



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Texas Skies District

www.texas skiesdistrict.org/

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District Meeting Location: LSD Church, 1603 Norwalk Dr, Katy, TX

District Meeting: 7:00pm, 1st Thursday of each month

Unit Commissioner Meeting: 6:30pm, 1st Thursday of each month

Round Table Meetings 7:00pm, 2nd Thursday of each month

District Chairman: Richard Shirley, Richard.Shirley@mustangeng.com

District Commissioner: Forrest Bjerkaas, Forrest.Bjerkaas@consolidated.net

V. Chairman Adm: Julie Spier, dspier1@houston.rr.com

V. Chairman of Finance: Raymond Farrell, rayfarrell@yahoo.com

V. Chairman of Programs: Michael Scherer, michael.scherer@akersolutions.com

Senior District Executive: Michelle Phillips, michelle.phillips@shac.org

ATTENTION UNITS

Scout Fair 2009: Saturday, April 18, 2009, 11:00 am - 4:00pm at Reliant Arena. Join us in Celebrating the adventure of Scouting for 99 years!

District Derby: Due to scheduling conflict the District Derby has moved to Katy High School in Commons area (6331 Highway Blvd, Katy Proper, Southwest corner of Highway 90 and FM 1463.

Fall Recruitment: It's not too early to start thinking about the Fall Membership Drive. All units need to start planning now! Please identify your Fall Recruitment Scouting Coordinator and send your coordinator's contact information to Marissa Nix-Burke at manix@thebureshouse.com or Michelle Phillips at michelle.phillips@shac.org.

DAY CAMP & TWILIGHT CAMP 2009: Hey Scouters! June 2009 is almost here!!! This event helps packs retain the Cub Scout's interest in the program so they deserve the best program possible. Please contact Lyssa Wilson at lyssa.wilson@gmail.com for additional information.

New BSA Health and Medical Form: BSA has developed a new health and medical form that replaces the Class 1, 2, and 3 medical forms used in past years. In 2009, Scouts, families, and units have the option to start using the new form. The new form will be required starting in 2010. The new form is available at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34605_Letter.pdf. For more information, click on <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Resources/MedicalFormFAQs.aspx>.



Spring Recruitment

A great way to strengthen your unit

The season of Spring Recruitment is upon us again! If your unit is in need of some more Scouts to fill in and help your unit become stronger, now is the time to think about recruiting! Rallies aren't just for Cub Scouts- they can also be done for Boy Scouts and Venturers! We plan on calling units to set up a Spring Recruitment effort so contacting us early will speed the process. In order to serve the youth of the Texas Skies District, we have to have youth in the program. Please help us increase membership by holding a Spring Rally-if not a rally, maybe a table at your school's next PTA meeting or Spring Fling event! Please contact Michelle Phillips to help setup a Spring Recruitment effort for your unit!



Finance

by Raymond Farrell

The Friends of Scouting Campaign continues for our district. We are halfway home toward our goal of \$100,000 dollars raised in our district, having raised \$51,187 thus far. If you haven't made your contribution go online to <http://www.shac.org/Home/Donations/FriendsofScouting/> to make your contribution or contact Ray Farrell @ 281-395-4303 or rayfarrell@yahoo.com. Be sure to specify your unit and Texas Skies district so that our district and your unit get credit for the contribution.

A sincere thank you to those who have made your donation. Your contributions help to ensure the strength of the Scouting program in our community and the Sam Houston Area Council.



Kudos Corner

Thanks to Wendy Freeney who helped secure Fall recruitment incentive for all new Scouts (Double Dave's Pizza will provide free pizza for every new Scout that joins BSA). More information coming soon.

Thanks to all the Camporee Staff! Camporee was a huge success!!



Upcoming Events

- April 2 6:30PM Unit Commissioners Meeting
- April 2 7:00PM District Committee Meeting
- April 3-5 Camporee at Brosig
- April 9 7PM Roundtable
- April 13 Scout Fair Double Stamp Deadline
- April 17 Scout Fair Setup
- April 18 Scout Fair
- April 25 District Pinewood Derby, Katy High School
- April 27 Fall Recruitment Orientation
- April 29 District Popcorn Chair Orientation
- May 1-3 OA Ordeal
- May 7 6:30PM Unit Commissioners Meeting
- May 7 7:00pm District Committee Meeting
- May 9 Day Camp Training
- May 14 7:00PM Roundtable: Program Preview
- May 19 Bass Pro Shop Event more info. TBA



Training

Knowledge Brings the Responsibility of Choice

by Lori Powell

Online Training: The online replacement for New Leader Essentials has finally arrived! If you have previously completed NLE (New Leader Essentials), you are not required to complete the new course (but it's really good!). If you haven't done so already, you will need to establish your account. By adding your membership number (available on your membership card or through your committee chair), your training records will be updated as you take each course. You can take the training online at www.scouting.org. There are also other trainings you can take such as YPT and Fast Start.

Weather Hazards: Beginning Jan 1, 2009, one of your leaders attending campouts must have completed Weather Hazards in order to receive a tour permit. Go to MyScouting E-Learning system to take online training for Weather Hazards.

Wood Badge for the 21st Century: Cub Scout leaders, Boy Scout leaders, Venturing leaders, and council and district leaders make your commitment now to advanced leadership training:

SR-1007: April 3-5, 24-26---limited space available

SR-1008: Oct 8-10 & Nov 5-7

SR-1009: Sep 25-27 & Oct 23-25

BSA Boy Scouts Requirements Videos: A series of videos that demonstrate how to fulfill every requirement for the first three ranks of Boy Scouting (Tenderfoot, First Class Scout, and Second Class) is located at <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/rankvideo>.



District Derby

by Greg Allen

Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Katy High School. Unit's next steps:

1. Register: Online registration is set for March 15 through April 15th. Go to www.texasskiesdistrict.org/2009tsdpwdFlyer.pdf.
2. Get your Health forms completed and turned in.
3. Turn in Registration Payments by April 16th.
4. For additional information, please contact Greg Allen at cubmaster@pack343.net.



OA Thunderhawk Chapter

by Paul Huttenhoff

Mark your calendars now for OA Section Conclave, which will be hosted by Colonneh Lodge on *April 24-26* at Bovay Scout Reservation. Stay tuned for details on this outstanding OA event that's just over an Hour from Katy.



Gathering of Eagles

By Dave Williams

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at Minute Maid Park, 6PM
Be part of the largest gathering of Eagle Scouts in Sam Houston Area Council history! Eagle Scouts of all ages should make plans now for this inspiring time to meet and network with other successful Eagle Scouts in the Sam Houston Area Council. For more information go to The Gathering of Eagles website at www.thegatheringofeagles.org



Uniform Exchange Bank

Saturday, April 18, 2009 at Scout Fair

Scouts helping Scouts is a SHAC program to assist leaders in providing uniforms for boys who would like to wear the Scout uniform but who are not able to purchase the Scout uniform themselves? This exchange will operate with the support of Scout leaders and Scout units across the council through uniform donations. Used (but still good) uniforms shirts, council strips, unit numbers and other uniform items are requested for donations. The first major effort for uniform collection will be at the upcoming Scout Fair on April 18. Scouts helping Scouts will have a collection table at this event, near the Commissioner's booth. Detailed information is located on the SHAC website at www.shac.org/Home?AboutSHAC/CommissionerContactlnk/ScoutsHelpingScouts.



Why We Wear The Scout Uniform

One of Scouting's methods for youth development is wearing the uniform. The uniform makes a Scouting unit visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.



Commissioner Corner

by Forrest Bjerkaas

A watch phrase of the Order of the Arrow is "Cheerful Service". So it is with the Texas Skies Commissioner Corps. We are here to serve the units of Texas Skies District. If you have a question, or need ideas or help with program, or need help with the workings of your unit, call your Unit Commissioner. If you do not know your Unit Commissioner, go to <http://www.texasskiesdistrict.org/Who is my UC.xls> . We are here to help!!