

Serving Youth in Allegany, Garrett, Mineral, Hampshire, Hardy and Grant Counties

POTOMAC PARTYLINE

APRIL THRU JUNE 2009

April is Youth Protection Month

Nationwide, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and for the eighth consecutive year, the BSA has designated April as **Youth Protection Month** for councils, units, families, and community organizations.

During Youth Protection Month, each unit is encouraged to participate in one or more of the following ways:

- Ensure that all unit adult leaders (and other interested adults) take the online Youth Protection training, available at <http://olc.scouting.org/info/ypt.html>. The training is also available in DVD format, "Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents" (BSA No. AV-09DVD01).
- Discuss with youth in a unit meeting the exercises in "How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide." (These are found in the pullout pamphlet in the front of youth and adult handbooks. The guides can also be downloaded in PDF format at www.scouting.org/pubs/ypt/resources.html.)
- Using the meeting guides (available in PDF format in English or Spanish at www.scouting.org/pubs/ypt/resources.html), present the age-appropriate, award-winning BSA training to youth and parents:

For Cub Scouts—"It Happened to Me" (No. AV-09DVD11)

For Boy Scouts—"A Time to Tell" (No. AV-09DVD04)

For young adults (boy or girl, ages 14 to 20)—"Youth Protection: Personal Safety Awareness" (No. AV-09DVD27).

In Cub Scout packs, distribute and discuss the Power Pack Pals comic books, which focus on bullying (No. 33980), Internet safety (No. 33981), and personal safety (No. 34750).

The videos listed above are available from the Potomac Council Service Center. Even though the material discussed in these materials can be a touchy subject and make many uncomfortable, we need to keep in mind that we are doing our youth a disservice by ignoring it. Because of the nature of the material discussed there is a very specific method for showing the videos discussed above during unit meetings. For information about how to do show these videos see the "Youth Protection" pages of www.bsa757.org. If you have further questions, contact the Council Service Center.

"A Century of Values" Tour Coming to the Potomac Council Area

The "A Century of Values" Road Team will bring its own version of Scouting's Anniversary "flame" to our area on Tuesday, May 12. This group of volunteer Scouters is traveling the country to help kick-off 100th Anniversary celebrations in close to 300 scout councils. The Potomac Council is lucky to be one of the councils that this group is planning on visiting for one day only, Tuesday, May 12th (the date was set by them). Bring your scouts and anyone else interested to downtown Cumberland to see the display and get a commemorative patch. More information will be forthcoming.

2009-2010 Annual Unit Program Planning Conference

Get your year started off right by doing the proper planning. Planning ensures quality program. Quality Program ensures more scouts getting out of scouting what they are supposed to. Come join leaders from across the council as we discuss everything that needs to be done to make sure you are successful in your planning for 2009-2010. This conference will be held Wednesday, June 3rd at 7PM at the Council Service Center.

13th Annual Bowl A Thon

The 13 Annual Bowl A Thon was a great success, we had over 345 scouters participate from 25 units throughout the council. We had two full flights at the Bowler in LaVale and at the Moorefield Lanes we had two flights this year. It was apparent that all the boys and parents had a great time as well as raised funds for their units.

The Commission checks will be sent out mid April with all the funds that have been turned in. Leaders do not forget to get your Bowl A Thon summaries in along with your payment before April 13th to get your 30% commission, after the 13th the commission goes to 20%.

POTOMAC COUNCIL PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Presidents Message March 2009

Spring has sprung, it is great to see everything changing and more daylight. This means lots more activities for the Scouts in Potomac Council. It was great to see such a large turnout for the 50th Anniversary celebration for Ahtuhquog Lodge. It was great to see a lot of Scouters that have been active over the years. Next summer we are planning a Camp Potomac Reunion, if you know of any out of towners that ever attended camp please send their contact information to the council service center or to me doug@dougschwab.net or Doug Minnich dugminik@msn.com. This year's bowlathon's were very successful. It was great to have two events the same day in Tri Valley District and in Nemaocolin District.



Speaking of districts, if you are interested in working on a District Committee please let Don or Mike know. District activation is key to the success of our council and part of our Strategic Plan. At our last council board meeting we worked on the Council Strategic Plan. The board is doing some great planning and many activities are being planned for the next two years.

Jon Kirby is heading up our planning for the 2010 100th Anniversary celebration. See more info in his article. We need you to volunteer to work on a committee at the council or district level!! Please contact us if you are interested. We have many committee positions open and really need your help to make our plans come to reality. Without volunteers helping the council, we will sit dormant and not grow. We just received our Quality Council certification for 2008. That makes two years in a row that we earned this prestigious award. If everyone works together we can do it again for 2009.

As always if you have any questions please don't ever hesitate to contact Don, Mike, Brian Westfall or me and we will "Do Our Best" to help.

Yours in Scouting

Doug Schwab

Formation of District Nominating Committees/Call for Nominations

To better serve you, The Council Executive Board has made it a priority to reestablish District Committees for Nemaocolin Trail and Tri-Valley Districts. To help select the right people to lead each district, District Nominating Committees are being formed now. Any and all interested Scouters are invited to submit nominations for either themselves or others to the Nominating Committees for consideration. Nominations must be submitted in writing and include a statement regarding a person's qualifications and character. Nominations may be submitted to the Council Service Center Attn: Tri-Valley or Nemaocolin Trail Nominating Committee.

New Germany State Park Volunteers Needed

For the past several years New Germany State Park has allowed us to use their facility for the Winter Frozen First Aid meet. Now they need our help. On April 11th the park will be holding their annual park clean up. Any and all scouts and scouters are needed. This is also a wonderful way to help say "thank you" for letting us hold our event at the park and for scouts to earn community service hours that can be used toward graduation or Good Turn For America. Work will begin around 8:30 AM and lunch will be provided for any volunteers.

Secondly, the Friends of New Germany will be hosting their annual Fishing Rodeo on May 16th. They are looking for help for this event also.

If you, your unit, or any of your scouts are interested in volunteering, call the New Germany office at 301-895-5453 and let them know that you are

CAMP POTOMAC NEWS

Camp Potomac Final Payment

As a reminder, the due date for the final Payment for Camp Potomac is May 1st 2009. The amounts due can be found in the 2009 Leader's Guides which are available at www.bsa757.org. For both Adult and Youth Cub Resident Campers and Adult and Youth Boy Scout Campers, remember, after this date the early bird fee no longer applies. The regular fee of \$20 extra per-person will apply.

Camp Promotion Presentations

Contact the Council Service Center and request a summer camp presentation for your next Troop or Pack meeting. Our camp presentation team will also answer questions from both the Scouts and their parents.

Camp Work Days and Camp Improvement

Need some service hours for your Scouts? Want to be able to come to camp this summer and say, "Hey, I built that!" There are three workdays coming up at Camp Potomac, and we need your help to get camp into shape for summer. The Properties Committee has a number of improvements and projects in line to continue to upgrade Camp Potomac. We need your help to make them happen. For these days, please bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, ladders, screw guns, and any other tools you believe may be of use. The upcoming workdays are:

Saturday, April 4th

Saturday, May 2nd

Saturday, June 6th

All workdays begin at 9 AM at Camp Potomac's Dining Hall and end around 3:30 PM. Lunch will be provided at the May 2nd workdays. For the April 4th and June 6th workdays it is bring your own.

BOY SCOUT BULLETIN

Boy Scout Recruiting

We have been getting lots of questions at the Service Center about how to Recruit Boy Scouts into Your Troops. The three methods for recruiting Boy Scouts are:

Recruit them from Cub Scouts-95% of Boy Scouts come from Cub Scouts. If your Troop is not getting Cub Scouts this is your number one priority. Cub Scout recruiting is a free market environment. Cubs can go to whichever troop they want. We are past the days of "well they are in Pack # so and so and we are Troop # so and so therefore they have to come to us." WRONG!! If you don't really make the effort to recruit them and they go somewhere else or drop out, it is your fault. If you try to recruit them and they still go somewhere else it may mean its time to review how effective and fun the program you are offering is. Seeing this happen year after year sometimes can be a big wake up call that things in your troop need to change. The boys and their families are changing; you need to change some to meet them. Troops need to be invested in the success of their associated Packs. If your pack goes down, it's not going to be good for you.

"Bring a Friend" Recruiting-Peer pressure is huge on Boy Scout aged boys. They are going to look at what their friends are doing. Have your current scouts start bringing friends on events, yes events, NOT TROOP MEETINGS!!!!!!!!!! The fun of events are what the boys join for, not sitting around in church basements getting talked at by adults (they do that all day at school). Set up some kind of prize program your current boys can get entered into if they bring a friend. Make the prize worth it.

5th Grade Rally/Troop Open House-Like we do for the Cub Scouts, we can try to set up boy talks for 5th graders. This method is the least successful. In order for it to work the unit must make time to come and set up displays to get the kids really excited during the talk then follow it up with an event the unit invites potential scouts to. As we said, this is the least successful method, but if you want to give it a try and are willing to do it the right way, the Service Center will help you.

Check out the following resources found on the National BSA website for more information and timelines on how to carry out the above mentioned plans successfully:

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/yearroundguide.aspx>

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/patrolplus.aspx>

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/improvedwebelostransition.aspx>

Free Boy Scout Handbooks

Free Boy Scout Handbooks are available for Troops to present to any boy crossing over from Webelos. Troop Leaders must turn in signed applications and fees before receiving handbooks.

Boy Scout Spring Camporee

Due to Spring Turkey Season, the location of the 2009 Spring Camporee has been moved and the backpacking theme has been postponed until early fall. The Camporee will still take place the weekend of May 15, 16, and 17 but will now involve camping on the C & O Canal at Spring Gap and Paw Paw, a service project for the park service, and biking. For more information, see the Activities page of www.bsa757.org.

Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training and Junior Leader Training

Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training and Junior Leader Training will be offered Friday, April 17 to Saturday, April 18 at Camp Potomac. The cost is \$20.00. For adult leaders, come learn the skills that you will need to be able to teach to help scouts get through First Class. Also learn how and why it is important that we train our Junior Leaders as they get the first part of that all important training. We hope to see all untrained Troop leaders and any current or future Junior leaders who have not yet been trained.

Boy Scout Leader Pre-Camp Dinner

The Pre-Camp Meeting and Dinner for Boy Scout Leaders will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 6 PM at Camp Potomac. We will discuss last minute details about getting your troop to camp. Please RSVP to Camp Potomac at 301-478-5850 between June 3 and June 15 so we know how many to expect for dinner.

AHTUHQUOG LODGE NEWS

Ahtuhquog Lodge 50th Anniversary Celebration a Huge Success!!

The banquet hosted by Ahtuhquog Lodge to celebrate its 50th anniversary was a huge success. Close to 90 Arrowmen (new and old) had a great time sharing memories, checking out lodge history displays, and enjoying a delicious meal prepared by the one the only, OA Kitchen Crew!!! A huge thank you goes out to Tom Moore for his presentation after dinner and for revealing to the world the true meaning of "ahtuhquog." Another huge thanks goes to Doug Minnich and Doug Schwab for the work they did contacting past lodge members and for the tremendous display of lodge history they assembled.

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CUB SCOUT CORNER

Cub Scout Roundtables

Come Join the Fun! Come do crafts, play games, learn new songs, and enjoy the company of other Cub Scout Leaders from our Area. Come to the Cub Scout Roundtable! The next Roundtable will be held Tuesday, May 19th at 7 PM at the Council Service Center. We will be focusing on the Summer activities and the Summertime Pack Award. Also remember that attendance at several Roundtables is a requirement for the various Cub Leader Training Awards. Hope to see you there!!!!

BALOO Training-April 11-Romney

A Baloo (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) Training has been arranged for Saturday, April 11 in Romney. Any Cub Pack planning on taking their cubs camping is required to have at least one Baloo trained leader in attendance. More information will be sent to unit leaders as the training nears.

2009 Spring Webelos-Ree

The 2009 Spring Webelos Ree will be held at Camp Potomac on Saturday, April 25 to Sunday, April 26. Host unit Troop 10 has prepared a number of camping skill and wilderness survival activities. All Webelos dens are invited to attend. Bear dens that are close to becoming Webelos



Arrow of Light Ceremony

Are you looking for a memorable Arrow of Light Ceremony for your Webelos? What better way to highlight the great achievements of your Second Year Webelos than with an impressive Arrow of Light presentation ceremony? This year there are two options. As in the past, Terry Bolinger, Unit Commissioner and Council Boy Scout training Chair, has developed a memorable and exciting Arrow of Light Ceremony that he is willing to do for any Pack within Potomac Council. He has even been going and performing his ceremony for Packs outside the council. If interested contact Terry at 301-689-5184. The second option is to have members of the Ahtuhquog Lodge OA ceremonies team come put on their newly developed Arrow of Light Ceremony. For this option, contact the Council Service Center. Help make such an important day even more special and give your crossing over Webelos something to remember as they take the next step down the Scouting Trail!!!!

Cub Scout Leader Pre-Camp Meeting

The pre-camp leader meeting for Cub Packs attending either Cub Scout Day Camp or Cub Scout Resident Camp will be held Thursday, May 21 at 7 PM at the Council Service Center. We will be reviewing everything that you need to do to get your Pack to camp. We will also have the day camp menus available and hope to have Day Camp t-Shirts ready to return.