

Council Fires

Otschodela Council

www.otschodela.org

April 2008

This is a publication of the Otschodela Council, Boy Scouts of America

Dates to Remember

April:

- 2 Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 am
Office Closed
- 5 Swim for Advancement - SUNY Oneonta
- 21 Spring Race to Cub Scouting Kick Off

Training

- 26 Cub Scout Leader Training - Oneonta
- 26 Boy Scout Leader Training - Oneonta
- 27 Cub Scout Leader Training - Stamford
Robinson Terrace

Council Recognition Dinner



Recognition is a vital part of the overall success of the Scouting and Exploring program. The Council Dinner is our opportunity to congratulate and recognize volunteers for their personal accomplishments. The First United Methodist Church in Oneonta will cater the dinner on May 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. They will cook and serve a delicious roast beef dinner. The price of the dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Reservations are due by April 25, 2008. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Silver Beaver awarded to individuals, who have been selected for their outstanding volunteers' contribution to the success of Scouting in the Otschodela Council.

The reservation form is on the mailer page of this Council Fires.

Centennial Quality Award - Missed Units

Apologies go out to Deerslayer Units Pack 9 and Troop 501. Somehow we missed putting them in the March Council Fires Centennial Quality Unit Award list. They both earned their CQUA in 2007 and will be getting their patches and ribbons.

Camp News:

Family Camp at Henderson

On June 28 & 29 and August 2 & 3, 2008 the Otschodela Council will be hosting the 7th Annual Family Camp at the Henderson Scout Reservation. The theme this year is Land Down Under. This exciting



program will allow any youth in the Cub Scout programs to go on an overnight camping experience with his entire family. The Family Camp staff has developed a fun program that includes fishing, handicrafts, sports, swimming, boating and games for the whole family to enjoy. **There will be a Family Camp orientation meeting for interested parents and leaders Friday, June 20th from 6-8 p.m. at the Henderson dining hall.** If you would like to attend please register and pay at the Council Service Center by June 10.

Day Camp 2008 Staff Opportunities

"Take your Mark!" as we prepare to race on an Olympic Adventure at this year's Cub Scout Day Camps. Camp Program Director Nancy Rigley is looking for volunteers to help staff the Day Camp. Positions include- Sports and Games, Nature, Outdoor Skills, Health and Safety and Program Aides. Day Camps are also looking for Program Supplies-please save your Paper towel Rolls and bring them to the Scout Service Center for Day Camp. If you are interested in helping with this fun week, please call Council Day Camp Chairperson Nancy Rigley at (518) 234-7276 or e-mail her at nancyhorton75@yahoo.com. We look forward to having you at the Arena with us this summer!

Cub Scout Day Camp 2008

In approximately 90 days, Cub Scout Day Camp will kick off. It is never too late to register your son for camp. If you register **before** June 10, 2008, your son

will receive a F R E E day camp “**Olympic Adventures**” tee shirt and the Den Leaders who attend will receive a FREE tee shirt. **After** June 10th, you can still order a shirt for a nominal charge of **\$10.00**. Registration for Day Camp is as simple as ABC

- A** - Roster from the Pack
- B** - Boys health history
- C** - Check from the Pack

Camp orientation, tee shirt distribution and program distribution will take place in June. Camp Director Nancy Rigley will contact unit Leaders with information on Day Camp orientation dates.

Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$215.00

March 10th - merit badge sign up online begins at www.scoutcamphenderson.org.

April 10th Custom design pre-order forms (t-shirts, etc).

June 10th - last day for reduced fee incentive.

Webelos Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$100.00

April 10th - custom design pre-order forms (t-shirts, etc.).

June 10th - Webelos Camp incentive.

Henderson Camp Promotion

The new Henderson promotional DVD has been produced and now is being distributed for in council troop promotions. Our thanks go out to Troop 58 Lawyersville Life Scout Nick Koeberle, photographer John Bagdovitz, board member Rick Bamberger, and the Order of the Arrow for the inspiration and production.

Webelos to Scout Transition!

One of Scouting’s greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for a young man once he meets the joining requirements. You can help these young men as they cross over this spring by filling out a new Boy Scout Application, turning it in to the Scoutmaster for his signature, and sending the new Scout application to the Council Service Center. It is important that every boy be given the opportunity to join your Troop and participate in the fun and adventure that your Scouts are having.

Without a new Boy Scout Application turned in to the Council Service Center, Webelos who cross over into your Troop - cannot advance in rank, participate in district or council activities, or attend summer camp, in addition, they are not covered by insurance.

Please make the Scouts dreams become a reality by turning in their applications to the Council Service Center in April! If you have any questions please contact Trey Miller at rhmill@bsaemail.org. or John Kilmer at jkilmer@bsaemail.org or call (607) 432-6491.

Every Youth deserves to be in a Centennial Quality Unit!

Our 100th Anniversary is only 2 years away. The excitement of celebrating a century of fun, adventure, citizenship, patriotism, and good character is truly an opportunity for America to salute the Boy Scouts of America.

Through the new Centennial Quality Awards program, Otschodela Council has the opportunity to salute the Packs, Troops, Crews and Leaders who deliver exceptional programs to the young men and women in our communities. Every Youth deserves to be in a Centennial Quality Unit!

In the month of April, your Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, District Chairman, or District Executive will be contacting you about this exciting new awards program and will work with you to set your goals. It is important to set your goals on Training, Membership, New Adults, Outdoor Programs, Budget, and Advancement. Turn in your Commitment Form by April 30th and work towards achieving this award. Your youth members are counting on you to deliver a quality program to them!

For more information on the Centennial Quality Unit Award come to Roundtable and visit www.scouting.org, or contact your Unit Commissioner.

Race to Cub Scouting

Start your engines! This race is one where Everyone Wins as new Cub Scouts and Parents join our Scouting programs. Lets’ give them the best that we have of fun and adventure by planning your Ideal Year of Scouting, Setting up the Budget Plan, and when you recruit new Cub Scouts, invite their parents to be a Scout Parent. All new Cub Scouts will receive a Special Derby Car for joining and all boys who recruit a friend can earn a Special Recruiter Patch. Join us this spring in this important race! In Foothills District, call your Unit Commissioner or District Commissioner Paul Beames by e-mail at beamever@aol.com. In Deerslayer District, contact your Unit Commissioner or Wade Blanchard at quantum1962@yahoo.com.

Join the Dream Team!

Is Philmont, Darien Lake, Florida Sea Base, or Battleship Cove something that your Scouts would like to do? Then now is the time to jump start your Scouting year with the greatest stuff on earth, Trail’s

End Popcorn. Foothills District Popcorn Chairman Penny Harageones and Deerslayer District Popcorn Chairman Lorraine Moyer and their teams will be contacting you this spring to help you prepare for an incredible sale. Think about your Big Dream and join the Otschodela Council Dream Team! Visit the Trails End Popcorn Booth at this year's Program Kick off on June 19th.

2007 Excellence Award

Congratulations to Explorer Posts that achieved the National Exploring Excellence Award. The 8 objectives for this award include leader and youth training, planned program, and annual service projects.

Post 5 Cobleskill Fire Department - John Copeland EA
Post 30 Walton Fire Department - Bette Jo Bojo EA
Post 35 O'Connor Hospital - Mike Howard EA
Post 37 Cherry Valley Fire Department - Russ McCall EA
Post 121 Sidney Police - Jan Gorshack EA
Post 2000 Masonville Fire Department - Bob Johnson EA
Post 2500 Sidney Center Fire Department - Dave Gill EA

LFL/Exploring

Date to Remember

May:

- 4 18th Annual Old-Time Fire Meet
- 8 Service Team - Oneonta

18th Annual Old-Time Fire Meet

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Host: Post 30 Walton

Captains Meeting 11:45 a.m.

Event Begins 12:00 noon

Teams: 5 person teams, Posts with up to two alternates. All participants to be registered members of an Explorer Post or Venture Crew.

Events: Midnight Alarm, Broken Hose, Hose & Wye, Bucket Brigade, and Water Ball.

Skills Required: events are set to be fun activities with some Firematics skills required.

Awards: competition will be based on fire units and non-fire units including Venture Crews.

Registration due April 28th at the Service Center.

Venturing/Exploring Rendezvous 2008

July 25, 2008 to July 27, 2008

Camp Babcock-Hovey, Ovid, NY

Camp Babcock-Hovey, located on the shores of Seneca Lake in the heart of the scenic Finger Lakes region.

COPE Course

Orienteering Course

Swimming Pool

Shotgun and Rifle Range

Contact: Lauren L. Brandt - Venturing/Exploring Staff Advisor (315) 789-1166 or lbrandt@fingerlakes-council.org or email sbrady@bsaemail.org.

Foothills District

Dates to Remember

April:

- 10 District Committee/ Commissioners Meeting

May:

- 8 Roundtable Sidney UM Church Liberty St. 7 pm
Delhi Town Hall 7 pm
- 16-18 Spring Webelos and Scout Camporee Sidney

Foothills District Nominations Sought

A District is a voluntary association of citizens. It includes District Members at Large and representatives of organizations that are chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to use the Scouting program. The nominating committee is charged with developing a slate that includes District Chairman, Vice Chairs and District Members at Large that will chair and serve on committees and a nominee for District Commissioner (to be submitted for Executive Board approval). Nominees will be elected at the District Annual Meeting in June.

Effective volunteers in units and Districts are a top priority for the BSA. The successful use of volunteer resources depends on the ability of key leaders – both professional and volunteer to locate, select, train, utilize and conserve the number of people necessary to adequately perform the membership, finance, program and unit service functions.

Suggestions may be made in writing to the Foothills District Nominating Committee c/o Scout Service Center, Oneonta or e-mailed to Paul Beames District Commissioner at beamever@aol.com.

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS are June 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Program Kick-Off

Have you ever wondered why it is that some Units have enough money to do whatever they want to? Have you ever wondered how it is that some Units take their Scouts on extraordinary trips and outings? The main reason that these units can do these things is that they PLAN for them. We can help you out in this process when you attend the **Foothills District**

Program Kick-off on Thursday June 19th at the Delhi American Legion Hall, in Delhi starting at 6:00 p.m. We encourage each Unit to send at least three people to this session and at least 1 youth member. Food will be provided! Please call the Council Service Center (607) 432-6491 with your Unit attendance or email Trey at rhmillier@bsamail.org.

Boy Scout Spring Camporee and Webelos Overnight 2008

The Boy Scout Spring Camporee and Webelos Overnight is being held on May 16-18 and being hosted by the Troops of Sidney. The theme of this year's Camporee is "The Spirit of Flight" and will feature Aviation and Space Exploration Merit Badge. Additionally, a Scavenger Hunt, and other Scouting Skills events will be offered during the day. More information will be sent to Scoutmasters and Cubmasters and will be available on the Council Website www.otschodela.org... Webelos Scouts and Bear Scouts who have earned their Bear Badge will be having their own overnight experience at the same site. The Webelos may register beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday in order to set up their campsites. The committee recommends the Webelos bring a bag lunch on Saturday, and be prepared to cook their supper and breakfast meals on an above ground fire. If you have any questions, please Ken Grant at (607) 538-9012 or e-mail Trey Miller at rhmillier@bsamail.org.

Commissioners Needed

The Foothills District is looking for Volunteers who would like to join a staff of Commissioners dedicated to helping our District Packs, Troops, and Crews be the best they can be. Commissioners are needed especially in Schoharie County, Roxbury and Stamford areas. If you are a good listener, have a cheerful disposition, and would enjoy visiting units in our District, please call Paul Beames at (607) 563-1111 or e-mail beamever@aol.com.

FOS Update

Thank you to Troops 33, 34, 58, 59, 88 and 99 and Packs 8, 11, 30, 33, 34, 45, 50, 74, and 88 for joining this years Friends of Scouting Program. The contributions of the Leaders, Parents, and Family members of these Units have supported approximately 35 Scouts who would not be in Scouting without their help. Thank you for your generous support!

Be Prepared!

The Foothills District Annual First Aid Meet took place Friday evening, March 7th at the Delaware

Academy Gymnasium with 14 teams participating. Congratulations to Troops 49, 88, and 99 who walked away with the Trophies this year. Thank you to District Chairman Dave Leidy, coordinator Bill Moller and his Committee who planned an excellent event and to all of the judges who helped to make this event a success.

Roundtable Knights!

New to Foothills District for 2008 is the District Roundtable. This gathering of leaders, parents, commissioners, committee members and others will help everyone better serve the youth in their Pack, Troop or Crew, or on the District Staff while having fun with your fellow Scouters. Our next Roundtable is May 8, 2008 at the Sidney United Methodist Church from 7:00-8:30 p.m., the theme for the evening is "Olympic Travelers" for Cub Scouts, and "Beyond Map and Compass" for Boy Scouts/Venturers. The Roundtable format is 1 hour for theme program, 15-minute DE question and update session and 15 minute or more time for Scouter fellowship. The Knights of the Roundtable look forward to seeing you at our next gathering on May 8th! Please RSVP by May 6th to rhmillier@bsamail.org for refreshments.

Deerslayer District

Dates to Remember

April:

- 10 District Meeting - Schenevus
- 19 Cast Iron Chef - Oneonta
- 26 Cub & Boy Scout Leader Training Oneonta

Recognition

As we welcome spring we also see that many of our unit leaders in Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting have enjoyed a successful year in their Dens, Packs, and Troops. The Unit Commissioners are now reaching out to leaders to help recognize the great work they have accomplished as Den Leaders, Cubmasters, Scout Leaders, and Committee Members. The recognition is in the form of an award for their position once they have completed the training, tenure and participation. Requirements for each position are found in the back of the den leader handbook as well as from your Unit Commissioner. Please take the time to recognize each of your leaders as they go through Scouting.

Spring Camporee

The Spring Camporee is being held this year at Mallet Pond on May 16th, 17th and 18th. Registration will be \$7.00 for each youth. The theme is based on

nature oriented skills. Some of the events will be tracking, leaf identification, first aid, leave no trace camping and bone identification. Further information will be coming soon in the mailing to unit leaders.

Youth Protection



The National Office, Boy Scouts of America recently produced an updated DVD film on youth protection. "It Happened to Me" for 6-9 year olds "A Time to Tell" for 11-14 year olds and "Personal Safety Awareness" for 14-20 year olds. The Cub and Boy

Scout video must be viewed with a parent. The video is in the hands of your Unit Commissioner for viewing in your unit. Remember that April is youth protection month and we would like to know the names of individuals that view each tape.

Unit Rechartering

As we approach April 1st we see our success as a district in rechartering all of our units using the new "on-line" format. Our thanks go to District Commissioner, Wade Blanchard and his commissioner staff in their efforts to turn this new process into a reality.

Eagle Scout Projects

The "Eagle Project" committee has met and reviewed the projects of Eagle Scout Candidates. Some reviews take a little longer than others, but the committee will meet monthly and review as many projects as possible. The Committee Chair, Dennis Earl has suggested that we bring in one new committee member each month so that the committee has a core of individuals who are familiar with the process. Unit leaders and/or Committee Chairman will be contacted each month to secure a volunteer to sit on the committee. In this way the term of each member will be a maximum of five months. In this manner we expect to have someone in each unit who is familiar with the process and can assist the troop committee with ideas and suggestions for eagle projects.



Cast Iron Chef Cook Off

The first ever Council cook off.

1. Open to all Cub Scouts in the Council, either individually or as a group.
2. Saturday, April 19th 11-noon in Muller Plaza, center of Oneonta, in front of Clarion hotel.
3. Camp stoves to be used. But Dutch ovens can be

used if the heating device can be kept from damaging the plaza.

4. Scouts bring uncooked, raw foods and necessary supplies to prepare in an hour. No meats that have been marinating before event.
5. Samples are to be made available for spectators using Dixie cups and spoons provided by the committee.
6. Presentations will be made to the judges at/by noon.
7. Criteria are: Taste, originality and presentation.
8. Scouts cook either by themselves or with a den.
9. Kid cooking only. Adults only help for safety, like starting fires, opening cans, cutting and only if necessary. Scouts cut, if they can, measure, pour, mix, stir, heat and serve. No parent prepared 'Pinewood Derby' dishes.
10. Categories- Appetizer, Main course, Soup, Dessert.
11. Judging will be against like dens and age groups. Tigers will be judged against Tigers; Bears against Bears.
12. Cooks should provide -food and preparation supplies like tables, utensils, can openers, -cleanup supplies; spill catch arrangements, -cover in case of rain, like an umbrella or self-standing tent. No stakes or tie downs allowed by the city. Attempts will be made to move to the parking garage, if there's enough time.
Make plans now. Let your packs know.
Get ready for some fun and interesting taste experiences.

Deerslayer District Nominations Sought

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Effective volunteers in units and Districts are a top priority for the BSA. The successful use of volunteer resources depends on the ability of key leaders – both professional and volunteer to locate, select, train, utilize and conserve the number of people necessary to adequately perform the membership, finance, program and unit service functions.

Suggestions may be made in writing to the Deerslayer District Nominating Committee c/o Scout Service Center, Oneonta.

CUB SCOUT LEADER BASIC TRAINING

CUB SCOUT LEADER BASIC TRAINING

Saturday, April 26, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Oneonta Middle School
East St., Oneonta

Sunday, April 27, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Stamford – Robinson Terrace



FOR:

SUBJECTS:

Tiger Cub Den Leaders
Elements of Good Den Meetings
Den Leaders
Cubmasters
Parents
Assistant Leaders
Committee Members

Committee responsibilities
Cub Scout Advancement
Activities
Elements of Good Pack Meetings
Youth Protection

NOTE: New Leader Essentials will be taught first. The Leader Specific Training Sessions will start at approximately 2:30 p.m.

COST: \$ 8.00

Each participant will receive the appropriate Leader handbook for their training. Reservations are requested so training materials will be available.



2008 CUB SCOUT LEADER TRAINING REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____

PACK # _____ DISTRICT _____

POSITION _____ E-Mail: _____

I WILL BE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS: _____ April 26 OR _____ April 27

- _____ NEW LEADER ESSENTIALS
- _____ TIGER CUB DEN LEADER SPECIFIC
- _____ CUB DEN LEADER SPECIFIC
- _____ WEBELOS DEN LEADER SPECIFIC
- _____ CUBMASTER / ASST. CUBMASTER SPECIFIC
- _____ PACK COMMITTEE SPECIFIC

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 PM on Monday, April 21, AT THE SERVICE CENTER

BOY SCOUT LEADER ESSENTIALS & SCOUTMASTER TRAINING



QUALITY TRAINING = QUALITY LEADERS = QUALITY PROGRAM = QUALITY UNIT

Every boy deserves the best-trained leader.

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Bring your own lunch)

Oneonta Middle School, East St.

You will:

- Learn how to deliver a quality Scouting Program
- Learn specifics on the patrol method
- Be able to share experiences and ideas with new and experienced Scouters
- Maximize your leadership skills

COST: \$10

Each participant will receive the appropriate Leader handbook for their training. Reservations are requested so training materials will be available.

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**2008 BOY SCOUT LEADER TRAINING REGISTRATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

TROOP # \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

**I WILL BE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING SESSION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ TROOP COMMITTEE SPECIFIC

\_\_\_\_\_ SCOUTMASTER / ASST. SCOUTMASTER SPECIFIC

**RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY 4:00 PM ON MONDAY, April 21, AT THE SERVICE CENTER**

OTSCHODELA COUNCIL INC.

NON-PROFIT ORG.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 1356  
ONEONTA, N.Y. 13820

U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ONEONTA, N.Y.  
Permit No. 124

**Otschodela Council Annual Recognition:** Saturday, May 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church  
(corner of Church/Chestnut Sts.) Oneonta, NY.

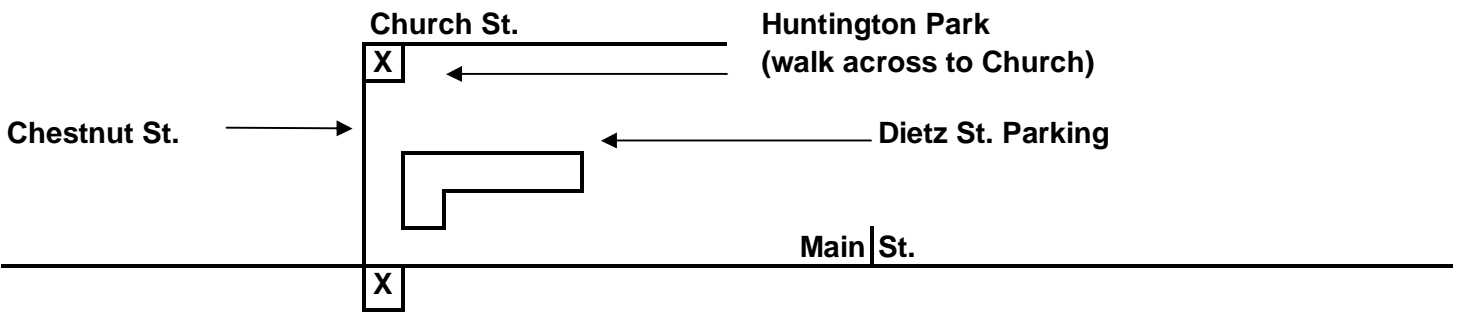
**TICKETS ARE \$15.00 PER PERSON DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$15.00 each for Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge my Visa/MasterCard:

Card no. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_



**USE CHESTNUT OR CHURCH STREET ENTRANCES**