

Great Eastern District "Roundtable Bullets"

October 2011

Roundtable Bullets are a collection of announcements and information and while every effort is made to ensure accuracy; errors are possible. Please point out any needed corrections to me at: dennis_gleason@alumni.nd.edu.

- **Next Roundtable session:** Thursday Nov. 3, Second Congregational Church (corner of Conant St. and Rt. 97). 7-8:45 PM.
 - November Theme: "OUR BEST ACTIVITY". In the past, this has been one of our best received themes. Think about an activity that really worked for your unit, and share it with your fellow Scouters. Bring information on how other units can replicate your experience. AND hear what others have done so you might add to your program. We will devote our breakout sessions to these discussions.
 - We will have a presentation on Scouting's Religious awards from the Rev. Sigmund Podlozny Jr., the Northern Light District Chaplain
 - Either in November or December the Boy Scout breakout session will begin with a presentation from our OA Scouts on this year's elections process
- Need help with your program/calendar planning? Try these resources:
 - Cub Packs: Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide, start at Scouting.org, click the Cub Scouts Link, Click the button for New Delivery Method, then follow the link to the guide; or from the Cub Scout page, scroll down to the Adult Leader grouping on the left side and select the appropriate resource.
 - Boy Scout Troops: Troop Program Features, Vol. I-III. Start at Scouting.org, click the Boy Scout Link, select the program features under resources on the left side of the page.
 - Venturing: Start at Scouting.org, click the Venturing Link, select the venturing resources link on the left side of the page.
- Some notes and follow up concerning October's Social Media Training:
 - Any unit using or considering using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or other social media for communications should review the BSA policy for social media, found on line at: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Marketing/Resources/SocialMedia.aspx>
 - All units with web sites should review the BSA unit web site policy, found at: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Marketing/Resources/UnitWeb.aspx>
 - The following disclaimer is required to appear on unit Social Media sites, and while not specifically required on unit web sites, prudence dictates that it should appear there as well:
"This site is the personal [reference your specific social media channel] of [your name or organization] and is reflective only of my (our) personal views, thoughts, and opinions. This site does not have the endorsement of the Boy Scouts of America, and it is not an official communication channel of the Boy Scouts of America."
 - Questions were raised concerning the prohibition of advertising on unit web sites, and specifically on the use of ScoutLander for web site hosting. I contacted James Johnson, listed as the contact for ScoutLander. He is an Eagle Scout, and does not wish to encourage units to violate any BSA policies. ScoutLander has not as yet placed any advertising on unit sites, so there is no problem to date. However, they have reserved the right to do so. The exact wording of the BSA policy on advertising is quoted below:
"Our third concern is **commercialism**. We don't allow ads on council sites. We recognize that "free" Web services often used to create unit-level sites may contain advertising. This practice may reflect poorly on the Scouting brand, and should be avoided. A more serious concern would be sites that engage in any fund-raising activities not

Great Eastern District "Roundtable Bullets"

October 2011

previously approved by their local council. Any independent sales, solicitation, OR collection of donations is prohibited by our bylaws and charter agreements." Note that the policy says "should be avoided", and stops short of a prohibition. Therefore, the BSA does not *prohibit* units from using web hosting services, like ScoutLander, which may contain advertising. I recommend that any unit which chooses to use such sites ensure that someone is monitoring the advertising present to ensure that it does not "reflect poorly on the Scouting brand."

- ***DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS:*** We are targeting the switch from our current yahoo group method of communication to the Council's Constant Contact for December. If you received these bullets, you are a member of the district yahoo group, and should be a member of the Great Eastern District Constant Contact Distribution. You can check your status, or sign up as follows:
 - Go to the Council webpage www.yccbsa.org
 - Towards the bottom of the page, to the right, look for "Join Our Mailing List"
 - Enter your email address
 - If you are registered it will confirm and ask if you want to update your profile
 - If you are not registered, you will be asked to create a profile. Within the profile you can request what type of information you want to receive. **Make sure you select Great Eastern District.**
 - You can "opt out" at any time.
- ***Charter Renewal Packages were distributed to units with December renewal dates at the October roundtable.*** If you do not have yours, contact our District Director (lmoriarty@bsaemail.org) to arrange to get your package.
- ***Membership:*** Did you meet your targets for signing up new Scouts (and Adults)? If not, consider staging a "bring a friend" activity. Plan it well and consider offering some incentive to Scouts who bring a friend. "Bring a friend" activities are a good way to increase membership.
 - ***New Cub Scout Activity: FUN WITH SON AT LONETREE. Sat. Nov. 5.*** A four hour program at our Cub Scout Summer Camp for any boy joining Cub Scouting during our membership events in 2011. No charge, pick either morning or afternoon sessions, pre-registration required -- register with the calendar link at yccbsa.org.
 - ***Adults who change positions MUST submit an adult application for the new position.*** This can be done during the charter renewal process, start planning for it now.
 - *This is a CORI year, new CORI forms must be submitted, start this process early!*
- ***District Nominating Committee:*** The District Nominating Committee is seeking referrals for additional volunteers. Please send any suggestions for Commissioners to our District Commissioner, Charlie Cochrane (CCochrane@cochraneventilation.com), and for other positions to the District Nominating Chair, Mike Vicari (mvicari@berry.com).
- ***Advancement:***
 - Life-to-Eagle Seminar, 10/29/2011, sponsored by T3, Manchester-by-the-Sea. Contact: GEDAdvancement@yahoo.com. There were still 10 openings as of 10-12.
 - Merit Badge Counselors who have maintained CONTINUOUS registration are "grandfathered" for MB counselor training, but must stay current for youth protection training. HOWEVER, if a break in registration occurs, they must complete MB Counselor training before they can re-register. All new counselors need training.

Great Eastern District "Roundtable Bullets"
October 2011

- **Friends of Scouting Campaign Incentives:** *See the September Bullets for the procedure to "collect" on your incentive.*
- **Tour Plans:** As you are firming up your calendar, *remember that tour plans must be filed with the council office at least 21 days in advance of the trip.* The tour plan form and council policy on requirements are available on the council website, www.yccbsa.org.
- **Health and Medical Forms:** Remember recent BSA policy revisions require that *Parts A and B of the Health and Medical Form Must be completed at least annually by participants at all Scouting events.* This health history, parental/guardian informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement, and talent release statement is to be completed by the participant and parents/guardians. A member of the Unit Committee should be designated to be the record holder. *Due to privacy concerns, forms should NOT be transmitted electronically.* **If your unit does not have health/medical records on file for all Scouts and Leaders, you are behind and should address this right away.**
- **Adult Leader Training:**
 - Training events are listed on the calendar at yccbsa.org.
 - Upcoming Events - contact District Training Chair, Sherry Rust (cherrust@aol.com) with questions, sign up on-line using the calendar at YCCBSA.org:
 - **Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Skills** required for all Boy Scout Leaders who completed Boy Scout Leader Specific training outside the ShuShuGa program, Oct. 29, 8-4:30, Lonetree Scout Reservation. To sign up, contact Sherry Rust (cherrust@aol.com)
 - District Staff and Commissioner Training, Nov. 12, Lawrence Technical High School, 8-3. Register on-line
 - Great Eastern District Leader Training Expo, Nov. 19, 8-1:30, Holten Richmond Middle School Danvers. Training to be offered includes all Cub Scout Leader Position Specific training, Troop Committee Challenge, Weather Hazards, Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense, Venture Youth Leader, Den Chief and Red Cross First Aid with Adult and Pediatric CPR (Red Cross course limited to the first 10 who sign up, cost \$35 for certification). Register on-line
- **National Summertime Pack Awards** were distributed at roundtable *if your pack met the requirements, submit the application!*
- **Activities:**
 - Fall Camporee - October 21, 22, 23 Lonetree Scout Reservation; Theme "Mountain Man Competition". *Remember, units must either pre-register or file a tour plan.*
 - Klondike Derby January 27, 28, 29, Endicott Park, Danvers
 - RESERVE THE DATE -- **MASSJAM: October 12-13-14 2013**
- **POPCORN -- The BSA's Unit and Council Fund Raiser.**
 - Last day to return Show-n-sell/show-n-deliver popcorn: Nov. 11
 - Take Order Popcorn orders and prize orders due: Nov. 13
 - Show-n-sell/show-n-deliver popcorn payments due: Nov. 15
 - Take Order Popcorn Distribution: Dec 1-2
 - Final payments due: Dec 16
 - Questions: rdsarkmail@yahoo.com