

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 2008

Dates to Remember

December:

- 1 Race to Cub Scouting Lap 2 Finale
- 3 **Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 Office Closed**
- 12 Henderson Scout Camp Reopens for Camping

24-25

& 26 Christmas, Service Center Closed

- 31 Camp Staff Interviews

January:

- 2 **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

Registrar News

Please make sure you destroy all old applications. We can only accept the new applications. There is certain information and signatures we now need to process new leader and youth. The old applications do not provide that information.

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.

Jamboree 2010 - 100 Years of Scouting Celebrating the Adventure - Continuing the Journey

The 2010 National Scout Jamboree is a national encampment that brings together Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and leaders from all over the nation, along with visiting Scouts from many parts of the world.

Monday, July 26th through Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The Council will send one Troop, consisting of 36 Scouts and 4 adult leaders as part of this Troop. The Jamboree is open to all who are qualified, on a first come basis by District. After District allocations have been filled, a stand-by list of alternates will be established. If a Districts does not fill their allotment by March 1, 2009 alternates

from other Districts will fill those slots.

Scouts who participate in the 2010 Jamboree are selected by the Otschodela Councils. EACH SCOUT MUST: *Be a Scout who has completed the sixth grade, or be at least 12 years of age and a First Class Scout by July 1, 2010 but has not reached his 18th birthday by August 3, 2010.

*Participated in the pre-Jamboree training experience.

*Have filed a Personal Health and Medical Record (form, class 3, No. 67-34412) prior to the pre-Jamboree training.

*Have been active in a Troop or for at least 6 months prior to July 1, 2010.

*Be approved by his Unit Leader.

*Be approved by the local Council Jamboree Committee.

The cost is \$1300.00 for Scouts. This fee covers the Jamboree, all transportation, Patrol and Troop equipment, meals, and insurance to and from the Jamboree. Your fee also covers the training camp before the Jamboree. The only additional expense will be your personal equipment, uniforms, and spending money.

More Jamboree information will be sent to Scoutmasters. Please let your Scouts know about this once in a lifetime experience that will celebrate 100 years of Scouting. They can register online by going to www.scouting.org, click on Jamboree count down and follow the directions. Further questions can be directed to Tom Wright at 1-800-778-6813 or tlwright@bsaemail.org.

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 2, 2009. 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 2, 2009.

Camping News

Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$230.00

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

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

May 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: \$110.00

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.

Camp Needs

Serviceable backpacking tents for outpost.

Camping Kickoff

The 2009 Camping Season is just around the corner. Come to the Otschodela Council Camping Kickoff on February 21, 2009 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Elm Park United Methodist Church on Chestnut Street in Oneonta to find out what's new in Cub Scouting, Webelos, Family Camping, Day Camp and Boy Scout Camping. Scott Brady, Michelle Tyrell, and John Kilmer will be available to answer your questions and provide your Pack or Troop with the tools to prepare you for your exciting adventure of Scout Camping in 2009! A light buffet will be provided, please call Bonnie at 607-432-6491 or e-mail bparslow@bsaemail.org with your attendance. We look forward to seeing you at the Camping Kickoff!

Every Youth deserves to be in a Centennial

Quality Unit!

Our 100th Anniversary is only 1 year 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 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 months of December and January, 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 January 31 and work towards achieving this award. Your youth members are counting on you to deliver a quality program to them!

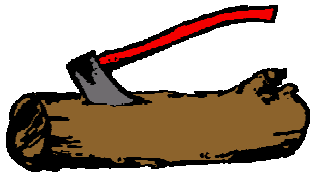
For more information on the Centennial Quality Unit Award come to Roundtable and visit www.scouting.org, or contact your Unit Commissioner.

WOOD BADGE 2009

Wood Badge gives leaders the skills they need to strengthen Scouting in meaningful ways and to deliver a quality program to our youth.

Wood Badge is the final piece of basic fundamental training for every leader and adult in the program. Every youth deserves a trained leader!

Treat yourself to this adventure! You and the youth around you deserve it!



Trainer's Edge- Trainer Development 2009

The Trainer Development Conference benefits trainers and prospective trainers at all levels of Scouting. Wood Badgers also profit from attending, as there is little overlap between the two courses. Everyone will enjoy the supercharged atmosphere and supportive fellowship with the best trainers in the Baden-Powell and Otschodela Councils, presenting exciting and effective training techniques and methods.

There are many opportunities to become involved as a member of your unit, district, or council training team. If you are interested in becoming a trainer, you should plan to attend "Trainer's Edge- Trainer Development Conference."

Scouters, who attend this full-day course and successfully finish their first training assignment in their respective Council, will receive a special "Certified Trainer" nameplate for their uniforms, indicating their participation in this course, and their commitment to high-quality training. For more information contact the Scout Service Center or visit www.otschodela.org.

The Clark Sports Center

Join us for an Adventure Program during the week in the months of December, January or February and receive 40% off your program Price.

Sale Prices

8-12 Participants \$200 - 40% + \$120

13-16 Participants \$300 - 40% = \$180
Rocks & Ropes \$240 to \$300
Mention that you received this to get your discount.
Limited availability.

Foothills District

Dates to Remember

December:

- 11 Coordinated District Meeting/District Commissioners- Delaware County Public Safety Building Delhi - 7:00 pm
- 25 Merry Christmas!

January:

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

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.

Classic Klondike



Join in the fun and adventure at the Foothills District Winter Camporee and Cub Scout/Webelos Winter Event **February 7-8, 2009 for the Classic Klondike and Gold**

Nugget Derby! A special 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 - Trey Miller at the Scout Service Center or by e-mail at rhmillier@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. In addition, everything depending on it dies.

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 2009 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 2009 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 11 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 2008- Friends of Scouting is For Our Scouts!

Thank you to all Units, Families, and Community Members who participated in our 2008 Friends of Scouting Campaign! We're gearing up for our 2009 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 rhmill@bsaemail.org or to our Scout Office. Thank you for your help in supporting the Scouts of Otschodela Council.

District Recognition Dinner

On Saturday, January 10, 2009, the Foothills District is hosting its Third Annual District Recognition Dinner. This event is open to all District Volunteers, Unit Leaders, Committee Members, Chartered Organization Representatives, 2008 Eagle Scouts and family members, and our 2008 Centennial Award Recipients. Special Awards will be presented and all 2008 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

2008 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 the Frigid Frolics in Stamford, Spring Camporee in Sidney enjoying the Spirit of Flight, Walton Day Camp, several Cub Scout and Webelos Activities and our fun Pioneering Camporee this fall. 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 through our Eagle Projects and other Good Turn for America projects throughout our district. Many things have been accomplished in 2008 that we can be thankful for and 2009 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



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.

10th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade

December 6th

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

LFL/Exploring

Dates to Remember

January:

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

February:

7-8 "Beach Party" Oneonta's YMCA 7 pm

Beach Party 2009

February 7-8 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.**



Deerslayer District

Dates to Remember

December:

11 District Meeting- Schenevus Central
7:00 pm

24-26 Scout Service Center closed

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 - Klondike Derby

The 2009 Winter Camporee is again being planned for a Klondike Derby program. We hope to secure the Unadilla Rod and Gun Club for the event in February. Information will be coming soon in the mail and on the Otschodela website.



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's roster 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 Key Unit Leaders

We have some new Cub and Scout leaders in our district. A warm welcome goes out to Pete Mateunas and Tara Loewenguth of Pack 12, Lisa Johnson of Pack 9, Rob Cornell of Troop 9, Dave and Amy Slater of Pack 27, Fred Wood of Pack 15, Steve Madero of Pack 66, Jeff Largeteau of Troop 105.

BRAVO!

We Welcome a New

District Chairman

Ray Adee out of Troop 18 in Schenevus has committed himself to the position of District Chairman for Deerslayer. Ray has been involved in scouting since his boy was a Tiger. Now that his son is getting ready for that move toward college, Ray has stepped

up his volunteerism to the district level to help grow and improve our program.

We thank Ray for accepting this challenging role and welcome him to our Deerslayer District Committee.

Roundtable

November's roundtable went well with increased attendance over last meeting and an introduction of three new people.

Dave McLean gave a great presentation of Autumn Woodlands. He had a display of various bird nests and plants found at this time of year. Sy Lloyd had his Scouting Trails handouts with discussion, knot tying lesson demonstrating the man-harness and prussic. Sy brought a piece of bannock bread and showed how it could be pre-mixed for an outing and prepared by mixing with just water and cooked in a pan over a fire.

The Roundtable Staff puts a lot of time and effort in planning giving these program help sessions. Please make an effort to get one or two people from your unit to try the next Roundtable on January 8th @ Schenevus School. This is a worthwhile program for both Cub and Troop leaders. As always, coffee and donuts are served with a smile from your friendly District Executive.

Holiday Wishes

I feel very fortunate to be a part of the Deerslayer District team and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the friends I have made in our scouting program over the past year and a half.

This past year has seen some real positive changes in our district. A number of Cub Packs have rejuvenated themselves with new leadership and built a better program. New volunteers stepped forward and organized a great Cub Fall Field Day. Everyone helped and got every charter in with no units dropped for 2008. Camporees were well attended (especially the record breaking Winter Camporee Klondike) and programs ran smoothly. This has been a great year for scouting in Deerslayer and we can all look forward to an even better one in 2009.

I wish you, your family and friends all the best for this Holiday Season. Stay warm, drive safely and we'll see you next year.

John Kilmer, Deerslayer District Executive



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Boy Scouts of America
6134 St Hwy 23
PO Box 1356
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.



Don't get lost in the crowd – Mark your calendars now!

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING
MARCH 14, 2009
ONEONTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

More top 9 reasons to attend University of Scouting:

- #6 Meet new people!**
- #5 Share your ideas and experiences.**
- #4 We have food!**

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