner if anything is unclear or you can contact me at Walkersville.scouts@gmail.com.

Scouting Days at Mount Vernon

Scouting Days at Mount Vernon will take place November 1 - February 15. There will be FREE admission for all Scouts! All Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Club members, in uniform or wearing an official pin, are admitted FREE. Troops may arrange to lay a wreath at Washington's tomb, hike the forest trail, and participate in land surveying activities by calling (703) 799-8604. Check http://MountVernon.org this fall for new programs for Scouts.

Florida Sea Base

Fun in the sun develops a team.

"...they start to see others beyond themselves and they see where they need other people and they also see where they fit in to the
big picture . . ." Check out this website http://www.scouting.org/media/vos.aspx

Catoctin Mountain District Training Committee holds Special Summer Training for Boy Scout Leaders

By Colby A. Child, Jr.

On the weekend of July 25-27, the Catoctin Mountain District (CMT) held a special summer training session for several Boy Scout Leaders. Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters from NCAC CMT Troop 727 of Emmitsburg, MD and from York/Adams Area Council, Blue & Gray District (B&G) Troop 78 came to the FEMA Center on Friday afternoon, July 25th, for a full weekend of training.

In a first time effort of this magnitude, CMT Training Committee offered the full training curriculum for Boy Scout leaders, starting Friday night and ending Sunday evening and including New Leader Essentials (NLE), Boy Scout Leader Specific Training (BSLST) and the final component, Boy Scout Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training (BSIOLST).

Staff included several veteran Scouters from CMT, including District Training Chair Colby A. Child, Jr.; District BS Training Chair Damon Allen; Asst. SM of Troop 799, Joe Robbins; Former OA Chapter Advisor Doug Tadaki and his son and Life Scout Zach, the current OA Chapter President; Asst. SM of Troop 270, Mel Poole; Asst SM of Troop 1998 Kathy Evans and Alex and Chris McKenna, Star Scouts of Troop 727. Scouters who were trained include Lawrence A. McKenna Jr., John Slotwinski, Eric Isaacson, Jonathan K Carroll, Mike Hoffman, Ed Buchheit, and Arthur Oleskey.

From learning about the physical and psychological differences between Tiger Cubs and 17 yr old Eagle Scouts to learning from actual Scouts how to appropriately teach Map and Compass skills, all of the leaders thoroughly enjoyed the learning and team building weekend, though it was long and arduous.

Without the generous use of the Center, the weekend could not have succeeded. The classroom facilities were perfectly suited for the multi-media approach CMT Training Committee has adopted. The weekend was a huge success and all were happy when graduation was over. Seven Leaders earned their "TRAINED" patches and everyone's "network" was grown by the experience. Thanks to everyone for the opportunity.