

MARCH 2008

# SIGNALS



A Publication of the Chief Okemos Council, Boy Scouts of America

Volume 14, Issue 3

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

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## The 2008 Council Recognition Dinner

The annual Chief Okemos Council recognition dinner was held on February 5<sup>th</sup> in East Lansing at University United Methodist Church. The 2007 Silver Beaver recipients and the 56 Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2007 were honored at the dinner. Brigadier General Michael McDaniel, an Eagle Scout and Director of Michigan Homeland Security, was our keynote speaker.

Fifty-six area Scouts earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2007. Each Eagle Scout did a community service project for a park, church, municipality, camp, or school. The Eagle Scouts service projects built and completed last year are valued at \$57,992. A total of 7,414 community service hours were done by the Eagle Scouts and those who assisted them.



Pictures above:  
General Michael McDaniel  
Keynote speaker.

Pictured below left to right: Steve Willard, Chuck Barbieri, Mark Hoffman, Julia Copenhaver and Liz Welton—  
Silver Beaver Recipients



## JOIN THE CHIEF'S POSSE!

Do you have an hour a week or a day a month to volunteer at the Chief Okemos Council office?

The Chief Okemos Council office is looking for volunteers to help with normal office procedures, mailings, answering phones, filing and many other fun jobs!

If you have the time and the willingness to donate it, please call Sarah Davis at 321-9400 ext 101 to schedule time!

Thank you in advance!



Committed to Building Character through Community Service



## Scout Executives Minute BY DAN BETTISON

For some of us, March brings to mind the phrase "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb", for others, the phrase is "MARCH MADNESS". For Scouters, the words are Achievement, Transition, and Planning.

**Achievement:** For cubs this means finishing up your Blue and Gold's and tallying up all of the years achievements. For the Boys, completing winter projects and starting to think about the merit badges and projects that will take you into the spring and summer. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished by our youth with the help of our adult leaders.

**Transition:** This is the time of year for Scouts to cross over. The Cubs are moving up to make room for the new Tigers that are coming in the spring, and the Webelos are moving to Boy Scouts. Troops, it's a good idea to work with your local packs, get to know the Webelos that will be transferring to you, and let them get a feel for what it means to be a Boy Scout. Packs, have your Webelos completed their Arrow of Light? Don't forget that they can take this award with them into Boy Scouts.

**Planning:** March is a great time to regroup, and think about the upcoming years activities. Start planning to attend camp, contact your District Executive to talk about a Spring Recruitment night, and see Brandon in the Scout Shop for exciting program supplies for your newly crossed over scouts.

### WHO IS MISSING FROM THIS PICTURE?



The date was October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 just after the crack of dawn and two Eager Beaver Volunteers were already cutting down a few trees, one at a time. Over the next four days the property lines were cleared, holes were dug, poles driven and fencing was erected. Slowly the process evolved until some 1,300 feet of wire fencing was in place over some extremely rugged terrain.

Elsewhere trenches were being dug to add new underground electrical cables along with water and sewer lines. Other volunteers were busy painting those brown and yellow signs placed throughout Northwoods to help. While others gave a much-needed coat of paint to

a few buildings to protect them from the elements. In the new maintenance building vehicles and equipment received oil changes and tune-ups to insure they will run when needed.

All told over that weekend, three times a day some 30 plus Eager Beaver Volunteers came together to share some great food and conversation. After each meal the dining hall would empty as they either returned to their projects hoping to finish what they had started or called it a night. By Sunday afternoon those volunteers had packed up their gear and headed back home having the satisfaction of knowing they had made a difference.

On Monday morning the sounds at Northwoods returned to the rustle of leaves in the wind and the occasional crack of a small branch as it collapsed under the hoof of a deer darting through the woods.

Since that fall 2003 Eager Beaver Weekend numerous projects have been undertaken and completed by people just like you. All of the projects we undertake involve either maintaining or improving the Northwoods Scout Reservation.

Examples of projects that occur every year include the following:

Repairing boats or canoes, Repairing or replacing picnic tables, Repairing or replacing doors, windows and screening, Removing dead or damaged trees or branches, Repairing tents or platforms, Painting buildings and signs, Plumbing repairs to fixtures and water lines, Electrical repairs or fixture replacements

Projects that occur periodically or represent new additions include the following:

Repairing docks and replacing floatation barrels, Re-roofing the Memorial and Administration Buildings, Building new swim platforms, Replacing the trading post, Adding twelve new cabins, Upgrading the electrical service

The next Eager Beaver Weekend will be held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. A number of projects are being considered for this weekend to help maintain and improve the Northwoods Scout Reservation. The Memorial Building needs some additional repairs since it was leveled. Did I forget to mention this summer we will host another Michigan International Camporee? I would estimate that over a hundred projects will be identified as needing to get completed. Obviously these projects will only be completed if we have sufficient volunteers.

Please join us for our next group photo and picture yourself helping to make a difference. Please contact Mike Myrand at 517-339-9127 to confirm you plan to join us May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> or if you have any questions.



# Announcing the "New" Cub Scout Training Spring 2008

## CHIEF OKEMOS COUNCIL TRAINING COMMITTEE

This spring, the Chief Okemos Council is continuing it's new format for "Cub Scout Position Specific Training!"

When you attend a training session for Cub Scout Position Specific Training, you will be trained for all 5 Cub Scout Positions at ONE training session!! (Cubmaster, Pack Committee, Tiger Leader, Den Leader, and Webelos Leader)

This format will allow Cub Scout adult leaders to move from one Cub position to another and remain trained. It will no longer be necessary to be retrained as you follow your son from one grade rank to another.

All Cub leaders are now required to attend training!!! Just because you do not hold a leadership position is not a reason to not be trained!!

Unit Leaders, make sure that every registered adult in your unit attends training!!

Make sure that someone in your unit has "Pack Trainer" responsibilities for getting each adult to training!!

Go to [www.chiefokemosbsa.org/leaderresources/training](http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org/leaderresources/training) to sign up!

REMEMBER, EVERY YOUTH DESERVES A TRAINED ADULT!!



## PROVISIONAL TROOP CAMPING AT NORTHWOODS

### PROVISIONAL TROOP CAMPING AT NORTHWOODS

What is provisional camping at Northwoods, you ask? It is a way for every Scout to have a chance to spend a week at Northwoods Summer Camp. It is for Scouts who can't go the week their troop is going because they have something else planned that week. It is for Scouts whose troop is doing some other activity (high adventure, perhaps) but they aren't participating in that event. It is for Scouts who would like to spend a second week at Northwoods.

In past years, many troops have networked with other troops to send Scouts in these situations along with a troop attending Northwoods at a convenient time. For this summer, we would like to offer another option - the Provisional Troop. A Provisional Troop will be camping at Northwoods week 3 (July 6 - 12), week 4 (July 13 - 19) and week 5 (July 20 - 26). These Contingents will be limited to 12 Scouts per week and will be led by 2 adult volunteers from the council. Each will function as a troop for the week. (Think Jamboree contingent, Council Boundary Waters contingent, or Council Philmont contingent.) They will leave from Lansing Sunday, spend the week at Northwoods doing merit badges, camp wide games, campfires, solving the spy puzzle and having a great time and return to Lansing Saturday.

If you have any Scouts who need a way to attend camp, contact the Council office for further information.

## Breaking News from the Registrar's Desk

Well, recharter time is nearly finished (oh, thank goodness...) and I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your incredibly hard work making sure that all of our members are registered and their information is up to date. THANK YOU!!! Also, your new membership cards, and your recharter certificate will be finished soon. National mandates that these must be mailed to the Unit Leader. This is non-negotiable. You can be on the lookout for these within the first two weeks in March. Thank you for another successful recharter year!

# Webelos Woods 2008

**Webelos Woods is Webelos WOW  
May 10, 2008 Camp Kiwanis, Mason**

Calling all Bears and Webelos to come out for a day of fun and adventure at Camp Kiwanis

**Bear Scouts:**

Bear Scouts (currently in the third grade) who have or will cross over to Webelos for next school year will work on Webelos advancements. All current Bear Scouts can get a head start on earning their Webelos badge.

**Webelos**

Webelos will be offered advancements to assist them in earning the highest award in Cub Scouts, the Arrow of Light! Activities will also include learning skills to help Webelos crossover to Boy Scouts and start on the trail to Eagle Scout.

New this year will be the bouldering and rock climbing on the 35ft Camp Kiwanis Climbing Tower.

**Events include:**

Games, Webelos activity pins, outdoor skills, first-aid skill, orienteering, climbing, campfire, awards, and much more

**This is a great program and you won't want your Scouts to miss it!**

**Go to [www.chiefokemosbsa.com](http://www.chiefokemosbsa.com) for more information!**

Registration fee includes:

Webelos Wood Patch, program/activity supplies, snacks, climbing tower fees, Saturday dinner/beverages, and awards!

Chief Okemos Council's Camp Kiwanis: 676 W. Dansville Rd, Mason, MI 48854 (4 miles east of Mason on Hwy M 30)  
Contact Pam Nickelson at 517-647-6544 or at [nickelson\\_ps@elps.k12.mi.us](mailto:nickelson_ps@elps.k12.mi.us) or John Hogg!

## Venture Leadership Weekend!

Plans are currently being formed to have a Venture Leadership Camporee. The national BSA has a Friday evening and Saturday leadership training course to help Venture age youth learn teambuilding skills, communication skills, and relationship skills and much more. We are currently looking for someone to chair this event and recruit a staff. The program is already in the leadership course manual. All we need our volunteers to conduct the program. If you would like more information or have an interest in doing this outstanding leadership course for the Venture youth of the Chief Okemos Council please contact John Hogg at [johogg@bsaemail.org](mailto:johogg@bsaemail.org) or 517-321-9400 x104

## 2009 Boundary Waters Canoe Adventure

Sign up now for this adventure of a lifetime. Go canoeing in some of the most pristine wilderness areas of the boundary waters of northern Minnesota and Ontario Canada. A Chief Okemos Council High Adventure group is being formed now, lead by Tom Skelton.

Go to <http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org/camping/> for more information and to sign up.

**Space is limited so sign up today!**

## 200 Free Tickets are available for Scouts

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodcarvers-Wood Carving Show and Competition has free tickets available to the first 200 Scouts. It is Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas School Gym, Alton Rd. in East Lansing. The show includes exhibits, chip carving, caricatures sculptures, wildlife, decoys, relief carvings, wood burning, door prizes, more. Come and see some of the most amazing woodcarvings you will ever see. For free tickets stop in at the Chief Okemos Scout Shop!

## Revised Boy Scout requirements for 2008

The U.S. Scouting Service Project has gone through the 2008 BSA requirements book and posted the changes for 2008 on their web site at <http://usscouts.org/advance/changes/advchanges08.asp>

There are changes in:

REVISED RANK REQUIREMENTS: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class  
REVISED MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENT: Backpacking, First-aid, Graphic Arts, Hiking, Metalwork, Sculpture, Water Sports, Wilderness Survival



# Summer Camp 2008 Adventures on the High Seas!

## 2008 Parent and Son Adventure Camps

Enjoy the weekend with your son! This camp is designed so that an adult and child work and play together in the great outdoors. Come and go swimming, boating, participate in shooting sports, camp out and enjoy our 600+ acre Boy Scout Camp!

*Northwoods Scout Reservation Friday through Sunday June 20- 21, 2008*

## Webelos Overnight Camp

Webelos Overnight Camp at Camp Kiwanis is for boys who have just graduated from the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The program is geared toward Webelos advancements and interests. Come and earn Webelos advancements and play games, do shooting sports, crafts and challenge yourself to climb the 35 foot climbing tower!

*Camp Kiwanis Friday through Sunday July 18-20, 2008*

## Cub Scout Day Camp

Four days of pure day camp fun! Day camps are all held during the day from 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday. Come out and do teambuilding games, BB guns, archery, crafts and earn advancements!

*Camp Kiwanis  
June 23-26, 2008*

*Fitzgerald Park  
July 21-24, 2008*

*Holiday Haven GS Camp*

*Camp Kiwanis  
Aug 11-14, 2008*



## Pushcar Grand Prix 2008 May 3, 2008

Mark your calendars and start planning to enter your Grand Prix Pushcar!

Sprint Races, Lap Races, Obstacle Course Races, Relay Races!

Trophies awarded to the top three teams in each division.

**REGISTRATION FORM AND INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE  
VIA OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CHIEFOKEMOSBSA.ORG](http://WWW.CHIEFOKEMOSBSA.ORG)!**

## Pictures from the 2007 Pushcar Grand Prix



Jason Kerschke  
Lodge Staff Advisor  
517-321-9400 X106  
jkerschk@bsamail.org

## GABE-SHI-WIN-GI-JI-KENS #374

### ARROW CORP 5



**The March Brotherhood Weekend** is scheduled for March 28-30<sup>th</sup> at Camp Kiwanis. All lodge members are encouraged to attend. This event is a great opportunity to work on your brotherhood requirements even if you have not been in long enough to complete your conversion. Brotherhood and Vigil Honor members also get a valuable opportunity to refresh their understanding and commitment to the OA. The cost of the event is \$10 for members and \$20 if you are going to convert to brotherhood. We hope to see you all there. Together we can have a great start towards achieving Quality Lodge status again.

**Section Conclave is coming soon.** Now is a great time to mark your calendars for the weekend of April 25-27, 2008. The cost is \$35 and includes a patch, t-shirt, and all your meals for the weekend. The Lodge will travel to beautiful Camp Greilick in Traverse City to share in training, fun, and fellowship with the other lodges in our Section. This is the best event of the year. Check the Lodge website for registration information.

**Attention everyone, the ArrowCorps.5 Program is almost full!** This is probably one of your last chances to be a part of scouting history. For those people who are still interested in attending this once-in-a-lifetime event, please contact Jason at the council office immediately. To reserve your spot please obtain a registration form from the Lodge website and submit it with a \$100 deposit to the Council Service Center. Make Checks payable to: "Chief Okemos Council" and write ArrowCorps.5 on the memo line. The five dates and locations are listed below. Those in bold have been chosen by our Lodge for groups to attend. Check the Lodge website at [www.gabe374.org](http://www.gabe374.org) for more details and information.

**June 7-14, 2008 – Mark Twain National Forest – Missouri**

June 14-21, 2008 – Manti-La Sal National Forest – Utah

**June 21-28, 2008 – George Washington and Jefferson National Forest – Virginia**

July 12-19, 2008 – Shasta-Trinity National Forest – California

July 26-August 2, 2008 – Bridger-Teton National Forest - Wyoming

### Lodge Calendar

Mar. 1 – OA Winter Banquet (Ojibwas District) – **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Mar. 2 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00

Mar. 28-30 – OA Brotherhood Weekend – Camp Kiwanis

Mar. 29 – ONE DAY of SERVICE

Apr. 1 – ArrowCorps.5 Remaining Balance Due

Apr. 11-13 – OA Northwoods Campfire Bowl Project – Northwoods Scout Reservation

Apr. 13 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00

Apr. 25-27 – Section C-2B Conclave – Camp Greilick – Traverse City

May 4 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00

May 16-18 – OA Call-outs at Spring Camporees

May 30-June 1 – OA Spring Ordeal – Northwoods Scout Reservation – **NOTE DATE**

#### **CHANGE**

June-July – OA Call-outs and Brotherhood Conversions at Northwoods Summer Camp

June 7-14 – ArrowCorps.5 – Mark Twain National Forest – Missouri

June 14-21 – ArrowCorps.5 – Manti-La Sal National Forest – Utah

June 21-28 – ArrowCorps.5 – George Washington and Jefferson National Forest – Virginia

July 12-19 – ArrowCorps.5 – Shasta-Trinity National Forest – California

July 26-Aug. 2 – ArrowCorps.5 – Bridger-Teton National Forest - Wyoming

**Unit Elections** for the year 2008 are here.

Now is the time for your unit to sign-up and have an election. Unit Election request forms can be picked-up at the Scout office.

Remember, the Lodge asks for six weeks advance notice so that they can plan accordingly. If you have questions please call a member of the Lodge Key – 3.



## It's great to know that it is never too late for a boy to

**join Scouting.** As we begin another great year of scouting remember that recruiting can and should be a year-round goal. Now is a great time to schedule a Spring recruitment event for your Pack or Troop so that new boys can join and then participate in the great Summer programs ahead. Every activity that you do could impact a new boy and get him started on his trail to Eagle. Please encourage all boys in your Packs and Troops to invite their friends to join Scouting. For those Packs and Troops that continue to have new boys join their ranks please remember to turn in the new applications as soon as possible. This is very important for several reasons: **Unregistered boys are not covered by the BSA accident and liability insurance and all unregistered boys are ineligible to receive advancement.** If you have questions please call Jason Kerschke at 321-7278 ext. 106.

**Attention all Packs and Troops.** Now is the time to take a close look at the many Summer Camping opportunities available and then sign-up your Pack or Troop for Summer Camp, Day Camp, or a Parent & Son Weekend. This year is sure to be one to remember as the various camp staffs have all planned a fantastic program that you won't want to miss. These camps are filling up fast, so don't hesitate to get your reservation in today!

**The District Volunteer Recognition Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Olivet College.** This event offers a relaxing opportunity to share in fun and fellowship as we honor the best scouting volunteers in our District. Now is the perfect time to nominate people for Cub Scouter of the Year, Boy Scouter of the Year, Scouting Family of the Year, and the District Award of Merit. This is also a great time for individuals to apply for the numerous adult leader training awards or to submit for veteran recognition for his/her many years of service to scouting. For more information contact Jim Welling at 543-6031 or Jason at the Council Service Center.

**Attention all GM employees!** Did you know that your volunteer time is worth \$250! That's right, if you spend 50 hours or more of your time volunteering, GM will give \$250 to the local council to support scouting. What is great is that you can do this every calendar year. All we need is your help in receiving these funds. Just go to your personnel/human resources office and request the form for the GM Plus Program. Fill out the form and send it to the council office where we will verify the information and then return the form in exchange for a \$250 contribution. This program is a great way for volunteers to help scouting financially at no expense to you the employee. It also helps to build a strong relationship between GM and Scouting.

This is a **Special thanks** to those units who have already had their 2008 FOS presentation. So far the district has raised over \$6000 to help support scouting. If your unit has not scheduled a presentation yet, please plan to have one by April. Our District wants to lead the way by being one of the first to achieve our FOS goal in 2008. Together we can all contribute toward reaching our financial goal of \$31,500, which will help keep our District and the Council strong. Contact Jason at 321-7278 ext.106 or e-mail him at [jkerschk@bsamail.org](mailto:jkerschk@bsamail.org) to schedule your presentation today.

## District Calendar

Mar. 6– District Committee Meeting – 7:00  
Mar. 13 – District Roundtable and District Commissioner's Meeting – 7:00  
Mar. 27 – Mawanjidiwin District Volunteer Recognition Night  
Apr. 3 – District Committee Meeting – 7:00  
Apr. 10 – District Roundtable and District Commissioner's Meeting – 7:00  
May 1 – District Committee Meeting – 7:00  
May 8 – District Roundtable and District Commissioner's Meeting – 7:00  
May 16-18 – Mawanjidiwin Spring Camporee

Jason Kerschke  
District Executive  
517-321-9400 X106  
[jkerschk@bsamail.org](mailto:jkerschk@bsamail.org)

## District Committee

District Chair

Vacant

District Commissioner

Bill Hull

517-627-2439

Vice Chair of Program

Chuck Rabey

517-543-3295

Activities Chair

Tom Baker

517-663-4315

Cub Scout Activities Chair

Bob Morrison

517-543-2486

Membership Chair

Vacant

Finance Chair

Vacant

Boy Scout Training Chair

Tom Watson

517-543-2995

Cub Scout Training Chair

Kevin Nichols

517-543-3048

Advancement Chair

Jim Welling—517-543-6031

Outdoor & Camp Public Relations Chair

Joe Wright

517-647-7123

Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner

Mike Hammond

517-645-2628

Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner

Angel Fulkerson

517-541-0740

Popcorn Chair

Bernadine Henley

517-694-5275

MAWANJIDIWIN



District Questions  
517-321-9400 X104  
johogg@bsamail.org

**District Executive:** Kathy Grost, the Migisin District Executive for the last 3 years has accepted a new Scouting position in Reno, Nevada. Kathy did an outstanding job with her knowledge and enthusiasm for Scouting in the Migisin district. We are currently looking for someone to fill this position. Minimum requirement is a 4 year college degree in any field. Please contact John Hogg for more information.

### District Committee

#### Chairperson

Jim Gunther  
989-224-6137

#### Activities Chair

Vacant

#### Advancement Chair

Richard Vsetula  
517-487-6528

#### Camping Chair

Dave Mongson  
517-374-6599

#### Finance Chair

Vacant

#### Membership Chair

Vacant

#### Training Chairs

Larry & Cassie Proctor  
989-224-8422

#### Boy Scout Roundtable Chair

Tyler Baker

#### Cub Scout Roundtable Chair

Suzanne Brenner

#### Commissioner

Joseph Scarane

### District Calendar

March 6 — District Committee/Commissioner Meeting  
March 13 — District Roundtable  
March 24 — Merit Badge Blitz part 2  
April 3 — District Committee/Commissioner Meeting  
April 10 — District Roundtable  
April 19 — Scouting for Food Collection Day  
May 3 — Pushcar Grand Prix

### Spring Product Sale

The spring popcorn and candles sales began on February 29. Back by popular demand is the "Send a Scout to Camp Promotion" A Scout can earn his way to Day Camp, Parent Son Camp, and Northwoods Boy Scout Camp free of charge or at half price. Sell both popcorn and candles and earn a higher commission! Go to <http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org/councilresources/popcorn/> for more details. Sale ends on April 24<sup>th</sup> so you still have time to sign up and make money for your unit activities.

### Training

Cub Scout leaders and Boy Scout leaders have many opportunities for training in March and April. March 15<sup>th</sup> is a big training day for leaders needing New Leaders Essentials and Cub Scout trainings. See page 3 for additional info!

### 2008 Pushcar Grand Prix May 3rd

Gentleman start you engines! 83 teams participated last year. Dust your car off or build a new model. Go to [www.chiefokemosbsa.org](http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org) for more details and to register.

### Scouting for Food is on April 19th

Every year Packs, Troops, and Crews of the Migisin District help feed the hungry and needy. This year's Scouting for Food drive has been moved to April because of the Easter holiday is March. Come to the March Roundtable and mark your area on the Migisin District Scouting for Food map and order your door tags.

### *Friends of Scouting (FOS): Migisins 2008 District Goal is \$38,500*

#### FAMILY CAMPAIGN

The annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is Scouting's annual fund-raiser. Each year we make a presentation for each Pack, Troop, and Crew asking parents to make a contribution to support the Chief Okemos Council. *Last year above 90% of the active Units in our District did a family FOS.* We have had two years of very successful campaigns. Every Pack, Troop and Crew in Migisins District receives the same programming, and the same level of service. (I will add that for the most part they are all in the same economic circumstances.) ***If you are not planning an FOS you are asking all the other Units in our District to pay for your Program Services from the Council. It's a matter of fairness.***

#### COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

The community campaign is an opportunity for local businesses, corporate givers, and community minded citizens to support Scouting. Community campaigns need to be established in each of the Migisins District communities. The only way to achieve a successful community effort is with the assistance of you Scouters living in these towns. Your help in identifying businesses that may be willing to lend financial support is crucial to us getting the kind of corporate financial aid we need. Any referrals you can provide help in our achieving our goals.



Clarence Smith  
 District Director  
 517-321-9400 X109  
 clsmith@bsamail.org

Neil Kentner  
 District Executive  
 517-321-9400 X110  
 nkentner@bsamail.org

**Ojibwas District  
 Recognition Dinner**

David Merchant,  
 Dist. Advancement  
 Committee Chairman

**COME AND HONOR OUR  
 MOST DEDICATED LEADERS**

All Scouters have the opportunity to recognize and honor a select few Scouters who go above and beyond the call of duty! District Scouter honors signify work "above and beyond" the norm. Sign up to join us on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at the Masonic Temple in Okemos, 2175 Hamilton. Use the flyer on the Ojibwas web page to register, or stop in at the Council Service Center.

Important! -All Troops and Packs should now have their Volunteer Recognition Packets! Please use them! **WE CAN'T RECOGNIZE TOP VOLUNTEERS IF YOU DON'T NOMINATE THEM!** Show your appreciation for your friends who make Scouting fun for your son! Bringing Scouting to boys is what we honor!

**Friends of Scouting  
 Campaign 2008**

Dick Stilwill, District Chairman,  
 Ojibwas District

Last year was a great year for our FOS campaign. Ojibwas District went over its goal (again!) and supported the Council in the best possible way, by making sure the Council could continue to support our packs, troops, and crews. This year will be more of the same, an exciting year for FOS as we pledge to do the same and more. With your help we can do our part in supporting the Chief Okemos Council and continue to provide the best program to our boys and girls.

Due to an extremely positive reaction to our "Gold Unit" challenge last year we are repeating it again this year. **FREE RANK PATCHES FOR ALL YOUR YOUTH FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER.** To qualify you must meet all the criteria: Identify an FOS Chairman for your unit and schedule your unit's presentation between January and March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2008.; Have at least a 10% increase over 2007; Return all cards to the presenter the night of the presentation.; Designate a volunteer to contact all families not present within two weeks of your unit's presentation.

Results to date: As of 2/19, these units have already earned the coveted "Gold Unit" designation for 2008: They are: troops 2, 141, 411 and 779, and Pack 162. Way to Go!

**District Committee**

Chair  
 Dr. Richard Stilwill  
 517-349-9300

Advancement Chair  
 Dave Merchant  
 517-351-0360

Advancement Vice-Chair  
 Noah Belanger  
 517-655-4450

Camping Chair  
 Tom Skelton  
 517-393-9405

Commissioner  
 Burton Bargerstock  
 517-351-3202

Popcorn Chair  
 Jeanette Hensler .  
 517-699-2382

Program Vice-Chair  
 Joe Pulver  
 517-676-6769

Public Relations Chair  
 Anne Marie Schneider

Venturing Chair  
 Mike Gurecki  
 517-655-1051

**District Activities Committee  
 District and Council  
 Activities Coming up**

**Webelos Woods**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>**

All Webelos Scouts should attend this Council-wide event at Camp Kiwanis. Our Course Director Pam Nickelson is bringing some great new ideas to insure your boys will have a GREAT time! See the flyer at Chiefokemosbsa.org.

**MARCH**

1. Woodbadge Breakfast, Camp Kiwanis
6. Commissioner Staff, 6:00 p.m., Peckham Ind., 2511 N. MLK Dr., Lansing  
 District Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Peckham Industries, 2511 N. MLK Dr.
13. Cub Scout/ Boy Scout Leader's Roundtable, 7:00p.m., Chippewa MS, Okemos
27. Volunteer Recog Banquet, Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos
21. Good Friday-Closed
23. Easter

**APRIL**

3. Commissioner Staff, 6:00 p.m., Peckham Industries, 2511 N. MLK Dr., Lansing  
 District Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Peckham Industries, 2511 N. MLK Dr.
10. Cub Scout & Boy Scout Leader's Roundtable, 7:00p.m., Chippewa MS, Okemos
17. Spring Popcorn final orders due
19. Scouting for Food Service Project



## District Membership Committee IT'S ALREADY TIME TO RECRUIT!

2007 was a fair year for membership. We did not increase in overall membership, but we did increase our density, which allowed us to be a Quality District for the second straight year! Thanks to all of our units who worked hard to provide a quality program for our Scouts! Remember that new membership happens all year long! Cub Scout Spring Roundups, especially for recruiting new Tiger Cubs, should be scheduled in April and May. Now is the time to plan those Roundups. Boy Scout Troops can no longer depend on just bringing in Webelos Scouts to keep their numbers up. Many great recruiting ideas have been talked about at Roundtables and this spring is a great time to implement these ideas. The same is true for the Venture program. Let's make 2008 another banner year for scouting in Ojibwas District. Fair warning – YOU WILL BE CONTACTED about your unit's plans! We want to help in any way we can.

### ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE FINDING ENOUGH ADULTS TO RUN THE PROGRAM?

WE WILL BE ROLLING OUT THE NEW PARENT INITIATIVE THIS SPRING!

Whatever the reason (and we don't ever profess to be the one's with all the right answers) it is still true that when we recruit more boys into the pack there are more adults who will each take on part of the job. The reality is that small Cub Scout Packs take about the same amount of time to administer to as large packs - but the large packs have more adults to help and so the jobs become easier - not harder. The new parent initiative will help you identify, recruit, and retain more adult leaders! Watch for more information on this exciting program!

## District Camping Committee Camps and Things!

Tom Skelton, Camping Committee Chairman, Ojibwas District

### Spring Popcorn Sale-Scouts go to Summer Camp FREE

We know, we know! – This is not a Camping Committee thing – but going to camp is! How about this? Parents can close their wallets and still have their boys go to camp! It's not too late to start selling popcorn in the Chief Okemos Council Spring Popcorn Sale.

**Back by popular demand is the "Send a Scout to Camp Sale"** A Scout can earn his way to Day Camp, Parent Son Camp, Webelos Resident Camp, and Northwoods Boy Scout Camp free of charge or at half price. Log on to the Chief Okemos Council website, [www.chiefokemosbsa.org](http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org), for more information. This is a great way for your boys to earn their own way to camp. And this year will be a banner year for all Chief Okemos Council camps. All of our camping staffs have been hard at work for months now trying to bring the best they can offer to your boys when they attend any of our camps.

**Webelos Resident Camp is for boys who are right now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.** As of this summer your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys will already have been promoted into Webelos Scouts and your 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys will be 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos. They will want to be there! This camp is looking like the premiere event of the summer.

**Cub Scout Day Camp is a growing camp!** Every year we have more and more boys who are attending and the reason is that it's such a great experience! Our Camp Directors are as good as any I have worked with in more that 20 years of Day Camps! They do a GREAT job and your boys are better for it!

**Parent & Son Camp is still one of the best weekends you could possibly spend with your son.** Sign up soon as this camp fills fast and you wouldn't want to disappoint you son would you?

**Attention all GM employees!** Did you know that your volunteer time is worth \$250! That's right, if you spend 50 hours or more of your time volunteering, GM will give \$250 to the local council to support scouting. What is great is that you can do this every calendar year. All we need is your help in receiving these funds. Just go to your personnel/human resources office and request the form for the GM Plus Program. Fill out the form and send it to the council office where we will verify the information and then return the form in exchange for a \$250 contribution. This program is a great way for volunteers to help scouting financially at no expense to you the employee. It also helps to build a strong relationship between GM and scouting. For more information contact Clarence at 321-9400 ext. 109.

# Spring Recruitment 2008

This spring we have some exciting news about Spring Recruitment

## GO NUTS WITH SPRING RECRUITMENT

Pack, Troops, and Crews who do spring recruitment can:

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

### Tour Oldsmobile Park-Home of the Lugnuts

Tour the locker room, go to press boxes, visit the private suites, learn all about the operations of the ball park behind the stands. There will be Lugnut Door Prizes (hats, balls, T-shirts), meet the players, visit with BIG LUG! Get ready to attend Scout Day with the Lugnuts on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### Attend the 2008 Lugnuts Overnight Campout Game.

Everyone is invited this year! Come to the game, see fireworks after the game, campout on the field and watch a movie on the big screen! Sleep is optional. Packs, Troops and Crews who do a spring recruitment get in for \$11. That includes your game ticket, sleepover pass, and breakfast in the morning. Units who do not recruit pay \$14 each! Units who reach the spring recruitment goals are guaranteed to get tickets! This will sell out!



## Do a spring recruitment and don't miss these exciting events!

**To qualify to attend the Oldmobile Park Tour and get the discount for the Overnight game you must:**

1. Packs-must recruit 5 new Tiger Cubs (kindergartners) or recruit a total of 10 new Scouts of any rank.
2. Troops-must recruit 2 new Boy Scouts (non Webelos Crossovers)
3. Crews-must recruit 2 new Ventures

**Start Planning your spring recruitment today!**

**Contact your Unit Commissioner or District Executive for assistance for a successful spring recruitment!!!!**

## Spring 2008 Chief Okemos Council Product Sale

**New! This spring we are adding an additional fundraising opportunity for every Pack, Troop, Crew, and Post!**

Every year the Chief Okemos Council offers the opportunity to sell popcorn in the spring. This spring's sale goes from February 29<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to help raise extra money for your Pack, Troop, Crew, or Post!

The spring sale is also a great opportunity for all your Scouts to attend Cub Scout Camps and Northwoods Scout Camp FREE of charge. A special bonus commission rate is paid to every Scout to pay for summer camps. We have two new popcorn products to sell this spring

NEW! Earn more money by participating in the Chief Okemos Council Candle Sale. These top of the line candles are soy based with long burning lead free wicks that burn for over 100 hours. Sell popcorn and candles and earn a bonus commission. Go to <http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org/councilresources/popcorn/> for more information.

# Scout Shop

## Your Art, My Wall Contest

### Calling all artists!!!

The Chief Okemos Council will be holding a drawing contest for all Boy Scouts. Your submission should either showcase your artistic ability or be a concept for a mural. The winner will be designing and painting a mural in the Scout Shop.

We did not forget about the Cub Scouts! Cub Scouts will be competing for a chance to get their artwork displayed in the Scout Shop and in the Signals Newsletter.

All submissions can be turned in to Brandon in the Scout Shop.

## Good Luck!!!

Brandon Shaw  
Scout Shop Manager  
517-321-9400 X112  
brshaw@bsamail.org

### Monthly Inspiration

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

~Mark Twain

### Chocolate Popcorn!!!

Supplies are going fast! **All chocolate popcorn is half off.** Unfortunately, we have limited supplies, so don't get left behind! **Remember:** Chocolate will not be sold during the spring sale.

Due to an overwhelming amount of suggestions the Scout Shop hours will be changing. We will now be opening at 10:00a and closing at 5:30p. Also the Saturday hours will be changing. The first Saturday of every month we will be open from 10:00a to 1:00p. These changes will be effective **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Also notices will be posted in the Scout Shop.

### Attention:

The new hours are as follows:

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Monday - Friday**

**10:00a – 5:30p**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

**10:00a – 1:00p**

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please know that the Scout Shop hours are only changing to better serve our customers.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact Brandon in the Scout shop at (517) 321-9400 ext. 112 or via email at Brshaw@bsamail.org

**Committed to Building Character through Community Service**



Boy Scouts of America

Chief Okemos council BSA#271

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www.chiefokemosbsa.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Dated Material

