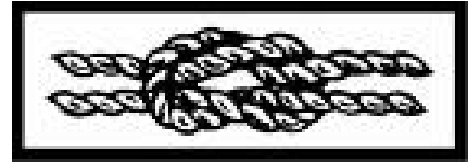


Newsletter for Chehaw Council of Boy Scouts of America

Square Knot Square Knot

May 2009 Edition
Website: www.swgabsa.org



As we move into a year that is going to be very difficult in a lot of ways, there are some bright spots. One of those bright spots is Scouting. Our Chehaw Council is a great place to be in 2009. As the ominous clouds loom overhead and we brace for the storm you can be sure that for Southwest Georgia, the Chehaw Council is your safe haven. The calendar is loaded and the programs we offer will continue to bring some sense of normalcy to the lives of our young Scouts. The new Scouting Service Center (aka scout office) is open and almost fully staffed – a big thank you to all that made this possible. As with the National office, the focus is on supporting our Scout units. The economic forecasts all seem to be consistent in that they say we should start seeing improvements late in 2009, but really notice it in 2010. Hmm ... interesting that 2010 is also the year of Scouting's 100th anniversary. We're all part of a great family and I know you agree or you would not be reading The Square Knot. Our family spread may cover 17 counties and a lot of us might not have met each other, but there is no denying that we have a superb collection of Scouts, Scouters and other volunteers, and professional staff. Thank you for all that you do!

YIS,
Joe Najjar
Board President



From the Commissioner

2009 promises to be a year that will see us as an organization that will experience significant prosperity and growth. Scouting is and will always be a guiding force in shaping the youth of today and turning them into becoming great leaders for this area and the country.

The office of Commissioner is standing ready to ensure that every unit, and every child that is registered in scouting in the Chehaw Council has the opportunity to be part of a quality program that is second to none.

As we are small in numbers at this time, we are in the process of making great strides in supporting our program. We are in the process of assigning commissioners to units, starting with the units that are in need of extra support, but we are here for everyone.

I encourage everyone to log onto www.scouting.org/myscouting and create an account so that you will have access to all of the latest training and updates.

As your Council Commissioner, I need the support of every registered volunteer in the council. Some of the program changes that are coming from national will have an effect on everyone, but I believe they will make us stronger. We will be sharing this info with you at roundtables and other meetings.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you this year, and together we will accomplish our on common goal: to provide a quality program for all available youth in Southwest Georgia.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime.

Bennie Hall
Council Commissioner

Dear Scouters:

What an interesting time we live in here in Southwest Georgia. As our community faces some challenges I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about what is going on here at your Chehaw Council.

First, let me tell you about your new Lem Griffin Scout Service Center. We plan to have more inventory at our Scout Shop, and with our new computer system we will now know when we are low on a certain item so we can make sure that we keep key items in stock at all times. The service center is also an education facility, capable of group training or individual training as needed. If a new leader comes in and needs help we will be able to help them in many ways from learning how to set up a "myscouting" account to youth protection training.

Second, let me tell you about our continued efforts at serving units in the field. We have brought on a new District Executive in January, her name is Jade Powell, she will be serving the Throneteeska District. We also have a new Trading Post Manager who will be working full time to provide customer support and service to our front end operations. Our trading post manager is Mrs Sherry Hochstetler. Our work continues at building a stronger Commissioner staff thanks to the leadership of our Council Commissioner Bennie Hall.

Lastly, our most important area continued improvement, and adding additional needed programs for our youth. Thanks to the leadership of Paul Sumner and his band of program volunteers. We look to add some new programs such as National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) for our older boys, to Venturing training, to Cub Scout Day Camp in every District, and to more Baloo Weekends for our Cub Scout Families. These are only a few of the many programs and activities being added to serve every family and youth in our Council.

Technology is becoming a very important tool in helping our leaders get trained and staying relevant to our youth. Your Council and the National organization are moving at warp speed to help meet your needs and those of our youth. So as a leader try and keep up because our kids are leaving us in the dust on the many cool things they can do in the 21st century. And we here at the Chehaw Council plan to be there for this next generation of youth and families. So beam us up Scotty it is time for us to get busy at building the next generation of leaders in Southwest Georgia.

Thanks you for all you do for Scouting and our community.

Yours in Service,

Ray Allen
Scout Executive



Philmont:

Do you enjoy spending a few days in the great outdoors? Do you have the strength to climb 10,000 foot peaks? Are you up for the challenge of spending 10 days in the beautiful mountains of Northern New Mexico? If so, Philmont Scout Ranch is for you!

Chehaw Council has 7 slots open for adults and youth age 14 and older who hold the rank of first class or higher by the departure date to experience Scouting Paradise.

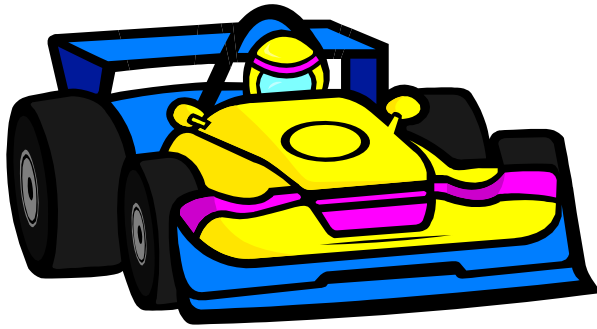
Just out side of Cimarron, New Mexico, Philmont has been the premier backpacking and outdoor experience location for decades. Ask anyone who has been before, they can tell you for sure if they climbed The Tooth of Time or Philmont Baldy, the largest mountains on the ranch. Ask anyone who has been, and they will surely tell you that Philmont was one of the greatest experiences they've had outdoors.

Of the 7 open crew spots, as many as two can be filled by adults. The other 5 are reserved for youth. All participants will have to meet Philmont's height/weight requirements. Cost to participate is \$650 per person, plus the cost of travel and extra spending money.

The crew will arrive at base camp June 8 and depart June 20, having spent 10 days in the back country. All treks are at least 50 miles long and include stops at either Philmont Baldy or The Tooth of Time. Along the trail the crew will have opportunities to rappell, learn mountain man survival, blacksmithing, black powder rifle shooting, fly fishing, fly tying, explore the wreckage of a World War II era B-24 bomber and other exciting experiences.

Philmont is one of the most exciting Scouting destinations in the world, and you are likely to run into crews from across all 50 states, Japan, England, Germany and many other foreign countries. If you are interested in joining the 2009 Chehaw Council Philmont Crew, contact Aaron Bensonhaver at the Chehaw Council Service Center at (229) 436-7226.

Aguila District



The Council Pine-wood Derby is scheduled for May 2, 2009 at the Albany Mall. It is all Open Class. For more information, contact Aaron at (229) 436-7226.



Thronateeska District



After 11 years as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, 17-year-old Matthew Linge-felt will soon reach the organization's highest honor - Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been working many years to become an Eagle Scout, acquiring different merit badges along the way such as First Aid and Swimming. His final requirement, which he recently completed, was his community service project. To

complete this, he reached out to a local organization, the Friends of the Cordele Carnegie Library.

The Friends of the Library accepts donations of used books, which it then resells at its monthly Used Book Sale. These monies are then used to purchase new books for library patrons to enjoy and to fund various projects. To facilitate the sale, the Used Book section, l

ocated on the lower level of the library, needed sturdier bookshelves to hold and display the donated books. As Matthew's project, he decided to construct and donate bookcases for this area, the first to complete his Eagle project, the others as a "thank you from the Boy Scouts" to this important organization dedicated to literacy in the community.

In completing this project, Matthew enlisted the help of friends, family and fellow members of Troop 270. They spent a total of 94 hours on the project, dedicating many nights and weekends to its completion. On January 13, the first bookcase was delivered to the library. Ms. Lori Holloway, president of the Friends of the Cordele Carnegie Library, accepted the bookshelf on behalf of the organization.

Matthew is the son of Robert and Michele Linge-felt of Arabi. He is also a home-school student. In the future, he plans to attend South Georgia Tech and to help out at Troop 270 as an adult leader.

Order of the Arrow



Sometimes, when one is a member of an organization that prides itself on devotion to such high ideals as “Service” and “self-denial”, it becomes all too easy to forget that people aren’t machines; too much work and too little play tends to leave people burnt out, and tired of service. This is especially true of teenagers and young adults, which (coincidentally) form the core of our membership in Immokalee Lodge. As such, the recent Winter PowWow was a great refresher, to remind the guys that, while the lodge still expects devotion and service from us all, our founding point of “Cheerfulness” is not left casually by the wayside.

The weekend began with Leadership Training for the Officers of the Lodge as well as a number of Ordeal and Brotherhood members on the Friday evening before Powwow. The boys who attended learned a great deal about the role of the OA Representatives, as well as the importance of Brotherhood membership conversion. To cap it all off, we had the training catered by Sbarro, the Italian Eatery!

Morning events began with Wixchixin, aka Rugby/Football/Soccer. As usual the Arrowmen quickly moved past the bizarre rules, and had a great time. The Dark Clan took a swift victory in this game, as well as the “Big Frisbee” Ultimate. As we broke for lunch, a few tell-tale drops of rain signaled the return of last year’s sworn enemy.

Scouts competed in Rollerball, Fire-Building, Min-Karts and Mini-Bikes, Every-Man-For-Himself Dodgeball, and finally the Obstacle Course...no one had downtime. The events in the evening wrapped up with a session of Scavenger Hunt, with five clued locations and five hidden.

At the end of the day (and after a delicious Bar-B-Que by Mr. Tim McRae) the points were tallied... with the winners clear. As far as the team totals were concerned, The Dark Clan had won the day. Individual winners were as follows: Alex Paulk came in first 1st Place and won a Sandisk Sansa Mp3 Player; Wesley Meadows was 1st Runner Up, and was awarded with a Youth (Competition-grade) football; finally, Cody Brienza was 2nd runner up and earned a Knife/Multi-tool Set.

Even though the rain cancelled the plans for Capture the Flag, no one can say that it wasn’t a great time. All reports were that the event was a success, and it is the Lodge’s sincere hope that the boys carry this message to the rest of the youth: Even though those in the OA work hard? We play hard too!



2010 National Scout Jamboree Celebrating 100 years of Boy Scouts



The Chehaw Council plans to take a contingent of **seventy-two (72) Scouts** from our Council to the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. These positions are available on a first-come, first serve basis. Those who register beyond the first seventy-two (72) Scouts will go on a waiting list and will be notified if a position becomes available.

Scouts must be at least First Class Scouts and 12 years old by July 1, 2010 and no older than 17 years old on July 1, 2010.

There is a \$100.00 deposit, so make your reservations NOW.

For more information, contact the Chehaw Council at (229) 436-7226

Welcome Aboard

There is a new face in the Chehaw Council. Her name is Jade Powell, the new District Executive for Thronateeska. Jade comes to us with previous scouting experience, Girl Scouts. She is adjusting well in her duties and is excited about being the newest member of the Chehaw Council.



Dates to Remember



May 2nd—Council Pinewood Derby/Work Weekend at camp

May 9th—District Committee Training & Basic Leader Training

May 11th—Golf Tournament

May 25th—Memorial Day. Office closed

Training

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Training is crucial in any Boy Scout setting. All leaders, assistant leaders, and any other adult involved with the day

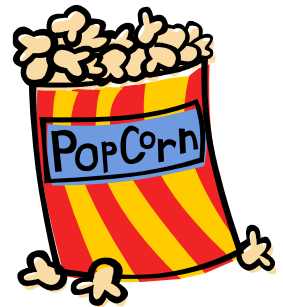
to day operations of the unit needs to be trained before any unit activity. This includes meetings, trips, and outings. Trainings are held throughout the calendar year. For more information on training or to schedule a training for your area, contact Jade Powell at qpowell@bsamail.org

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Training

Popcorn is still available for sale. If you or your troop is interested contact Aaron at (229) 436-7726.



Camp Info

Summer Camp is approaching soon. The Summer Camp brochure is available online or from your District Executive.

Chehaw Council Eagle Scouts of 2008



The Chehaw Council of Boy Scouts of America is proud to acknowledge the Eagle Scouts of 2008. You all have worked hard to achieve this great honor. Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors.

Mason Frierson—Troop 15
James Douglas—Troop 31
Patrick Cox—Troop 15
Thomas Godfrey—Troop 62
Ryan Landers—Troop 3
Brian Carter—Troop 260
Jeremy Kluball—Troop 210
Alan Herin—Troop 62
David Dubiansky—Troop 3
Val Sorensen—Troop 102
Jake Pittman—Troop 21
Justin Gilliam—Troop 3
Cameron Williams—Troop 8
Jacob Davis—Troop 3
Devon Larsen—Troop 102
Matthew Unruh—Troop 10
Michael Redding—Troop 149
Eric Millard—Troop 873
Matthew Sheorn—Troop 62
James DiPietro—Troop 3
Austin Anderson—Troop 62
James Atwater, III—Troop 62
Mason Larsen—Troop 102
Jordan Knighton—Troop 115



Welcome New Board Members



William Davis, District Chair for Choc-taw, Blakely

Wade Barr, District Chair for Thronateeska, Americus

James Herring, Tifton

Lad Jordan, Albany

Julian Price, Albany

Is your unit planning a camping trip? An outing? How about a unit meeting? If so, the Square Knot has a special place to capture your greatest unit memories. It is called the "Bragging Box." All that is needed is a picture of clear quality, a brief description of what event is taking place, and unit number. You can email the information to Jade Powell at gpowell@bsamail.org.

