



Roundtable Humors

Vol. 5
Issue 4
July 2019

Aims of Scouting Calendar



Personal Fitness

Night Hike

Aug. 9, 8:30-10pm

Lake Rim Park

RSVP: 910.433.1018

Citizenship

Open House Nights

All Local Schools

Leadership

Popcorn Training

TBD: Aug 19-30

Character

Dogwood District

STEM Day

Aug. 10, 10am-4pm

St. Luke UMC,

Sanford, NC

\$5 Lions/Tigers

\$10 Wolves and Up

Upcoming Roundtables

August 29

Pack/Den Discipline

October 3

Fundraising

Getting Back into Action

It can be daunting to face a pack in August that looks completely different than the pack you had in May.

There's an easy enough answer: follow the program. There are manuals for almost every volunteer position in a pack that can be found at our local Scout Shop. For Den Leaders and Cubmasters, if all else fails, grab one of those manuals and follow it to the letter. You're guaranteed to be compliant with safety and requirements, and the planning is done for you!

For Committee Chairs, lean on and reach out to your Unit Commissioner or Chartered Organization Representative if you are struggling. They are experienced and will help you find solutions you may not otherwise have thought of.

As new parents come in, make volunteering an expectation, not a hope. The BSA suggests units provide new parents with

a "menu" of available volunteer opportunities.

We discussed some of those possibilities in May— Den Leaders and Committee Members are usually high need positions, but having a parent plan a single event such as Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold, an end of year trip, a service project, or a hike can alleviate the overload of responsibility that current leaders sometimes feel.

Reach out to other packs in Highlander at Roundtable. If your pack is struggling to meet the basic program as outlined in training, link up with another pack! You could share events like PWD and B&G, or you could hold joint pack meetings every other month with guest speakers that work for every rank's requirements. A community servant (police officer, park ranger) presentation can usually work for every rank. A service project is universal in the Cub

Scouting program. If your pack is overwhelmed, aim to consolidate, and reach out to your UC and COR to help guide you.

We hear it all the time: Keep It Simple, Make It Fun. The Cub program doesn't have to cover every elective and award to be impactful. Spending extra time on the required adventures can bring quality to the program and help cement the lessons and values in our Scouts, while reducing some of the work load on leaders.

This is a new Scouting year. Your pack is only beholden to the program and safety infrastructure that the BSA mandates. Shake off the "we've always done this", and see your pack with fresh eyes. Be gracious to yourselves and your Scouts, and put on a program that brings you joy. We are behind you every step of the way!



[Here](#) is the current Occoneechee Council popcorn information.

Be mindful that dates vary among Districts—kickoffs and turn ins are staggered so Council is able to meet deadlines.

Our District Kick Off/training should fall between August 19-30, and our unit kick off

dates are forthcoming. Popcorn pick up is scheduled for September 20/21. Your unit needs to commit to selling popcorn by July 31.

Keep an eye on the Highlander website and FB page for information and announcements.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Every Scouting year presents challenges, some new, some old. Your District team of Commissioners and Committee members want to help you thrive and nip problems in the bud.

The contact information for every person in a District position can be found on highlanderdistrict.org

District Committee

When you are looking for information on programs like District Pinewood Derby, events like Popcorn, training like BALOO, awards and more, you are often looking for someone on the [Highlander District Committee](#). Find the position description that likely fits the bill of the topic you have questions about, and start by contacting that Chair.

Unit Commissioner

If your unit is struggling, you need your Unit Commissioner. Unit Commissioners are assigned to units, and there is a [current list](#) on

the Highlander website that shows who is assigned to your pack.

A Unit Commissioner's responsibility is to serve the unit and cultivate its health. If you are having leadership trouble that can't be solved by your Cubmaster or Committee Chair, having trouble with a Scout or family, or experiencing a problem that your unit can't get past, contact your UC sooner rather than later. They nearly always have advice and experience that can help.

Chartered Organization Representative

Your COR has some overlap with your UC. A COR is appointed by the Chartering Organization. The responsibilities of the chartered organization representative are to help units be successful and to provide coordination between the chartered organization and the BSA. They are the final approval on all leaders in your unit before the application is submitted to Council. They often

have years of experience and can offer fantastic wisdom. For approval of new adult leader applications, and for casual advice on unit issues, contact your COR. Strong CORs become deeply knowledgeable about BSA operations and have more frequent contact with a unit than their Unit Commissioner. In these cases, reaching out to your COR for tricky unit problems is encouraged. If you are experiencing trouble with your Chartering Organization, or need to ask questions regarding your Chartering Organization, you need to reach out to your COR.

Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner

Roundtable Commissioners are like Google- they don't always know the answer, but they can usually get you to the place that can help you find the answer.

If there is a topic you think needs to be addressed for the Cub Scouting Program, or an announcement that you need made to the entire

District, your best bet is to reach out to the Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner.

It can be hard to navigate the deep waters of information and policies at the National, Council, and District levels. Usually Scouters can find answers and solutions at the unit level; sometimes they can't. Scouting should enhance your Scout's life and your own. If the solution isn't coming, reach out so you don't burn out. You and your Scout deserve to make a lifetime of memories here.

Highlander District Key 3

District Chairman
Wayne Anstead

District Commissioner
Kirk Johnson

Family Scouting Executive
Erin Zeek

Playing With Fire

June's Occoneechee Council Cabinet Safety Moment addressed current BSA policies on [fire use during Scouting events](#).

Guide to Safe Scouting mentions fire in several sections.

Each Scouting program has its own fire policies. For instance, in Scouts BSA all Scouts are allowed to make a camp fire. In Cub Scouts, Lions, through Bears are

welcome to gather wood, but [lighting the fire](#) is reserved for Webelos.

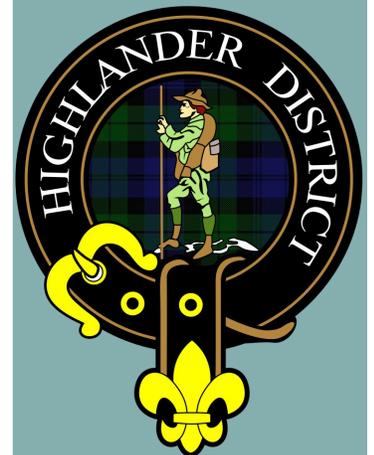
There are specific rules about fuels and chemicals in regards to fires, which can be found [here](#).

Review this information before your next campfire program or pack overnighner, and fire away!



Preview Adventures

If your unit uses Scoutbook, you may have noticed some new elective adventures in each rank! [Bryan on Scouting](#) sheds some light on Protect Yourself and YoYo Adventures.



For Contact Info go to highlanderdistrict.org



Welcome Series

Last year the BSA created “Welcome Series” emails for families joining Cub Scouts or Scouts BSA. Individual units operate differently and certainly need to keep their own welcome packets for new families.

However, there are many points in the BSA program that are the same no matter where in the US you sign up for Scouting.

The Welcome Series is a set of emails that are scheduled to go out to new families. The emails provide the basic information that is the same in the BSA program nationwide, as well as helpful tips, links, and encouragement for new families.

Ideally these emails will reduce the work for Scouters at every level.

The Series’ inaugural year was promising! [Take a look at the 2019-2020 plan for the Welcome Series](#), and find out how it will help you make your new families feel right at home.

2019 World Jamboree is in full swing right here in the US, and you can check out official pictures [here!](#)

If your unit or family missed out on this once in a scout-time opportunity, there are still other ways to connect with scouts around the world, without having to pay outrageous airfare!

Jamboree on the Air is an annual event where Scouters worldwide communicate on amateur and ham radios. Jamboree on the Internet

is held the same weekend— October 18-20 this year.

Locally, your pack could consider reading up on the Jamboree and then reaching out to the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society to see if they have an operator who would be willing to host your pack and get them on the air and teach them about a historically significant skill. Please research the event carefully before reaching out to an operator so you can communicate what your unit will provide and what you may need.

For information on how to participate in [Jamboree on the Air](#) or [Jamboree on the Internet](#), click the links.

With some thoughtful planning, some of your Scouts could even earn the International Spirit Award!



Cub Scout RT Commissioner’s Corner

I hope your summer has seen you out in the fresh air the way ours has!

The past scouting year really ignited a love for camping in my children. Even my one year old begs to go outside and loves sleeping in a tent.

This isn’t a new love for me: my family regularly planned “glamping” trips with our friends when I was growing up. We are still friends with many of

those families to this day, parents and kids alike.

All kids latch on to these memories of s’mores, and shooting sports, bugs and sweat, the sound of rain on a tent, mud and the smell of a camp fire, flashlight tag, and gaga ball, handicrafts, open fire cooking, sunshine and starry skies.

Parents and kids, families of friends. It’s magnificent!

This year my oldest son decided he didn’t

want to sleep in a tent with me. I could not have been happier! We start this program with parents required to be with their child for every event, every memory. Wolf and Bear years we step back, Webelos years we step back even farther, and once they hit Scouts BSA, they lead the way.

This love and confidence outside is exactly what Scouting cultivates.

The thought of

camping this fall and next spring with our Cub Scout family is so relaxing, and something I am looking forward to with all of my heart.

These last few weeks of summer, try to bring your tent out one more time. Light a big fire out back and roast a few hot dogs. Meet some friends at a pool or park, and soak up that disgusting mix of sunscreen, bug spray and sweat. You can shower for the rest of your life. Have fun today!