

Council Fires

This is a publication of the Otschodela Council, Boy Scouts of America, PO Box 1356, Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-6491
www.otschodela.org

December 2007

Dates to Remember

December:

- 5 Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 Office Closed
- 14 Henderson Scout Camp Reopens for Camping
- 24-25 Christmas, Service Center Closed
- 27 Camp Staff Interviews
- 29-31 Service Center Closed, Inventory

Service Center Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Blessing



Dear Lord, we thank you for the blessing's you have given the Otschodela Council and the Boy Scouts of America. We give thanks for the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and resources to the Scouting program. We lift up to you

our young people who need you and the values your Scouting programs deliver to them. We rejoice in your faithfulness, grace, and loving touch. Because of you, we have the freedom that makes our country great. Glory be to you in all that Scouting has to offer to our children, families, communities, and country. Amen

Popcorn Sale a Success

The Otschodela Council would like to thank all the units that participated in our 12th Trails End Popcorn Sale! The best total sales this year was - first place Pack 33 Delhi with \$9,868, second place Pack 13 Milford with \$9,860, and third place Pack 88 Sidney with \$8,598.



Scouts selling at \$1500 level:

Pack 33	Keith Brundege
Pack 34	Jonathan Fitch
Pack 88	Matthew Hoskins
Troop 33	Joel Brundege
Troop 45	Tyler Davis
Troop 168	Cody Sears

Congratulations to Keith Brundege of Pack 33 and Cody Sears of Troop 168 for achieving the \$2500 level.

We're pleased to announce the winners of our October Fill a Sheet Drawing.

Troop 168 Worcester	Cody Sears
Pack 88 Sidney	Korbin Valentine
Troop 34 Sidney	Geoffrey Peck
Pack 5 Cobleskill	Daniel Loucks Baer

Onteroraus Chief Going to Japan!

Otschodela Council and Onteroraus Lodge congratulate Zak West on his selection to the 2008 SAJ-BSA Exchange Program. Zak, along with other Regional Representatives from the United States, will be traveling to Japan on February 2-11, 2008 to participate in the World

Organization of the Scout Movement Youth Forum. During his time in Japan, Zak will be touring the historic cities and ancient sites of Japan, enjoying the hospitality of a Japanese family, participating in the Friendship Events and representing Otschodela Council and the Boy Scouts of America in the Youth Forum. Zak will be an excellent BSA Representative and we congratulate him and his family on this honor.

Silver Beaver Nominations



The Silver Beaver award is given for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters within the territory under jurisdiction of our Council.

All nominations should be forwarded to the Council

Service Center by Monday, March 3, 2008. The Silver Beaver Committee will review all nominees for the award in early March. Nomination forms are available by contacting the Service Center.

The Silver Beaver award will be presented at the Council Recognition Dinner on Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Camping News

Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$215.00

October - Unit site reservation forms for best choice of weeks.

March 10th - \$50 reservation fee per Scout.

March 10th - merit badge sign up online begins.

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.

Camp Staff Openings

1 or 2 Adult positions in program areas.

1 or 2 youth openings in most program areas.

Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 ext. 205 for information on adult 5-7 week openings.

University of Scouting

Don't miss the great opportunity to "Branch Out in Scouting" on Saturday March 15 2008 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Oneonta Middle School, Oneonta NY. For the first time, Venturing will have courses offered for your enjoyment. You will receive the catalog and registration form in the mail or you can go to www.otschodela.org to view the course catalog and print out the registration form. Mark your calendar NOW so you don't miss out on the great experience of learning something new and meet with great leaders. See you all on March 15 2008!

Welcome Barb Doyle

The Otschodela Council is pleased to welcome Barbara Doyle to our Council Staff. Barb will be serving as the Accounts Specialist and brings many years of expertise and experience to our Council. We welcome her to the team and wish her success!

Scout Ski Day!

Maple Ski Ridge located at 2725 Mariaville Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306 is offering a Scout Ski Day on Thursday December 27, 2007 - 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost for the event is \$26.00 for 7 hour area use ticket and 7 hour ski rental, and \$20.00 for 7 hour area use ticket only.

Drawings for prizes will take place throughout the day.

For more information or to sign up, please call Lorraine Moyer at (518) 381-4700.

LFL/Exploring

Dates to Remember

January:

10 Service Team Meeting, Bolton Service Center Oneonta, 7 pm

February:

2-3 "Beach Party" Oneonta's YMCA 7 pm

Beach Party 2008

February 2-3 will see a flurry of activity at Oneonta's YMCA. It's time for our annual



“Beach Party” where the party begins at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and goes round the clock until 6:00 a.m. on Sunday. Contests, games, relaxation, and meeting Explorers from throughout the council area. We kept the cost down to \$10.00 for pre-registration or \$15.00 at the door. **Advisors will have registration forms in December.**

Adult Explorer Leader Basic Training

For:

Explorer Post Advisors
Associate Advisors
Committee Volunteers
Interested Adults

Course Description:

Post Adult Structure	Youth Protection
Position Descriptions	Needs of Explorers
Committee Responsibilities	Insurance
Program/Planning	Health and Safety
Policies	
Activities	Post Officers
Seminar	
Website Tools	Post Bylaws

Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 for more information.

Blue Sky Adventures

Learning for Life High Adventure Trips

Now taking reservations for

The Great Southwest Adventure

The Florida Keys Marine Adventure

Contact: 1-877-225-8375 or email mike@blueskyadventures.net.

9th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade

December 8th

Line up at 10:00 a.m. behind the County office building at 111 Main St. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome, for more information please contact Michael Howard at (607) 746-0591 or (607) 538-1988. Awards given

Spring EMS or Firematics

We would like to register interest in an April Exploring EMS competition or Firematics. Probably a Sunday, hosted by Post 30 Walton.

Please call 1-800-778-6813 or email



sbrady@bsamail.org to express your choice and commitment to attend.

Foothills District

Dates to Remember

December:

- 13 Coordinated District Meeting/District Commissioners- Delaware County Public Safety Building Delhi - 7:00 pm

January:

- 10 Roundtable- United Methodist Church Liberty Street Sidney 7:00 pm
- 12 District Dinner- First Presbyterian Church Delhi 6:00 pm

Trail's End Popcorn

Thank you to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, leaders and parents for making this year's Trail's End Popcorn sale a success. Special thanks to Penny Harageones and Lorraine Moyer for all of their hard work as our Popcorn Kernels and to all of our Unit Kernels who helped to organize this year's sale. Congratulations to all of our Scholarship Winners and Fill a Sheet Drawing Winners on your excellent sales.

Scouting's Good Turn

Thank you to all Units who participated in this year's Scouting for Food Campaign. Your service truly makes a difference to the thousands of families in our district who could not get by without your help. Special thanks to all of our local coordinators for your efforts in our district's campaign and for all of your service to the Foothills District and our Scouting community.

Frigid Frolics

Join in the fun and adventure as the Foothills District Winter Camporee and Cub Scout/Webelos Winter Event goes to Stamford on **February 10-12, 2008 for Frigid Frolics!** A special Scout Exhibition

will be part of the day along with many exciting events throughout the weekend. All troops and Webelos are encouraged



to spend the weekend, but if you wish to just stay for the day you are more than welcome. All Cub Scouts and family members are encouraged to enjoy the day on Saturday. There will be more information on this event mailed to your unit leaders and available on www.otschodela.org... If you have further questions do not hesitate to call either Camping Chairman Ken Grant at (607)538-9012; Event Chairman Ed Stammel at 746-4365; or Trey Miller at the Scout Service Center or by e-mail at rhmill@bsaemail.org

Seeking Scouting Photos

Scouting photos are something to share with the world. They let others know of the fun and adventure you and your Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and fellow Scouters have by sending your pictures (copies or digital please) to rhmill@bsaemail.org or mail them to Otschodela Council, PO Box 1356, Oneonta, NY 13820 c/o Trey Miller. Thank you for your help in sharing the Scouting message. Photos that are received will be used in our Camping Brochures, Annual Report, Friends of Scouting Presentations, and will be available at www.otschodela.org in the Photo Gallery.

Foothills District Wants Your Stories for Council Fires

Your Unit news is important. Share it with your fellow Scouters by submitting an article to Council Fires. Please keep your story to 75 words or less and submit by the 1st of each month for publication in the next Council Fires. Digital pictures with captions are welcome to accompany your story. To submit your articles e-mail Trey Miller at rhmill@bsaemail.org. We look forward to reading about your adventures in the next issue.

Giving

In a recent Court of Honor, the Scoutmaster shared the following message from the [Troop Resource Guide](#). The illustration is quite clear and each Scout and Scouter should ask, "What kind am I?"

In Israel, there are two major bodies of water. Both of these bodies of water are fed by the waters of the River Jordan. One is the Sea of Galilee, which is full of fish and is surrounded by lush vegetation and trees. It is a living body in

every sense. The other is the Dead Sea. There is nothing green there, there are no fish and the sea is stagnant and dead.

The difference is that the Sea of Galilee overflows. For every gallon of water that flows into the sea, a gallon is given up and is passed on downstream. It is constantly renewing itself. It gives as much as it takes.

The Dead Sea, on the other hand, because of its geography, only takes. It gives up nothing, the water there is never cleansed, and it stagnates and dies.

And everything depending on it dies also.

Some people say that there are two kinds of people in the world- those who constantly give of themselves (who help other people at all times and contribute their time, money and energy), and those who only take.

The Foothills District needs your support in the 2008 Friends of Scouting Program. Volunteers are needed to help with Unit Presentations and Unit Leaders. Please sign up for a presentation during the months of January, February or March by December 31. If you would like to help in the Friends of Scouting Program for 2008 and be like the "Sea of Galilee" contact Trey Miller at rhmill@bsaemail.org. Thank you for your support!



Foothills District Meeting/Commissioners' Meeting

Our next District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Delaware County Public Safety Building, Delhi. We have implemented some changes to our meetings, and look forward to seeing you there. Watch your mail or e-mail for more information.

FOS 2007- Friends of Scouting is For Our Scouts!

Thank you to all Units, Families, and Community Members who participated in our 2007 Friends of Scouting Campaign! We're gearing up for our 2008 Campaign and are looking for stories on how Scouting has helped your child or family to include in our brochures and presentations. We are also starting to schedule our Family Presentations between

January and March. Letters will be mailed to all Leaders, Committee Chairmen, and Chartered Organizations about this program. Please send your stories and presentation date to Trey Miller at rhmillar@bsamail.org or to our Scout Office. Thank you for your help in supporting the Scouts of Otschodela Council.

District Recognition Dinner

On Saturday, January 12, 2008 the Foothills District is hosting its Second Annual District Recognition Dinner. This event is open to all District Volunteers, Unit Leaders, Committee Members, Chartered Organization Representatives, 2007 Eagle Scouts and family members. Special Awards will be presented and all 2007 Eagle Scouts will be recognized for their accomplishments. More information, Registration Forms, and Nomination forms will be available on www.otschodela.org.

A Holiday Message

2007 has been an exciting year for our Scouting family in the Foothills District. New units have joined in the fun and adventure of Scouting along with 200 new members in all of our programs. We have had excellent programs starting with the Winter Event at Hanford Mills, Spring Camporee in Hancock on the Delaware River, Walton Day Camp, several Cub Scout and Webelos Activities and our fun Leave No Trace Camporee. A record number of Troops and Scouts enjoyed our Council's camp this past summer at Henderson and participated in the many trainings and service projects at the camp. We also are reminded of the valuable lessons we learned of Being Prepared and what it truly means to Help Other People at All Times. There are many things that have been accomplished in 2007 and 2008 can only get better. It truly has been an exciting year for our district and I would like to thank you for all of the great things you are doing for the youth, their families, and the communities in the Foothills District. May you all have a blessed Holiday Season and a joyous New Year?

God Bless you all,

Trey, Judy, Clay, and Davis Miller

Deerslayer District

Dates to Remember

December:

5 Happy Hanukkah

13 District Meeting- Schenevus Central 7:00

25 Merry Christmas

Congratulations

We had a great turnout for the training this Fall. Pack 1: Katharine Kleeschulte, Melissa Youngs, Eduard McKirtey, Dawn Garrow, Loren Patton. Pack 3: Nicole Kneaskern, Shane Kneaskern, Mike Walling, Sandra Meyers. Pack 5: Julie Brizzee, Suzanne Grawlich, Tami Weingarten, Daniele Sperbeck, Jenn Ackerbauer, Brian Goodrich. Pack 19: Jill Thompson, Jon Thompson. Pack 105: Bryan Schaeffer. Pack 27: Randy Meschutt, T. Moore. Pack 24: Dawn Kiley, Keith Kreger. Pack 28: Scott Stanton. Pack 13: Ralph Eggleston. Pack 9: Lisa Johnson.

Troop 1: Casey Callahan, David Ramsy. Troop 23: Ed Uhlig, Carol Uhlig, Julie Minerosa, David Flynn. Troop 3: John Nitto. Troop 4: John Liddle. Troop 31: Jay Harrison.

Congratulations to all units and individuals for taking the time and effort to improve their knowledge of scouting and increasing their leadership skills.

Winter Camporee is a Klondike Derby

The 2008 Winter Camporee will be held at Henderson Scout Reservation on February 9th, 10th and 11th. Troop 105 is the host unit and they have done a great job in planning a Klondike Derby for all Scouts. The events planned are: Orienteering, Winter First Aid, Emergency Shelter Building, Fire building, Sledge Race, Ice Rescue, Clothing Check and Trail Lunch Preparation.

Pre-registration for this event is required by January 11 to help Troop 105 prepare the materials they will need for various events. More information will be mailed in December and available on the website www.otschodela.org to help Units plan for the event.



Race to Cub Scouting

Congratulations to the following packs for meeting or exceeding their Fall membership goals: Pack 5 Cobleskill, Pack 10 Laurens, Pack 12 Cooperstown, Pack 13 Milford, Pack 15 Richmondville, Pack 16 in Otego, Pack 17 Sharon Springs, Pack 24 Oneonta, Pack 28 Oneonta, Pack 44 Gilbertsville, Pack 91 Oneonta.

Charter Roster Checks

The Deerslayer District Chairman, Commissioner and Executive will be making phone calls during December to ask for your unit rosters to be emailed or faxed to be checked against the national BSA unit rosters. Mix-ups happen both ways at times and this is the last membership inventory we make before the new year to ensure all of our youth are covered under the BSA insurance umbrella. We thank you for all your efforts and cooperation.

Welcome Direct Contact Leaders

We have some new Cub and Scout leaders in our district. A warm welcome goes out to Shane Kneaskern of Pack 3, Mike Price of Pack 27 and John Nitto of Troop 3.

Roundtable

November's roundtable went well and showed some increased attendance. Sy Lloyd gave a presentation on teas made in colonial times with a freshly brewed pot of goldenrod leaf tea for everyone to sample. Roundtable Commissioner Donna Rowe gave presentations on Native American life and uniform inspections. District Executive John Kilmer presented coffee, doughnuts and a gentler, kinder uniform.

Rain gutter Regatta



Fifty two Cub Scouts huffed and puffed their balsa wood boats down rain gutters in Muller Plaza in Mid-town Oneonta.

Credit Photo by Brit Worgan - Daily Star

The top three in the Tiger/Wolf Category were:

- 1st Place – Andrew Clement of Pack 19 in Worcester
- 2nd Place – Zachary Kever of Pack 19 in Worcester

3rd Place – Toby Harmon of Pack 12 in Cooperstown
The top three in the Bear/Webelos category were:

- 1st Place – Eric Mosher of Pack 16 in Otego
- 2nd Place – Jack Culp of Pack 16 in Otego
- 3rd Place – Wade Stahl of Pack 12 in Cooperstown

Special thanks go out to Chris Sadlocha, Deerslayer Cub Program Chairman. Chris organized the first district wide rain gutter regatta in Otschodela Council. The event took place on Main Street in Oneonta on October 21st. We had 54 registrants from packs all over the district. A Daily Star photographer stopped by and snapped a pic that ended up on the front page the next day! The weather was absolutely gorgeous and everyone had a great time, adult leaders included. Kudos to Chris and all the judges for a job well done.

Holiday Wishes

I started in the Otschodela Council serving as Deerslayer District Executive since March of this year. I have




experienced two of the best camporees I have ever seen. Long time volunteers have gone out of their way to lend a helping hand to the "new guy". District members pulled together to help almost every unit come in on time during rechartering. Volunteers helped across all communities and met our Friends of Scouting goal for 2007. Unit leaders helped organize and execute an extremely successful Race to Cub Scouting recruitment.

I feel very fortunate to be able to be a part of the Deerslayer team and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful new friends I have made in our scouting program. This is a great district and I am proud to be a part of it all.

Best Holiday Wishes to all of you and your family members for the upcoming season. Stay warm and drive safely. See you next year.

Happy Holidays
John Kilmer
District Executive



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Boy Scouts of America
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Oneonta, NY 13820

Phone: (607) 432-6491

Or

1-(800) 778-6813

Fax: (607) 432-0388

WEB SITES:

www.otschodela.org

www.scoutcamphenderson.org

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

OTSCHODELA COUNCIL INC.
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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