

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

February 2009

Dates to Remember

February:

- 4 Council Staff Meeting**
9-10:30 am Office Closed
- 8 99th Anniversary of BSA**
- 14 Scout Sabbath
- 16 Anniversary ends
- 16 Presidents Day - Office Closed**

99th Anniversary Celebration

Boy Scouts of America—Celebrating 99 Years of Serving Youth and Families.

On February 8, the Otschodela Council will observe the 99th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. For 99 years, the council has been serving the youth and families of Otsego, Schoharie, and Delaware Counties with the help of local volunteers. This year's observance is dedicated to the efforts of those volunteers.

"For almost a century, the Boy Scouts of America have focused solely on building stronger families and stronger communities—one young person at a time," said Thomas Wright, Otschodela Council Scout Executive.

"None of this would be possible without the adult volunteers who give their time so unselfishly. No other youth development organization has the support of more than 1.2 million volunteers who understand the value of connecting youth with communities and families. Locally we have more than 2,000 active adult volunteers making a difference in the lives of our young people."

Scouting Anniversary Week, activities get under way February 8, where Scouts will celebrate their "Duty to God" in a Scout Sunday

Service. February 9 representatives will participate in the Report to the State in Albany. Other council activities for the week include: Uniform Day on February 8, Scout Camporees February 6-8 in Downsville and Unadilla and Scout Sabbath services concludes the week activities on February 14.

Attention All Leaders!!

We need your help!! In a continued effort to improve communication within our Council units we are in need of all Scoutmaster, Cubmaster and Committee Chair e-mail addresses. By providing this information, it will enable us to send event information, last minute updates, and any other pertinent information we may need you to receive in a quicker manner. As always, you will receive a hardcopy via USPS mail for your records.

Please send an e-mail to Michelle Tyrrell, HYPERLINK "mailto:rorell2001@yahoo.com" \t "_blank" rorell2001@yahoo.com, with your contact information (name, Troop or Pack # and location) no later than Friday, February 20th. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Swim for Advancement

The SUNY Oneonta Men's and Women's Swim Teams will be hosting the first 39 Boy Scouts at the 6th Annual Swim for Advancement on April 18, 2009. There will be a morning session for 24 Participants and an afternoon session for another 15 participants. Skills needed for Second Class and First Class Rank are part of the morning program and Swimming Merit Badge

requirements will be covered in the afternoon session. More information will be available on the Council Website [HYPERLINK "http://www.otschodela.org" www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org) and mailed to Scoutmasters and Committee Chairs.

Wood Badge 2009

Wood Badge is the pinnacle of training in the Scouting program. This "Mountain Top" experience is open to all TRAINED Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing adults and to District, Council and Commissioners Staff. Highlights of the course include: EDGE Training, Win It All, "Engineering", Teamwork, Friendships and most of all FUN! For more information on Wood Badge 2009 visit www.otschodela.org for a flyer, payment schedule and dates or contact the Scout Service Center to receive a flyer. For VFW, American Legion, and AFL-CIO Members scholarships for Wood Badge are available through your local Chapters. We look forward to seeing you at Wood Badge 2009!

Find Your Way to Camp in 2009 with a GPS!

The 2009 Camping Season is just around the corner with 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 is new in Cub Scouting, Webelos, Family Camping, Day Camp and Boy Scout Camping. Join us at the event for a **light buffet** and prizes. The Grand Prize is a new **Magellan Explorist GPS Unit**. All interested Leaders, Parents and Scouts are welcome. Scott Brady, Michelle Tyrell, John Kilmer and Trey Miller 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! Please call Bonnie at 607-432-6491 or e-mail bonnie.parslow@scouting.org with your attendance by Friday February 20. We look forward to seeing you at the Camping Kickoff!



Camping News

Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$230.00

October - Unit site reservation forms were due. Please send yours in if you have not done it yet.

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

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

May 10th - merit badge sign up online begins.

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 Health Histories/Physicals

Camp medical forms for Scout/Webelos will be Henderson 2009 forms. The new national forms will start being used on January 1, 2010.

Camp Needs

Serviceable backpacking tents for outpost.

Order of the Arrow Elections

Induction into the Order of the Arrow for many boys is the highlight of their years in the Scouting program. The Boy Scout Troop Committee needs to review the election process in order to insure that each eligible boy meets the requirements of candidacy. When the committee determines those eligible for election the Scoutmaster certifies his "**SCOUTING SPIRIT**", adherence to the Scout Oath and Law and participation in unit activities.

If a boy fails to meet the "**SCOUT SPIRIT**" certification, the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee should agree on a course of action that would allow an opportunity for a boy to meet the "**SCOUT SPIRIT**" certification. A future eligibility would then be possible for the Scout.

Many Scoutmasters and Committees keep "**SCOUT SPIRIT**" in front of boys at Scout meetings through Scoutmaster Minutes and notifications of boards of Review. "**SCOUT SPIRIT**" may be considered the most important quality in the Scouting movement and in order to maintain that position leaders need to continually review and inform boys of their determination. Clear communication between the committee,

Scoutmaster, and the boy will allow eligibility for not only the Order of the Arrow but also his next rank advancement.

Youth membership requirements: 1. Be a registered member of the BSA. 2. Hold the rank of First Class or above. 3. Experience 15 days and nights of camping within the previous 2 years (6 consecutive at summer camp). AND: certification by the Scoutmaster regarding "SCOUT SPIRIT" and participation. **SCOUT SPIRIT IS DEFINED AS LIVING THE SCOUT OATH (PROMISE) AND SCOUT LAW IN A SCOUT'S EVERYDAY LIFE.**

Units are now being contacted by the Lodge to conduct elections.

With at least 1 youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may recommend 1 adult to the lodge selection committee. Forms will be available at the unit election or visit www.oa-bsa.org to download the form.

Don't Miss the Action

The National Scout Jamboree in 2010 is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in the United States. This is truly a "once in a lifetime" event to be experienced by your Scouts. The Jamboree will to be held at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia from July 26 through August 4, 2010.

A Jamboree troop is limited to 36 youth members and 4 adult leaders, and the Council is offering 18 of the youth member positions to each District until March 1, 2009. After that date,



any unfilled youth positions will be offered on a Council wide basis. The fee per scout of \$1,300.00 is a sizable sum of money for many Scouts and their parents. However, budgeted

over the payment period, it amounts to about \$85.00 per month. Many units have raised money for their Scouts through fundraisers such as popcorn sales or have obtained community sponsors. Limited space is still available. Jamboree leaders are available to make troop presentations.

Please schedule an informational meeting concerning this Jamboree at your next Scout meeting so that you're Scouts will not miss out on this fantastic opportunity. Call Tom Wright for

any further information need at 1-800-778-6813 X 207.



Bring your Scouts

February 7-8 for Plattekill's annual "Scout Weekend". Scout tickets are ½ price (just \$20) plus earn merit badges, Troops of 15+, who reserve in advance, will also be eligible for discounted group rates on rentals. Complete your package with a meal plan and a night of snow tubing fun.

For more information call Theresa Staib at (607) 326-3500 or e-mail info@plattekill.com.

Pinewood Derby Work Shop at LOWES

Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. from now until the end of February. Design to completion. For more information, call Ron Marsh at Lowes at (607) 433-4000.

Deerslayer District

Date to Remember

February:

- 6-8 Winter Camporee/Cub Scout Winter Day
- 12 District Meeting- Schenevus 7:00 pm
- 28 Cub Scout Winter Event – Worcester School

Perry "Pop" Secor Award for First Aid

The District Camping Committee will determine the recipient of the Perry "Pop" Secor award prior to the annual First Aid Meet in March. The award is open to any Deerslayer District Scout. It is in honor of Perry Secor, long time member of the Council Health and Safety Committee. The award is presented by the District Camping Committee and nominations must be in writing and meet the following criteria.

1. The action of the Scout in response to an emergency where he uses first aid skills and qualities (readiness, decisiveness) developed in Scouting.
2. The action of the Scout must aid in the treatment of the injured or distressed.
3. The Scout must be acting as a private citizen

and not as a member of an emergency squad or other emergency services. Application forms are available at the Service Center.

Deerslayer District First Aid Meet

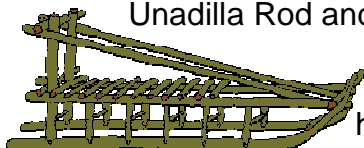
The Deerslayer District annual First Aid Meet will be held in the Schenevus Central School Gym on March 6th, 2009. Troops taking part in the contest must provide one (1) judge per team entered (2 judges per team would be better). There will be a judges meeting at 6:30 pm. Your judges must be at the gym by 6:30 pm so we can start the meet at 7:00 pm. Judges do not need to be squad members or EMT's, but previous First Aid experience would be helpful. More information will be available at [HYPERLINK "http://www.otschodela.org/"](http://www.otschodela.org/) www.otschodela.org and mailed to Scoutmasters.

Rechartering 2008

The annual process of individuals and unit re-registration will continue to be done with "on-line" rechartering. All of the units in our Deerslayer District process the recharter papers in the month of March. The online process is done at the convenience of the unit with a person of moderate computer skills. Your unit controls the information that is imputed into the system by your people. After the unit has completed the process and printed out the charter, the signature process of the charter head, unit leader, and unit commissioner still need to be done in person at a charter review meeting. The completed charter, with the money, then needs to be turned into the Scout Office.

Winter Camporee - Klondike Derby

This Winter Camporee will be held at The Unadilla Rod and Gun Club on February 7th, 8th, and 9th. Paul Barnhart of Troop 18 has planned the event, to test the outdoor skills of the scouts. This will be a timed course from start to finish, with all the various tests and challenges along the way. Registration is \$7.00 per scout with two patches for adult leaders given for each unit.



Deerslayer District Cub Scout Winter Fest

Get your Den and Pack ready for some Snow Fun at the Deerslayer District Cub Scout Winter Fest on Saturday February 28, 2009. There will be a stand where hot dogs, chili, hot cocoa and coffee will be available, so bring money if you don't bring your own food and drinks. The activities include Iditarod Race, Nugget Run, Ring Around the Cub Scout, Soccer Dribble, Animal Track I.D., Obstacle Relay, Square Knot Relay, Cargo Haul and Bull Throw. There will also be a Snow Sculpture event, so bring your imaginations, snow shovels, food coloring, and spray bottles etc. The judges will select the best of four different categories.

Come and have fun, play games, see a skit and be part of a special event with someone who has four feet. The Winter Fest will be at the Worcester Central School on February 28th with registration at 10:30 a.m. and events starting at 11:00 a.m. and concluding with ribbon presentations at 12:30 p.m. This is an OUTSIDE event so dress for the weather. The registration fee is \$5 per boy with the Pack to receive 2 free patches, additional patches are \$5. Watch for more information on the Council web page [HYPERLINK "http://www.otschodela.org/"](http://www.otschodela.org/) www.otschodela.org.

District Award of Merit

Many individuals contribute to the success of our Deerslayer District. Recognition of those individuals is an important part of our spirit in the District. Each year you are given the opportunity to recommend an individual to receive the District Award of Merit. The application process is simple. Request a form from the council office, your Unit Commissioner or go online at www.otschodela.org.

All applications will be reviewed by members of the District Committee and the selection of three names will be made at the district meeting of April 10th. Presentation of the award will take place at the Council Recognition Dinner on May 3rd.

January Roundtable News

Deerslayers Roundtable was another successful night and many new learning

materials were given to everyone that attended. Hopefully those that attended will take the materials back to their leaders and units. Thanks to David McLean for presenting the topic on "Ice Fishing" and sharing his learning experience from his expedition. Thanks also to Sy Lloyd for the tea and the information sheets he gave out. I appreciate the staff that helps me with Roundtable every other month: Cindy Magee, Sy Lloyd and Dave McLean. We had an increase in new faces again and hope that more will join us next time for the information and fellowship. See you all at the next Roundtable on March 12, 2009.

Donna Rowe
Deerslayer Roundtable Commissioner

LFL/Exploring

Dates to Remember

February:

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

March:

12 Service Team 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. Come meet Explorers from other units, participate in games, contest, swimming, or just relax the night away. 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

8-12 p.m. February 7th, YMCA Oneonta (at the Beach Party) pre-registration required by February 4, 2009, call 1-800-778-6813 X 205.

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

2009 Firematics

We are looking for a host for the annual September Firematics. Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 X 205.

Registration Changes

Effective January 1 new adult and youth applications are available at the Service Center. Adult and youth registration fees will move to \$10 per year.

Exploring Welcomes New Posts

Post 1908 Oneonta Police Department
Joe Tiemann - Advisor

Post 817 Sharon Springs Fire Department
Chris Stevens - Advisor

Post 973 Richmondville Fire Department
Ken King - Advisor

Foothills District

Dates to Remember

February:

7-8 Winter Camporee- Downsville Fireman's Field

8 Scout Sunday Observance

12 District Committee/District Commissioners Delaware Public Safety-Delhi 7:00 pm

March:

6 First Aid Meet- SUNY Delhi
Delhi 7:00 pm

12 Roundtable- Sidney UM Church Liberty St. 7:00 pm

Classic Klondike

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

Derby at the Downsville Fireman's Field! A special Exhibition about the 2010 National Jamboree and Centennial Celebration will be available for Scouts and Leaders to view along with the 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. Each Pack and Troop is requested to provide at least one (1) judge for Saturday's events. 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 or Trey Miller at the Scout Service Center or by e-mail at ralph.miller@scouting.org.

Be Prepared!



The Foothills District Annual First Aid Meet will take place Friday evening, March 6 at the SUNY Delhi Gymnasium in Delhi starting at 7:00 p.m. All teams must be prepared with equipment in advance, and provide at least 1 judge. Registration and Team set up will begin at 6:00 pm, Judges meeting at 6:15 p.m., and the First Aid Meet will begin at 7:00 p.m. District Chairman Dave Leidy and his Committee have planned an excellent event and will be awarding the "Ed Roelle Award" in honor of the founder of the District First Aid Meets. The Roelle Award is presented by the Sidney Rotary, and all nominations must be in writing and received in the Council Service Center by February 16, 2009. Information will be available at www.otschodela.org and mailed to all Scoutmasters and Committee Chairs. We look forward to seeing your team there.

FOS Update

Thank you to Troops 2, 33, 34, 59, 88 and 99 and Packs 11, 14, 30, 33, 34, 45, 75, and 88 for














joining this years Friends of Scouting Program to date. Your Unit Commissioner will be contacting you to schedule a presentation of the Scouting story in the next 2 months. We look forward to adding your Unit to the list in March! **Remember-** SDE Trey Miller will take a pie in the face at your Unit's FOS Presentation from any boy who sold \$500 in the Trails End Popcorn Program. Also- all Units who meet their 2009 Friends of Scouting Goal receive **FREE Rank Advancements** for 2009.

Foothills District Meeting/Commissioners' Meeting

Our next District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Delaware County Public Safety Building, Delhi. This meeting is open and encouraged for Charter Representatives and Institutional Heads who would like to represent their Units and give input to the District Operations. Watch your mail or e-mail for more information.

District Recognition Dinner

On Saturday, January 10, 2009, the Foothills District celebrated its Third Annual District Recognition Dinner at the United Presbyterian Church on Clinton Street in Delhi. Though attendance was hampered by the weather Bruce Van Houten's entertainment, the First Presbyterian Women's Circle's excellent hospitality, and great Scouting camaraderie made for a special evening. This year's event honored all District Volunteers, Unit Leaders, Committee Members, Chartered Organization Representatives, 2008 Eagle Scouts and their family members. Special Awards were presented to Tom Hoskins Pack 88 Sidney – Cub Scouter of the Year; Bruce Hutchison Troop 174 Hancock- Boy Scouter of the Year; Scott Larson Crew 2 Middleburgh- Venture Leader of the Year; The Svoboda Family of Margaretville- Scouting Family of the Year; and Paul Bargher of Sidney- Distinguished Scouter of the Year. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our future Foothills Recognition Dinners.

CLASS PERIODS / COURSE NUMBERS										
8:00 - 8:30	8:30 - 8:50	9:00 - 9:50	10:00 - 10:50	11:00 - 11:50	12:00 - 12:50	1:00 - 1:50	2:00 - 2:50	3:00 - 3:50	4:00 - 4:30	
R E G I S T R A T I O N	O P E N I N G C E R E M O N Y	G209 Basic ScOutdoor Cooking (Hands On)	G208 Planning a Meal	G403 ScOutdoor Cooking Main Dishes	L U N C H B R E A K	G409 Dutch Oven Cooking	G406 Innovations of Cooking	G404 ScOutdoor Cooking Desserts	C L O S I N G C E R E M O N Y	
		 G313 Removing a Volunteer	G102 Basic First Aid	 G312 Campfire Stories		G310 Scouting on the Web	G302 Webelos-to-Scout Transition	G408 Emergency Repairs to Equipment		
		C107 Webelos - Not Just a Cub Scout Anymore	G211 Crossing Over	C116 Star Search		C119 Cub Scout Crafts	G311 Women's Guide to Camping and Hygiene	C216 Cub Scout Outdoor Award		
		 C123 Sing, Sing a Song	C205 Cub Scout Ceremonies	C121 Do's & Don'ts of Cub Scout Advancement		 C122 Cub Scout Games & Activities (Hands On)	 C314 Readyman 1st Aid	C402 The Cub Camping Experience		
		B307 Orientseering (Hands On)		 B120 Compass Games (Hands On)		 B312 Basic GPS (Hands On)	 B313 Geocaching (Hands On)			
		B111 Boy Scout Advancement Procedures	B115 The Scout Zone	B116 SPL and the PL Council		 B121 Pack the Pack	B203 Training Youth Leaders	 B311 Lashings and Building (Hands On)		
		 B208 Beginning Fly Casting (Hands On)	B308 Edible Plants	 B209 Simple Fly Tying (Hands On)		 B310 Advanced Knots (Hands On)				
		V100 Welcome to Venturing	V201 Kayaking Clothes will get wet			V102 Climb on Safety / Trek Safely	V202 High Adventure Backpacking	V104 High Adventure Bases		

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING MARCH 14, 2009 ONEONTA MIDDLE SCHOOL
East Street, Oneonta

Information and registration are also available online at www.otschodela.org.

Reasons to attend the University of Scouting:

Top Instructors - Cool Rewards

Fulfill a requirement for Training Awards!

Build your confidence - Relate to today's youth

Where else can you turn on your inner child for a day?

Learn funny phrases - Meet fascinating people

Please choose your first, second and third choice by time period. We will make every effort to give you your top pick for each time period, but remember that the most popular classes fill up fast, so get your registration in early!

NAME: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ LEADER POSITION: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DISTRICT: _____ PACK / TROOP / VENTURER NUMBER: _____

CIRCLE ONE

Postmarked: **Before March 1st** registration fee is \$18.00 - Includes Catered Lunch. (Please Note: We regret we are unable to accommodate special dietary needs.) **After March 1st** registration is \$25.00 and you must provide your own lunch.

Choices	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:00-11:50	1:00-1:50	2:00-2:50	3:00-3:50
First						
Second						
Third						

Fill in your top three picks in each time period above and send to Scout office with your payment.

Otschodela Council Inc. BSA - P.O. Box 1356 - Oneonta, NY 13820

The University of Scouting Committee reserves the right to cancel and/or rearrange classes.

Information and registration are also available online at www.otschodela.org.

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MARCH 14, 2009

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