

# Council Fires

## Otschodela Council

March 2007

### Dates to Remember

March:

- 1 Cub Camps Kick Off - Scout Office 7 pm
- 1 Silver Beaver Nomination Due
- 3 OA Winter Fellowship - Lock In
- 7 Council Staff Meeting 9-10:30 am Office Closed
- 10 Trainer Development Conference
- 17 **University of Scouting**
- 24 Swim For Advancement - SUCO
- 31 Council Bowl-A-Thon

### Council Recognition Dinner



Recognition is a vital part of the overall success of the Scouting and Exploring program. The Council Dinner is our opportunity to congratulate and recognize volunteers for their personal accomplishments. The First United Methodist Church in Oneonta will cater the dinner on

May 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. the Klipnocky Klangers will cook and serve a delicious roast beef dinner. The price of the dinner will be \$14.00 per person. Reservations are due by April 27, 2007. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Silver Beaver awarded to individuals, who have been selected for their outstanding volunteers' contribution to the success of Scouting in the Otschodela Council.

### 2007 John Hamilton Bowl-A-Thon

The Otschodela Council has scheduled its annual John Hamilton Bowl-A-Thon for **Saturday, March 31, 2007.** Bowling establishments throughout our three county areas are cooperating with Scouting in this

fundraising activity. We are using this as a means to raise funds to support unit and council programs, while introducing your Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers to bowling. The Bowl-A-Thon is simple yet effective. The secret to success for your Units is to have as many Tigers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers as possible participating.



### How To Participate

Designate a "Head Pin" - recruit your Unit's Bowl-A-Thon Chair and let us know who he/she is. Your BAT Chair should be an enthusiastic, energetic and tenacious individual that will get everyone involved.

### Follow The Plan

**February** - let everyone in your unit know about the Bowl-A-Thon.

**February** - unit kits will be distributed to each unit giving you the forms necessary to sign up all of your members.

**March** - pledge solicitation.

**March - 31 Bowl-A-Thon**, March 31, 2007 at the alley closest to your community. 2) Collect those pledges and distribute receipts. 3) Wrap it up! Get all of your paperwork and money in to the Service Center as early as possible. 4) Recognize at the Pack meetings, all parents and leaders who made our Bowl-A-Thon a great success.

### **Every Youth deserves to be in a Centennial Quality Unit!**

Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is only 3 years 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 new 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 month of March, 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 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 come to the Roundtable and visit [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org), or contact your Unit Commissioner.

## Camping News

### Cub Scout Camping Kick Off

Come learn about Family Camp, Day Camp, and Webelos Camp  
Thursday March 1, 2007  
7-8:15 p.m. Scout Service Center

### Day Camp 2007

“Prepare for Takeoff!” as we enjoy the Amazing Adventures around the World at this years Cub Scout Day Camps. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Day Camps in Walton, Oneonta and Cobleskill. Positions include- Program Director, Fishing, Woodworking, Crafts, Sports and Games, Nature, Outdoor Skills, Health and Safety and Aquatics. If you are interested in helping with any of these fun weeks, please call Trey Miller at 607-432-6491 or e-mail at [rhmillier@bsamail.org](mailto:rhmillier@bsamail.org). We look forward to having you aboard with us this summer!

### 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.

### Boy Scout Camp Deadlines

Fee: \$210.00

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

March 10<sup>th</sup> - merit badge sign up online begins at [www.scoutcamphenderson.org](http://www.scoutcamphenderson.org).

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

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

### Camp Staff Openings

Adult position

2 youth openings in program areas.

Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 ext. 205 for information on adult positions for 5-7 week openings.



### New Henderson Camp Website

The Henderson website committee announces the launch of [www.scoutcamphenderson.org](http://www.scoutcamphenderson.org). It is a new site devoted strictly to all Henderson summer camps and year round camping. Scott Larson of Middleburgh Troop 2 led the group through the process of mission, audience, style and content as well as constructing the site. Many thanks to Dave Leidy, Troop 99 Sidney, Jarrett Larson, Ed and Carol Uhlig of Troop 23 Oneonta, and Rick Bamberger of the Council Marketing Committee. All were members of the site committee. We also look forward this year to photographer John Bagdovitz of Troop 56 Lawyerville enhancing the site images.

### Registrars' News

ATTENTION all Scoutmasters please remember that the first rank for Boy Scouts is the new Scout requirements that are in the Boy Scout handbook. This rank is important because it is considered the starting date for Boy Scouts, which is needed when applying for Eagle.

### Crossing the Bridge

Young Scouts in Webelos Dens eagerly wait 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. Your Scouts in uniform to help welcome them 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.**

### **Swim for Advancement**

The SUNY Oneonta Men's and Women's Swim Teams will be hosting the first 48 Boy Scouts at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Swim for Advancement on March 24, 2007. There will be a morning session for 24 Participants working on skills needed for Second Class and First Class Rank and an afternoon session for another 16 participants working on Swimming Merit Badge Requirements. More information is available on the Council Website and has been mailed to Scoutmasters and Committee Chairs.

### **Dream the Big Dream!**

Is Philmont, Darien Lake, Florida Sea Base, or Battleship Cove 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.

Foothills District 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 2008! Visit



the Trails End Popcorn Booth at this year's Program Kick off on June 14 to find out more.

# **LFL/Exploring**

## **Dates to Remember**

March:

9 Service Team Meeting

May:

6 EMS Competition

## **EMS Competition**

At 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning, May 6<sup>th</sup>, teams from throughout Otsego, Delaware, and Schoharie County will begin our fourth, E.M.S. competition. Regardless of your unit's focus, we encourage you to be a part of this activity at the Walton Firehouse. **Pre-registration by April 30, 2007 is required.**

Events are: 1) basic first aid, 2) vehicle extrication manual and patient packaging, 3) rescue knots, 4) rescue and medical equipment ID, 5) HAZ-MAT ID, 6) CPR/AED.

Trophies will be awarded to the three teams finishing with the highest overall scores. Ribbon awards will be given to the first, second, and third place finishers in each event.

Each team that enters should bring an adult that is qualified to be a judge. That qualification shall be either a trained EMT or a fire fighter.

## **Exploring Triathlon**

Post 2500 Sidney Center Advisor and Triathlon team member Dave Gill would like to organize an Exploring event at Henderson. Teams would be 2-4 members and involve running, canoeing, and swimming. Call Scott at 1-800-778-6813 extension 205 to express your Post's interest in a triathlon.

## **2007 Health Careers Academies**

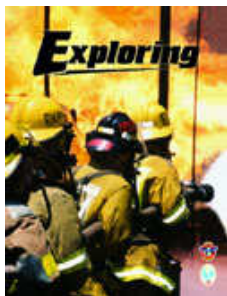
Three (3) health academies will be conducted this summer. Learning for Life's National Health Careers Committee are working with organizations across the country, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to give youth an opportunity to experience careers in these areas first hand.

Highlights of academies include: (1) career-related workshops, (2) interaction with practicing professionals, (3) team competitions, (4) tours, (5) award programs, and (6) extracurricular activities. For more information contact Peggy Chestnutt at 1-972-580-2428 or email her [pchestnu@lflmail.org](mailto:pchestnu@lflmail.org).

### **National Fire/Emergency Services Exploring Conference**

The complete conference guidebook and conference video can be found on the web site at: [www.learningforlife.org/exploring/fire](http://www.learningforlife.org/exploring/fire).

Planned events: team competitions, individual competitions, seminars, and demonstrations.



# **Foothills District**

## **Dates to Remember**

### **March:**

- 2 First Aid Meet, SUNY Delhi 7 pm
- 8 Camping Committee, Delhi Town Hall 7 pm

### **April:**

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

**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 O.A., 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.

### **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 especially in Delhi, Gilboa, and Roxbury. If you are a good listener, have a cheerful disposition, and would enjoy visiting units in our District, please call Joe Bradford at 607-278-5855.

### **Fun on the Ice**

Over 85 Scouts visited Hanford Mills Museum's Ice Harvest and participated in this year's Winter Camporee and Klondike Derby. Special thanks to Ken Grant and the Camping Committee for planning this exciting event. For pictures of the event, visit the Foothills Section at [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org).

### **Ready, Set, Snow!**

The Foothills District Cub Scouts had their own fun in the snow at the Tri Town Boys and Girls Club in Sidney on February 24. Special thanks to Penny Harageones, Pack 34 Sidney and the Cub Scout Activities Committee for all of their hard work to make the event a success. For pictures of the event visit the Foothills Section at [www.otschodela.org](http://www.otschodela.org).

### **Be Prepared!**

The Foothills District Annual First Aid Meet will take place Friday evening, March 2 at the SUNY Delhi Gymnasium 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](http://www.otschodela.org). We look forward to seeing your team there.

### **FOS Update**

Thank you to Troops 33, 34,58, 59, 88 and 99 and Packs 11,30,33, 45, 74 and 88 for joining this years Friends of Scouting Program. Your contributions have assisted 26 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 Venturing Voice**

Venturing is the newest program in the BSA, designed to help Young Men and Women ages 14-20 develop Leadership Skills, participate in Outdoor Adventures, coordinate Community Service projects, and learn Teaching Skills that will assist the Packs, Troops and other members of their communities. The Foothills District is looking for Leaders in Sidney, Walton, Delhi, and Middleburgh to help the youth who are interested in Venturing get started. If you would like to help with the Venturing Program in these communities or are interested in starting a Venture Crew please contact Paul Brody at 518-299-3141. Look at this section for updates on what the Venture Crews in Foothills District are doing. Congratulations to the leadership of Crew 2 in Middleburgh for taking the next step to becoming Venturing Crew.



### **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 7, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

# **Deerslayer District**

### **Dates to Remember**

March:

- 8 District Meeting - Schenevus Central School 7 pm
- 10 First Aid Meet - Schenevus Central School Judges at 6 pm and meet begins 7 pm
- 26 Cub & Scout Leaders' Roundtable, St. Mary's Parish Hall Oneonta 7 pm
- 28 Camping committee Meeting 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 March 8, 2007. Presentation will be made at the Council Annual Dinner on May 5, 2007. 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.

### **Thank You**

To Scoutmasters, Ed Uhlig Troop 23 and Chris Wilson Troop 27 and committees from

Oneonta who hosted a great winter camporee for our Webelos and Boy Scouts.

To Cubmaster, Jim Gardner and the Pack Committee of Pack 19, Worcester, who hosted a cold but, fun filled Cub Field Day for our Cubs and Webelos.

## Rechartering

This is that once a year event that brings 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 unit 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 Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. we hope to bring together the students, teachers, instructors, coaches, and family to cheer on in rapture silence 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.

## Shooting Sports Program

WHEN - April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. till ammos' gone.

WHO - Troop 27 Oneonta is sponsoring.

WHAT - Shooting for fun day for Deerslayer District.

WHERE - At Oneonta Sportsmen Club on top of Franklin mountain.

EVENTS - 1) .22 rifle shooting outdoor and indoor range if weather bad.

2) Clay Pigeon (trap) shooting with shotgun.

REFRESHMENTS - will be available for purchase.

All guns and ammo will be provided with instruction from NRA Instructors.

Call for prices and details and to pre-register.

(607) 432-4461

(607) 432-9063

(607) 432-2731

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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, Wednesday, and Thursday  
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### WEB SITES:

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

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

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