

The MANATEE Messenger

The official newsletter of the manatee district
April 2006

Key Three:

District Executive:

Kevin Litt

Committee Chair

Peggy Hall

District Commissioner

Steve Seppa

Vice Chairs:

Vice Chair: Programs

Ed Newell

Vice Chair: Advancement

Ted Burghardt

Vice Chair: Membership

Doug Rautenkranz

Vice Chair: Finance

Steve Lindsey

Current/Upcoming Events:

Order of the Arrow

Kirk Hall

Family Fest

Lori Bell

Cub Day Camp

D.C. Padgett

Roundtable Commissioner:

Paul Schneider

431-2771

Paul.Schneider@livetv-ifs.com

Cub Scout Roundtable

Commissioner:

Cheryl Mitchell

724-1363

cdmitchell@cfl.rr.com

This Months Roundtable:

Cub Scout Theme: *Digging In the Dirt*

Boy Scout Theme: *Communication...with a twist*

Venture Theme: *Open Discussion*

From the District Chair:

Thank You for Your Service

It is always appropriate for Scouts and Scouters to track their progress in Scouting. The Cub Scout depends upon his leader to track attendance, rank advancement and years of tenure in the program. A Boy Scout, Venturer and Explorer take the responsibility for being aware of their personal progress through ranks and service time. It is completely the adult volunteer's responsibility to track their own tenure in the program: years spent in the youth program as well as all trainings, accomplishments and tenure as an adult. I encourage all adult scouting volunteers to track their years in the BSA (youth years count for adult males). Please reward yourself by filling out a Veteran Application and applying for the 5, 10, 15 and so on, Veteran Pin. The Veteran Pin is worn on civilian wear only. It can be worn as a tie tack, lapel pin or collar pin. What an opportunity to share Scouting when someone outside the BSA comments on your pin. Let the Central Florida Council, Manatee District and your fellow volunteer's thank you and recognize you for years devoted to Scouting by bestowing upon you the Veteran Recognition.

Yours in Scouting and Service,

Peggy J. Hall

More information on Veteran Recognition can be found in the BSA Insignia Guide and online at <http://www.obcbsa.org/resources/Veteran.pdf#search='veteran%20application>

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 21-23: OA Section Conference (Camp La No Che)

April 22: BALOO Training

April 28-30: Safety Weekend (Camp La No Che)

May 6: Family Fest

May 19-21: OA Service Weekend

May 20: District Banquet

May 30 - June 4: Cub Day Camp

July 22 - 29: National Youth Leader's Training (NYLT)

Manatee District Banquet

Come celebrate a great year!

May 20 from 6:00 to 8:30

Rancho Viejo Mexican Restaurant

The cost \$20.00 per person, includes dinner and soft drinks.

Flyers are available on the District website.

For further information contact Margaret Rutledge at 727-7793 or scoutingmother@yahoo.com

Training:

BALOO - Saturday, April 22 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Trailhead Park. The cost is \$5.00 and includes lunch. Contact Mike Caruso at 951-0351 for more information.

Lifeguard Course - April 28, 29 and 30 at Camp La No Che (during Safety Weekend). The cost is \$60.00 which covers the course, camping fees and food. For more information visit the Council website (www.cfcbsa.org). Please contact Doug Rautenkranz prior to course registration at 961-4408 or boyscouters321@yahoo.com.

National Youth Leaders Training (NYLT) - July 22 to 29 at Camp La No Che. The cost is \$195.00 per scout. To attend a Scout must meet the following requirements...

- be 13 years of age
- be a First Class Scout
- have had JLT or TLT training

For more information please contact Doug Rautenkranz at 961-4408 or boyscouters321@yahoo.com.

Family Fest:

Family Fest provides an opportunity for Scouts to demonstrate to parents, friends and the community that Scouting is the best training ground for the youth of America! This year's Family Fest event will be held at the Wickham Park pavilion on Saturday May 6th from 10 am - 3 pm. If your unit has not turned in an exhibit commitment form it is needed TONIGHT! If you do not have a form the following information is required: unit #, activity, booth size requested (standard size is 10x20) and point of contact information. We hope to be able to post a map of unit locations prior to the event to the District Yahoo Group. Please see Lori Bell to make sure your unit is signed up!

Units wishing to donate door prizes need to have them turned in this evening or contact Lori to make delivery arrangements.

All money from the ticket/candy sale is due on or before May 6th.

We are in need of volunteers for a variety of duties - BB and Archery range masters, older boys to act as runners - people to help with set up and man booths, etc. Units providing at least 3 members and helping to staff the event will receive participation credit. Please contact Lori at 953-0148 or ScoutingB@aol.com to see how you can help!

Help Wanted:

Boy Scout Roundtable Staff needed. Join the fun! Help plan and present the monthly roundtable program. If interested please contact Paul Schneider at 431-2771.

Next Month's Roundtable:

Next month's themes are *Invent a Reason to Celebrate and Camping.* We will hold Roundtable outside. We would like to have Packs and Troops do some camp cooking. Bring recipes and ideas to share. If you have questions or need more information contact your Roundtable Commissioner.

Song of the Month:

Watermelon Song

Chorus:

Just plant a Watermelon on
my grave
And let the juice (schrrrp)
slip through

Just plant a watermelon on
my grave

That's all I ask of you
Now Southern fried chicken
is mighty fine
But all I ask is a watermelon
vine

Repeat Chorus

Just plant a watermelon on
my grave
And let the juice slip
through

Repeat Chorus

Advancement:

The Advancement Committee would like to thank the following units for reporting in February and March:

Packs: 37, 57, 374, 380, 391, 520 & 571

Troops: 235, 308, 314, 323, 330, 380, 520 & 732.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your unit's advancement reporting, or questions relating to advancement reports in general, please feel free to ask at any Roundtable or contact Lori Bell at 953-0148 or ScoutingB@aol.com. For more advancement news, please see the monthly Advancement newsletter posted on the District web site.

The Seven Wonders:

The first grade class assignment was to name the Seven Wonders of the World. Each student had to compile a list, and then share their list, aloud, with the class. There was ardent interaction as the students called out entries from their lists: the Pyramids, the Empire State Building, the Amazon River, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Canyon, the Taj Mahal and the list goes on.

The teacher served as the cheer leader, "Class, these are great answers. Well done!" One girl sits silent. She is asked about her list. She says, "I don't think I understand the assignment." "Why?" "I don't have any of the right answers," she tells the teacher. "Well, why don't you tell us what you wrote on your paper, and we'll help you." the teacher encourages her. "Okay," says the little girl, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are.

To See, To Hear, To Touch, To Smell, To Feel, To Love, To
Belong."

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous!! A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Somewhere along the way, we have buried this little girl's wisdom. There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is to live it as if everything is.

<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/bbugle/bb0602.pdf>

Manatee Scouter:

The following letter was written by Bill Gnan. Bill is an active Scouter in the Little Econ district, Wood Badge graduate, Wood Badge Staff member and a 2006 Silver Beaver recipient. His words are heartfelt and encouraging. Please take time to read his letter and consider participating in the fall 2006 offering of Wood Badge Training (more formally referred to as "Wood Badge for the 21st Century"). Our Council's Wood Badge offering is considered to be among the best in the nation. Though it is a long way off - now is the time to make plans. The course will fill up very quickly.

This year Ann Speer, Ed Newell and Steve Seppa had the honor and privilege to serve as Staff on the spring 2006 Wood Badge Course. Likewise, Bill Kight, Doug Rautenkranz, Patricia Taylor, Paul Schneider, Margaret Rutledge and Ann Salomon-Collins have been given the honor and privilege to serve as Staff for the fall 2006 Wood Badge Staff. We hope you will consider joining us for fun and learning that will impact you and the boys you serve.

Why should you be interested and why should you read any more of this?

Good Question!

You already know that Scouting is, in the words of its founder Lord Robert Baden Powell: "A game with a purpose" and that the purpose as stated in Scouting's Mission Statement is *"to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law"*.

Did you know that studies (by Dr. Morris Massey) have shown that we are programmed as young people with the gut level "values" that guide us as adults? This is probably no surprise. But what is surprising is that the studies suggest that we develop those values almost exclusively from experiences and learning that occurs as children? The study indicated that only significant emotional events will cause us to change those values. Massey's findings were presented in the book "What You Are is Where You Were When".

We have precious little time to impact our children before their friends and the world they are immersed in become more influential in their lives than we are as parents. As you know, Scouting is the one program specifically designed to assist us as parents in training our children to have the "values" that we value.

To offer a Scouting program that is of consistently high quality requires trained leaders. As busy as modern life is, an activity must be of high quality to keep people interested given the myriad of activities that compete for our limited time and energy. The better trained and more experienced the leaders - the easier it is to offer a high quality program and the easier and more fun it is for the leaders themselves.

Doesn't every boy deserve a trained leader? Of course they do...

OK, but what does this have to do with Wood Badge training for the 21st century...sounds like camping...

What is Wood Badge? Simply put - Wood Badge is a series of fun and educational weekend training activities that will develop you into a better leader, a better leader at home and a better leader at work - not just at Scouts. Wood Badge is the highest level of leadership

Training offered by the BSA (Boy Scouts of America). It is like a PhD in Scouting and an executive MBA program rolled into a 6 day course (offered over two, long Fri - Sun weekends). It is NOT a camping or outdoor skills class. It is an advanced leadership course that combines modern management and organizational behavior theory and techniques in a patrol setting - a practical, hands on, small group environment...(A patrol is a group of 6-8 men and women that you camp, eat, study, and go through the course with - the basic unit of a Boy Scout Troop is the patrol).

Although the course is oriented around Scouting, the principals presented apply equally to our families, places of worship, and places of employment. Several employers recognize the course as professional management education (the course includes team development modules, diversity training, and project management sessions) and give their employees paid leave to participate - including SAI C and NASA.

What will you get out of the course? During the course you will learn and put into practice modern leadership, management, and organizational behavior theory and techniques. You will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the aims and purposes of Scouting.

It is not uncommon for a participant to come away from the Wood Badge experience valuing the education and learning they have received from their Wood Badge training as much as their more formal education. Many participants come away changed for the better - with a new or renewed life focus.

BSA spared no cost in revamping the Wood Badge program for the 21st century (utilizing input from management/leadership experts like Tom Peters and Ken Blanchard to prepare and deliver a course and an experience that is of the highest quality).

It has been calculated that the cost of presenting this course would be \$500,000 if the volunteers on staff were compensated for the time they spent preparing for and teaching the course - that is a \$10,000+ value per course participant.

Why should you take it this fall? The quality of any program is directly related to the leaders/instructors. A staff of 26 prepares for and presents the course for 48 participants (that's a ratio of less than two participants per staff member/instructor). Each instructor puts in hundreds of hours preparing for the course. The core group of instructors that taught the Wood Badge course that I took in 2002 are on Staff for this fall's course. Our course was a "mountaintop experience" for those who participated. I expect this fall's offering to be a top quality program and experience - similar to the course in which we participated.

Where can you get more information? As you can tell, I am a big proponent of Wood Badge. I would be glad to answer any questions have about the course. Or, if you see Scout

leaders with a leather thong with two tiny wooden beads around their neck (this is the Wood Badge award) ask them their thoughts.

The following Web Site contains information on the Wood Badge course, its history and other facts: <http://woodbadge.org/wbwhat.htm>

This site states the objective of the Wood Badge Course:
<http://woodbadge.org/WB21/wb21obj.htm>

Two tiny wooden beads on a leather thong doesn't sound like an outstanding badge and mark of distinction, but it is known and respected as such around the world. It is symbolic of the efforts and interests of one man, on behalf of others, that created and launched the greatest movement for youth the world has ever known. Two tiny beads on a leather thong; they could symbolize the hope of the world. It's up to you. (Author unknown).

If you've thought about taking Wood Badge - please give some thought to doing it this fall.
If you haven't thought about taking Wood Badge - please give some thought to doing it this fall.

The course will be held from 7AM Friday through early evening Sunday on two weekends
9/15 - 9/17 and 10/6 - 10/8.

Your Friend in Scouting,
Bill Gnan