



► Get ready for a Blue & Gold Banquet they won't forget. Check out supplies at the Robeson Scout Shop on page 3



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January/February 2013

# Prairiелands *Post*

Serving over 3,000 families in nine counties of east central Illinois and western Indiana

## Post Gets a New Look, New Schedule

Prairiелands Council's newsletter, the *Prairiелands Post*, is getting a fresh look and a new schedule for the new year. "With the explosion of electronic communication the focus on print media has quietly slipped into the background," says Scout Executive Tim Manard and *Post* editor. "But that isn't necessarily the right thing for everyone. A lot of our volunteers still like to have something they can carry with them for reference."

Manard says he is trying to brighten up the *Prairiелands Post* and make it more useful with a new look, more news and a change in publication schedule. "In the past we've tried to publish monthly and just couldn't keep up. Often times the *Post* came out after some of the things

promoted in the newsletter were over. Obviously that didn't work."

The new publication schedule will be bi-monthly covering two months of news and information. The *Post* will be distributed around the middle of the month prior; for example, the January-February edition will come out in mid-December.

The *Post* will still primarily be distributed through the council website at [www.prairiелandsbsa.org](http://www.prairiелandsbsa.org). Subscribers to the newsletter distribution list will be notified via e-mail when the *Post* is available on the website. Two copies will be mailed via US Mail to each unit; one to the Cubmaster/Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor and one to the Committee Chair.

## New Council Website to launch early 2013

The *Prairiелands Council* website is also getting an overhaul to start off the new year. Andy Roberts, volunteer webmaster has been working with new web designers to make the site more customer friendly. "We have a lot of different audiences coming to the website," says Roberts. "We have new families checking us out, leaders wanting information and handouts, parents needing forms for camperships, event registration and more." Roberts says it's not easy to meet all of those demands. Roberts says he believes we've found the right balance so that everyone can find the website useful.

"It's going to be a work in progress for while but we plan to launch right after the first of year," says Roberts. Council Staff member Glenn Overby will be serving as in-house website manager and is currently working on getting the site prepared to launch.

"We're hoping to take better advantage of connectivity to social media" according to Overby. "We want to see more activity on Facebook and we're setting up a Twitter account."

Keep checking in at [www.prairiелandsbsa.org](http://www.prairiелandsbsa.org) for the new site to appear.

## Council Annual Business Meeting; January 28, 2013

The *Prairiелands Council* Annual Business Meeting will be held on Monday, January 28, 2013, 5:45 pm at New Horizon United Methodist Church in Champaign. The evening will include dinner, recognition, and reports from the Council President, Council Treasurer and operating committees of the council. Also presented at the Annual Business Meeting is the report of the Council Nominating Committee followed by election of the 2013 Council Executive Committee, Council Members-at-Large and Advisory Board.

All voting members of the council are urged to attend the Annual Business Meeting. Voting members of the council include current Council Executive Board Members and all Charter Organization Representatives. More information on the Annual Business Meeting will be sent directly to voting members soon.



## Klondike Derby 2013.....Rush for Gold!

All Scouts, Varsity Teams and Venturers of Prairielands Council, and beyond, are invited to the 2013 Klondike Derby at Camp Drake near Oakwood, IL on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Webelos Scouts are also cordially invited, provided that they are participating with a Scout Troop of their choice. This cold-weather event emphasizes basic Scouting skills and teamwork and will develop your Scouts' talents in the winter climate. This is a great event for Sourdoughs (experienced Scouts) and Cheechakos (first-time participants) alike.

Registration and fees of \$11.00 per person are due to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center on or before January 18<sup>th</sup>. This is critical in order for us to have enough food for all of the ravenous Klondikers. Registration after January 18<sup>th</sup> is \$15.00 per person. Camping is available for the event, but sites are going fast. Please designate on the registration form if your troop intends to camp overnight. Additional information and updates can be found on the website – check it regularly for the latest news

The Klondike Derby is the premier outdoor event of the winter; be sure that YOU are part of the adventure!

### Not Sure Where to Start? Pinewood Derby 101



Building a Pinewood Derby car can be....well; a little overwhelming. At Pinewood Derby 101 we will help you and your Cub Scout build the car of your dreams. We've got the tools, the experience and the passion to make the Pinewood Derby a fun and rewarding experience for every Cub Scout...whether you're a master carpenter or a novice with tools.

Pinewood Derby 101 will be held:

**Sunday, January 27, 2013**

**11:00 am—4:00 pm**

Worden Martin Showroom  
100 Carriage Center Court, Champaign

### Don't Miss "PTC"..... Prairielands Training College 2013

Prairielands Council's renowned training opportunity is quickly approaching and you will want to make sure you are signed up to attend. Prairielands Training College will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at The High School of St. Thomas More, 3901 N. Mattis Avenue in Champaign.

PTC teaches you the tricks that will make your time in Scouting true "Quality Time"; more fun, less work for you, safer, and more valuable for both you and the youth you serve. Instructors are people with experience in the subjects they teach. The most valuable part of PTC may be getting to know other people. These are people you can share experiences with and who you can go to later for advice and help. Our goal is to have you leave at the end of the day enthusiastic about Scouting, anxious to share what you've learned and grateful that you took the time!!

You can register online today on the PTC website at [www.prairielandsbsa.org/college](http://www.prairielandsbsa.org/college). Cost for the event is \$25.00 if registered by January 21, 2013. After that the price goes up to \$30.00. Register now before the classes you want get filled up!!

Chairman Curt Ware reports that some help is still needed including adults and Boy Scouts who can help with set up at 7:00 am and tear down after the event. For Boy Scouts needing service hours, this is a easy way to get done for rank advancement. Adults are also needed to help running power tools. Please contact Curt Ware at 217-841-0445 or at [cware@wordenmartin.com](mailto:cware@wordenmartin.com).

# Visit the Robeson Scout Shop to make your Pack events shine!



Blue & Gold plates, napkins, cups and more!!

Patches \$1.39 each

The Robeson Scout Shop has all your Pack Blue and Gold Banquet supplies to make Scouting's birthday celebration an event your families will never forget. Cub Scout Blue and Gold plates, napkins, cups, balloons, table covers, centerpieces and more will make every table look the spirit of Cub Scouting exploded! Your Scouts can also remember this special day with the 2013 Blue & Gold patch! Stop in today to buy your Blue & Gold supplies or order them via phone or fax and we will have them waiting for you!

Plates: \$3.99/25 pk  
Or \$5.99/25 pk

Cups: \$6.99/50 pk  
Napkins: \$3.99/25 pk  
Table covers: \$6.99

In January and February we all re-charter and figure out how we did on the annual Journey to Excellence. The 2012 JTE patches at Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels are now in stock at the Robeson Scout Shop. Did your group make the grade? Show your pride in your pack, troop, team, crew, or ship!

And don't forget the Pinewood Derby Accessories to make your Cub Scout's Pinewood Derby car the fastest, or at least the coolest, car in the Pack. Decals, weights and more to put those finishing touches on your Cub Scout's car.

## Robeson Scout Shop

(Located in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center)

3301 Farber Drive, Champaign

Open: Monday, Wednesday & Friday; 9:00 am—6:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday; 12 noon—6:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Saturdays; 9:00 am—1:00 pm



The Robeson Scout Shop also ships via US Mail and UPS

Call before 3:00 pm on Monday & Wednesday and we will deliver to the Danville Scout Office the next day!

Call Glenn at 217-531-3010 or 1-800-464-7291; Fax 217-356-7785; E-mail: [glenn.overby@scouting.org](mailto:glenn.overby@scouting.org)

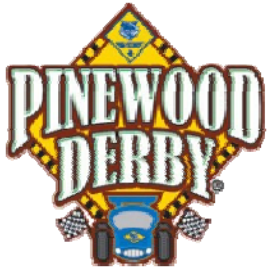
## 2012 Eagles to be Honored, February 16th



The Annual Prairielands Council Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Ave, Champaign. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with the dinner & program beginning at 6:00 pm. Cost for the evening is \$25.00 per person with the exception of the honoree Eagle Scouts; they will be sponsored by others. Eagle Scout parents will receive a reservation form in the mail in mid-January. The event is open to the public. Reservations and payment are due to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center by Wednesday, February 6, 2013.

The Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner honors all Eagle Scouts from the previous year. It includes individual recognition, top quality speakers, dinner and fellowship. Chair for the 2013 Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner is Pat Setzler. Fred Faulstich, long time Scouting supporter and past Council President has been selected as the Honorary Eagle Scout Class Sponsor.

Anyone interested in sponsoring one of the nearly 50 Eagle Scouts should contact Sponsorship Chair Gabrielle Martin at [gabrielle.martin1978@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.martin1978@gmail.com).



# Council Pinewood Derby Championships

April 13, 2013, Judah Christian School, Champaign

The Prairielands Council Pinewood Derby Championships will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Judah Christian School in Champaign. Registration opens at 10:00 am with the competition set that start at 12:15 pm. Watch the Prairielands Council website and look for the March/April edition of the Post for more details.

## Your Pack Can Earn FREE Pinewood Derby Cars Kits in 2013!!



In 2013 Prairielands Council will once again offer FREE Pinewood Derby car kits to Packs that successfully recruit new Cub Scouts into their program. With this recognition plan Packs have the opportunity to earn Pinewood Derby cars kits for their new Cub Scouts! In addition a Performance Plus Bonus is available to earn kits for ALL Cub Scouts registered in the Pack.

### Criteria

The Pack must meet the following criteria to be eligible for free Pinewood Derby car kits:

- 1) Pack submits 2013 rechartering paperwork on time:
 

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| January Recharterers:  | January 15, 2013  |
| February Recharterers: | February 15, 2013 |
- 2) Pack participates in the Friends of Scouting Campaign with a presentation to families at the Blue & Gold Banquet.
- 3) Pack conducts a spring Tiger Cub School Night in April or May. New Tiger Cubs recruited are registered by June 15, 2013.
- 4) Pack conducts a fall Cub Scout School Night in August or September.

### Recognition

In recognition for having met the above criteria, the Pack will receive one free Pinewood Derby car kit for each NEW Cub Scout registered between April 1 and October 31, 2013.

### Performance Plus Bonus

If a your Pack has more Cub Scouts registered on October 31, 2013 than it did on December 31, 2012, your Pack will receive FREE Pinewood Derby car kits for every Cub Scouts in your Pack. Example:

|                   |                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 31, 2012 | 27 Total Cub Scouts Registered                                                                          |
| October 31, 2013  | 29 Total Cub Scouts Registered                                                                          |
| Equals:           | 29 FREE Pinewood Derby Car kits                                                                         |
| PLUS              | Free kits for additional Cub Scouts registered in November!! (Only available to Performance Plus Packs) |

'The only problem with Boy Scouts is, there aren't enough of them.'

*Will Rogers*





# .....and Your Troop Can Earn FREE Rank Advancement until June 2014!!!

In 2013 Prairielands Council will offer FREE Rank Advancement patches to troops that successfully recruit new Boy Scouts into their program. With this recognition plan Troop have the opportunity to earn free Rank Advancement through June 2014!

## Criteria

The Troop must meet the following criteria to be eligible for free Rank Advancement:

- 1) Troop submits 2013 rechartering paperwork on time:  
January Recharterers: January 15, 2013  
February Recharterers: February 15, 2013
- 2) Troop participates in the Friends of Scouting Campaign with a presentation to families by June 31, 2013
- 3) Level 1: Troop shows a gain of registered Boy Scouts on June 31, 2013 compared to June 31, 2012.
- 4) Level 2: Troop shows a gain of registered Boy Scouts on December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012.

## Recognition

In recognition for having met the above criteria, Troops will earn:

Level 1: Registered Boy Scout membership growth on June 31, 2013  
**FREE Rank Advancement July 1 – December 31, 2013**

Level 2: Registered Boy Scout membership growth on December 31, 2013  
**FREE Rank Advancement January 1 – June 30, 2014**

Rank Advancement is defined as clothe badges for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life

## Congratulations 2012 Popcorn Top Sales!!

- Top SalesScout: **Randy Janson**, Troop 121, .....**\$5,130.25**
- Prairie Fire District Top SalesScout: **Wyatt Hughes**, Pack 40, .....**\$4,190.00**
- Many Trails District Top SalesScout: **Cainan Bagwell**, Pack 35, .....**\$3,210.00**



- 10 Scouts sold over \$3,000!!!
- 24 Scouts sold over \$2,000!!!
- 56 Scouts sold over \$1,000!!!



# Camp Drake Launches into 81st Summer Season



Dustin Boyer shares details of the Vermillion Trek program for older Scouts

The Prairielands Council Camping Committee celebrated the launch of the 2013 Camp Drake camping season with Camp Launch on December 8 at Provena Covenant Hospital in Urbana, Thank you to more than 50 Scouts and Scouters who attended the official start of Camp Drake 2013: Return of the Legendary Lantern Keeper!

As your unit plans for summer camp in 2013, please be mindful of the following registration and deposit/payment deadlines, which are new for the 2013 camping season:

In Council Troops:

\$25.00 per Scout deposit by January 4, 2013

\$200.00 per Scout (with deposit for total of \$225.00) by April 15, 2013 (In-council Troops)

\$235.00 per Scout (without deposit) prior to April 15, 2013 (In-council Troops)

\$250.00 per Scout after April 15, 2013 (In-council Troops)

CampDrake.com will be THE resource for your unit this Spring as you plan your Camp Drake adventure! Merit badge schedules will be posted to CampDrake.com on January 1, 2013. Merit badge registration will begin on CampDrake.com beginning February 1, 2013. Please note that class size restrictions will be in place for 2013, so plan on early registration to get your Scouts signed up for their preferred classes!

As always, it is never too early to start planning to ensure that your Scouts and Scouters have their required physicals and medical documentation prepared in time for summer camp. The Prairielands Council Camping Committee is highly encouraging units to submit completed BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A, B, and C) to the Council Office no later than April 15. Doing so will ensure that your unit can speed through check-in upon arrival at Camp Drake this summer. The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record can be found at [www.campdrake.com](http://www.campdrake.com) or by visiting the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center.



Wayne Frankie, Shooting Sports Director updates the crowd on plans for summer camp 2013



Dan Sloan and son Robert Sloan talk with Jim Dieker in the display area.



Jack Jones, Council VP/Properties & John Marquardt, Council Program Chair have big things planned for Camp Drake in 2013

# What Kind of Difference Can You Make This Summer?

*"Would you like fries with that?" .....or*

*"Congratulations, you just earned your Lifesaving Merit Badge!"*

## Camp Staff Interviews Set for January 19th

Camp Robert Drake is looking for energetic youth to serve as counselors for the 2013 summer. A day of interviews is scheduled for Saturday, January 19 at the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center in Champaign. Any registered Scout, older than age 14 on June 1, 2013 can apply by completing the Staff Application, located on the forms page of [www.campdrake.com](http://www.campdrake.com). Please turn the application into Camp Director Mike Graham through the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center, 3301 Farber Drive in Champaign, IL 61826. Interviews for potential counselors can be arranged by calling Camp Director Mike Graham at (217) 531-0212.

## Camp Candy Bar Sale Can Help Your Scout Earn Their Way to Camp



The Camp Candy Bar Sale will be back this year to help Scouts earn their way to Cub Scout Day Camp, Cub Scout Adventure Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp. Elliot Smith, fresh off his role as Popcorn Sale Project Manager will be returning to coordinate the Candy Bar Sale as well.

The sale will kick off on Friday, February 15 and conclude on Friday, April 5, 2013. The sale format will be similar to previous years. More details will be sent to Pack, Troop and Crew leaders in January.

Please note that we will NOT be offering the Battery Sale option this year.

## Cub Scouts Love Camping Too!!!



In surveys and studies done over the years, one thing has become very clear. When boys join Cub Scouts they expect to go camping! It's one of the many elements of Scouting that boys don't get in other programs.....and it's why they join.

Cub Scouts Packs should include Family Camping as part of their year-round plan. They should also make the council provided camping opportunities available to their Cub Scout families.

Cub Scout Day Camp and Cub Scout Adventure Camp are wonderful opportunities for Cub Scouts to experience Scouting at its best.

Planning is now underway for Cub Scout Day Camps and more information will be available at the Cub Scout Camping Kick-off held in conjunction with Pinewood Derby 101. Cub Scout Adventure Camp is already filling up so Packs should get their site reservation in as soon as possible. Find out more details at the Cub Scout Camping booth at:

**Cub Scout Camping Kick-off**  
**Sunday, January 27, 2013**  
**Worden Martin, Champaign**  
**During Pinewood Derby 101 Workshop**

.....or watch the [Prairielands Council website](http://www.prairielands.org) for updated information.

## Camperships Requests due April 1, 2013

As always [Prairielands Council](http://www.prairielands.org) has a limited number of Camperships available for the 2013 camping season. We realize that camp can be a financial challenge for some families and we want to do everything we can to help every Scout get to summer camp.

In order to be considered for a campership a parent must complete the Campership Request form and submit it to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center no later than April 1, 2013. Applications after this date will not be accepted.

The application must be filled out completely to demonstrate: 1) a genuine need; 2) that the Scout has worked to earn some of his own way through Candy Bar Sales, Popcorn Sales or other unit fund raisers and 3) that the family and/or unit are providing some financial support.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Parents needing to apply for a Campership are encouraged to review the application form early to be have the information necessary to complete it.

Please note that a new form for 2013 is available. Forms from previous years will not be accepted. Thank you.



# Order of the Arrow News

## Winter Banquet on January 5th

The Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 5 at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana. The banquet will start with a brotherhood/fellowship hour beginning at 11:00 a.m. Central Time (12:00 Noon Eastern Time). The luncheon program will begin promptly at 12:00 Noon Central Time (1:00 p.m. Eastern Time). The Winter Banquet program will feature a celebration of the 2012 Illini Lodge year, presentations of the Ken Frederick Award, Founders Award, and James E. West Fellowship Award, as well as the induction of newly-elected 2013 Lodge Chief Owen Myers, and his 2013 slate of Lodge Officers.

The fee for this event includes your entire meal, beverage, gratuity, and program, and is \$18. The banquet and 2013 OA dues can be paid for a reduced total rate of \$25. If you have not yet registered for this festive annual tradition, please do so by calling the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center at 217-356-7291. The troop that brings the most Arrowmen to the Winter Banquet will take home the prestigious Illini Lodge 55 Tabletop Trophy! See you in Covington on January 5!

## Order of the Arrow Troop Visitation Training

The Order of the Arrow is pleased to announce promotional plans for Camp Drake 2013: Return of the Legendary Lantern Keeper. Vice Chief for Administration Dakota Craft announced at Troop Visit Training in December that promotional packets will be available to all Prairielands Council troops at the Klondike Derby on January 26, 2013 at Camp Drake. Units not attending the Klondike Derby will be able to pick up their packets from the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center after January 26.

The Order of the Arrow will once again offer troop visits for Order of the Arrow Unit Elections and for Camp Drake Promotions. If your unit is not yet signed up for a Unit Election, please contact Dakota Craft at [dakotacraft365@gmail.com](mailto:dakotacraft365@gmail.com) to ensure that your unit is on his calendar. Units are able to produce their own camp promotion night, however, the Order of the Arrow would like to record your unit's promotion date, and would love to provide any resources necessary to ensure that your troop has a successful promotion night!

Any questions about the Order of the Arrow unit elections or camp promotions processes should be directed to Dakota Craft at [dakotacraft365@gmail.com](mailto:dakotacraft365@gmail.com). Here's to a great summer!

## Save the Date for the TRAIL DAY

Enjoy a beautiful morning along the banks of the Salt Fork River, hiking the Onaquississippi Trail with all your Scouting buddies. From 9:00 until 12:00 noon on the Ott Six of the Fourthmonth in TwoThirtennarino all arrowmen and their special guests are invited to Get On their hiking boots and Get On the Onaquississippi Trail! See the spectacular views around camp. Add to your springtime calendar of fun events – the TRAIL TROMP is hiking on to your calendar on Saturday, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>. Walk the Onaquississippi Trail and uncover secrets of camping past and prizes for our

## More Camp News

### Tools Needed for Camp Drake



Camp Drake would appreciate any hand or power tools for its workshop, garden tools for outdoor work, or recreational equipment that you no longer need. Hand tools or power tools, such as screwdrivers, pliers, saws, etc., help with the many mechanical requirements of camp maintenance. Garden tools, like rakes, shovels, or weed whips, allow additional volunteers to complete projects on service days. Any outdoor recreation equipment will be put to good use with the Scouts at summer camp. From fishing rods and tackle to camping gear, from golfing supplies to boating equipment. Please contact Mike Graham at the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center at 356-7291 if you can provide a gift for Camp Drake.

### Camp Master Plan Moves Forward to Operating Committee

A draft long range plan for development at Camp Drake has been completed and is now moving to the Council Properties Committee and Council Program Committee for review and revisions.

Council Scout Executive Tim Manard says that the Camp Development Committee was appointed by then Council President Eric Meyer to explore the future needs at Camp Drake. "This Committee did a great job at looking at every aspect of what a successful camp will need 5, 10 and 20 years from now. They looked at the rapidly changing technology trends, the campground expectations of today's parents and kids, and program enhancements that keep Scouts coming back to camp."

The committee also examined Camp Drake's aging infrastructure to determine what the current camp facilities need in updating and/or replacement.

"This committee took a 'no holds barred' approach and camp us with some pretty exciting ideas. I am looking forward to the input from the Properties and Program committees as we move forward."





## Construction on Schedule for Jamie Ping Skeet/Trap Range

Construction is progressing on the Jamie Ping Skeet/Trap Range to be part of the Harold Nogle Shooting Sports Center at Camp Drake. The Skeet/Trap Range is the last phase of the shooting the council's premiere shooting sports facility. The range is a gift from Jeff and Jeannette Ping and their family in memory of their son Jamie who was tragically killed in a car accident in December 2011. Jamie was an Eagle Scout and attended Camp Drake several summers as a Scout. He especially loved shooting sports making this gift an appropriate and special memorial to his spirit.

Council Vice-President/Administration David Crow is overseeing the construction and indicates that the range will be ready for the 2013 Summer Camp season.



## Congratulations New Eagle Scouts

|          |              |       |      |
|----------|--------------|-------|------|
| Jonathan | Brown        | Troop | 103  |
| Robert   | Butler       | Troop | 25   |
| Matthew  | Campbell     | Troop | 103  |
| William  | Campbell Jr. | Troop | 40   |
| Madison  | Chaney       | Crew  | 1    |
| Grant    | DeAtley      | Troop | 101  |
| Bryant   | Deer         | Troop | 30   |
| Jeff     | Dieker       | Troop | 121  |
| Andrew   | Foy          | Troop | 95   |
| Holt     | Hafer        | Troop | 103  |
| Rontez   | McClure      | Troop | 1310 |
| Jarod    | Noel         | Troop | 395  |
| Ryan     | Rodgers      | Troop | 490  |
| Thomas   | Scott        | Troop | 490  |
| Nicholas | Shapland     | Troop | 101  |
| Jared    | Sharp        | Troop | 272  |
| Blake    | Shaw         | Troop | 40   |
| Carson   | Stewart      | Troop | 9    |
| Joseph   | Umphenour    | Troop | 319  |
| Wesley   | Whalen       | Troop | 17   |

### Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award

The Prairielands Council Eagle Scout Association is pleased to announce participation in the Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award.

From the application form found at <http://www.nesa.org/PDF/542-026.pdf>: "The National Eagle Scout Association established the **Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award** to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by a Scout to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity. The award recognizes the Scout for his Eagle Scout leadership service project, which is part of the requirements for earning the Eagle Scout Award. Each local council will choose a council-level winner, and from that pool, each region will pick a region-level winner. A national winner then will be selected from the four regional finalists."

More information is found on the application form or under the tab "Awards" at the National Eagle Scout Association web site ([http://www.nesa.org/adams\\_award.html](http://www.nesa.org/adams_award.html)).

The awards nomination form must be submitted to the Prairielands Council Office by January 21, 2013.

If your project is selected as the council winner, you will be encouraged to submit a link to an HD video about their project to the national NESA office.

Congratulations and good luck.

# Prairie Fire District

Serving families in Champaign, Douglas and Piatt counties

## Prairie Fire District Calendar

### January

- |    |                                                                          |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | Annual Business Meeting, 7:00 pm, Fire Institute, Champaign              |
| 9  | District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign |
| 9  | District Roundtable, 7:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign           |
| 15 | January Charters due to Raymond Lee Scout Service Center                 |

### February

- |    |                                                                          |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 | District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Reminders from the Prairie Fire District Commissioner

Don't forget to start filling up those new calendars you got for Christmas. In January there will be a meeting of all PF unit commissioners and assistant district commissioners on Wednesday January 9 at 6:00pm at the LDS Church on Windsor Dr. in Champaign. There will also be a district Round Table that night at 7:00 pm, also at the same location. Looking forward there will be a unit commissioner meeting on Wednesday Feb. 13 at 6 pm at the usual location. Please try to attend. It takes the combined experience of all of us to best address the needs of our units.

On another note:

Hopefully everyone is working on their recharter packets. Remember they are due to the council office by Jan. 15, 2013. All recharterers that are turned in, signed and paid for by the 15th will be entered into a random drawing for a really spiffy prize - a large engraved scout memorabilia box. Recharterers must be turned in and complete by the 15th in order to be entered to win this fabulous prize.

*Linda Atherton*

### Congratulations Tori Exum-Johnson Forty Under 40 "Woman of the Year"

Congratulations to Pack 402 Cubmaster Tori Exum-Johnson for having been chosen "Woman of the Year" in Central Illinois Business magazine annual list of Forty Under 40. This distinguished list of honorees were chosen based on their achievements, leadership ability and dedication to community service. Tori shares the top spot with "Man of the Year" Illinois State Senator Michael Frerichs.

In her biography published in Central Illinois Business Magazine, Tori talked about being active in the Boy Scouts of America. According to the article, "After being asked to take over one Cub Scout meeting by a leader who couldn't be there, Exum-Johnson was soon leading the entire Pack at Canaan Academy, where her children are in school.

"I loved it. Scouting is really just an extension of good parenting—teaching your kids about helping other people, responsibility for yourself, responsibility for your community," she said.

Congratulations to Tori for this well deserved honor. Also recognized this year was Eagle Scout Cory Hatfield. Other Scouting volunteers who have been recognized in past 40 Under 40 groups include Beverley Baker (Woman of the Year, 2010), Dan Baker, Brian Brauer, and Jonathan Myers.

### Rechartering Reminder

When completing your unit rechartering, please remember that the Unit Service Fee has increased to \$40.00 to help cover the cost of liability insurance. Thank you.

### Schedule Your Unit Friends of Scouting Presentation Today!!

Everyone is aware of the importance of the Council Friends of Scouting Campaign to support the council annual operating budget. The FOS campaign helps our council to provide services to our Packs, Troops and Crews as well as coordinate council activities like Day Camps, Summer Camp, Klondike Derby and more. Much of FOS is also used to support the operations of Camp Robert Drake. It is important that we give every family the opportunity to participate in the FOS Campaign. Please contact Lovetta Ash-Simpson today to schedule your unit presentation. Thank you.

## Many Trails District Calendar



### January

- 10 Annual Meeting and Roundtable, 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Hoopeston

### February

- 14 District Committee and Commissioner Meeting, 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Hoopeston
- 15 February Charters due to Raymond Lee Scout Service Center

## A Lot Happening at First Meeting of 2013

The first meeting of the District in 2013 will be packed full of information. Your Pack, Troop or Crew will want to be represented at this meeting on Thursday, January 10, 6:30 pm at the United Methodist Church in Hoopeston.

The District Annual Business Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and will include election of the 2013 District Committee.

Roundtable will follow at 7:00 pm. New Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Robert Bagwell, will present ideas on Arrow of Light Ceremonies.

District Commissioner Kent McMahan will cover Journey to Excellence. McMahan will review how to use the JTE spreadsheet as well as pointing out how to use the Journey to Excellence as a tool for building quality units. Journey to Excellence tasks calendars will be presented to keep units on track throughout the year to achieve the "Gold-level". There's a new physical fitness program criteria item on the Journey to Excellence forms. More info at Jan.'s Roundtable.

## Schedule Your Unit Friends of Scouting Presentation Today!!

Everyone is aware of the importance of the Council Friends of Scouting Campaign to support the council annual operating budget. The FOS campaign helps our council to provide services to our Packs, Troops and Crews as well as coordinate council activities like Day Camps, Summer Camp, Klondike Derby and more. Much of FOS is also used to support the operations of Camp Robert Drake. It is important that we give every family the opportunity to participate in the FOS Campaign. Please contact Mike Graham today to schedule your unit presentation. Thank you.

## Rechartering reminders:

- Many Trails District charters are due in February 15.
- All users are "First-time" users when going online to recharter. After that, the user is a "Returning" user.
- Units can opt to download rosters from the council or the units' software program.
- The election can only be made once. Any change in election will require a call to council to get it reset.
- Are all adult leaders, including charter organization representatives, 100% Youth Protection Trained?
- Are all direct-contact leaders fully trained including Outdoor Leader Skills for Scoutmasters, OWL and BALOO trained for Webelos and Cub Scout leaders?
- When charter has been submitted, print the "Charter Renewal Packet," collect signatures and turn in with correct payment to the council office.
- Applications for new Scouts and adults (including Youth Protection training certificates) added to charter need to be turned in with charter.

Remember that the Unit Service Fee has increased to \$40.00 to help cover the cost of liability insurance. Thank you.

## Scout Skills Camporee

Many Trails District volunteers will host a Scout Skills Camporee on May 17-19 for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers at Timbered Meadows campgrounds, near Goodwine, IL. The weekend event will focus on knot tying and lashing, woods tools, and fire building, compass knowledge and hiking techniques for all age levels. Scouts are encouraged to bring their handbooks to assist in the advancement process. This will be a tremendous opportunity to enhance each Scout's basic camping talents at a fabulous location. To get more details on the location, visit <http://www.timberedmeadowscampground.com/>. The Scout Skills Camporee is open to any Scouting units, although Cub Scouts (from Bear and Webelos levels only) must be hosted by an attending troop. Look for additional details at the January roundtable

Serving families in Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, & Vermilion counties in IL & Vermillion & Fountain counties in IN

# Many Trails District

## Compass Day Set for April 6th

April 6<sup>th</sup> is set for a fun filled orientation for current fifth grade Scouts. An activity filled day of Boy Scout Camp programs for any younger troop members and their parents from throughout the council. All newer Boy Scouts are invited to attend this special orientation, as well as their troop junior leaders and Scoutmasters. There is no fee for this event, but participants must use the registration form to reserve their attendance.

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PURPOSE:     | To provide an opportunity for younger Scouts to participate in camp activities and become familiar with the Camp Drake facilities.                                                                      |
| OPPORTUNITY: | COMPASS DAY Scouts will be introduced to outdoor merit badges, such as Archery, Fishing, and Orienteering, and will work on requirements.                                                               |
| RECOGNITION: | All new Boy Scouts will receive a COMPASS as recognition of participation in COMPASS DAY. When a COMPASS DAY participant attends Camp Drake in 2013, he will receive an official "Camp Drake souvenir." |
| OUTLINE:     | Scouts and leaders will form into patrols and experience the various program areas. A staff member will lead each patrol to each event. The patrols will be no larger than 15 scouts.                   |

## Council Alumni Association

### Connecting Former Scouts

Under the leadership of Stan Herrin, Vice-President/Alumni Relations, the new Prairielands Council Alumni Association is beginning to take off. "We started with local Eagle Scouts but now we are expanding our search to anyone who was involved in Scouting; we like to reconnect," says Herrin. The Alumni Association is made up of people who have been involved in Scouting in the past, whether as members, leaders or even parents. It is open to any alumni living in the council service area, whether they were active in Prairielands Council or somewhere else.

The goal of the Alumni Association is 1) Service to the Community; 2) Mentorship and Professional networking; 3) Service to Scouting; and 4) Fellowship and Fun.

The Alumni Association already has its first Service Project, the Sleeping Bag Collection Project.



The Association is collecting used sleeping bags for new Scouts who may not have one. "We have a large population of young people who want to be in Scouting and go camping, but don't have the equipment necessary," says Herrin. "By being able to give them a sleeping bag we've helped them over a major hurdle." Herrin says the Association will also accept used camping equipment such as backpacks, tents, stoves, ponchos, etc.

To donate or find out more about the Alumni Association, contact Stan at [prairielandsesa.com](mailto:prairielandsesa.com)



### Council Sending Contingent to Philmont in 2014

Prairielands Council will be hosting a contingent to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2014. The contingent will consist of two Crews, at least one of which will be co-ed. The dates for the 10 day hiking adventure in through the mountains are July 7 through July 22, 2014. The cost for the trip will be approximately \$1,300 and a deposit of \$100.00 is due with your reservation. Youth deposits are now being accepted on a first come first serve basis at the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center. You must be 14 years old by July 2014 to attend.

Bill Campbell will be leading the Council contingent, and 5-7 other adults will be selected. BOTH male and female adult leadership will be required for this co-ed contingent!!! Interviews for adult leadership will be held on Wednesday, January 2 or Thursday, January 10 from 5:30 to 8:30. Contact the Scout office to schedule your 30 minute interview!!!

Please note that all participants will be required to participate in at least two backpacking trips in preparation for the trek. Also understand that Philmont has stringent height/weight requirements that will be strictly enforced.

For more information contact Bill Campbell at [pack40cubs@comcast.net](mailto:pack40cubs@comcast.net) or at 217-419-2827.

# Council Turns Financial Corner.....

## 2013 Budget Designed to Keep Financial Health on Track

After years of struggling financially, Prairielands Council made significant strides toward financial stability in 2012. Late in 2011 a special task force was appointed to address the council's financial problems. After considerable study and review steps, were taken to bring revenues in line with expenses and at the same time eliminate the accumulated debt. Those steps included staff elimination, reduction of salary for the remaining staff, reduction in money for Camp Drake maintenance and other expenses. The reduction in expenses totaled to nearly \$200,000. These changes were painful but necessary to right the financial ship of the council.

As the year comes to a close it is apparent that the drastic measures required have been successful. Prairielands Council will end the year with a surplus that will allow the council to be debt free for the first time in its history. "This is so important," says Scout Executive Tim Manard. "When the council was created the new council started with debt. Over the years that has built on itself until there was no choice but address it last year. I applaud the council leadership that worked together to go after this once and for all. They took the steps that had to be taken and it worked."

Manard says that final financial figures for the year will be released after closing the books in early January. As is always the case, a complete financial audit will be conducted by an outside auditing firm in February. The report of the audit will be presented to the Executive Board for approval in late April.

Manard is quick to point out that the council will need to continue to be diligent in fund-raising and budget management in order to stay on track. "Eliminating the debt has allowed us to already do some things in the 2013 budget that were sacrificed last year. We've added \$10,000 back into Camp Staff salaries to be able to bring take our Camp Staff up a level," says Manard. The 2013 budget, approved by the Board in November, also allocates \$40,000 to the maintenance of Camp Drake. "We've also done a little more staff reorganization with the current vacancy of the Development Director position. That position will become part time. We'll be adding another part-time person to help in the Service Center early in the year."

Manard believes that 2013 has the potential to be the best year in council history. "If we build on what we did in 2012 and refocus our efforts in membership, it could be a banner year." But Manard says getting the FOS campaign going and over will be key. "We can't rest now....but now we can have some fun building on the success," he says.

Mike Potts, the Vice-President/Finance, who gave leadership to this transition has accepted the Council Executive Vice-President position and will become Council President in 2014. David Hood, a current member of the Finance Committee will move up to Vice-President/Finance.

## 2013 Friends of Scouting Campaign

### Kicks off in January

The \$215,000 Goal is the Same as 2012

Campaign Theme: "Heroes Today....Heroes Tomorrow"

The 2013 Friends of Scouting Campaign officially kicks off in January beginning with the enrollment of the Council Staff. Scout Executive Tim Manard says that the staff will meet in early January and make their personal gifts to the campaign. "This is an amazingly committed and generous staff," says Manard. Even last year when most staff members faced salary reductions, they were typically generous to the FOS campaign. Manard says, "We believe in Scouting and all that it does for young people so we know it's important to show that support with a significant gift to the FOS campaign."

The Campaign goal this year is \$215,000, the same as last year; a goal that was achieved in 2012. In developing the budget, the Finance Committee felt it was important to maintain an attainable goal and get the campaign done early in the year.

The Board campaign will kick off at the Council Annual Meeting on January 28th. At the meeting Board Members will make their personal gifts and select past donor cards to beginning working immediately. The FOS Campaign is crucial because it supports the council's operations for the year. "We don't receive any government support and no support from our National organization," says Manard. "All the funds we need to keep the lights on, the phones running, insurance paid and a staff to support our volunteers must be raised locally."

Of course a significant part of the campaign is the Scout Family Division. The theme "Heroes Today....Heroes Tomorrow" will ring very true for our families in Scouting. We want to use the campaign to recognize that in Scouting there are every day heroes everywhere....Scoutmasters, Den Leaders, Popcorn Chairs, the Dad who drives kids to a campout and the Mom who brings the treats to the meeting. And while they are heroes for our Scouts today, they are creating the heroes of tomorrow. Scouting, through our volunteers, embeds in our Scouts character a life or heroism. The Scout is Brave; ....do my duty to God & my country; Do a Good Turn Daily.

We understand that it is sacrifice for Packs and Troops to carve out time in meeting for a Family FOS Campaign, but we're asking for the opportunity to share the council story with our families.

If you have any questions about the Family presentation, don't hesitate to contact your Senior District Executive, Lovetta Ash-Simpson in Prairie Fire District and Mike Graham in Many Trails District. If you have any questions about the FOS Campaign in general or the council budget please contact Scout Executive Tim Manard. He would be happy to talk with you about this or any subject.



## Another Way to Support the Council ... Merits of Scouting

In addition to the traditional Friends of Scouting Campaign, Prairielands Council now has a special campaign inviting individuals and companies to "sponsor" a merit badge during the year. Started just two years ago, last year's campaign more than doubled in its level of interest.

Companies participating in Merits of Scouting can choose the merit badge they want support. For example, a financial Institution might sponsor Personal Management Merit Badge; a Veterinarian might want to sponsor Pets Merit Badge, or a Boating enthusiast might support Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge. It all depends on the company's focus or in the individuals interest.

Each Merit Badge sponsorship is \$500.00 and can be paid throughout the year. The campaign ends in June at which time a special News Gazette insert features news about Prairielands Council and each of the Merit Badge sponsors. The sponsors also get an advertisement in the "Merits of Scouting Business Pages" that is mailed to all Scouting families in Prairielands Council.

For more information Merits of Scouting please contact Tim Manard at 217-531-0214 or at [tim.manard@scouting.org](mailto:tim.manard@scouting.org).

## Council Endowment Fund Gifts



Prairielands Council maintains an Endowment Fund to allow donors to give gifts that will have a lasting impact on the council future. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are placed in a Trust Fund and only the interest and earnings from the original gift can be used by the Council Executive Board. Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be given in many ways; through a will, insurance policy or other estate planning instruments, a direct gift of cash, stocks or bonds or a pledge of up to five years.

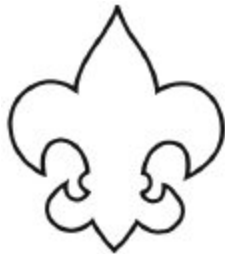
There are several recognition programs to acknowledge gifts to the Endowment Fund. The Second Century Club is for gifts of over \$100,000. The 1910 Society is for gifts of \$25,000 to \$99,000. The most widely known recognition is the James E. West Fellowship. The James E. West Fellowship is recognized with gifts of \$1,000 to the Council Endowment Fund. Additional levels of giving are recognized as James E. West Plus categories as additional gifts are made by the same donor. Recent gifts to the Council Endowment Fund include:

**Jared Durst**  
**Order of the Arrow Lodge**  
**Ken Gunji**  
**Stan Herrin**

**James E. West Fellowship**  
**James E. West Fellowship**  
**James E. West Fellowship Plus**  
**James E. West Fellowship Plus**

For more information about the James E. West Fellowship or other ways to give to the Council Endowment Fund contact Scout Executive Tim Manard at 217-531-0214 or at [tim.manard@scouting.org](mailto:tim.manard@scouting.org)

## Council Tribute Fund



The Council Tribute Fund is a way for acknowledge someone with a gift to Scouting. A tribute can be made in memory of someone, in recognition of a life milestone, in honor of achieving the Eagle Scout Award or to say "thank you" to someone in a special way. Gifts to the Tribute Fund are acknowledged by letter to both the honoree and the person making the gift. In addition, each edition of the Prairielands Post features a list of those giving to the Tribute Fund. There is no minimum gift. Gifts to the Tribute Fund should be sent to Tribute Fund, P.O. Box 6267, Champaign, IL 61826-6267.

**Cynthia Roderick**  
**In Memory of Arthur Wolfinbarger**

## Cub Scouts Among Victims in Connecticut Shooting

The following was posted on the Connecticut Yankee Council website:

**"Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families in Newtown today and in the difficult days to come. We are heartbroken about this terrible tragedy.**

**We are very saddened to share that our Scouting family has been struck by this tragedy.**

**Lost from Pack 170 are:**

**Cub Scouts Chase Kowalski and Benjamin Wheeler.**

**Benjamin's parents Francine and David Wheeler are den leaders.**

**Also lost are the siblings of Cubs in Pack 170: Caroline Previdi, Catherine Hubbard, Dylan Hockley.**

**From Pack 170, Tiger Cub leader Peter Baressi, who lost the two, is a first responder for Sandy Hook Fire. He stayed with the families throughout this terrible ordeal.**

**Please send prayers to these families and the pack in this time of sadness."**

We ask that members of Prairielands Council join Scouters everywhere with prayers for these families, Pack 170 and Connecticut Yankee Council.

# January/February Council Calendar

## January 2013

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! All Council Facilities Closed
- 5 Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet, Beef House Banquet Center, Covington, IN  
11:00 am (Illinois time) Social Hour; 12:00 pm (Illinois time) Lunch is served
- 7 **Prairie Fire District Annual Business Meeting, 7:00 pm, Fire Institute, Champaign**
- 9 **Prairie Fire District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign**
- 9 **Prairie Fire District Roundtable, 7:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign**
- 10 **Many Trails District Annual Business Meeting & Roundtable, 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Hoopeston**
- 12 **ROBESON SCOUT SHOP OPEN; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**
- 14 Council Boy Scout Program Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm, Raymond Lee Scout service Center, Champaign
- 17 Council Training Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, Flightstar, Savoy
- 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY. All Council Facilities Closed
- 24 Council ScoutReach Committee Meeting, 12 Noon, Raymond Lee Scout Service Center, Champaign
- 26 **ROBESON SCOUT SHOP OPEN, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**
- 26 Council Klondike Derby, 8:00 am, Camp Robert Drake
- 27 Council Pinewood Derby Workshop 101, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Worden Martin Showroom, 100 Carriage Center Court, Champaign
- 28 Council Annual Business Meeting & Executive Board Meeting, 5:45 pm, New Horizon United Methodist Church, Champaign

## February 2013

- 3-9 Boy Scouts of America 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Week
- 9 **ROBESON SCOUT SHOP OPEN, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**
- 9 Prairielands Training College, 8:30 am (Check in) – 4:00 pm, High School of St. Thomas More, Champaign
- 13 **Prairie Fire District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign**
- 14 **Many Trails District Committee & Commissioner Meeting, 6:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Hoopeston**
- 15 Camp Candy Sale Kick-off
- 16 Council Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner, 5:30 pm, Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Ave, Champaign
- 18 Council Camp Properties Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, Raymond Lee Scout Service Center, Champaign
- 21 Council ScoutReach Committee Meeting, 12 Noon, Raymond Lee Scout Service Center, Champaign
- 21 Council Training Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, Flightstar, Savoy
- 23 **ROBESON SCOUT SHOP OPEN; 9:00 am—1:00 pm**

Prairielands Council, Boy Scouts of America  
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Champaign, IL 61826-6267

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**Prairielands Council  
Boy Scouts of America**

*Serving families in nine counties of east central Illinois  
and western Indiana*

**Council Information**

Raymond Lee Scout Service Center & Robeson Scout Shop  
3301 Farber Dr., P.O. Box 6267  
Champaign, IL 61826-6267  
General Phone Number: 217-356-7291

Service Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Robeson Scout Shop Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: 12 Noon – 6:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Danville Scout Office  
305 Woodbury, Danville, IL 61834-1413  
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

Website: [prairielandsbsa.org](http://prairielandsbsa.org)