

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

October—November 2008

924 7th Street, Port Huron MI 48060

1-810-982-9529

1-888-98SCOUT www.bwcbbsa.org

Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

By now most Cub Scout Packs have recruited the new Cub Scouts and are up and running.

It's time to have fun and deliver the promises we made at recruitment to those new Cubs and our existing Cubs. We promised those boys that Cub Scouts would be fun, that they would have new experiences and learn new skills. We promised their parents that we would teach their sons citizenship, character development and patriotism. And we promised ourselves that we would be good leaders for those boys and make sure their Scouting experiences were positive and life changing.

WOW, how do we do all that? Well, it starts with remembering that Cub Scouts is "FUN with a purpose". The FUN starts with you as a leader, make sure you have fun and the boys will have fun. Make sure you take advantage of all Cub Scout Leader Trainings provided by the Council. Utilize the support provided by your Unit Commissioner and your District Executive. Follow the program plans in the Program Helps, How-Too Book and the Webelos Leader Guide. But most importantly, challenge the boys, have active meetings, remember that outside is always better than inside, and enjoy the experience that being a Scout Leader offers you. Enjoy building relationships with the boys in your Den or Pack and enjoy watching them interact with each other. Have fun seeing the boys learn new skills and excel in those skills at a level no one could have imagined. Never forget that Cub Scouts must be fun first and the rest will follow. Finally, remember we are here at the Boy Scout Council Service Center to help you succeed and never hesitate to ask us for help.

*Paul W. Schwartz
Scout Executive*

Blue Water Council Popcorn Sales Begin October 7, 2008

A large crowd of kernels attended the 2008 Popcorn Kickoff held at the Girl Scout Service Center. Those in attendance were treated to freshly popped Trails-End popcorn, information, entertainment, door prizes and fun. For those units who have yet to get their Popcorn Sale material, please do so at the Scout Service Center. Here are some of the highlights:

Two exciting products have been added. A Military Donation is offered where a \$25 donation from your customer will mean popcorn products are sent overseas or to Military bases stateside. The product will automatically be shipped thus you don't have to worry about delivery. The second new product is a Trails-End Mix of peanuts, cranberries, raisins, M&M's, almonds and cashews that you will find delicious and a hot seller.

The key dates are:

October 7, 2008	Sale begins
October 21, 2008	Fast start Fill-It-Up orders due
October 24, 2008	Unit videos due
October 28, 2008	Second Fast Start Fill-It-Up orders due
November 14, 2008	All order/prize forms due
December 5, 2008	Popcorn Distribution
December 10, 2008	Top video awards presented at Roundtables
January 10, 2009	Top seller party at the YMCA

Among the incentives are:

Top Seller's Party- Scouts selling \$600 or more will be invited to a party on January 10, 2008 at the new YMCA.

Top District Salesman- The top seller in each district will earn a \$150 gift card.

Trails-End Prizes- All Scouts will receive a patch or pin if they sell at least one item and get to choose a wide range of prizes depending on the Scouts' sales level.

\$1,500 Program- Sell \$1,500 in popcorn and get a \$50 gift card from Trails-End.

\$2,500 Scholarship Program- Scouts who sell at least \$2,500 during the popcorn sale are eligible for the scholarship program sponsored by Trails-End.

Fill-It-Up Fast Start- Fill up an order page by October 21 and Boy Scouts will earn a \$5 gift card and Cub Scouts a carabiner. Submit a second filled order page by October 28 and Boy Scouts will earn another \$5 gift card and Cub Scouts a flash-lite.

What's this video business? Yes, earn unit awards by creating a video of your unit's Popcorn Kickoff and submit to the Scout Service Center by October 24. Videos should be between 3-5 minutes long but filled with fun, imagination and information. A special BWC Popcorn Committee will award cash prizes for the best troop and pack videos.

First Prize	\$250
Second Prize	\$150
Third Prize	\$100

A 2% Bonus will be granted under the following conditions:

1. Sign up for the Popcorn Sale with the name of your kernel by August 20.
2. Attend the Popcorn Kickoff Meeting on September 4.
3. Videotape your unit's Popcorn Kickoff and turn in by October 24.
4. Turn in popcorn and prize orders on time, by November 14.

A standard 30% commission will apply unless you earn the additional 2%. Have a great sale and encourage a 100% participation to reach your unit and individual goals. A well run Popcorn Sale will be the only fundraiser you will need all year!!

This newsletter is being mailed to the addresses of all registered adults.



Cub Scout News

Cub Scare Night
Saturday
October 25, 2008
At Silver Trails



It's that time of year where Silver Trails is converted into a haunted forest complete with hay rides, a spooky cabin, goons and goblins, games, hot cider, donuts and caramel apples. Cub Scare Night is open to Cub Scouts and leaders, as well as family members. So bring mom, dad, sister, brother and grandparents and join in on the fun. (Wrist-bands will be given out at event check-in. Everyone must have a wrist-band to participate.)

Please mail or bring your reservation to the Scout Service Center as soon as possible so enough supplies can be purchased.

Cost: \$5.00 per person for registration by October 17, 2008
\$6.00 per person for registration after October 17, 2008

Time: 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm (activities will be ongoing)

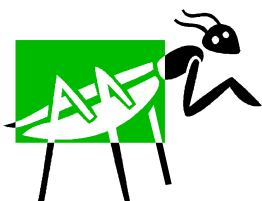
The camp will be busy with activity, so plan to arrive early. Check-in begins at 5 pm. The event will be stopped only in the event of severely inclement weather, such as lightning or hail. Make it a Pack event!!! See you on the trail!

We are looking for a few brave volunteers to help. Please contact John Houser at 810-982-9529 or at jhouser@bsamail.org or Ann Biskner at 420-0342 if you would like to help.

Please remember no costumes!

The World of Giant Insects Arriving at the Port Huron Museum
November 15, 2008

Insects will invade the museum including a 10' praying mantis and a 11' long locust that spreads its wings and springs forward. The dates are November 15, 2008 through February 16, 2009. Other displays offer the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a bug as well as other hands-on activities and workshops. For more information contact the Port Huron Museum at 880-982-0891 www.phmuseum.org.



Welcome to the Frontier!
Mom & Me 2008



Circle these dates on your calendar now; **October 10-11 or October 11-12 for Mom & Me.** This is an overnight campout for Cub Scouts and moms. After checking in and setting up your tents, there will be a campfire program the first night. The following day will be filled with activities held throughout the camp such as archery, BB gun shooting, arts & crafts and even cannon firing.

Session #1 Friday, October 10 to Saturday, October 11
(Gates open 5 pm Friday, session ends Saturday 2:30 pm)

Session #2 Saturday, October 11 to Sunday, October 12
(Gates open 5 pm Saturday, session ends Sunday 2:30 pm)

Place: Silver Trails Scout Reservation

Cost: \$15.00 per participant for early registration by Sept. 26
(\$20.00 per participant after September 26)

includes breakfast, lunch, cracker barrel and all activities

T-Shirts: \$8.00 to \$10.00 depending on size

Deadline for T-shirts—September 26

Please register early as this event fills up fast!
FINAL DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATON IS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008.

For more information call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529. The registration form is on the website www.bwcbasa.org.

Pine River Nature Center to Offer
Cub Scout Programs

Check out this great resource in our own backyard. Programs for Scouts include the Webelos Forester, Naturalist and Geologist badges. Programs about bats and star watching are also planned. The nature center has more than two



miles of hiking trails that explore forest, prairie and wetland habitats. Enjoy a fall color hike with your Scouts. For more information call the Nature Center at 810-364-5477 or check out www.sccresa.org.



Cub Scout & Boy Scout Roundtables at the Girl Scout Service Center

The Cub Scout and Boy Scout roundtables are held on the same night (second Wednesday of the month) at the Girl Scout Service Center in Port Huron at I-94 and Water Street. Mark your calendar for October 8 and November 12 at 7 pm. All leaders should attend these informative meetings for exciting program ideas. Get a group together and carpool to the meeting.



Boy Scout News



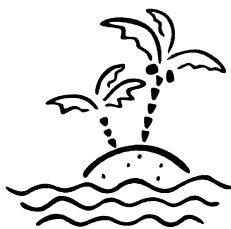
Fall Camporee 2008

“Back to Brown Sea Island”

Friday, October 17 thru Sunday, October 19

This year’s theme is “Back to Brown Sea Island”. Scouts will be competing against other patrols in Scouting basics (fire building, map and compass, first aid, knots, lashings, and heights and measures).

Each Troop will reserve it’s own camp site, by contacting the Scout Service Center, and will provide its own camping equipment and food. (There is no additional fee for the campsite.)



Program will begin Saturday at 8:30 am and will end at 5:00 pm. There will be a campfire on Saturday evening so bring your skits and songs to join in the fun. Troops can check in on Friday evening, after 6 pm, or Saturday morning and check out will be Sunday by noon. The registration flyer is on the website. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Gulyas at 810-982-9529 or cgu-lyas@bsamail.org

Klondike Derby 2009

“Winter Survival”

February 20-21-22, 2009



The Klondike Derby North will be sponsored by Troop 104 this year. While you will see many of the traditional activities from past years, you will need to have some new skills ready as well. The theme of winter survival will carry through all events. Two of the new activities will be building and sleeping in a winter shelter, and building your sled on site Saturday morning. The shelters are to be built as part of an activity during the day Saturday and then the patrol can sleep in it Saturday night. This will give each patrol plenty of time to collect the needed materials to build either a snow shelter “igloo style” or a lean to style shelter built with wood, or try out your own design. All sleds will be built on site with materials provided. NO PREBUILT sleds will be allowed on the course. Scouts will need to use their lashing and pioneering skills and construct their own patrol sleds as part of the activities. Start working on your design right away! As part of the Saturday night activities, all sleds will be BURNED in a bonfire in place of the traditional fire ring. We will have many other fun activities going on during the day and look forward to a great event. We are asking for adult leaders from each troop to assist running one station, sign up early to have your choice of activity. For more information or to sign up to help, please email michaeltimm@comcast.net or call him at 810-985-3588.

Are You Ready for Polar Bear Camping?

Old man winter is making his way to Michigan which means it is time to be thinking about Polar Bear. Beginning December 1, Scouts can qualify to participate in the Polar Bear Program. Before any Scout can participate in this activity, he must have knowledge in the following areas:

- The types of clothing, boots, bedding, and camp equipment used for winter camping.
- Cleanliness in camping and campsite care.
- Proper practice in the care of food and menu planning; types of fires to be used; proper methods of maintaining health and sanitation standards.

Polar Bear camping may be done on a Troop or Patrol basis. Two registered adult leaders must be present, with one leader being at least 21 years old. The requirements for the Polar Bear program include the following:

- Scouts must stay outdoors for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Camping and/or Tour Permits must be filed as needed.
- Scouts must sleep outdoors and may use plastic tarps or native materials where permitted, as well as tents.
- Three meals must be prepared and cooked outdoors. Menus should be prepared and purchased by Scouts and cooked individually by patrols.
- Practice the Outdoor Code. Make sure the campsite is left in better condition than it was found. No live timber to be cut.

The event will run from December 1, 2008 through March 21, 2009. When your unit has completed the program, complete the Polar Bear form and return to the Scout Service Center. The Polar Bear patch will be available at the center after December 1 at a cost of \$1.75.

Polar Bear is a great opportunity for Scouts to learn cold weather survival techniques and enjoy a fun outdoor experience.



We congratulate the following young men for earning their Eagle Scout rank.

Troop 111
Patrick Mullally

Troop 250
Austin Nancarrow
Luke Paulun

Troop 296
Joshua Brenner
Adam Yokom

Troop 322
Steve Kautz

Troop 331
Daniel Cook

Eagle Scout Award Kits are being sponsored by the Port Huron Kiwanis Club in memory of Clayton Berdan. Each Eagle Scout receives an award kit which includes the Eagle Scout patch, Eagle Scout medal and parent pins. Thank you to the Kiwanis for this generous contribution.

ews for All

Scouting for Food National Good Turn Project

As the Christmas Season draws near, it is important for all Scouts and Scouters to realize there are those in our community less fortunate than ourselves. The Scout Law



states that a Scout is helpful and needs to show this in his life as a Scout. This year, as in years past, the Salvation Army and the Blue Water Council will team up for our Scouting Good Turn. We will kick-off the Salvation Army Scouting for Food on **Monday, November 17, 2008** with the kickoff dinner. The kickoff dinner will be held starting at 6:30 pm at the Salvation Army Citadel located on Court Street in Port Huron. For all units participating, this is an opportunity to meet with other units, as well as hear from the Salvation Army on just how much your contribution means to people in need in our area. We would also like to look at how we can expand our service areas so that no area in our community is left out. Food bags will be distributed to the participating units at that time. Food bags will be passed out in the community on Saturday, December 6 and picked up on Saturday, December 13. The drop off point has not yet been announced, but will be available by the kickoff dinner. We are requesting that each unit planning to participate send one or two representatives to the kickoff dinner. If your unit plans to participate, please contact Cindy Gulyas at the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 or 1-888-98-Scout or by email at cgulyas@bsamail.org. We need to let the Salvation Army know how many will be attending the dinner. Please let us know by November 12, 2008. If we all work together, we can make sure that no family in our community will go without this Christmas.

Check Out Explorer Post 001

Veterinary Medicine Explorers Post 001, also known as "Vetquest", has started off our 12th season of learning more about animal health fields, following a busy summer that included trips to Blue Water Equine Hospital in Emmett and the Detroit Zoo, where we met Dr. Ann Duncan and got a tour of the zoo's veterinary clinic. We have planned another year of surgery demos, learning about radiology, lab work, animal restraint, helping with humane society events and are planning to co-sponsor our second pet/animal appreciation fair, "Animal Mania" this spring. We meet once or twice each month on Saturday mornings at the clinic of Dr. Mike Hermesmeyer in St. Clair. New members are welcome--anyone with an interest in the veterinary field is encouraged to check us out. For more information, contact post advisor Dr. Robyn Limberg-Child at deafdogdoc@hotmail.com.



Venturing Wilderness Conservation Weekend

Friday, October 3 thru Sunday, October 5, 2008

Check-In on Friday from 7-8pm Check-out Sunday morning
Silver Trails Scout Reservation

\$5 per person

Participants will be working on the requirements for the conservation project. Please review requirements with your crew before this weekend.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Minnis 810-387-9605 or Cindy Gulyas 810-982-9529.



VENTURING · BSA

2010 National Jamboree Adult Leaders Wanted

Blue Water Council is now accepting pre-applications for adult contingent leadership. Pre-applications and National requirements may be obtained at the Scout Service Center. Pre-applications must be turned in by October 15, 2008 for consideration. The Jamboree Committee will be meeting on October 16, 2008.



Central Region has allocated our council one contingent, for the 100th National Scout Jamboree. The Jamboree is currently held at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. It is estimated to have over 40,000 participants during this 100 year celebration. The National Jamboree will be held July 26 through August 4, 2010 with additional days tentatively planned for touring and travel.

Boy Scouts must be at least 12 years of age by July 1, 2010, and not have reached his 18th birthday by August 3, 2010 and be at least a First Class Scout. Additional Boy Scout requirements are available at the Scout Service Center. Boy Scout applications will be taken after the first of the year.

Note: Boy Scouts do not make application at this time. Additional information will be provided in the next issue of the Bridge.

Dave Lesinski, Jamboree Committee Chair

Birchwood Mall Giving Spree

The Blue Water Council is excited to be participating in the Giving Spree, in conjunction with the Birchwood Mall. The Giving Spree is a giving and shopping event that culminates in a one-day event on November 15, 2008. We are inviting you to make a donation to the Blue Water Council.

How do you participate? It's very easy. Any time after October 15, 2008, all you need to do is go to www.TheGivingSpree.com, click on the 100th Anniversary Boy Scout logo and make your donation through this secure site. 100% of the funds designated to the Blue Water Council will be awarded to us. In turn, you will receive special offers from retailers at the Birchwood Mall and an invitation to a special shopping day on Saturday, November 15, 2008. Scouting prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices. By supporting the Blue Water Council, you will invest in our youth - our future.



Memorials



Walter Reling

Paul & Jing Jing Duffy
Cheri & Cliff Rutledge

Adult Leader Award Recipient

Scoutmaster Key

Don Kent

Commissioner Corner...

Welcome to fall and it's glorious color! Let's also welcome Dan Conrad as our newest unit commissioner. He has deep and varied experience in Scouting and is a valuable asset to our team.



Area 2 has reorganized with Toledo and Marquette new members. Craig Younkman is our area commissioner. He states that the commissioner tracking software, commissioner online Fast Start and revisions to our manual are to be completed in early Fall. Let's hope this all dovetails nicely.

Watch the web for the 2009 Centennial Quality materials. Hard copy will be sent to our service center.

Cross your fingers so that Jerry Deeg will finish his "shingling" job soon!

Pete Cangemi, Council Commissioner

Scoutreach Programs Starting Up

The school year has started, and the Scoutreach programs are recruiting more boys & adults. The Woodrow Wilson pack is again the largest after school pack, with over 50 boys. The Sparlingville lunchtime pack is off to a great start; the boys are learning to play flag football. The Cleveland pack will become a lunchtime pack at the beginning of October, and the Harrison after school pack will soon start. We hope to have success in the Anchor Bay school district at Maconce (lunchtime) and MacDonald (after school).

Leslie Butler will be working Tuesday – Thursday. If any adults want to volunteer their time, please contact her at the Boy Scout office. She could always use more volunteers to help with the wonderful Scoutreach programs.

2009 Central Region

Boy Scout Advancement Seminar

January 24-25, 2009

This training is designed for council and district level advancement chairs, unit level advancement chairs, unit committee members and Scoutmaster, council advancement advisors and professionals. Nationally trained facilitators will be there to run the seminar. Learn the difference between "Advancement FACTS vs Advancement MYTHS". The cost is \$149.00 per person. For more information or to register contact Clinton Valley Council at 248-338-0035 or email 2009advancement@att.net.

Scout Shop News.....

Fall Round Up is here; we have all the gear you need to outfit your Scout with a new uniform and accessories. Visit www.scoutstuff.org and make your list before visiting the Scout Shop. If we don't have it in stock, it can be special ordered at no additional charge. The Scout Shop is open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm and Saturdays through October 25 from 10 am-1 pm. If you are unable to make it to the Scout Shop, call, email or fax your order and we can ship it out to you.

The New Centennial Uniforms are here and we have the cotton shirts and pants as well as the Supplex shirt and pants. Also all the accessories such as hats, belts, socks, etc. are in stock. The "new" uniform can be mixed and matched with the "old" uniform.

Don't forget the Scout Shop when you need sweatshirts, camp gear or gifts for that special Scout.

Order of the Arrow

BSA Disaster Relief Fund

Our prayers go out to the families of the Scouts and Scouters affected by recent hurricanes and the subsequent storms across several states. Several councils have been severely affected by the hurricanes and their aftermath. The full impact of the storm will be known in the coming days and weeks. Your generous contribution to assist members of our Scouting family and to help rebuild Scouting in the affected communities is greatly appreciated. The Boy Scouts of America has established a Disaster Relief Fund to help rebuild Scouting in those areas that have been affected. Go to Scouting.Org and see how you can help. This site is set up by National and is your way to help in "Cheerful Service".



2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference Dates

The National Order of the Arrow Committee is pleased to announce that the 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference will be held at Indiana University, August 1-6, 2009. Look ahead now and plan to attend. Let Chief Alex know.

2009 OA High Adventure Applications are Now Available

Remember to register early! Go to oa-bsa.org for OA info. Camperships are available to all OA youth membership. Don't miss out on the terrific savings to OA youth members. For additional information contact Mr. Lesinski, lodge adviser.

Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage - 2 weeks - \$125.

Philmont Trail Crew – 2 weeks - \$200.

Florida Sea Base Ocean Adventure - 13 days - \$500

- Every participant must be at least 16 years of age by the day your program starts, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.
- Participants must also be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and an Order of the Arrow Lodge.
- Every participant must also complete a BSA Class 3 Medical evaluation and meet height and weight guidelines.

Are you ready for OA High Adventure?

Boy Scout Leader Training in November

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster training and Outdoor Leader Skills will be held at Silver Trails **November 7-9, 2008**. (Friday thru Sunday) Leaders will take both trainings over the weekend and receive their trained patch. Cost is \$30 and covers all meals and materials. Please visit the council website at www.bwcbsa.org for a registration flier and more information, or call Cindy Gulyas at 810-982-9529.

Aquatics Training Now Available

Leaders, do you need help with Safe Swim Defense or Safety Afloat, BSA Life Guard, Lifesaving, Swimming, Swimming Belt Loop a unit swim test, in other words all things Aquatic? Philip Oleksiak has offered his service to help units with Aquatics. For more information call him at 810-841-2397 or 329-3679.



2009 Boy Scout Leader Training Conference

Travel to Florida this winter for the Boy Scout Leader Training Conference on January 11-17, 2009 at the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base. For more information go to www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/18-108 form.

Spots Still Available for the Florida Sea Base High Adventure Trip next summer from August 12-19, 2009. For more information contact Mary Minnis at 810-287-9605 or Terry Green at 810-385-7669.

Sporting Clays Event a Success

The 2nd Annual Sporting Clays event, held on August 24, was a success. 46 avid "hunters" made their way through the woods at the Four Square Conservation Club, who provided a appropriate venue, tasty meals and excellent service. We hope this event will grow each year and become one of the Blue Water Council's premier events.



But we couldn't have done it without our volunteers... Cyndi & Taylor Jagodzinski; Dan, Courtney & Kyle Hill from Crew 245; Roger, Jeremy & Bradley Lotte from Troop 282; Paul Richards & Scouts from Troop 106; Pete Cangemi. Thanks!

Nor could we have done it without the support of our sponsors and prize donors. Our premier sponsor was Eastern Michigan Bank; our Star sponsor was Mid Michigan Materials. Uncle Al's Quick Lube & Stop was the lunch sponsor, Wachovia Securities was the dinner sponsor and The Vernier was the beverage sponsor. Shooting station sponsors were Austin, Lashbrook & Associates, Beem Construction, Cheap Charlie's/Daybreak Café, Design n Build, Eastlake Builders, Exchange Club of Port Huron, Ferguson Steel, Dr. George Carley, Holiday Inn Express, Huron Title, JoAnn Wine & Associate - Jerry Grace, McDonald's, Meijer, Smith Family Funeral Home, Tait Insurance Agency and Ullenbruch Flowers. Thanks!

Fall Cub Scout Leader Training

The Blue Water Council is offering many training sessions this fall for Cub Scout leaders. Cost is \$5.00 per session. All the sessions are from 6-9 pm except the training on November 1 at Silver Trails which will be from 9 am-12 noon. A light supper will be offered from 5:30 to 6 pm at the evening sessions and a continental breakfast will be offered from 8:30-9 am at the Silver Trails training. A registration flyer is available on our website at bwcbsa.org.

September 29, 2008—Port Huron

Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader

October 14, 2008—Port Huron

Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader

October 16, 2008—Sandusky

Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader

October 16, 2008—Memphis

Tiger Cub Leader and Pack Administration (Cubmaster and Committee)

October 20, 2008—Marlette

Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader

October 20, 2008—Port Huron

Tiger Cub Leader, Den Leader
Pack Administration (Cubmaster and Committee)

October 22, 2008—Marysville

Den Leader, Webelos Leader

October 30, 2008—Memphis

Den Leader, Webelos Leader

November 1, 2008—STSR

Tiger Cub Den Leader, Den Leader
Webelos Leader, Pack Administration (Cubmaster and Committee)

Locations:

Port Huron

First United Methodist Church
828 Lapeer Ave
Port Huron, MI 48060

Marlette

VFW Hall
2942 Main St.
Marlette, MI 48453

Memphis

Memphis Elementary School
24110 Bordman
Memphis, MI 48041

Sandusky

Kid Connection
217 East Sanilac
Sandusky, MI 48471

Marysville

United Methodist Church
1234 New Jersey
Marysville, MI 48040

STSR

Silver Trails Scout Camp
7140 Jeddo Road
Jeddo, MI 48032

Volunteer Help Wanted for the Council Website

The Blue Water Council is looking for a few good volunteers to help us by serving on a task force to improve our Council Website. We would like this task force to come up with "new" ideas about the website and help us to implement new ideas. With today's technology there are a lot of opportunities that we are missing with our current website. If you have ideas, knowledge, skills and a willingness to help, please contact our Scout Executive, Paul Schwartz or Scout Shop Manager, Lori Thueme at 982-9529.

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



A young man smiles and says, "Hi Mr. Down, how've you been? Do you remember me from the Troop?" It could happen in the middle of a Meijer's Store, or perhaps a doctor's office, or at a wedding. It could happen while walking the dog. The faces and voices are always familiar. It is many times difficult or impossible to remember their names, but they remember you!

Recently, as my wife and I waited in the check-out line at the grocery store, I heard a cheerful hello from just behind us in line. Turning, I saw a young man, and instantly recognized him as a Scout from Troop 216. It was Michael. After acknowledging his greeting, I asked him what grade he was entering in school. He replied, "I am a sophomore!" In my mind, he should still be a Cub Scout.

I reflected on the fact that his older brother had been in the Troop and had attained the rank of Eagle. I asked Michael if he was headed for the Eagle rank. He replied that he is one merit badge from meeting all the requirements, and then he would be deciding on a project. I asked, "Which merit badge?" "Citizenship in the World", he replied. I tried to encourage him by saying, "that one's a piece of cake!" (I know very well that some badges are fun and some aren't. Enough said!) I added that he should get moving on his merit badge and project, as cars and girls would soon become obstacles. (That brought a sour look from the lady behind him in line!)

It was only a day later, when I returned to the same store to pick up some additional items, that I was greeted by another young man, a former Scout. He was a bit older than Michael, and perhaps a bit less familiar to me. I recognized him but couldn't remember his name. Before I could ask him, he began telling me about his current college experience and his plans to transfer to another institution. He said he was working full time while attending college. He had gone on his way before I finally remembered his name, but that was OK. I had the update. It was all good. Scouting was certainly a factor in his development and he was doing great.

One of the subtle benefits of being a Scouter is the joy of encountering the Scouts you have spent time with. Having a young man approach you, from out of a crowd, to say hello and let you know his situation, is certainly flattering. Sharing their success and challenges are a help to them and a reward to the Scouter.

When you volunteer your time as a Scout Leader, you are playing to an audience. Whether it's a Cub Den of eight boys, a Cub Pack of 60 boys or a Scout Troop of 50 boys, there are almost always a lot more of them than you. You are a significant figure to that group and they are going to remember you and the things you teach them.

As you remember the Den Meeting last night, the Pack Meeting last week, or the Troop Meeting last Tuesday, the names and faces of the Scouts may become a bit of a blur. So many faces and so many names are hard to keep straight. It's a challenge for anybody. Never feel bad about that. That happens to everyone.

They will, however, remember you. All those Scouts you work with have only a few Leaders in front of them, and chances are most will remember the Leaders. They will remember the Leader that was concerned enough to help guarantee their success. They will remember the Leader that was compassionate and helpful when a challenge seemed to be just a little too much. They will remember the Leader that offered congratulations when a goal was achieved, and the Leader that shared in their victories.

With the beginning of a new Scout year, I am seeing more and more new volunteers that I don't know. Each and every Scout Leader, whether in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Exploring, or Venturing, should pause to think about the impact they are having on so many young men whose lives are just beginning. Sharing the knowledge and skills of a lifetime with these young men is a huge gift to them. It truly is.

At the same time, enjoy the gift it will be to you in the years that follow. When you read in the paper about a former Scout who graduates from college, gets promoted in the military, or enjoys some other success, you can share their joy. Whether they are "Setting the world on fire" or just "doing OK", you can feel that you shared in their beginnings.

I have to admit that it feels pretty good when a former Scout tells me about his success. As I listen to all a Scout has to say about who they have become, and what they are going, I hear them saying "Thank You". Now that's what I call, "Return on investment!"

Steve Down

Scout Night at the Palace Detroit Pistons vs Pacers Friday, December 12, 2008



Tickets are \$32 for Scouts, their friends & family. A Scout Clinic on the Pistons court is at 4:15 pm, game time 8 pm. Every Scout in attendance will receive a Detroit Pistons duffel bag and a Pistons patch. For more information contact Tamara Mires at 248-377-0175 or TMires@PalaceNet.com.

Request for Eagle or Service Project

We have had a request from Cleveland Elementary School at 2801 Vanness in Port Huron for someone to build a display cabinet for their school store. If you would like more information, call Dotti Porrett at 810-984-6500.

New Centennial Recruiter Patch for Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts can earn this new Centennial Recruiter patch by recruiting a boy into their Troop this fall.

The Scout Shop will be open on Saturdays from 10 am until 1 pm in September and October starting September 6.



The BRIDGE
BLUE
WATER
COUNCIL

924 7th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Port Huron, MI
48060
Permit No. 307



Member Agency



October

- 7 **Popcorn Sale Begins**
- 8 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 8 Boy Scout Roundtable - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 8 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 10-12 Mom & Me - STSR
- 11 OA Leadership Meeting - 10 am SSC
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting - SSC
- 15 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 17-19 Fall Camporee - STSR
- 25 Cub Scare Night - STSR
- 28 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 31 Halloween

November

- 7-9 Scoutmaster & Outdoor Leader Training- STSR
- 10 Executive Board Meeting -
- 12 Commissioner Meetings - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 12 Cub Scout Roundtable - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 12 Boy Scout Roundtable - 7 pm Girl Scout Office
- 14 Popcorn Orders Due
- 15-30 **Silver Trails Closed During Deer Season**
- 17 Salvation Army Scouting for Food Dinner - 6:00 pm
- 19 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 24 Properties Committee Meeting - 7 pm
- 25 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday—**Scout Service Center Closed**

Scout Service Center Hours:

Monday thru Friday from 9 am until 5 pm.
Also from 10 am until 1 pm on Saturdays in
September & October.

Sandusky Office Hours - Phone: 810-583-0303

Beginning Thursday, October 16 from 1-4 pm Cindy Gulyas will be at the Kids Connection at 217 Sanilac Avenue in Sandusky. Cindy will be happy to bring up any supplies from the Council office your unit or you need, but you need to call the Scout Service Center to make arrangements for these items. Please also remember that Cindy may have other appointments in Sandusky that may take her out of the office during this time. So please arrange a time with Cindy to pick up your items! Office hours will continue every Thursday from 1-4 pm until December 11 and will resume January 8, 2009.

Council President

Michael Whaling 810-987-2141

Council Commissioner

Peter Cangemi 810-327-2327

Black River Basin District

Terry Green—District Chairman 810-385-7669
Jerry Deeg—District Commissioner 810-385-9735

3-Rivers District

Cyndi Jagodzinski—District Chairman 810-392-3616
—District Commissioner

Roundtable Commissioners

Bobbie Rogers-CS Roundtable 810-434-7709
Steve McPherson—BS Roundtable 810-966-2246

Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529

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Cindy Gulyas	Sr. District Executive	cgulyas@bsamail.org
John Houser	District Executive	jhouser@bsamail.org
Janice Dubay	Office Mgr./Finance	jdubay@bsamail.org
Terry Faulk	Camp Ranger	810-327-6685
Judy McCarthy	Secretary/Receptionist	jumccart@bsamail.org
Lori Thueme	Scout Shop Manager	lthueme@bsamail.org
Leslie Butler	Scoutreach	lebutler@bsamail.org