



Wolf River District Newsletter **“Smoke Signals”- January 2014**

Wolf River District, BSA – The Wolf River District covers Bartlett, Bolton, North Memphis, Raleigh, Millington, Austin Peay, Covington Pike, and Stage Road in Tennessee.



Wolf River District Banquet

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU!

Our first district event of the year where we will celebrate with all the leaders of the Wolf River District gathering together to celebrate many accomplishments within the District in 2013.

On Friday, January 31, 2014 at 7pm, the adult leaders from all levels of Scouting will gather at the Bartlett Woods Church of Christ, 7900 E. Old Brownsville Road, Arlington, TN 38002 for good times and laughs as well as some moving and inspirational messages. The cost will be \$20 per person or \$150 for a 10 person table.

Following a great meal we will recognize the leaders within the District with the various awards and hear a few comments from Mayor McDonald. Leaders within the District can come from any unit, including Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Team or Venturing Crew, which includes young men and women.

Each adult leader within the District is a volunteer and receives no compensation other than the reward they get when they see their hard work make a positive difference in the life of a Scout. The running joke within the Scouting organization quotes an old line from a time long gone; Volunteering only takes “one hour per week”. All Scouts leaders work hard to provide a great program. They do this for the love of the Scouts and the belief in the Scouting program. We will also recognize those leaders who have gone “above and beyond” in the scouting program as well as maintained a positive attitude and work in cooperation with the district and council with the awarding of the District Award of Merit. We will also award the new Unit Award of Appreciation to those unit volunteers who exhibit these same qualities in their units.

Boy Scouts of America Chickasaw Council

Wolf River District Leadership

District Executive: Jay Hassman

jahassma@bsamail.org

District Chairman: Benjamin Moulder

District Commissioner: Francis Boyer

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WolfRiverDistrict

District Chairman’s Minute

We have over 1,000 youth and over 300 direct contact (works with youth) leaders registered in our district. They belong to 51 units that are chartered to various religious, civic and cultural organizations in the Bartlett and Millington area.

This district is blessed with wonderful volunteers. We have volunteers who are not only willing to learn how to be exceptional Scout Leaders but who go way beyond.

Thanks for getting trained. Thanks to all the leaders who have gone beyond the required and become Wood Badge Trained. Your units are very blessed to have you. If you want to know more about Wood Badge you can read more in this newsletter.

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS OF WOLF RIVER DISTRICT

You are making a big difference in the lives of our youth.



SAVE THE DATE

February 1, 2014 from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

A complete course guide and registration will be available at www.chickasaw.org in the coming days.



Scouts Rock at Graceland

March 29, 2014

Go to www.chickasaw.com for all the details and to register.

District Commissioner's Corner

Commissioners provide important leadership to ensure quality Scouting.

We need YOUR leadership experience! Become a commissioner and make a difference by:

- Bringing Scouting to more boys.
 - Developing new leaders.
 - Sharing your experiences.

The commissioner service is looking for men and women volunteers who would like to help Scouting by sharing their knowledge and experiences with other Scouters.

Successful Scout units do not just happen. They are made. They are made by leaders who are trained, coached and counseled along the way by those who went before. By helping leaders build strong units you will insuring that the values of Scouting are bought effectively to more youth.

District Executive's Comments

Welcome to 2014. Our district had a great year in 2013 and with the planned activities within our district there is no doubt that 2014 will get even better for the Wolf River District.

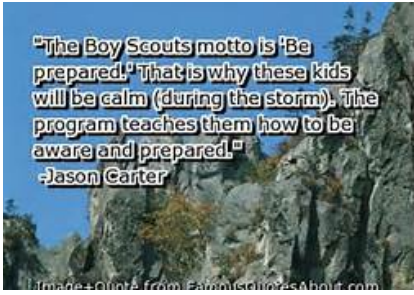
Make sure that your units are prepared for WOW! and Spring Camporee as well as the District Derby, Day Camp, Summer Camp to just mention a few of the exciting events coming up in the next few months.

We hope to see all of you at the District Award Banquet on January 31, 2014. Have a great 2014!



Friends of Scouting

Friends of Scouting is the annual giving campaign of the BSA and provides the necessary funds to ensure a quality Scouting program for our youth. It helps to keep the cost of our council camps affordable, the council camps and facilities in great condition and keep the promise of a quality program to all our scouts. Please let our FOS chairman Lawrence Ellis know when the date of your Blue and Gold Banquet or Spring Court of Honor will be so a presentation for this vital campaign can be made. The money raised helps to offset the cost of resources to all our units.



Wolf River District Roundtable

Decatur-Trinity Christian Church
2449 Altruria Rd. Bartlett, TN 38134
January 16, 2014 at 7pm
Why come to roundtable?

Roundtables play a significant role in providing continuous supplemental training for all unit, district, and commissioner leaders. This monthly event provides program topic guidance and structure suggestions for all leaders. Come and meet Cubbie our newest Scout and find out who gets to take Cubbie home for a visit.



Stoke Your Fire: Wood Badge Adult Leadership Training

Wood Badge isn't boot camp. No hazing. No death marches. Just six days of fun and educational activities to help you grow as a leader. Adults become youth – so we may, in turn, help the youth become adults.

Weekend #1
March 21-23, 2014
St. Columba
Memphis, TN

Weekend #2
April 5-7, 2014
Camp Currier
Eudora, MS

- Leadership training at its BEST!
- Training taught by experienced leaders in an indoor and outdoor setting.
- Personal growth, fun and fellowship.
- Open to all adult leaders: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity and Venturing.

Go to www.chickasaw.org for more information or contact Randy Nelson at (901) 491-1650 or email Randy at rnelson3@comcast.net.



Journey to Excellence can help improve your unit performance by giving you a measuring stick of how and what the unit is doing and measures the outcome of your performance. It provides a water mark of your activities. Measurable performance gives you a way to improve your program and set goals in the future, year after year.

- Journey to Excellence is an immense planning tool for your unit, it allows you to fine tune key areas of your program and replace it with sound programming.
- Journey to Excellence encourages a better outcome through better-informed leaders who supports the program for its youth and its other boy lead programs.
- Link Journey to Excellence along with Service Hour Projects for the unit's institution or for community projects this is a units winning combination.

Troop Leader Guidebooks to Replace Scoutmaster Handbook

If you judge the Scoutmaster Handbook by its cover, you might assume it's solely meant for, well, Scoutmasters. Assistant Scoutmasters, it seemed, were to look elsewhere for scouting wisdom. That's about to change. The two-volume Troop Leader Guidebook will soon debut, replacing the Scoutmaster Handbook and offering helpful checklists, quick tips and fresh ideas for both new troop leaders and veteran Scouters.

Vol. 1: For New Troop Leaders

Mark Ray's Vol. 1 focuses primarily on the needs of the new or relatively inexperienced Boy Scout leader. These Scouters will have been volunteers for up to three years, are likely assistant Scoutmasters and probably recently crossed over from serving as Webelos leader or parent. As such, Volume 1 assumes little or no prior knowledge of the Boy Scout program on the part of the reader. It presents a somewhat simplified picture of Boy Scouting that focuses on the short term – getting through this week's troop meeting, this month's outing and this year's planning conference – rather than the long term, such as planning for growth, establishing a troop vision, and measuring personal and troop success. In other words, it leaves advanced topics to Volume 2.

Vol. 2: Advanced guidance for Veteran Scouters

Bob Birkby's Volume 2 assumes its readers are ready for the next level.

Here you'll find info like high-adventure planning, working with Scouts with disabilities, conflict resolution, visioning and more. This volume is for more-seasoned leaders who need fresh ideas. It's an advanced guidebook that will help leaders take their troop's program and operations to a higher level. It will also help leaders keep an established program fresh and exciting so that troops don't fall into the trap of doing the same things year after year.

Look at it this way: Volume 1 replaces the current Scoutmaster Handbook, while Volume 2 offers advanced guidance that's been missing from several editions of the Scoutmaster Handbook.

Behind the Scenes

The name was changed because surveys indicated that many assistant Scoutmasters thought the Scoutmaster Handbook wasn't for them! But more than just a new name, the Troop Leader Guidebook represents a new approach to serving all troop leaders. And it happened, as it should, with the input of Scouters like you.

Upcoming District Events

*Harlem Globetrotters January 11, 2014 at 7pm at the Fed-Ex Forum. The Harlem Globetrotters bring their famous show to the Fed-Ex Forum and Boy Scouts can receive a discount ticket up to \$9.00.

*Delta Merit Badge College: January 4, 2013 at Delta State University at 8am-4pm. For more information contact Ray Roberts at roberts10@suddenlink.net

*University of Scouting: February 1, 2014 at 7:30am-4pm

*Wolf River Academy: Merit Badge College on March 1, 2014 and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills on February 28-March 2, 2014 at Centennial Park behind the Millington YMCA.

*Wolf River District Banquet: January 31, 2014 at Bartlett Woods Church of Christ at 7:00pm.



Thank you for being a part of the Wolf River District.