

Council Fires

Otschodela Council

www.otschodela.org

March 2009

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

Dates to Remember

March:

- 4 Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 am Office Closed
- 7 OA Lock In

Training

- 14 University of Scouting

Council Recognition Dinner

Save the date of May 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m. for this year's annual Council Recognition Dinner. We expect a visit from the founder of Troop 1 the Reverend Yale Lyon and his Scouts. A special guest appearance of Lord Baden Powell will kick off our centennial year celebration. The dinner is our opportunity to congratulate and recognize volunteers for their personal accomplishments. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Silver Beaver Award to individuals who have been selected for their outstanding voluntary contribution to the success of the Otschodela Council. The dinner is scheduled for the Holiday Inn in Oneonta with a price of \$25 per person. Reservation must be made by April 27, 2009.

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.

Every Youth deserves to be in a Centennial Quality Unit! 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.

Your Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, District Chairman, or District Executive will be contacting you about this exciting awards program and will work with you to set your goals for 2009. In Deerslayer District look for your Unit Form with your recharter packets! It is important to set your goals on training, membership, new adults, outdoor programs, budget, and advancement, turn in your commitment form by March 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 visit www.otschodela.org to fill out the online form, or contact your Unit Commissioner.

Centennial Celebration Team

TROOP 1 BSA UNADILLA, NY is developing a Centennial Celebration Team to help our council celebrate BSA's (and Troop 1's 100th Anniversary in 2010. The team, dubbed the Lyon Patrol, represents the first five boys of the troop and their Scoutmaster, the Rev. Yale Lyon. The Lyon Patrol will be costumed in authentic 1910 uniforms, and be able to demonstrate the still-valued tenants of Boy Scouts at your next Scouting or civic event. Bookings for the Lyon Patrol in 2009 and 2010 are now being taken.

Contact Don Tuttle, Lyon Patrol Leader 607-369-7323 evenings (leave message) or at sginkusa@gmail.com

Crossing the Bridge

Young Scouts in Webelos Dens eagerly await the day when they will have the opportunity to cross that real or imagined bridge into Boy Scouting. This is a day that many of them have

waited five years to accomplish. Scoutmasters please help to make this a meaningful day in the life of this Webelos Scout. Have your Scouts in uniform to help welcome them to your troop is something to remember. A token from the troop, be it a neckerchief or a slide says you are now one of us. A welcome to the Webelos Leader and assistant who probably worked with this group of boys for the past five years goes a long way to help strengthen your Troops adult structure. Their days in Scouting will be filled with activities and events they only dreamed about while in Cub Scouting.

Please make the Scouts dreams become a reality by turning in their applications to the Council Service Center in April!

Without a new Boy Scout Application turned in to the Council Service Center, Webelos who cross over into your Troop- Cannot Advance in Rank Cannot participate in District or Council Activities Cannot attend Summer Camp.

Join America's Popcorn Team!



Is Philmont, Darien Lake, Florida Sea Base, Battleship Cove or the **2010 National Jamboree** 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. Our Popcorn Kernels will be contacting you this spring to help you prepare for an incredible sale. Think about your Big Dream and how your Unit can make it real in 2010 with just 1 terrific sale! Visit the Trails End Popcorn Booth at this year's Program Kick off on June 18 to find out more about America's Popcorn Team.

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! . Wood Badge 2009 will take place at Henderson Scout Reservation the weekends of August 21-23 and September 18-20. The cost of this experience is only \$185 that can be paid in monthly installments by July 1, 2009. For more information on Wood Badge 2009 visit www.otschodela.org for a flyer or contact the Scout Service Center to receive a flyer. We look forward to seeing you at Wood Badge 2009!

Camping News

Cub Scout Day Camp 2009

In approximately 120 days, Cub Scout Day Camp will kick off. It is never too late to register your son for camp. If you register **before** June 12, 2009, your son will receive a F R E E day camp "Drums Along Otschodela" tee shirt and the Den Leaders who attend will receive a FREE tee shirt. **After** June 12th, 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 Program Director Michelle Tyrrell will contact unit Leaders with information on Day Camp orientation dates.

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.

Experience the Celebration

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 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. 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.

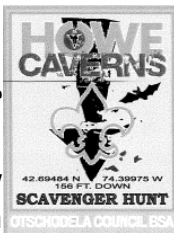
Please schedule an informational meeting concerning this Jamboree at your next Scout meeting so that you're Scouts will not miss this fantastic opportunity. Call Tom Wright for any further information needed at 1-800-778-6813 X 207.

Order of the Arrow Lock In

It is the time of the year for the Lodge's Winter Fellowship. Also, know as Lock In. It is being held at the Oneonta YMCA as in past, but it will be better than ever this year. Come by and check it out! It is being held on March 7th and registration starts at 7:00 p.m. Call the Service Center for a Winter Fellowship registration form, if you send that in with money before the 23rd of February you will save \$5 on your registration fee. Some things to bring are swim gear, gym clothes, money for dues and for the new lodge apparel (there is no guarantee that it will be in by then, but we are hopeful), showers and lockers will be available bring your own padlocks if you wish. Vigil members please attend there will be an election.

Howe Caverns BSA Scavenger Hunt

April 1 will kick off our new scavenger hunt in cooperation with



Howe Caverns. The attractive 5 color patch is available after answering cave questions related to the points of the Scout Law. Questions are related to the history of the cave and geological formations.

Foothills District

Dates to Remember

March:

- 6 First Aid Meet, Delhi High School 7 pm
- 12 Roundtable, Sidney United Methodist Church, Liberty St 7 pm

April:

- 9 District Committee/Commissioners District Retreat-**All Commissioners, Committee Chairmen and Members at Large must attend this important meeting!**

Be Prepared-First Aid Meet!

The Foothills District Annual First Aid Meet will take place Friday evening, March 6 at the Delaware Academy 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. Information is available at www.otschodela.org. We look forward to seeing your team there.

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 throughout our District to assist Units with rechartering, program planning, fundraising ideas, training, recruitment, and the Centennial Quality Unit program. Our

goal is to have a Commissioner for every Unit in our District! If you are a good listener, have a cheerful disposition, and would enjoy visiting units in your community, please call Paul Beames at 607-563-1111.

Klondike Derby- Gold Nugget Derby

Over 125 Scouts, Leaders and Parents visited the Klondike Derby-Gold Nugget Derby in Downsville for this year's Winter Camporee and Cub Scout Event. Special thanks to Ken Grant, Ed Stammel, Frank Bovee, Travis Walsh, Helen VanHouten, Penny Harageones and the Camping Committees for planning this exciting event!

Camporee and Webelos Overnight

The Boy Scout Spring Camporee and Webelos Overnight is being held on May 15-17 and being hosted by the Foothills District Camping Committee at the Sidney Center Rod and Gun Club. The theme of this year's Camporee is "The Sportsman's Exposition" and will feature programs related to Shooting Sports, Fishing, Archery, Hunter's Safety, Wild Game Tasting and Wildlife Conservation. 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 11:00 am 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. We look forward to seeing you at the Sportsman's Expo this spring!

FOS Update

Thank you to Troops 2, 33, 34, 58, 59, 88 and 99 and Packs 11,30,33,34, 41, 45, 74 and 88 for joining this years Friends of Scouting Program. Your contributions have assisted 15 Boys who would not have the Scouting program without you. Thank you for your support of this program.

We look forward to adding your Unit to the list in April!

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.

FOOTHILLS DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS are June 11, 2009 at **6:30 p.m.** at the Delaware County Public Safety Building in Delhi.

Order of the Arrow Elections

It is time once again for Troops to look within themselves to select those candidates who are worthy of election to the Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is a Brotherhood of cheerful service within scouting that is dedicated to service and camping promotion. In order to be eligible for election to the OA, a Scout must have attained the rank of First Class; 15 days of camping with at least 6 days being at a long term camp and live the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. To schedule an election for your Troop, please call our Chapter Advisor, Helen Van Houten at (607) 278-5093.

LFL/Exploring

Dates to Remember

March:

12 Service Team Meeting

"New Youth Protection Training"

Learning for Life announces new youth protection training for post advisors available on line. This new youth protection program replaces the former power point training. At the completion of the on line training the advisor can print out a certificate of completion. A copy of this certificate must be attached to all outing permits. Youth protection training is required of all adults who are involved with Exploring. The goal is to create in all Learning for Life programs and activities a safe environment for youth to participate and grow in their knowledge of character and careers.

The training is approximately 30 Minutes and is applicable to all our associations with teenagers.

Visit www.learningforlife.org.

Learning for Life in After School Programs

680 after school students in the CROP program receive character education lesson plans from LFL. The 60 lesson plans per grade level are center around the core character traits and life skills. The 8 Core Character Traits Life Skills are:

Respect
Responsibility
Honesty/Trust
Caring/Fairness
Perseverance
Self Discipline
Courage
Citizenship

Participating schools:

Edmeston
Laurens
Milford
Morris
Worcester
Andes
Charlotte Valley
Roxbury

Schenevus
South Kortright
Cherry Valley
Jefferson
Stamford

DEERSLAYER DISTRICT

Dates to Remember

March:

- 6 First Aid Meet - Schenevus Central School Judges at 6 pm and meet begins 7 pm
- 12 Cub & Scout Leaders' Roundtable, Schenevus Central School 7 pm

District Award of Merit

Nomination forms for the District Award of Merit are due in the council office on or before April 3, 2009. Presentation will be made at the Council Annual Dinner on May 2, 2009. The nomination form is available at the Council Service Center or from your Unit Commissioner.



The award is presented to individuals who have given outstanding service to their Pack, Troop, Crew, or District. Many individuals are qualified to receive this district recognition but only three will be chosen. The commissioner staff is being encouraged to nominate individuals in units that they serve.

Rechartering

This is that once a year event that bring together all of the key individuals in your unit: the Institutional Head, Committee Chairs, Committee Treasurer, Unit Leader, and Unit



Commissioners. By now all of the statistical information on our units have been keyed into the computer, everyone's name is spelled correctly, addresses and phone information is accurate, position of adults and current rank of all

boys are up to date. Your final step is to print the roster, have it signed by your Institutional Head, your Unit Commissioner, and your Unit Leader. The Committee Treasurer writes up a check for the amount due and it is brought in or mailed to the council office. Naturally, all new applications are filled out and signed by the proper individuals.

If you run into an obstacle as you recharter on-line, don't hesitate to contact our registrar, Mary Kersman at 1-800-778-6813. She will be able to walk you through any problems.

First Aid Meet

Knowledge of First Aid begins very early in life as youngsters learn that a band-aid can do wonders for a cut finger. The skills and methods of first aid are learned by youngsters willing to learn and taught by individuals who have that special ability to impart their knowledge in a subject or topic to someone else willing to learn.

On Friday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. we hope to bring together the students, teachers, instructors, coaches and family to cheer on their troop representatives, who have worked, practiced, studied and memorized what to do in every conceivable first aid situation. We are a long, long way from band-aids. Come out and see what skills these young men have. Schenevus Central School, new gymnasium.

Klondike Derby Thanks

The Klondike Derby was held at the Unadilla Rod and Gun Club on February 14th. It was a

beautiful day and all who came did a great job showing of their outdoor skills followed by the sled race after lunch. We would like to thank Paul Barnhart of Troop 18 for making the arrangements with the Gun Club and putting the course together. Thanks to Al Laffety for heading up the committee and feeding the staff, Al Waters for taking on registration, Fran Secor for providing first aid support and Mike Knowlton for helping with the course throughout the Klondike. Dave Costello, John Morgenstern and Dick Southworth were there to help where needed in different areas. Thank you to all for a great event.

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.

Family Camp Weekend A Night at the Movies Henderson Scout Reservation

June 27-28, 2009 and August 1-2, 2009

Share the adventure of Camp with your whole family at this year's Night at the Movies Family Camp at Henderson Scout Reservation. This pristine Camp is located just 15 minutes from Cooperstown and 20 minutes from Oneonta, offering 500 acres of Nature Trails, Wildlife Exploration, Sports Fields, Craft Area, Indian Lore Village, Fishing Area, Shooting Sports Ranges, comfortable Campsites, and a beautiful 70-acre Lake for your whole family to enjoy.

The Family Camp Staff are all trained by the Boy Scouts of America to provide your Family with a safe and fun Program.

The Programs included in this fun packed weekend are Crafts, Sports, Archery, Fishing, Nature Hike, Safe Swim, Rowing and Theme Related Activities including a Family Barbecue, Non-Denominational Service and an action packed Campfire at night.

The Cost for this fun filled weekend is only **\$15.00 per person** or **\$60.00 per family** of 4 or more.

For more information on Family Camp visit www.otschodela.org or call 607-432-6491!

Otschodela Council
Boy Scouts of America
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PO Box 1356
Oneonta, NY 13820
Phone: (607) 432-6491
or
1-(800) 778-6813
Fax: (607) 432-0388

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.

WEB SITES:

www.otschodela.org
www.scoutcamphenderson.org

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IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

MARCH 14, 2009
ONEONTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Don't be Maxwell Smart – don't miss it "by that much!"
Sign up now!**

For information, call the Scout Office or go to www.otschodela.org