

# Council Fires

## Council Fires

December 2006

### Dates to Remember

December:

- 6 Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 Office Closed**
- 12 Henderson Scout Camp Reopens for Camping
- 25-26 Christmas, Service Center Closed**
- 27 Camp Staff Interviews
- 29 Service Center Closed, Inventory**

### Service Center Hours

We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**FOR EVENING HOURS - PLEASE CALL BEFORE DRIVING TO THE SCOUT SERVICE CENTER.**

### America Bless God

As we reflect on this holiday season, we should consider blessing God for his faithfulness and loving touch. Because of his will, we have the freedom and resources that make our country great.



The Otschodela Council would like to bless God and thank him for the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and resources to the Scouting program. Because of Him, our young people will be able to meet the ever-changing challenges of today and tomorrow with the values the Scouting program can deliver.

May God be with you and your family!

### Popcorn Sale a Success

The Otschodela Council would like to thank all the units that participated in our eleventh Trails End Popcorn Sale! Regaining the best total sales this year was Pack 37 of Cherry Valley with \$10,252 in sales, Pack 9 Edmeston in second place with \$8,768 and Pack 88 Sidney third with \$8,470.

Scouts selling at \$1500 level:

Pack 11 Michael Skowfoe

Pack 37	Jacob Fassett
Pack 37	Cody Sears
Pack 37	Jacob Spencer
Pack 88	Alex Hoskins
Troop 9	Brandon Kline
Troop 31	Ryan Winchester
Troop 33	Joel Brundege
Troop 45	Tyler Davis
Troop 49	Ryan Garcia

Congratulations to Brandon Kline of Troop 9 for achieving the \$2500 level.

We're pleased to announce the winners of our October Fill a Sheet Drawing. Boys receive 1 entry for each sheet they fill - the more sheets you fill the more chances to win!

Pack 34	Toby Reilly
Pack 34	Dillon Bennett
Pack 91	Aaron Fisher
**Pack 91	Aaron Fisher**
Troop 9	John Culver
Troop 31	Ryan Winchester
Troop 45	Keenan Hall
Troop 45	Matt Jansen

\*\* Grand prize winner.

### 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 Wednesday, March 1, 2007. 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 5, 2007.

### Centennial Quality Award Program

The Centennial Quality Awards program is designed to



recognize units, districts, council's, and regions in achieving excellence in providing a quality program to a growing youth population in America at all levels of the Boy Scouts of America. The Centennial Quality Award is named in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The new award begins in 2007 and continues until 2010. Each year that you qualify, you will receive recognition for that year.

Recognition items:

**For members:** a patch worn on the uniform with the colors for that year.

**For Units:** a ribbon/streamer for each year with the color for that year.

**Special note:** if the award is earned for all four years, there will be a special distinction developed to recognize groups at all levels in 2010.

**Question - When do you complete the commitment form for the Centennial Quality Award?**

Answer - The form is completed by the unit leadership with their assigned commissioner or a district-level volunteer in consultation with your district executive. It is completed at the end of the year or during the first part of the year in which you are committing for the award (example, for 2007, you should complete the form no later than February 15, 2007). **It is no longer a part of the rechartering process.**

**Question - When will units earn the award?**

Answer - When all requirements are completed, units will be eligible to earn the award after October 31, 2007.

**Question - Are there other ways to learn about the new Centennial Quality Awards program?**

Answer - The new program will be explained on the [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) web site, on the commissioner's web site under [www.scouting.org/commissioners](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners), and on Scout NET under BSA info, under Leadership Support Service, under "Centennial Quality Awards Program". You will be able to download the details of the program and the unit, district, and council award commitment forms from the web.

### Jim Carter to Retire

After seventeen years of professional service to the Otschodela Council and the Boy Scouts of America, Senior District Executive James Carter

will retire. Jim served the Delotscho District, Shehawken District, Exploring District, and currently the Deerslayer District. Jim was a dedicated volunteer for many years prior to his professional service. The Otschodela Council will miss Jim and

his support of all the volunteers he has come in contact with over the years. Thanks for being here for us Jim!

### Grant Program in Delaware County

The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, Inc. of Hobart is pleased to announce a grant program for 2007 focused on impacting youth in Delaware County, New York.

Proposals should demonstrate a specific impact on youth, leveraging as many other available resources as possible. The level of funding proposed for 2007 should be less than \$1,000. All projects should be designed to be completed by December 31, 2007.

Applications are available by mail. Write a 1-page letter with telephone contact to the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, Inc., PO Box D, Hobart, NY 13788-0404. You will receive an application form by return mail. The final deadline for applications will be February 2, 2007 (postmarked). Review of the application will occur as soon as the application is received. Successful applications will be announced on March 31, 2007.

### Camping News

#### Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$210.00

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

March 10<sup>th</sup> - \$50 reservation fee per Scout.

March 10<sup>th</sup> - merit badge sign up online begins.

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

June 10<sup>th</sup> - last day for reduced fee incentive.

#### Webelos Camp Deadlines:

Fee: \$100.00

April 10<sup>th</sup> - custom design pre-order forms (t-shirts, etc.).

June 10<sup>th</sup> - 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

CD of your camp pictures for our new Henderson Website.



## OA Winter Fellowship 2006

The Onterora Lodge Winter Fellowship (Lock-In) on March 3<sup>rd</sup> is one of the most exciting Lodge activities that we have. It is an excellent chance to stay up all night long and participate in such things as basketball and volleyball tournaments. There are also many other games and activities such as swimming, pool, ping-pong, video games, movies, patch trading, costume work, pizza at midnight, and more!

Early registration will cost \$10.00 or you can also come the day of the event and pay \$15.00 at the door.

The lock in is March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Oneonta YMCA. Early registration is due at the Service Center by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Philmont 2008

While it might be a little early to plan your 2008 vacation we would like you to know that Philmont Scout Ranch has advised us our first choice of dates for the 2008 trek will be guaranteed.

Our departure date will be Monday, July 14, 2008 with a return to Oneonta on Monday, July 28, 2008. If you feel that you are physically fit to go white water rafting, hike between 40 and 60 miles in ten days and prepare some tasty dehydrated meals than you should consider a leadership position for the 2008 trek. Additional information and an application may be downloaded from the council website [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org), or you may call the council office 1-800-778-6813 and have one mailed to you.



## Co-Promotion Proposal

The Daily Star is interested in partnering with non profit groups to provide a source of funding for your programs and at the same time to reach out to our shared communities with a weekly subscription offer from our local newspaper.

The offer to the public would be 10 weeks of home delivery for \$19.99 paid in advance. Units would receive \$10 of that collected amount.

This price represents a 30% discount from the usual subscription price and would make this offer available to *new subscribers only* if you sell 10 subscriptions you would receive \$100.

For further information regarding this program please contact:

Robert Thorpe  
Circulations Director  
800-721-1000

[rthorpe@thedailystar.com](mailto:rthorpe@thedailystar.com)

## Winter Fun Day on Crumhorn Mountain

Come join us December 16<sup>th</sup> at Henderson Scout Reservation for an afternoon full of fun winter activities. Activities may include snowshoeing, Cross-country Skiing, Shelter Building, as well as other fun winter activities. The activities will start at noon and end around 5:00 p.m. Hot Drinks and Refreshments will be provided. **For more Information Contact the council office at 607-432-6491 or email [recman@hotmail.com](mailto:recman@hotmail.com)**

# Foothills District

## Dates to Remember

December:

9 District Meeting/District Commissioners  
NYSEG Building Oneonta 7:00 pm

January:

13 Camping Committee, Delhi Town Hall  
7:00 pm

## Trail's End Popcorn

Thank you to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, leaders and parents for making this year's Trail's End Popcorn sale a success. Special thanks to Penny Harageones and Brenda Hubbell for all of their hard work as our District's 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.

## A Holiday Message

2006 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 Howe Caverns, Spring Camporee at the



Delaware and Ulster Railway, Day Camp, several Cub Scout and Webelos Activities and our fun Emergency Preparedness Camporee . Many Troops enjoyed our Council's camp this past summer at Henderson and participated in the many trainings and service projects at the camp. We also learned the valuable lessons of Being Prepared and what it truly means to Help Other People at All Times through the floods that affected many in our Scouting family. There are many things that have been accomplished in 2006 and 2007 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



### Ice Harvest is fun for All!

Join in the fun and adventure underground as the Foothills District Winter Camporee goes to

Hanford Mills Museum on **February 3-4, 2007** A special Ice Harvest and Museum Exhibition will be available along with exciting events throughout the weekend. All troops are encouraged to spend the weekend, but if you wish to just stay for the day you are more than welcome. There will be more information on this event mailed to Scoutmasters and Committee Chairmen in mid-December. 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 [rhmill@bsaemail.org](mailto:rhmill@bsaemail.org) or visit [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org) .

### Foothills District Meeting

The Foothills District meeting is December 9. We will be discussing next year's calendar, reviewing 2006 and planning for 2007. **Reminder – The District Meeting is at the Oneonta NYSEG Building off Route 206.**

### Tour Permits

If your pack or troop is planning a trip that will take you outside of the Otschodela Council boundaries, a tour permit notifies the Council of where and when you are going which allows the Council to make sure your unit is covered by insurance if there is a problem.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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 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 [rhmill@bsaemail.org](mailto: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 2007 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 2007 and be like the "Sea of Galilee" contact Trey Miller at [rhmillier@bsamail.org](mailto:rhmillier@bsamail.org). Thank you for your support!



### District Recognition

#### Dinner

On Saturday, January 6, 2007 the Foothills District is hosting

its First Annual District Recognition Dinner at the United Ministry Church in Delhi starting at 6:00 PM. This event is open to all District Volunteers, Unit Leaders, Committee Members, Chartered Organization Representatives, 2006 Eagle Scouts and family members. Special Awards will be presented to the Cub Scouter, Boy Scouter, Venture Leader, Distinguished Scouter and Family of the Year and all 2006 Eagle Scouts will be recognized for their accomplishments. Come for the special entertainment, wonderful food, fun and fellowship as we celebrate our Districts accomplishments in 2006. More information, Registration Forms, and Nomination forms will be available on [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org).

## Deerslayer District

### Dates to Remember

December:

- 16 Happy Hanukkah
- 25 Merry Christmas

### Goodbye

As the year draws to a close so does my career in professional scouting. My wife, Verna and I have decided to spend the rest of our days enjoying our children and grandchildren. Over the past seventeen years we met many volunteers that help make scouting such a great program for the youth of our community. We have made many good friends and hope to continue that relationship into the future.

While many cups of coffee have been shared at meetings and campouts the pride of scouting for me comes down to a Cub Scout as he receives his Bobcat pin or a Boy Scout as he receives the

Tenderfoot rank. A few years later that same boy will be accepting his Arrow of Light or his Eagle award. When you see this happen you know that they were involved in a successful program.

It is great to see many of you who donate not only their time but their finances to be sure that every boy has the ability to participate. This generosity will never be forgotten.

Thank God this scouting spirit continues in each of you, for it has made the last seventeen years of my scouting career something I feel proud of.

God Bless you,  
Jim and Verna Carter

### Congratulations

To Paul Berard, Debra Walther, Samara Davis, Carolyn Edwards, Sara Checko, Tracy Olmstead, Terry Sommers, Michelle Tyrrell, Christy Dahms, Heidi Frederick, Paul Cerosaletti, Dawn Schell, Jane Bamberger, Julie Brizzee, Pamela Cooke, Deborah Day, and Suzanne Granulch who completed New Leader Essentials as well as Cub Leader Specific.

To Troop 5, Cobleskill who completed 1,000 months of continuous registration. Chartered by Rotary Club of Cobleskill.

To Pack 5, Den #1, Scorpions; Den #2, Cobras and Den #3, Dragons who earned the National Den Award. Well done!

To Assistant District Commissioner Ben St. Cyr who earned his Arrowhead Award.

### Quality Unit

Well participation at our district training sessions seems to be getting the job done. This month we are proud to announce that pack 4, Schoharie and Troop 9, Edmeston join the ranks of units in the district that have been identified as a quality unit. Great job!

### Race to Cub Scouting

October was a very good month for units recruiting new boys into the Cub Scouting program using our theme "Race to Cub Scouting". New Cub Scouts



were registered in the following Packs.

Pack 1	4 boys	Pack 17	1 boy
Pack 5	1 boy	Pack 18*	6 boys
Pack 9	3 boys	Pack 19*	8 boys
Pack 10	1 boy	Pack 24*	10 boys
Pack 12	4 boys	Pack 27*	17 boys
Pack 13	6 boys	Pack 91	2 boys
Pack 16	3 boys	Pack 105*	11 boys

\*Pack 18, Schenevus; pack 19, Worcester; Pack 24, Oneonta; Pack 27, Oneonta; and Pack 105,

Esperance have now reached their end of the year goal. Congratulations!

Don't forget to pick up your free pinewood derby car for all new boys that you register.

As a district we are now 86 boys away from reaching our end of the year goal with six units still planning their sign up night.



### Welcome

To Meta Lyons new Cubmaster for Pack 44, Gilbertsville.

### Cub Committee members requested

I am the newly appointed chair of the Deerslayer Cub Scout Program Committee. This committee oversees Cub Scout programs in the District. It has been resurrected after quite a few years of inactivity. I am looking for people to serve on this committee. To that end, I am asking for nominations of people you, the Scouter, think would be positive members. I am asking for you to nominate potential members. Nominees should be willing to serve, open minded, creative, and enthusiastic about scouting. Meetings would probably be bi-monthly.

Please contact me with nominations. The nominee need not be notified by the nominator. I will contact them. I'm hoping that successful programs like the Field Days and camporees be maintained and that new ideas will be generated to secure and retain boys. I can be reached at 783-2210 or [csadlocha@hotmail.com](mailto:csadlocha@hotmail.com).

## Learning for Life/Exploring

### Dates to Remember

January:

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

February:

3-4 "Beach Party" Oneonta's YMCA 7 pm

### Beach Party 2007

February 3-4 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.

### Friends of Exploring

The Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America provides through a professional and volunteer staff organization for new and rechartering Posts, county wide events for youth members, national and local awards and recognition programs, training for leaders, and liability and medical insurance.

The following 2 organizations and 2 companies have provided materials and awards to the Exploring program in 2007: American Legion Post 190, Delhi; Preferred Mutual Insurance Co., New Berlin; Wal-Mart, Sharon Springs; and Delaware County Fire Fighters Association, Hamden.

### 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).



### EMS Competition

Our April EMS Competition still needs 3 Posts to commit a team. To date we have Stamford, Walton, Masonville, Sidney Center, and Gilbertsville. We are looking for a Delaware County site and a few more teams. Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 extension 205 to sign up by December 31<sup>st</sup>.