Scouters’ News
April 2016 Volume 40 Issue 4
Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America, Akron, Ohio

University of Scouting—a huge success!

Last month we held our annual University of Scouting. This awesome training day, run by volunteers, was a huge success! We had 314 participants taking part in 124 different trainings. Thank you to Wadsworth City Schools for letting us use their wonderful high school. A huge thank you goes out to the University of Scouting Committee: Chairman Harry Walker, Brian Davis, Jane Davis, Allen Hoy, Chad Roberts, Anitra Roberts, Tom Brownridge, Rachel Brownridge, David Rice, Wendy Greathouse, John Stefanik, Bryan Menke, Tammie Menke, Gregg Townsend, and many more.

A very special thank you to University of Scouting Chairman Harry Walker. Harry has been involved with this program for 20 years! He started in 1997 as Dean of the General College, in 2006 he took over as overall chairman. Thank you for all of your years of service on this project, it is a huge undertaking!

In 2017 we will welcome Leslie Smith into the role of University of Scouting Chairperson. Welcome Leslie!

Council Friends of Scouting campaign kicks off at 40%

On February 25, a reception was held at the Rubber Ducks stadium, hosted by 2016 Council FOS Chairman Ken Babby, owner of the Rubber Ducks, to kick off our Friends of Scouting campaign.

At this event, district and council divisions reported on their progress to date. We are excited to report that we kicked off at $230,000 which is 40% of our overall goal of $555,000.

Thanks to the many volunteers and professional staff who put forth the effort to make this event a grand success.

Five out of six districts reached the 25% benchmark set for that evening. Way to go!

Our April report meeting will take place on Thursday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m., at the Rubber Ducks stadium.

Pictured above (l to r) Howard Taylor, Kevin Thompson, and Mike Jones at the Eagle Award Dinner on March 8.

2016 Eagle Dinner

The 2015 class of 176 Eagle Scouts of the Kevin Thompson Class of Eagles recently were honored for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest advancement award in Scouting. The Scouts were recognized on March 8, at the 56th Annual Dinner and Program for the Great Trail Council, at Firestone Country Club. Each Eagle Scout was met at the ceremony by his Eagle sponsor, a prominent member of the area business community.

Only about four percent of Scouts ever achieve the Eagle Scout rank, which honors them for their leadership ability, and the service and outdoor skills.

At the ceremony, each Scout received a certificate from the class sponsor and is eligible to join the National Eagle Scout Association, a fellowship of men who have achieved the Eagle Scout Award.

Kevin Thompson, President of PNC Bank Akron, delivered the address during the program and presented the certificates. Class sponsors are chosen for their support of Scouting and their recognition in the community.

Al Lambert to be keynote speaker at Council Annual Dinner

Join us May 9, for the Annual Council Recognition Dinner. We will celebrate 102 years as the Great Trail Council, which started in 1914, in Akron. The keynote speaker will be the Central Region Director Al Lambert. In his duties, Al oversees Scouting in a 14 state area with 78 councils.

Also, on May 9 we will recognize the 2016 Silver Beaver awardees and celebrate 106 years of Scouting in America.
Recruiting: spring round-up

The spring round-up program is broken into: Tiger Cub graduation, Webelos graduation, and Boy Scout recruitment nights.

**Tiger Cub Graduation**
Every pack should hold a formal Tiger Cub graduation ceremony in April or May. Assign every newly graduated Tiger Cub to a Cub Scout den. Invite the Cub Scouts to attend day camp.

**Webelos Graduation**
The pack and troop leadership establish a fifth grade Webelos crossover ceremony date in March or April. The fifth grade Webelos graduate into a troop. New Boy Scouts attend camping events in the spring and attend summer camp.

**Boy Scout Recruitment Night**
Hold an open house is April or May for fifth grade boys. Pass out recruiting flyers to all fifth grade boys in the school(s) your troop draws from (obtain flyers from your district executive).

**Boy Scout open house program**
The Boy Scout spring round-up open house program is designed to bring new youth into your troop at a time when our outdoor program is moving toward its peak—a week-long summer camping experience for every Scout.

It includes a proven Boy Scout recruiting plan.

**The Steps to Success:**
1. Develop a troop youth recruiter incentive program.
2. Set a date for your troop open house.
3. Select the troop open house leadership.
4. Do all the planning and let your district executive know the date.
5. After the district executive’s school visit, work the Boy Fact survey cards.
6. Conduct the troop open house and have fun with the potential new Scouts and their families.
7. Complete the new youth applications and collect the fees that night.
8. Turn in all applications and the pro-rated fees to the Council Service Center.
9. Turn in the unit report form.
10. Enjoy your success!

Every newly registered Boy Scout who joins as a result of a troop open house will receive a new GTC carabiner (for non-climbing use only).

Every current Scout who recruits a friend to join will receive the National Scout Recruiting patch.

Planning your unit’s summer program

Well, spring has arrived. If you haven’t started to make plans for your summer programs and activities, now is the time to start. Parents need to know when your troop is going to camp, or when your pack will be attending day camp, or going on a special outing.

Families are planning summer vacations, so early unit planning will make it easier for more families to participate in your activities. Summertime is the pinnacle of Scouting programs for your Scouts. A boy who goes camping in the summer will come back even more excited about being a Scout.

**Cub Scout Packs:**

Many packs do not have weekly den meetings throughout the summer. However, your Cub Scouts have more time in the summer to participate in Scouting. Why not plan one or two activities a month for your Scouts? Day camp provides a great start to your summer program. Now you can plan two or three special pack activities to go along with the camping programs. Plan a pack picnic, go to the park, or attend a baseball game. There are hundreds of great summer activities. Get the dates of council camping programs on your calendar, then set the dates for your pack activities. Communicate this information as early as possible to your families.

Make your pack’s summer activities a family event and lots of fun. Family schedules are busy during the summer and not all families will be able to attend, but if you plan early, most will be able to participate in a high percentage of your activities.

**Boy Scout Troops:**

Boy Scout summer camp is the highlight event for Scouting. Every boy deserves the chance to enjoy summer camp.

Camp Manatoc provides a great camping experience for your Scouts. **The key is early planning.**

Plan a camp promotion night for your troop. Invite families to see the presentation. Your Order of the Arrow chapter and district camping chairman stand ready to provide this program. It is important to encourage every Scout to participate in camp. It will be an experience that he will never forget.

As we go into spring, continue to plan for your summer camping programs and activities.

Along with your district day camp, summer camp, and some activities mentioned in this article, your summer program is almost planned.
Council Information

Program Planning Workshops coming to district roundtables in May

Your district will conduct an important workshop designed to show you the importance and the how-to of developing a year-round, 12-month, planned program for your pack, troop, crew, or post. You’ll receive your unit’s entire program planning packet and materials.

All of this material, and the important training that goes with it, will ensure that you get a head start on planning your 2016-2017 program year—and it will ensure that your youth members and their families will be active, excited, and involved in your events, activities and meetings because we know that a 12-month program keeps kids and families involved and active in Scouting.

Make sure your unit is represented at your district’s May roundtable.

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<td>First Baptist Church 1670 Shatto Ave., Akron</td>
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District Family Teams

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<td>330-715-6536</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gina.lang@earthlink.net">gina.lang@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moe</td>
<td>Lisa MacKay</td>
<td>330-688-9504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Mike Rowe</td>
<td>330-274-8407</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikeroweoops@sbcglobal.net">mikeroweoops@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<td>Chippewa</td>
<td>Gregg Townsend</td>
<td>330-336-2032</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gregg.townsend@osgtool.com">gregg.townsend@osgtool.com</a></td>
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<td>Steve Schmidt</td>
<td>330-604-4412</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve.schmidt@bdo.com">steve.schmidt@bdo.com</a></td>
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<td>Bob Saffle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jody Gildersleeve</td>
<td>330-773-0415</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jgilders@bsamail.org">jgilders@bsamail.org</a></td>
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Recognize your NYLT trained youth

Now there’s a new way to identify those Scouts and Venturers who have taken National Youth Leadership Training, the council-level course also known as NYLT. The NYLT trained strip emblem, available at the Scout Shop is worn instead of the “Trained” strip.

2016 FOS info

To make an online donation please go to www.gtcbsa.org/fos

Boy Scout National Camp Card Sale

In these challenging economic times we don’t want family finances to keep a Scout from attending camp. Scouts will also learn an important value, earning your own way.

Our Camp Cards will be sold for $5.00. Consumers will be able to get access to over 200,000 offers in your hometown and throughout North America using a custom BSA website powered by the Entertainment Discount Network. Enjoy up to 50% savings in dining, shopping, attractions, travel, services, and online deals. Simply register your card online and print your savings or redeem at the merchants by showing the app on your smart phone.

Units participating in this program will earn 40% commission ($2.00) on each $5 Camp Card they sell. The sale will be promoted in January/February. Units sign-up in February and receive cards in March and can sell until May 12. This gives Scouts over two months to sell and make lots of cash!

- We will only allow units to check out 100 cards at a time.
- Units may return 50% of their cards—deadline is Thursday, April 14 at roundtable (cards must be in good condition).

Program sign-up—please contact Brad Miller at 330-773-0415 ext. 240 or brad.miller@scouting.org.
Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII Training

The Catholic Committee on Scouting will be presenting Counselor Training for Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII. Training will be held Saturday, May 14. Training will be held at the Great Trail Council Office. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Training will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Cost for training and materials, coffee, donuts and lunch will be $5.00. Please register by Saturday, May 7. Make checks payable to Jean Clites, 4749 Mayfair Rd., North Canton, Ohio 44720. If you have any questions, please call Jean Clites at 330-896-9270 or email aclites@neo.rr.com or ccs@gtcbsa.org.

Scout Night 2016

The Great Trail Council has teamed up with the Akron Rubber Ducks, AA farm team for the Cleveland Indians, to offer the annual campout at Canal Park this summer. The campout will be June 17. For more information contact Mitch Cromes at 330-253-5151 or email him at mcromes@akronrubberducks.com. You can also go to this link and download the form. http://www.milb.com/documents/2/7/6/156860276/scouts2016flyer_i0kea7ge.pdf

Leave No Trace Training

The Great Trail Council is offering a 16 hour weekend-long Leave No Trace Training which is open to Scouts 14 and older and Scouters. The course will be held May 13 & 14 at Camp Manatoc. This course will provide an in-depth knowledge of the 7 principles of Leave No Trace but also with the skills to teach them to others in your unit, district, or council. The $60 cost covers your food, lodging, and materials. We’ll spend one night “front country camping” and one night “back country camping” at Camp Manatoc. You’ll need a BSA Health form, and equipment to camp on the ground in a tent. Physical accommodations can be made for those who need them.

Each participant will be responsible for presenting a 10-15 minute lesson to others in the course. The course is limited to 12 participants, so sign up quickly.

For more information contact Andrew Paisley, LNT Master Educator, at 330-701-1298 or by email at bena.paisley@gmail.com. Sign up online at: https://scoutingevent.com/?LeaveNoTrace.

Summer Camp Leader’s Meeting

April 23

Scoutmasters! It’s time to bring your SPL to the annual Summer Camp Leader’s Meeting for troops attending Manatoc this coming summer!

It’s set for Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. till about 10:30 a.m., at the Camp Manatoc Dining Hall.

Once again, we’ll be offering the BIG PRIZES for Scoutmaster and SPL attendance at this important meeting.

The Scoutmaster attendance prize drawing will be for a brand-new 5-gallon Coleman drink cooler! This prize will be a great addition in your campsite.

The Senior Patrol Leader attendance prize drawing will be for a pair of new Coleman lanterns! These will be great to light up your campsite this summer.

Again, our meeting starts at 9 a.m., and we will be covering many of the details of camp including our 2016 theme, new merit badge offerings, a revised daily instruction schedule, and some new optional program activities. We’ll see you April 23 at camp!

Weekend camping price increase

Effective with reservations made on June 1, 2016 there will be new prices for facilities at the Manatoc Scout Reservation. These are the first price increases in eight years, and are still a great value for your camping budget. Rustic cabins are still less than $5 a bed for the weekend (GTC units).

Remember that you can make reservations up to a year in advance (GTC units) using our online system at http://bit.ly/msrlyrc, and if you make your 2016-2017 reservations before June 1, you can lock in the current rates for one more season.

To view the new prices visit: http://manatoc.org/weekends_new_prices.html

Help us spruce up the Manatoc Chapel

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is Reverent. In order to help our Scouts fulfill that commitment at summer camp, the Catholic Committee on Scouting is organizing a work day to spruce up the Manatoc Chapel. Please join us on Saturday, June 4, starting at 8 a.m. We will be graveling the walkways, repairing any benches, possible staining benches, pulling weeds, etc. Please bring shovels, rakes, work gloves, wheel barrels. We will work until the job is complete. Lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions contact ccs@gtcbsa.org.
Council Information

BALOO
Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation

Cub leaders, does your pack get outdoors enough? Is it maximum fun? Does everybody go? Let BALOO show you how! BALOO is training so adults can run great Cub Scout outdoor events. Every pack needs to have at least one BALOO trained person to go camping. This is the only training course open to registered and non-registered adults in the pack, so find someone to be in charge of FUN and send them to BALOO.

The 2016 Spring BALOO course will be held Saturday, May 7, at Camp Manatoc, in the Lewis Conference Center (lower level of the dining hall). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the course runs from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. If registered before Friday, April 29, the cost for the course is $16. PLEASE NOTE ANY REGISTRATIONS AFTER April 29 WILL BE CHARGED $21! Final deadline for registration is May 4. The cost includes your lunch and all materials, NOW INCLUDES THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING. For any questions please contact Nate Watson at 330-773-0415 ext. 227 or Nathan.Watson@scouting.org. Registrations can be mailed in to the Great Trail Council, PO Box 68, Akron, OH, 44309, or completed online at https://scoutingevent.com/?baloo16.

OWL—Outdoor Webelos Leader Training

Since a big part of Scouting is “Outing”, you will learn the necessary information and skills to be comfortable in the outdoors, and the training will allow you to be successful in providing a Webelos outdoor program. You will experience the training as a Webelos Scout. The training does not cover advanced outdoor skills, but rather it covers the basic skills you will need when working with the Webelos.

OWL Training will be held on May 7, at Camp Manatoc’s Lewis Family Conference Center. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., and ends at 9 p.m. The cost is $15 and includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Registration deadline is April 25. RSVP required, no walk-ins please! Register at: https://scoutingevent.com/?owl or for questions contact Takenya Lindsey at 330-400-0506 or email itzmstk@gmail.com.

Come win the day at “Super Heroes” Webelos Resident Camp

Session 1 – July 24-27
Session 2 – July 27-30

Webelos Resident Camp is about having fun. Spend 4 days and 3 nights boating, swimming, hiking, climbing, and shooting BB guns and archery while working on requirements for 7 Webelos Adventures. This is an exciting adventure in the great outdoors that every Webelos Scout should experience.

This year’s theme is “Super Heroes”. Scouts will be assigned to the Marvel or DC Patrols to fight evil and win the day.

The cost is $160 per youth and $90 per adult if paid by July 18. After July 18 the cost is $180 per youth and $110 per adult.

Registration is available online at https://scoutingevent.com/?gtcwrc

Questions? Contact Chris Bergdorf at 330-657-2418.

Webelos leaders & parents
Resident Camp meeting is July 14

A meeting for all Webelos den leaders and parents will take place on July 14, at the Camp Manatoc Dining Hall, at 8:00 p.m. You will learn how the new check-in system works along with details of your adventure at camp. You will also have the opportunity to meet with the Camp Director and key camp staff members who can answer all of your questions. The Leader’s Guide and Program Guide for Webelos Resident Camp, an extremely helpful tool, can be found online at www.manatoc.org.

Attendance is important and will help make your camp experience more meaningful.

National Youth Leadership Training

NYLT Training will be held from June 12-17 at Camp Butler. This is an exceptional training opportunity for youth who are members of Boy Scout Troops and Venturing crews open to both males and females. It is an exciting, action packed program designed to provide all youth members with leadership skill and experience they can use in their home troops and crews.

The cost is $200 per participant and payable by April 18. After April 18 the fee is $225.

Space is limited so please sign up early at: https://scoutingevent.com/?gtcnylt

Registration can only be made online. For more info contact Gary Hunsicker at 330-414-0827 or grhunsicker@gmail.com or Charmaine Schiele at 330-607-8081 or casmarch5@yahoo.com.

Scout Day with the Cavs
April 11 Cavs vs. Hawks
Scout tickets only $12
Purchase tickets at www.theqarena.com/boyscouts
Postgame activities on the court!
If more than 1 Scout please contact Kyle at kwalker@cavs.com
Tributes & Memorials

In Memory of: Frederic Mellor
From: William & Mary Louise Hilkert
Jeanette Conger & Family

Council Information

The Commissioners’ Corner is presented by the district commissioners of the Great Trail Council. Its purpose is to inform unit leaders about the role that unit commissioners play in delivering service to the units.

Venturing and Exploring

By Anna Lott, Venturing and Exploring District Commissioner

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts for young men and women who are 14 years of age or 13 years old and have completed the eighth grade and under 21 years of age. Venturing’s purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Exploring is a fun way to find out about different career paths and it is an opportunity for youth to explore their skills and talents in real life settings. It is a program for young men and women ages 14-20. It’s designed to provide a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at different careers. Explorers have the opportunity to step into the real world of business, computers, medicine, police and fire, fashion, and much, much, more. Explorers have a great time too!

Come join us in the fun!

- April 22-24 Area 4 WorldFest: Pirates of the Seven Ranges
- May 2 Venturing Congress
- August 20 Venturing Luau and Pool Party at Camp Manatoc
- September 12 Venturing Congress
- November 4-6 Venturing Fun Weekend
- November 7 Venturing Congress
- Fire Explorer Post Firemuster
- Law Enforcement Explorer Post Activities
- Venturing Banquet

Understanding the program of Venturing and Exploring helps the unit commissioner. Yes, they are Scout units but they are different than the traditional Cub Scout and Boy Scout units. The responsibilities of the youth and adults are different, uniforming is different, as are the activities. Visit their meetings and activities; let the unit know you support them. Above all, HAVE FUN!

Digital merit badge pamphlets

The list of interactive digital merit badge pamphlets continues to grow. See samples, get download links and find out why these pamphlets belong on your Scouts’ tablets at go.boyslife.org/meritbadge.

Charter Information

By now all charters should be in the council office. If you haven’t turned your unit charter in yet, please do so as soon as possible. Charters, rosters, and membership cards for Moe and Lakes should be mailed out by the first week in April. Make sure you distribute the membership cards and verify your roster to make sure that all information is correct.

Registration

It’s important that all youth transferring from a pack to a troop be registered in a timely manner. You want to make sure that they are registered so that they can participate in summer camp and other summertime activities. If you’re unsure if they are an actual transfer from a pack, please contact me so that I can verify their registration status.

Youth Protection Training

The district and units have worked hard over the years to make sure that all leaders have Youth Protection Training. I’m happy to report that the February Adult Training Statistics Report shows that we have 97% of our adult leaders YPT trained. Our goal as a council is 100%, your goal as a unit should be too. Your Unit Key 3 (unit leader, committee chair, and charter organization rep) can monitor Youth Protection Training for the unit by printing a YPT report that shows when training expires. Remember that YPT training will keep you informed and aware of situations that may come up and it is for the protection of our youth and our leaders.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding registration, internet rechartering, training or internet advancements, please contact Council Registrar Pat Gaugler at 330-773-0415 ext. 210 or pat@gtcbsa.org.

YPT when driving to a Scouting event

How does the Youth Protection policy of two-deep leadership apply when driving to Scouting events? Do two adults need to be in each car? Two adults are not required per car when traveling to meetings or Scouting events. That is, as long as the “no one-on-one contact” policy is followed. So if you are driving Scouts to a meeting, make sure you are not one-on-one unless the one youth is your own child.
Council Information

Leave No Trace for the front country

“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.” - John Muir

Please refer to the GTC website for details about a Leave No Trace Trainer

Course being offered May 13-15, which will be open to Scouts and Scouters.

Did you know that LNT principles have been adapted for almost every activity and environment one can imagine? This month I want to talk about LNT for the Front Country since most of Scout camping is done there. According to the Outdoor Industry Association there are three times as many car campers and five times as many day hikers as there are backpackers in the U.S. Even though civilization may only be around the corner, it is still important to practice LNT principles.

7 Principles for Front Country

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Be prepared! Remember food and water, and clothes to protect you from cold, heat and rain. Use maps to plan where you’re going. The more you know, the more fun you’ll have.

STICK TO TRAILS AND CAMP OVERNIGHT RIGHT: Walk and ride on designated trails to protect trailside plants. Do not step on flowers or small trees. They may not grow back. Respect private property by staying on designated trails. Camp only on designated campsites to avoid damaging vegetation.

TRASH YOUR TRASH AND PICK UP POOP: Pack it in, pack it out. Put litter—even crumbs, peels and cores—in garbage bags and carry it home. Use bathrooms or outhouses when available. Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, human, or pet waste in lakes or streams.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT: Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE: Use a camp stove for cooking. Use existing fire rings to protect the ground from heat.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD: Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed or follow them. Protect wildlife by securely storing your meals and trash.

SHARE OUR TRAILS AND MANAGE YOUR PET: Be considerate when passing others on the trail. Listen to nature. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet.

Eagle’s Nest

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2017 National Scout Jamboree

The Boy Scouts of America announced the official theme and logo for the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, a celebration of Scouting held every four years for Scouts, Venturers, volunteers, and staff from across the nation.

The 2017 theme, “Live Scouting’s Adventure,” speaks both to Scouting’s century-old tradition of creating adventures that develop young people into the leaders of tomorrow and to the developing adventures of the next century of Scouting.

This will be the second jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia’s adventure sports region known as the New River Gorge. Located on a sprawling 10,600 acres, the property includes more than 5 miles of zip line and challenge courses, 36 miles of mountain bike trails, and 13 acres of shooting sports ranges, as well as venues for kayaking, rock climbing, bouldering, skateboarding, BMX, and various other activities.

The jamboree is open to active youth members and adult volunteers in BSA programs. The Great Trail Council Jamboree Contingent will be leaving July 17, for 2 days of touring before arriving at the jamboree on July 19. They will return to Akron on July 28. The cost of the 2017 National Jamboree is $1,650 (due in payments). The first payment of $350 is due with registration and will be invoiced after registration is accepted. Youth ages 12 and older and those wishing to serve on jamboree staff can register at www.bsajamboree.org. We are still looking for adult leaders. If you are interested, please register at www.bsajamboree.org. If you need more information contact Shannon Sinex at ssinex@bsamail.org.
Trained in Great Trail Council

In the past three years, 54 Scouters have earned the right to wear the pictured patch. How can you get this patch? It’s simple. Take all six courses in the Universal Scouting track of Great Trail Council’s University of Scouting. The Special Needs Advisory Committee salutes the dedication of all of our units serving differently abled youth, and reminds units that help is available for challenges. Contact Wendy Greathouse at 330-256-0996, or Dennis Vargo at 330-773-0415 ext. 214.

Congratulations to highly trained Scouters

The listed Scouters have not only taken the required six course training track, but have also taken the District Advocate Training Course, and committed to staying abreast of current trainings. Since 2015 those who have earned the coveted “DA” pin for their Universal Scouting patch are:

- Shane Dean
- Jeff Derrenberger
- Wendy Greathouse
- Mike Harris
- Clar Lahl
- Michelle McCue
- Mary Mertic
- Thomas Mole
- Chris Scott
- John Stefanik

Advisory Committee Meeting

Don’t forget. The next two meetings of SNAC (Special Needs Advisory Committee) are on Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m., at the council office and Wednesday, May 18, same bat time, same bat place.

Facebook!

So, you just need updates, reminders and things to bolster your own special needs program in your unit? Okay. Follow the SNAC on Facebook at Special Needs Scouting, Great Trail Council, BSA (Whew! That’s long!).

We’ll remind you about trainings, opportunities, helpful tips, et cetera. Plus, it’s a no hassle way to contact us through Facebook’s messenger when there’s an issue you’d like us to address. Confidential, and no hassle. How awesome is that?

Upcoming trainings, question and answer sessions, etc.

So. Haven’t decided if, or when, you actually need to call somebody in to help with a special needs issue that kind of is bothering you? We have the perfect “training” for you.

Every week of summer camp, the Special Needs Advisory Committee has a brief presentation for interested Scouters, and is immediately available to answer questions right there and then. Awesome, huh?

Additionally, SNAC will be providing trainings to summer camp staff, NYLT staff, and several units that have asked for extensive presentations on topics appropriate to their issues.

For a more immediate need, please contact Wendy at 330-256-0996 or Dennis at 330-773-0415 ext. 214.

Special needs help

How can you get help for a special need, or a significant behavioral issue within your unit? What do you do when parents are overwhelming you with requests for changes for a Scout with obvious challenges?

You call the Special Needs Advisory Committee. For more than 20 years, Great Trail Council’s SNAC has served units, Scouts and their families, and Scouters throughout the Council. We offer trainings, consultations, literature, resources—everything a stressed Scouter needs to enjoy Scouting within the unit again.

How do you get help? Contact Wendy Greathouse, SNAC chair, at wendygreatehouse@gmail.com or 330-256-0996 or Field Director Dennis Vargo at 330-773-0415 ext. 214 or dennis@gtcbsa.org.

First-Year Camper Open House

All first-year campers and their families are invited to a special Open House at the Camp Manatoc dining hall, on May 14, at 9:30 a.m. Scouts and their families will gather at the dining hall to learn about summer camp before their troops arrive. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be served. Scouts will visit a typical campsite and tour Camp Manatoc to discover the various program areas. Parents will have an opportunity to chat with camp leaders and have their questions answered. The program will end at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Director of Camping Chris Bergdorf at 330-657-2418 or email
Fun at District Pinewood Derby

Tri-Fires would like to extend a huge token of appreciation to Pack 3361, Greg Upole and his committee, and the Northwest Ave. Church of Christ in Tallmadge for hosting our 2016 District Pinewood Derby. A big thank you to Greg Upole for all of his efforts! A complete list of winners will follow next month.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles Day Camp

Day camp is coming up July 21-23, at Camp Butler, and this year’s theme is Planes, Trains and Automobiles. Don’t forget, you can get free placemats for your blue and gold banquet. They contain games along with day camp information. Let Brian Williams know how many you need. If you would like to have someone talk to your pack about day camp, contact Camp Director Doug Merideth at 330-603-4838 or cubmaster3048@yahoo.com.

Spring recruiting

It is time for spring recruitment! Get in touch with Wendy Greathouse, iamwendyann@yahoo.com or Brian Williams, brian.williams@bsamail.org as soon as possible to coordinate your spring recruitment! If you have an active summertime pack, why not recruit your upcoming Tiger den in the spring? Don’t miss out on a great opportunity. Also, every troop should have an open house!

Annual Elections

ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHARTER REPRESENTATIVES!
You are invited to attend the Tri-Fires Annual Meeting to exercise your right to vote for the new slate of district officers and members-at-large on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m., at the Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, in Tallmadge.

Planning for summer!

Don’t forget to include the National Summertime Pack Award in your plans for this summer’s activities. Plan and conduct three pack activities during the summer—one in June, July and August, and qualify for a certificate & streamer. The purpose of this award is to encourage packs to provide a year-round program by continuing to meet after school is out.

Cub Scout Fishing Derby

Registration is open to all Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos and their siblings. Only registered Scouts can compete for awards and prizes. The fishing derby will be on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. until noon, at the ODNR Wildlife District 3 Youth Fishing Area (912 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron).
Please bring your own equipment if you have it (only a limited number of loaners available). Register and pre-pay by April 1—$3 per youth. After April 1—$5 per youth. Registration forms were placed in your unit’s saddlebag.

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Come help us recognize some of our outstanding volunteers!

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 14, for our Annual District Recognition Event. It is the same night as a regularly scheduled roundtable, however we will recognize some of our district volunteers rather than have a regular roundtable program. We will start at 7 p.m., rather than 7:15 and we should be done at 8:30 or so, just like a normal roundtable. Similar to last year we will be having dessert! Please mark your calendars to attend this special event and support all of the wonderful people who make the Moecomdws District—MIGHTY MOE!!!! The cost is $5, just like years past, look for registration forms in saddlebags. Please come out and celebrate all of our wonderful volunteers!

Merit Badge Midway

Please join us again for Troop 177’s 2nd Annual Merit Badge Midway on April 16. This event will be held at Holy Family in Stow in the lower church hall. The cost of this event is $5 for the whole day. For more information or to register for this event go to http://www.meritbadge.info/mbm/ and click on the Ohio event. If you have any questions, please contact troop177meritbadgemidway@gmail.com.

On your mark, get set, go!

Please mark your calendars for the 15th Annual MOE District Pinewood Derby! The derby will be held on Saturday, April 9, at Redeemer Christian Church, in Cuyahoga Falls, 2141 5th St. The derby will run from noon - 3 p.m., with check-in beginning at 11:30 a.m. Each pack will get three Scouts to participate. Any questions, contact Andrew Cole at colesr0827@sbcglobal.net.

Spring OWL and BALOO Training

Remember that each pack needs to have at least one BALOO trained person at any pack overnight activity. This is the one training that any parent can attend. OWL Training is designed to help Webelos leaders with the outdoor program for the Webelos by teaching basic outdoor skills as well as skills needed to complete many of the Webelos activity badges.

BALOO - May 7, Camp Manatoc Dining Hall
OWL - May 7, Camp Manatoc Dining Hall

Get your motor runnin’

Grab your grease gun and get ready to lube up the gears! MOE Day Camp time is upon us and this year’s theme is Planes, Trains, and Automobiles. Join us on June 20-22 and June 23-25 for Wolves, Bears, and Webelos and June 25 for Tigers. We will have rocket races, automotive maintenance sessions, and (hopefully) drone flybys and flight simulators in addition to archery, BB guns, swimming, and lakefront activities.

Announcements, updates, and registration information will be available at http://moedaycamp.blogspot.com and questions can be emailed to MOEDayCamp@gmail.com.

As always, we will need the aid of Boy Scouts, Venturers, and adults to help pull this off. Please contact Jeff at (Jeffrey-zimmerman@sbcglobal.net), John at (smashingpins@yahoo.com), or Michelle at (msheline@neo.rr.com) if you are interested in being a part of the team.

Moe District Roundtable reminder

Roundtables are the second Thursday of each month at St. Stephen Church, located at the corner of Rt. 59 and Charring Cross in Stow. Roundtables start at 7:15 p.m. and all are welcome to attend! This month we meet on April 14. Please plan on joining us!

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<th>Cub Scouts</th>
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Lakes District Day Camp

This year the theme for day camp is “Planes, Trains and Automobiles!” Join us at beautiful MAPS Air Museum for a camp to remember. Please be aware that this year there will be a final registration date (that date is still being determined). No late registrations will be accepted and there will be no walk-ins allowed at day camp. Also registration for day camp will be exclusively online and that includes t-shirts. Please start planning now!

Recognition Dinner

This year the Lakes District Recognition Dinner will be held on Friday, April 22. Please be looking for more information at roundtable. Also, don’t forget that the district dinner is a time to recognize your fellow Scouters for all of their hard work, dedication and service.

National Summertime Pack Award

Your pack can qualify for the National Summertime Pack Award certificate and streamer by planning and conducting three pack activities during the summer – one in each June, July and August.

The purpose of this award is to encourage packs to provide a year-round program by continuing to meet during time periods when school is out. The main benefit of participating in this program is to keep the interest of the Scouts over the summer and to retain their membership for the following year.

Look in the resources and forms section of your Cub Scout Leader book for the National Summertime Pack Award form and start planning for the summer!

Program planning at roundtable

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m., at Prince of Peace Church on Shannon Ave., in Barberton, for the Lakes District Roundtable. May is our annual program planning roundtable, this is where all of the units get their packets to plan their program for the following year. It seems way too soon to start thinking about September now, but the object is to have a committee meeting over the summer to plan so that your unit is up and running in September. This year we will be continuing our tradition of having meatball subs, we like to refer to this as ‘Meatball May’. We ask that attendees of this event bring a covered dish with them. So, mark your calendar and we’ll see you there.
Chippewa District
“Scouting, From Tiger Paws to Eagle Claws”

Chairman  Brad Root  330-388-1405........broot@rootcandles.com
Commissioner  John Naizer  330-419-8395........team.naizer@frontier.com
District Executive  Steve Jindra  (B) 330-773-0415 X 235  stjindra@bsamail.org
Chippewa Website: www.facebook.com/pages/GTC-Chippewa-District

And the award goes to...

Congratulations to District Award of Merit recipients, Dick Heilman and Tom Mole.
Dick’s extensive service to Scouting spans many years as a District Executive for Great Trail Council. Upon his retirement in 2012 many volunteers in Chippewa District expected him to put out a “gone fishing” sign and do exactly that. In his own words, “I want to give back to the many dedicated volunteers that helped me do my job as DE.” Dick has been serving in several positions since his retirement which include Charter Organization Representative, Unit Commissioner, Venturing Membership Chair, Committee Member of Crew 2460, and Friends of Scouting Presenter. He is an active member of St. Emilian Byzantine Catholic Church, Ducks Unlimited (a wetland conservation group), and supports the shooting sports in both Great Trail and Cleveland Councils. Dick and his wife, Mary Lee, are leaving a legacy naming Great Trail Council as their beneficiary to continue their support for the future of Scouting.

Tom became an Eagle Scout in 1998 and has been giving back to Scouting ever since. He is always ready to help and has served at both klondike and camporalls for the past 5 years. While attending college in Texas, he started a new unit as Scoutmaster. Tom’s extensive knowledge and experience in working with physically and mentally handicapped people, along with his Scout training, helps him be an invaluable asset to those who need his help in all areas of Scouting. He has been a member of the council’s “Scouts with Disabilities” Committee for 5 years and has taught at University of Scouting. His positions include Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 452, Camping Committee Chair, and District Disabilities Advocate. Although Tom lives and works in Ashland, his incredible work ethic and his devotion to helping others brings him back to Chippewa District to volunteer for so many activities.

District Dinner Roundtable on April 14

Please join us as we honor these dedicated Award of Merit recipients at the April roundtable. We will meet on Thursday, April 14, to congratulate these well deserving individuals. Their commitment to the Chippewa District Scouting program is a special accomplishment to celebrate!

Get your cars ready for Chippewa’s Pinewood Derby

Chippewa District Pinewood Derby is Saturday, April 9, at Claggett Middle School, located at 420 E. Union St., Medina. Registration and pinewood derby packets have been placed in your unit’s saddlebag. Remember: the top two racers from your pack advance to the district tracks. Bears and Webelos sign in at 8:30 a.m. Tigers and Wolves sign in at noon, adults and siblings can register at 11:15 a.m. For more information, contact Chippewa District Pinewood Derby Chairman Kelly McEntire: kmcentire@roadrunner.com. Good luck racers!

Upcoming roundtables

Roundtables are a fun interactive way for scouters to learn about programs and meet fellow scouters within the Chippewa district. If someone from your unit hasn’t been attending roundtable I would encourage you to attend. Listed below is the upcoming schedule.

April—District Awards & Recognition
May—Council Calendar Distribution
- Boy Scouts: Alternatives to tent camping. (Hammocking)
- Cub Scouts: Summer programs/ National Summertime Award
June—Scouting Intermission
Roundtable break. Enjoy the outdoors!

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Registration $24  Boys’ Life $12

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Registration $22  Boys’ Life $11
Family FOS Campaign is underway

The 2016 campaign is underway for all Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venture crews. Now is the time to think about having a FOS presentation at a blue and gold banquet, court of honor, or pParent night.

Start by selecting a unit FOS chairperson and then schedule your unit for a presentation in early April. Set your own unit goal. Sign-ups for a presentation may be done at roundtable in February, March, and April! **Our 2016 Family Friends of Scouting chairman this year in Mike Rowe.** He will be contacting you as well to help schedule. **Mike** can be reached mikeroweops@sbcglobal.net or 330-351-3283. You may also call **Nate Watson**, (330) 773-0415, ext. 227, (Nathan.Watson@scouting.org) to schedule. Make sure the date you select is a date when you will have the most family and friends of Scouts in attendance and we’ll arrange for a FOS presenter to attend your event. Presentations typically take 10 minutes, with a short follow-up at the end of your program.

We need to be able to tell the “Scouting Story” to every family and give them the opportunity to make a financial contribution to help support the great things we do with the youth of our communities.

Seneca Recognition Night

On Thursday, April 14, at roundtable, Seneca District will recognize outstanding volunteers for their dedication to Scouting and their service to the youth we serve.

Cub Fishing Derby at Lake Hodgson

This is a “save the date” for the 2016 Fishing Derby, to be held on June 4! We are going to be partnering with the Kent Parks and Rec again this year at Lake Hodgson! Look for updates in your saddle bags and at upcoming roundtables!

Seneca’s cutting edge communications

Seneca District always strives to improve our communications to the district. Please consider “liking” our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SenecaScouts. Also take a look at our updated website, www.SenecaDistrict.org to be kept up to date on all the happenings in the district and the council!

Planes, Trains & Automobiles Day Camp

Planes, trains and automobiles are the focus for Seneca’s Cub Scout Day Camp at Camp Butler. Be sure to put July 7, 8, and 9 on your calendar to enjoy three fun-filled days of crafts, swimming, archery and many other advancement earning opportunities. Watch for the announcement on Facebook when online registration begins. Be the first in your pack to sign up for three exciting days of exploring types of transportation and encourage your fellow Scouts to join in the fun. Parents and Cubs can also participate in an overnight experience for only $10 more per person. “Wheels” being looking for you at camp. Time “flies” by quickly so “jump on board” and register by June 6, to make sure you get your t-shirt, patch, and mug! Parents and leaders are encouraged to join us on Thursday, May 12, from 7 p.m.-8 p.m., at the Kent United Church of Christ for an informational meeting and Q&A session. For questions or more information contact Camp Director **Stephanie McLean**, themcleancrew@gmail.com or 234-218-0075, or Program Director **Patty Payne**, pattypayne30@gmail.com, or 330-388-9275.
Family Friends of Scouting

Delivering a high quality Scouting program costs the Great Trail Council $150 per Scout per year over and above membership fees. FOS is an outstanding opportunity to increase the dollars available for the maintenance of Camps Manatoc and Butler; the administration of registrations, training records, membership and advancement records; activities such as the University of Scouting and Council Camporees, Klondike, Summer Camps and Day Camps; and for training courses to ensure that every Scout has the trained adult leader that they deserve. Thank you to those of you who have participated in Friends of Scouting to make this amazing Scouting program possible in the Great Trail Council. If you have any questions about the FOS Campaign please contact Eric Matheny, OP Family FOS Chair at matheny54@hotmail.com

Planning for summer!

Don’t forget to include the National Summertime Pack Award in your plans for this summer’s activities. Plan and conduct three pack activities during the summer—one in June, July and August and qualify for a certificate & streamer. The purpose of this award is to encourage packs to provide a year-round program by continuing to meet after school is out.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles Day Camp

All Cubs will be meeting at Camp Butler July 25-27. Volunteers and ideas are needed. Call or email Jim Horvath 330-283-4422 or jhorvath99@aol.com.

Annual Recognition Night is April 14

This year we will meet at Faith Lutheran Church, W. Market Street, on Thursday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. The Old Portage District will recognize outstanding volunteers for their dedication to Scouting and their service to the youth we serve.

Worked on that recharter?

We hope so! The internet “recharter window” was open February 1 till March 31. If you have not turned in your signed charter, any additional applications that you added to your charter, copies of Youth Protection cards and your check, your charter is now past due. Please bring to the Great Trail Council Service Center immediately. Don’t forget to complete the Journey To Excellence form along with your other recharter paperwork – JTE is very important as we work, across the country, to make our Movement the quality program for kids we all want it to be. Journey To Excellence helps us set goals, measure how we’re doing at “Delivering The Promise” of a quality Scouting program to kids and families and gives us tangible ways of making our units better. So, don’t forget to complete your JTE form when you turn in your charter.

Questions on JTE or recharter or need help? Contact our District Commissioner Dan Gentile, gentile2@fuse.net.

Old Portage District
“THE Quality District”

District Chairman  Donna Axson  330-573-8766  daxson@oldportage.org
District Commissioner Dan Gentile  330-808-4819  gentile2@fuse.net
District Executive Keith Doyle  330-773-0415 X 230
Old Portage Website www.oldportage.org

April

2 District Pinewood Derby—9 a.m.—First Baptist Church, Shatto Ave.
7 District Committee/Annual Elections—7 p.m.—Bath United Church of Christ
14 Annual Recognition Dinner—6:30 p.m.—Faith Lutheran Church, W. Market St., Akron
Registration $24  Boys’ Life $12

May

5 District Committee—7 p.m.—Bath United Church of Christ
7 OWL/BALOO Trainings—Camp Manatoc
12 District Commissioners—6:30 p.m.—First Baptist Church, Shatto Ave.
12 Roundtable/Camp Card Turn-in—7:15 p.m.—First Baptist Church, Shatto Ave.
Registration $22  Boys’ Life $10
Venturing/Exploring
Energy...Excitement...Enthusiasm
Chairman Elizabeth Murphy 330-434-9300 murphy.venture.gtc@gmail.com
Commissioner Anna Lott 330-699-1854 lott88a@gmail.com
Staff Advisor Dennis Vargo 330-773-0415 ext. 214 dvargo@bsamail.org
Council Venturing President Katelyn Keckler President@GTCVenturing.org

ILSC offered at University of Scouting

Alex Heard (recognized at the annual banquet as Crew President of the Year and a VLA award recipient) and Jeremy Gensel (recognized at the annual banquet as Outstanding Crew Member of the Year) both of Crew 2001 jointly taught Venturers Introduction to Leadership Skills – Crews at University of Scouting. ILSC is one of the requirements for a Venturer to take NYLT. The GTC VOA is looking forward to offering more training next year.

Adult Venturing Training now online

Need to get trained or just want to update with the 2014 Venturing revisions? Now training is available online. You can now take:
• Crew Advisor Specific Training
• Crew Committee Challenge Training
• Venturing Board of Review Certification Training at http://my.scouting.org now. Don’t forget your Youth Protection training and you will be fully trained once you take Crew Advisor or Crew Committee training depending on your registered position. If you prefer training in person contact our Venturing Training Chairman Brian Menke (see our training page here).

Celebrating our youth leaders

It is time to look towards the selection of a new council Venturing president and his or her vice presidents. Please go to www.GTCVenturing.org/news and read “Join the VOA – Two ways!” Each of our crew presidents are youth leaders on the VOA, but now is the time for your best youth to step up and apply for a position on the VOA.

Because of the youth leaders on the VOA you had the opportunity to attend the Luau or Star Wars weekend, get trained in ILSC, Goal Setting and Time Management, Advisor Specific and Crew Committee training, attend the annual banquet, receive awards including the VLA and Venturing Choice Awards and more. Help encourage someone in your crew to apply to the VOA. Applications at www.GTCVenturing.org/apply.

About the Leadership Award Honorees

The Venturing Leadership Award (3 were awarded this year) is the highest award that can be given to Venturers. Get to know them through their bios.

And the honorees are...

Justin Wise

Justin Wise has demonstrated exceptional leadership over his 9 years of Scouting. He earned his Eagle as well as joined crew 2361 in 2012. In the crew Justin has held the position of president and vice president of administration. Justin held the position of senior patrol leader for the 2015 NYLT course. He always acts a role model to his peers by living the Scout Oath and Law. He is one to act when something needs to be done or there is someone in need. Justin takes pride in making everyone feel welcomed and valued. His leadership shows through in everything he does. Outside of Scouts Justin is training to be an EMT, works in security for Target, and as a part time firefighter for the Village of Lakemore.

Alex Heard

Alex Heard is a 17 year old Star Scout from Troop 1 and is the past president of Crew 2001. In his role as crew president, Alex is one of the few (who is not also an officer) to actively serve on the council VOA. His first foray into Venturing was when he took the job as activity chair for the 2014 Monster Mash. He has always been willing to help and has rarely if ever been heard to say “no”. The most recent example of his service was traveling with the Area VOA to Simon Kenton Council, along with Council VP of Administration Anna Grund, to teach Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews at their University of Scouting. A role which he repeated on March 5, at our own University of Scouting.

Tammie Menke

Tammie’s commitment to Scouting began in the early 1980’s in Explorer Post 2177 and has grown to the present day as Associate Advisor and Venturing Unit Commissioner. Without her expertise as a travel director, and advising and following up on her present day officers, their crew would be spinning out of control. Tammie has also been a longtime advisor in two 4H clubs. She volunteers in her church youth group and is a board member of the Stow Historical Society as well as the Stow Players. She is also a member of the Philmont Staff Association.

After 30 years of Scouting as a youth and adult advisor, she has touched the lives of many Scouts.
2016 Lodge membership

Brothers, you can renew your membership in our Lodge at this website - https://scoutingevent.com/?marnocdues

Ordeal Inductions for 2016

The Lodge is already preparing for the 2016 unit election year. Look for the election packet in your troop saddlebag. Elections and registration for Ordeals opened January 1 and will close April 15. For more information, or if you need a packet, please contact: ordeal@marnoc.org

The election packet is available at our website - http://marnoc.org/forms_files/2016electionpacket.pdf

The Order of the Arrow serves as Scouting’s National Honor Society. More than 176,000 members strong, the Order recognizes Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The OA can help strengthen troops by providing leadership training and opportunities for OA members and by assisting in summer camp promotion, camporees, Scout shows, and other activities.

Save the date for Section Conclave

Save the date! Conclave will be held at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation on May 13 – 15. The theme will be 007 Ranges. Get ready for a weekend packed full of spy themed fun for the Scouts and leaders too!

From our Lodge Adviser

I would like to tell you about a relatively new program concerning units. Troops & Teams are vital to the success of an OA lodge. National recognizes this and has instituted a new award program that recognizes those units that support the OA by having the following:

- Troop/Team Representative and Advisers who represents the OA to the unit
- Unit members participating in OA events
- Holding an OA election and having 100% of candidates complete their Ordeal
- Include the OA Lodge calendar in their annual planning
- 30% of the unit’s eligible members complete Brotherhood

The available recognitions:

- OA Unit of Excellence Award
- OA Scoutmaster/Coach of Excellence
- OA Troop/Team Representative of Excellence
- OA Troop/Team Representative Adviser of Excellence


MEET GIZMO AT
CAMP MANATOC THIS SUMMER!
The new Animation Merit Badge is coming! We have started receiving the Merit Badge Pamphlets and expect the Merit Badge Emblem to be in stock very soon.

Take time to stop by and see all the new items.