

The MANATEE Messenger

The official newsletter of the manatee district
January 2007

Key Three

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This Months Roundtable:

Cub Scout Theme: *Aloha, Cub Scouts*

Boy Scout Theme: *Citizenship*

Venture Theme: *Open*

District Award of Merit & Silver Beaver Nominations:

The foundation of a successful District or Council is built on its volunteers! Recognize the hard work and dedication to Scouting of a fellow Scouter by nominating them for the District Award of Merit or Silver Beaver Award. The District Award of Merit is a Council award presented by Districts to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the District level. The nominee must be a registered Scouter and have rendered noteworthy service to youth. The nature and value of "noteworthy service to youth" may consist of a single plan or decisions that contributed vitally to the lives of large numbers of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time. The nominee should have also contributed some type of service to youth outside of Scouting as well. Consideration should be given to the nominee's Scouting position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that Scouting position. The nominee's attitude toward and cooperation with the District and Council should be taken into consideration as well. The Silver Beaver Award is a National award presented by Councils to Scouters of exceptional character who render noteworthy service to youth within Council's jurisdiction.

Applications for either award can be downloaded at www.scouting.org/forms. Questions regarding adult recognitions should be directed to Jim Breitmeier at 723-3606 or jimb1964@cfl.rr.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 19-21: OA Ordeal at Oklawaha

January 26-28: Webelos Woods at Camp Ais

February 3: Community Service Project at Erna Nixon Park

February 3: Trainer's Development Conference at Council Service Center

February 4: Scout Sunday

February 8: District Commissioner/Committee Meetings

February 10: Scout Sabbath

February 15: Chartered Organization Rep. Training/Roundtable

March 9-11: Spring Cub Family Campout

March 13: Golden Eagle Dinner at Crowne Plaza

March 16-18: Boy Scout Spring Camporee

Order of the Arrow:

The Astatula Chapter Ordeal is January 19-21 at Camp Oklawaha. If elected but unable to attend please contact Eric Snyder (321-243-9132) to attend on January 26-28 at Camp La-No-Che or February 2-4 at Camp Oklawaha.

Opportunities for Brotherhood are January 20th, 27th, and February 3rd. Please contact Chief Alex Woulas for more information.

Vigil nominations are due to Marshall Stanton by January 28th.

To schedule a crossover ceremony, please contact Eric Snyder at snyder.eric@gmail.com. Please schedule the crossover at least 3 weeks in advance.

Attention all Order of the Arrow members:

There will be a New Member party at our February Chapter meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month (2/1/07). We would like to see all Order of the Arrow members from the Manatee District attend to celebrate the acceptance of our new members following the Chapter Ordeal on January 19-21. Also, this will be your second opportunity to purchase the new Astatula Chapter 5 Year patch/dangle.

This is a great opportunity to meet with our new brothers and to re-connect with members that may have been away. OA members please attend this meeting of fun and fellowship held at the Melbourne Church of Christ at 7:00 pm February 1st, 2007.

For more information about this exciting event please give me a call or email. Remember also to bring a friend that normally does not go to the chapter meetings.

Community Service Opportunity: ERNA NIXON PARK

Need a community service project for your scout unit or scouts working toward promotion? Erna Nixon Park needs help controlling a non-native invasive plant known as the "Air Potato" that has spread rapidly since the 2005 hurricanes. Plants are easy to identify and control, just needs some scouts to help out! 3 Feb, 2007 is set up for Cub and Boy Scout units to participate

from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Rain date is 10 Feb 2007.
Register your unit at
Roundtable or email Ken Bell
at ScoutingB@aol.com or
call 953-0148.

Fest Chairman, Mitch Gordon.

Family Fest News:

New things for 2007:
It's official -- the Council is
not selling Chocolate
anymore!

No lifting, no storing, no
buying, no melting, NO
chocolate!

A better quality discount
card -- that's good all over
Central Florida! 37%
commission (that's \$3.70
toward the boy's program
for every card sold!)

A great product with great
discounts that nobody else
is currently selling in
Central Florida.

A new Scout Sales Guide will
help parents and Scouts
understand the benefits of
Family Fest.

All units need to be
prepared to place their
Discount Card order at
the February Roundtable,
which is Thursday the 15th
at 7pm at

the usual place. The Family
Fest team is suggesting 2-
kits

per boy (that's 20-cards).
That way, each Scout, Den,
and Patrol have
the opportunity to take
advantage of the free day
at Daytona Lagoon.

If you have any questions,
please contact our Family

From The District Executive:

Great things are happening in Manatee this year! Manatee District finished last year far ahead of where we have finished the last few years (thanks to a terrific district staff and volunteer enthusiasm!). For example we now have 76% of recharterers in compared to around 50% last year. I would like to thank each and every unit who got their recharter packet in on time and helped Manatee blast last years numbers out of the water! We also have a near record amount of FOS presentations scheduled and we are hard at work getting the rest scheduled. It required a lot of hard work but our commissioner staff and committee staff really pulled out all the stops and went for the gold this year! And special thanks to Jamie Fedderson for Hitting a Home Run for Scouting, what an outstanding finish! Now that last year is over it is time to look forward to 2007. Please take advantage of this time to think about events for the summer and fall and begin scheduling so that we will have a fantastic program not only for returning scouts but also for 2007 recruits. There are going to be a lot of them!! Cub packs - maybe a summer event to help keep kids active and improve retention? This is an ideal time to work on retention ideas for the summer and fall. Central Florida Council is hard at work from the top to the bottom to ensure we have the support and resources necessary to make scouting successful and Manatee is going to have a stellar year in 2007! Also, this month marks the end of Ron Oats first year as Scout Executive for Central Florida Council. Whether or not you have met him you have certainly benefited from his presence so please take a moment to send him a note to say 'Hi' and let him know how great scouting is here in Manatee! Just drop an email to Roats@cfcbbsa.org

Friends of Scouting (Family Membership Enrollment) is the time when parents of families give their support to the Scouting program. Your unit should already be scheduled for a presentation at a Cub Scout Blue and Gold or Troop Court of Honor. The funds from Friends of Scouting go towards providing Central Florida Youth with camping opportunities and a fantastic program by significantly reducing the cost to the scouts. This year there are several options available for donations. Several patches are offered along with a lovely (and soft) new FOS shirt and a HAT!!!! If you haven't yet signed up or you are interested in being a presenter for your unit please write to

egreen@harris.com and sign up today! It is of vital importance that we schedule these soon so we can line up presenters.

Richard A. Levasseur

Please plan on attending for evening of fun and fellowship with fellow Scouters.
Look for more information next month.

Upcoming Events:

Merit Badge University

April 28th is now the confirmed date.

All units are encouraged to plan on attending.

The list of offered Merit Badges will be posted at <http://activities.fit.edu/apo/MBU> as counselors are confirmed.

For adults who wish to teach or help with a badge, please contact Kevin Frederick at kmf@cfl.rr.com.

We aim to set the cost at \$10, regardless of what badge each scout registers for.

Please watch for more information as we get closer to MBU 2007!

Manatee District Banquet

This year's banquet will be held Thursday, May 24th at the Olive Garden on New Haven Avenue.

From The District Chair:

The Scouting community nationwide is in their fundraising mode for the next few months. You will be hearing from "Friends of Scouting" and the "Golden Eagle Dinner" campaigns this month. Both are important for local Scouting needs. The money stays in the Central Florida Council and is very important for ensuring that the operating funds are available for all the programs that are offered in Manatee District. "Friends of Scouting", formerly known as Family Membership Enrollment (FME), has different levels of giving for Scouters, parents, and benefactors to continue to support Scouting. Presentations in your unit are being scheduled. Please give them your undivided attention and give generously. The "Golden Eagle Dinner" is scheduled for 13 March at 6 pm (7 pm dinner) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the beach. We are honoring Mrs. Howard Lance with the Golden Eagle Award this year for her many charitable efforts in support of women and children. This is the first women to receive this award. Come and help us celebrate. There is no charge for the dinner, but there will be an opportunity to give to the Central Florida Council. This year's celebration is being chaired by Harris Corporation. A big turnout is expected.

Happy New Year,
Steve Seppa, Manatee District Chairman

Advancement:

CFC Outstanding Advancement Ribbon Changes

If your unit submits the paper version of the Unit Advancement Report (Form 4403) to Council, please provide the District committee with a copy as well. In the past, Council provided the District with unit copies, but since the implementation of the Internet advancement system, we are only provided with

information on units utilizing that system. Please turn copies in to Lori Bell at any roundtable or they can be mailed to her at 479 Charlotta Ave SE, Palm Bay, 32909.

The on-line advancement system does not allow empty reports. Units want to submit a "no report" reports and do so by e-mailing Lori Bell at bellloril@bellsouth.net. Please include your unit number and the month for which you are reporting.

Mahalo (mah-HAH-lo) thank you

Kane (KAH-nay)
boy or man

Wahine (wah-HI -nay)
girl or woman

A Hawaiian Proverb

Don't ignore small things – the kite flies because of its tail.

Facts of Hawaii

Capital: Honolulu
State tree: Kukui
State Bird: Nene
State Flower: Hibiscus

State Nickname: The Aloha State

Some Hawaiian Words

Aloha (ah-LO-hah)
love, welcome, farewell

Hula (HOO-lah)
a dance

Kai (KAH-i)
the sea

Recruiting Needs

We have some openings for volunteering if any is looking to expand their horizon beyond their own unit. We have a position open in Training to assist the District Training Vice-Chairman with scheduling and setting up various training classes over the next few months. We have a need for volunteers to serve on the District Nominating Committee. These people get to recommend who the future leaders and volunteers are going to be for the coming year (June 2007 - May 2008) on the District Committee and Commissioner's Staff. We also have an opening for volunteers to help plan for the upcoming Family Fest, a celebration that occurs in May and is a chance for our District to show off to the public. This year will be much different, in that, chocolate will be not be sold....instead, entertainment cards will be offered. More details to come. Help us make this a success! If you have questions, ask anyone on the District Committee or Commissioner Staff. You may also have heard that Linda Hall is leaving us for Minnesota. She was heading up the Manatee District Banquet scheduled for May, where we honor all our volunteers and celebrate a successful year of Scouting at a local restaurant. Anyone want to step into her shoes (she's already done much of the planning)?

A Word about Being

Inclusive

The District has discovered a handful of units that are practicing some unusual processes and policies that may not be inclusive of all people. One specific policy that is very discriminatory and should not be encouraged is the restriction of women adult leaders from attending camping events and Summer Camp activity. This practice needs to stop immediately. All registered and trained adult leaders, whether it be male or female, should be able to participate. If you suspect your unit has these kinds of policies, please raise the issue to the appropriate adult leaders for corrective action. The BSA encourages the participation and inclusion of male and female adults as leaders. Make it happen! Scouting is for everyone!

Thank you,
Steve Seppa