

# Council Fires

This is a publication of the Otschodela Council, Boy Scout of America,  
PO Box 1356, Oneonta NY 13820 (607) 432-6491  
[www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org)

## Otschodela Council

## November 2009

### Dates to Remember

November:

- 1 Words to Live by Recruitment 2
- 4 **Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 a.m.**  
**Office Closed**
- 6 Trails End Popcorn Distribution to Units
- 7 Scouting for Food - Drop Off
- 14 Scouting for Food - Pick Up
- 14 Council Auction SUCO
- 21 Henderson Scout Camp Closed  
Deer Hunting Season Begins
- 26-27 Service Center Closed -  
Thanksgiving Day**
- 30 Words to Live by Recruitment Ends

### Council Auction

The 2009 Council Auction will be held at Morris Hall SUNY Oneonta on the evening of November 14<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to review the items while enjoying a buffet of food and then let the bidding begin! Please plan on joining us at this exciting evening of fellowship and enjoyment while supporting Scouting and our leaders of tomorrow. For a complete list of items call the office at 607-432-6491 to get your auction catalog.

Light food and beverages

Partial list of items:

- World Wide Time share (1 Week)
- Tandem Loads of Stone
- Dicks Sporting Goods Certificates
- Whitewater Rafting Certificates
- Premium Boots



- Sport Tech Gift Certificates
- Guided 1 Day Kayak & Ski Trips
- Fuel
- Custom Embroidered Clothing
- Tony Mongillo D & H Railroad Print
- Binghamton Senators Hockey Tickets
- Week at Elmore Lodge, Crumhorn
- 4' carved Santa Claus
- 2 weeks summer camp at Henderson-(1 Scout, 1 Webelos 1, and 1 Webelos 2)
- Golf Package Gift Certificates
- Attorney Simple Will Services
- Automotive Services
- Tree Service Certificates
- Restaurant Certificates
- Hartwick College Coaches Club
- Catskill Symphony Subscriptions
- Ski Plattekill Tickets
- Health Links & YMCA Memberships
- Business Printing
- Wine
- Pet Lovers Gift Basket
- 12 Month Daily Star Subscriptions
- 2 Cases BK Coffee
- Pest Control Services
- Rental Gift Certificates
- Chimney Cleaning
- Subaru Service
- Electrician Services
- Herkimer Diamond Necklace & Bracelet Set
- Digital Cameras
- Hotel Weekend Certificates
- Baseball Memorabilia
- Batiksand Table Runner
- Camping Equipment
- 10 Yard Dumpster (5 days)
- Maple Ski Ridge Package
- Media Advertising Packages TV & Radio

House Painting  
Snow Removal  
Soap Rocks  
Blocks of NYS Cheddar Cheese  
Fresh Christmas Wreaths  
Fresh Flower's  
Surveying Services  
Tree Removal, Trimming, Cabling  
Carpeting for One Room  
Fishing Guide Service  
Veterinary Products  
1 Ton Wood Pellets  
DJ Service  
Redskins Tickets  
Kaiser Porcelain Plates  
New Flag with 13' Pole

**See our website [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org) for weekly updates starting in October. We will accept online bids at the auction link on the website starting October 15<sup>th</sup>.**



### Family Fun Night

**Looking for a great fundraising idea?** This is a fun and easy way to raise money with absolutely no

cost to you. All you have to do is invite people into the restaurant on your designated "Family Fun Night" and 10% of their total pre-tax check will be contributed to your organization.

Work directly with the manager of your local Friendly's Restaurant to schedule your event. Contact Bill Durkee, General Manager at (607) 432-0361.

### Scouting's Good Turn

Thank you in advance to all Units who are participating 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 and service to the Otschodela Council and our Scouting community.

### 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, Ventures and fellow Scouters have by

sending your pictures (copies or digital please) to [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.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](http://www.otschodela.org) in the Photo Gallery.

### Trails End Popcorn News!

Thank you to all Scouts, parents, popcorn kernels, and leaders for helping to make this year's Trail's End Popcorn sale a success. Your efforts have helped all of our Scouts to get a quality program in



your units, to train leaders, to continue to improve the programs and facilities at Henderson Scout Reservation and at our Cub Scout camping programs, and to continue the service offered to all youth, families, leaders and communities in Otschodela Council.

Congratulations to our Fill a Sheet Winners from the October Drawing: Ryan Cobane, Troop 45; Jonathan Fitch, Troop 34; Cody Sears, Troop 168; Connor Sherman, Troop 45; Corey Mueller, Troop 501 and Dominic Hanus, Troop 168!

This November, your unit will have the opportunity to increase your sale by participating in the **Second Chance Sale**. This sale is from November 1<sup>st</sup>-December 1<sup>st</sup>, pick up on December 11<sup>th</sup>, with all money due by December 30, 2009 to the Scout Service Center. All commissions and incentives from the Fall Sale will remain the same, additional details of the sale will be available at the **popcorn pick up on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Schuman's B-Line in Oneonta from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., please sign up with Bonnie at [bonnie.parslow@scouting.org](mailto:bonnie.parslow@scouting.org).**

### Registration Fee Increase

The National Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution to increase the traditional membership annual registration fee for youth and adults from \$10 to \$15 effective January 1, 2010. The annual Exploring fee will remain

\$10.

A great deal of thought went into this decision and consideration was given to the impact to program and council support, the necessary funding required to implement planned initiatives over the next several years, and the overall fees paid by councils. Input was sought and received from staff and volunteers at the council level. It was then determined that the best approach was to increase the fee to the level chosen and to make every effort to hold that level for the next several years, rather than raising the fee every year. The last registration fee increase was implemented in 2002.

The National Council is committed to providing added benefits to Otschodela Council and our scouts and volunteers to support the delivery of high-quality Scouting programs in every community we serve. A key investment continues to be providing more user-friendly Web-based resources. For example, via MyScouting, volunteers will be able to complete even more training requirements on their own schedule, 24 hours a day, utilizing online resources. This will complement their current ability to recharter and manage advancement records online, complete and submit tour permits, and participate in the Scouting community social network, which continues to grow. The National Council strives to minimize operating costs, and it is worth noting that, even with this increase, youth can receive the full benefits of Scouting membership for only \$1.25 per month.

### **Change in Social Security Number Entry during Internet Rechartering Due to Privacy Concerns**

This fall, in time for the next charter renewal cycle, all Social Security Number (SSN) entry fields and references will be removed from Internet Rechartering and will be replaced with the display of an informational text message as follows: **“\*\*Social Security Number is required and will be entered by your council from the adult application.”**

**The Otschodela Council will assume the responsibility for entering SSN's for new adult leader applicants once the renewal has been submitted through internet rechartering, and the required paperwork has been received at the council office. The**

current charter renewal posting process does not allow an adult leader registration to be posted without a valid SSN, so this implementation will not compromise or change the current SSN requirement or validation.

Support documentation for internet rechartering will be revised so that the help document and tutorial will be changed to explain this change. For more information please contact Mary at the Scout Service Center by e-mail at [mary.kersman@scouting.org](mailto:mary.kersman@scouting.org).

### **Tour Permits Now On-Line**

A new tool is now available through MyScouting to all adult leaders planning a trip or outing for your Unit. The online Tour Permits system allows you to create and



obtain approval for your tour permit quickly and easily and make any changes necessary by a return e-mail. Otschodela Council will continue to process tour permits submitted via paper as units convert to the online process. Below is a brief description and instructions for electronically creating and submitting tour permit applications.

There are four steps in this process.

- Creating a tour permit application
- Entering vehicle and training information
- Entering tour details
- Submitting a tour application

Only the person who creates an application can edit and submit the application. Other persons have read-only access to applications they did not create.

#### **Before you begin**

Collect the information you will enter when creating and submitting a tour permit applications. You will need:

- Detailed information about tour destination
- Departure and return dates
- Tour itinerary
- Participation and leadership
- Transportation plans (including vehicle information, drivers' license numbers and insurance coverage)

- Training certifications for Youth Protection and any other course required for your trip

For more information on the Tour Permit system, please view the training video on MyScouting or contact Trey Miller at [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.org).

# Deerslayer District

## Dates to Remember

November:

11 Veterans Day - Always Remember

## Words to Live By

If you drive around Otsego and Schoharie



County, you can't miss the "Join Cub

Scouting" yard signs. The in school boy talk and sign up nights are the keys to success in rebuilding your Cub Scout Pack. We salute the following units who recruited 49 new Cub Scouts in September.

Pack 10 – 5 cubs, Pack 12 – 9 cubs, Pack 13 – 6 cubs, Pack 17 – 5 cubs, Pack 18 – 21 cubs and Pack 27 – 3 cubs.

## Friends of Scouting Family Phase Recognition

Congratulations to a fantastic family phase campaign executed by Troop 501 in Esperance. The unit exceeded their goal by over \$100. Troop 501 is also the top contributor in the council. Special thanks go out to Assistant Scoutmaster Lisa Whitman for agreeing to spearhead the campaign.

We also thank Troop 105 in Esperance and Pack 12 in Cooperstown for making Family Friends of Scouting presentations and their generous contributions.

## Winter Camporee

This coming Winter Camporee will be held at the Cherry Valley Fish and Game Club. Troop 31 out of Milford has volunteered to be the host for this event. The following is a program outline for the event. There might be some minor changes between now and the

camporee, but most of this will apply. Stay tuned for more info coming in the mail and on the Otschodela website.

Deerslayer Winter Camporee Events  
Feb. 6, 2010

### Session 1

Emergency Preparedness Training

### Session 2

Developing an emergency plan for troop activities and Home

### Geocaching

Teams will use co-ordinance to find caches

### History of Scouting – Trivia

There will trivia questions about Scouting

### Compass Bearings

Teams will be asked to take bearings on locations

### Gold Rush

Teams will be given a bag of gold nuggets through out the day staff will be asking.

Teams skill question – correct answer pays gold – wrong answer cost gold – unit with most gold wins

Two-man saw (do individual teams or average of unit)

Two man teams compete for best time

# Foothills District

## Dates to Remember

November:

22 District Dinner

26 Happy Thanksgiving!

## Snow Sports Weekend



Join in the fun and adventure at the Foothills District Winter Camporee and Cub Scout/Webelos Winter Event

## February 6-7, 2010 for the Snow Sports Weekend!

All Troops and Webelos are encouraged to spend the night, 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](http://www.otschodela.org). If you have further questions do not hesitate to call Trey Miller at the Scout Service Center or by e-mail at [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.org).

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.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 2010 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 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to help in the Friends of Scouting Program for 2010 and be like the "Sea of Galilee" contact Trey Miller at [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.org). Thank you for your support!

### **Foothills District Meeting/Commissioners' Meeting**

Our next district meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2009- Friends of Scouting is for Our Scouts!**

Thank you to all units, families, and community members who participated in our 2009 Friends of Scouting Campaign! We're gearing up for our 2010 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 by December 1<sup>st</sup> to Trey Miller [ralph.miller@scouting.org](mailto:ralph.miller@scouting.org) or to our Scout Office. Thank you for your help in supporting the Scouts of Otschodela Council.



### **District Recognition Dinner**

On Sunday, November 22, 2009, the Foothills District is hosting its Fourth Annual District Recognition Dinner. This event is open to all District Volunteers, Unit Leaders, Committee Members, Chartered Organization Representatives, 2009 Eagle Scouts and family members, and our 2009 Centennial Award Recipients. Special Awards will be

presented and all 2009 Eagle Scouts will be recognized for their accomplishments. More information, Registration Forms, and Nomination forms will be available on [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org).

### Mountain Challenge

The Cub Scout/Boy Scout Fall Camporee on



**October 15-17** held at Sgt. Johnson Leadership Academy in South Kortright saw over 100 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Leaders and

Explorers meet the challenges of the climbing wall, ropes course, GPS and service project. Thank you Matt Cooper, the staff of the Sgt. Johnson Leadership Academy, Troop 132, and all of the Foothills District Camping Committee for making this another successful event. Visit [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org) for pictures and news from this event. We look forward to seeing you again this winter at our snow sports weekend!

## LFL/Exploring

### Dates to Remember

January:

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

February:

6-7 "Beach Party" Oneonta's YMCA 7 pm



### Beach Party 2010

February 6-7 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. \$13.00 for pre-registration or \$18.00 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](mailto:mike@blueskyadventures.net).

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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**WEB SITES:**

**[www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org)**

**[www.scoutcamphenderson.org](http://www.scoutcamphenderson.org)**