



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## Texas Skies District

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

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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](mailto:Richard.Shirley@mustangeng.com)

District Commissioner: Forrest Bjerkaas, [fbjerkaas@consolidated.net](mailto:fbjerkaas@consolidated.net)

V. Chairman Adm: Julie Spier, [dspier1@comcast.net](mailto:dspier1@comcast.net)

V. Chairman of Finance: Raymond Farrell, [rayfarrell@yahoo.com](mailto:rayfarrell@yahoo.com)

V. Chairman of Programs: Michael Scherer, [michael.scherer@akersolutions.com](mailto:michael.scherer@akersolutions.com)

Senior District Executive: Michelle Phillips, [michelle.phillips@shac.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:manix@thebureshouse.com) or Michelle Phillips at [michelle.phillips@shac.org](mailto: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](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](mailto:Richard.Shirley@mustangeng.com) or [michelle.phillips@shac.org](mailto:michelle.phillips@shac.org).



### Popcorn Time

*by Margaret Izard*

Its summer, **it's hot** and that means popcorn planning time! If you have not already signed up your unit, don't delay, deadline is July 10th. Go to SHAC Online Open Now link to sign up.

<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Home/Forms/PopcornSign2008/>

Some new things coming in popcorn this year include:

- ◆ Only ONE online system to enter orders
- ◆ Streamlined distribution and new flavors
- ◆ COMPLETE KICKOFF KIT with extra materials
- ◆ mallow shooter and corn hat for those who attend training
- ◆ NEW - 2 levels in Military order with donation receipt
- ◆ 4 weekly Council wide drawing prizes for scouts who have "Filled the Page"!
- ◆ 1, 2, 3 place Council over all get Aeros Family Night at game with limo, meal in suite @ Game, trophy and personalized autographed jersey.

This year's fill the Page Prize – Marshmallow Bow & Mallow Shooter plus Aeros Experience Night!



### Upcoming Events

July 4	Independence Holiday
July 10	Unit Popcorn Sign-up Deadline
August 1	Roundtable Basic Training
August 15	9:00AM Fall Recruitment Training
August 22	9:00AM Fall Recruitment Training
August 24	Katy ISD 1st day of School
August 29	Cub Leader Training
September 8	7PM Unit Kick-off Popcorn Training



## Training

*Knowledge Brings the Responsibility of Choice*

by Lori Powell

### Fall Recruitment Training:

Formerly School Night for Scout Training. It is time to start planning for Summer Recruiting and the upcoming Fall Recruitment Campaign. Hopefully, your pack has already planned a *Summer recruitment* effort, such as a picnic, party, ice-cream social, etc... New recruits can come out with their parents to learn about your pack. Many packs have done this in the past and have been very successful. This is also great to do with boys that are entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade and are really excited about Cub Scout program! For Boy Scouts working on earning First Class rank, get requirement 11 complete by inviting them to your summer events.

*Fall Recruitment Kick-off Dates.* Following training sessions are available and each unit needs to attend of these sessions. Training will provide several useful tools and materials to prepare you for Fall recruitment.

Saturday August 15th, 9am - Noon, Deren-Huff Scout House (St Peters)  
Saturday August 22nd, 9am - Noon, Deren-Huff Scout House (St Peters)

### Popcorn TSD Unit Kick-off Training

Make sure to attend training for your unit's Sales Material Pickup!

September 8<sup>th</sup>. 7 to 8PM, Cinco Ranch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Blvd., Katy (77494)



## 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 member 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

As the summer flies by and June turns to July, it is easy to sit back and think taking the summer off is a good thing. **Resist the urge!!** Instead 1) help a Cub Scout Pack with its program as the Cubs and the Pack work on their National Summertime Award, or 2) help a Boy Scout Troop prepare for camp or work on Merit Badges, or 3) help a Venturing Crew with its High Adventure program or individual Venturers with their Ranger Award.

And remember, you can do all of the helping above as an individual, as a Troop helping a Pack, a Pack helping another Pack, etc. **Serve other units gladly and proudly**, as together we build the leaders of tomorrow.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:jbfortier@sbcglobal.net) to arrange pick up of old uniforms.