



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Texas Skies District

www.texasskiesdistrict.org/

June 2009 Page 1 of 2

District Meeting Location: LDS 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, fbjerkaas@consolidated.net
 V. Chairman Adm: Julie Spier, dspier1@comcast.net
 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

Finance News: TSD has raised \$76,773 toward our goal of \$100,000 for 2009. That's great progress, but we have a ways to go. If you haven't yet made your contribution, contact Ray Farrell @ 281-395-4303 or rayfarrell@yahoo.com. Unit leaders can help out by making another pitch to your units. Scouting is important to all of us. Please make your contribution to ensure that the Scouting program continues to prosper in our community and the Sam Houston Area Council.

Health & Safety: The Health and Safety pages at the national BSA website www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx offer a menu of general resources for everything that pertains to safety and risk management in Scouting including:

- ◆ Online access to the Guide to Safe Scouting
- ◆ Health and Safety Alerts
- ◆ Weather Smart resources and links
- ◆ Age-appropriate guidelines for Scouting activities

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.

New Medical Forms: The Boy Scouts of America has released a new **Annual Health and Medical Record**. This new form replaces the former Class 1, 2 and 3 forms, which will be phased out during 2009. The new form will be required effective January 1, 2010, and for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. Form No. 34605 can be located at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34605_Letter.pdf.



District Scouters Needed

By Richard Shirley

The District has the following District positions which need to be filled. Consider stepping up and serving in some of these positions so that we can deliver a quality program to our youth.

New Unit Chair, Boy Scout Leader Training, Activities Chair, Quartermaster, Advancement, Popcorn Distribution Chair, FOS Presenters, Training Team.

For additional information contact yours truly at Richard.Shirley@mustangeng.com or michelle.phillips@shac.org.



Kudos Corner

by Michelle Phillips



Troop 987 and Cub Scout Pack 987 held a pantry drive for Katy Christian Ministries at Westland Baptist Church in May. Pictured above are Pack 987 Wolves from Cimarron Elementary.



Upcoming Events

- June 1 Silver Beaver Nominations Due
- June 3 Fall Recruitment Training
- June 3 Popcorn Orientation Meeting
- June 4 6:30PM Unit Commissioners Meeting
- June 4 7:00PM District Meeting
- June 11 7:00PM Roundtable
- June 15-19 Day Camp
- June 18 OA Chapter Meeting
- June 21 Father's Day
- August 1 Roundtable Basic Training



Training

Knowledge Brings the Responsibility of Choice

by Lori Powell

New Courses Available at Online Learning Center

Go to <http://olc.scouting.org> to take training courses. Courses include:

- ◆ New Leader Essentials has been replaced by an online course called "This is Scouting"
- ◆ Boy Scout Leader Fast Start (also available in Spanish)
- ◆ Fast Start course for the Scout Parents unit coordinator
- ◆ Hazardous Weather training is required by someone in the unit for a unit to apply for a tour permit.

Make it a point to visit this site periodically as new training courses are constantly being developed and added. Share these with your leaders, and don't forget that **every youth deserves a trained leader**.

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

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



OA

Thunderhawk Chapter

by Paul Huttenhoff

Texas Skies District 2009 OA Ordeal and Fellowship is August 14-16 at Camp Brosig. Candidate Registration deadline is July 31st. Candidates must complete an Ordeal in order to become a members of the Colonneh Lodge OA. If you do not attend one of the 2009 Ordeal opportunities, then you will have to be re-elected by your Unit next year.

All units with OA members and candidates should reserve this weekend. The next Ordeal is at Camp Strake in December.



Commissioner Corner

by Forrest Bjerkaas

Camping

The summer camping season is upon us. A time when hundreds of thousands of boys spend a week or more, learning, engaging, developing, but most importantly, having fun in the outdoors. A position that might go unheralded at summer camp is the **Camp Commissioner**. This is a volunteer giving of him/herself to ensure a smooth experience for the youth and adults at camp. They are there to answer your questions, solve your problems, and provide "cheerful service." So this summer, seek out your Camp Commissioners, allow them to serve you, and thank them for their service. **Most of all, have fun at camp!!**



Tour Permits Go Electronically

Unit leaders or Camping Coordinators are now able to submit local and national tour permits electronically. This new system takes just a few easy steps, and it will save the transportation and training information, so leaders can easily recall it for future permit applications. All registered unit leaders will have access to Tour Permits from MyScouting.org.

The volunteer can submit both local and national applications. Once approved, each tour permit will have a unique tour ID number. Once the tour permit has been submitted, the council will evaluate and approve it or return it for further work. The unit committee chair and unit leader will also receive e-mail notifications if they have MyScouting accounts.

As a reminder, local tour permit applications should be submitted two weeks before the tour and national applications at least one month before the tour start date. We encourage all Scouting units to use this new service to submit their local and national tour permit applications online. For more information, visit www.samhoustonbsa.org.



How to Start Using Electronic Tour Permits

To start using Tour Permits electronically follow these steps:

1. Go to www.myscouting.org link
2. Login using your established username and password
3. On left side of menu click on the "My Profile" action link
4. Click on "Modify Profile" link on the profile
5. Scroll to "Tour Permits" and click on checkbox
6. Click on Submit button at bottom of screen to update

Note: You would follow the same steps to obtain access to other areas such as Re-chartering, E-learning etc. Check it out!



Uniform Exchange Bank

by John Fortier

Used (but still good) uniforms shirts, council strips, unit numbers and other uniform items are requested for donations to support "Scouts helping Scouts" program. 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.

Please contact John Fortier at (281)646-0616 or jbfortier@sbcglobal.net to arrange pick up of old uniforms.