



SIGNALS

Chief Okemos Council, BSA

December 2003

Volume 9, Issue 11

Mission Statement

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

In This Issue

Keep It Safe	2
ASE Minute	3
Aviation Badge	3
Exploring	4
Order of the Arrow	5
Mawanjidiwin	6
Migisins	7
Ojibwas	8
Council Wide Roundtable	10
Popcorn Winners Party	11
Eager Beavers-Chain Saws	12
OA Look Back	13
New Eagle Scouts	13
OKPIK	14
Ojibiwas District Dinner	16
Scout Shop	17
Christmas Trivia	18



Double H High Adventure Base

Attention experienced backpackers: if you're looking for a new high adventure experience in backpacking, this might be just for you. Philmont Scout Ranch has announced week-long backpacking treks designed for crews in top physical condition for strenuous backing adventures, at the Double H Ranch. Details:

The Double H Ranch is located between Datil and Magdalena N. M., 2 hours south of Albuquerque, off US Hwy 60.

The season will run from June 21st through Aug.2nd
Seven day 50-60 Mile trek, utilizing Leave-No-Trace principles

Over 100,000 acres of rugged terrain to explore
Visit the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, known as VLA (Very Large Array)

Observe elk, mule deer, bear and other wildlife
Participate in exciting backcountry programs: black powder, astronomy, challenge events, geo-caching, more

Learn about the Native-American culture found in the area
Projects to assist the Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation in fulfillment of their conservation plan

Troops, Varsity Teams, or Venturing Crews (coed with coed leadership) may undertake the treks, and reservations are made on a first come, first-served basis, by written application only (no phone or e-mail reservations). Crews will participate in a pristine wilderness environment at elevations over 7,000 feet on their seven-day trek.

For further information or to obtain an application, contact Rob Elliott, high adventure chairman at 349-0150.

Council Calendar

- 1 Full Staff Meeting
- 2 Advancement Committee
Commissioners Cabinet
- 8 District Operations Seminar
- 14 MIC Planning Committee
- 15 Field Staff Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
- 16 Membership Committee
- 17 Finance Committee
- 19 February Signals Articles Due
- 22 Northwoods Staff Interviews
- 24/31 Office Closed Christmas

Keep it Safe

The Guide to Safe Scouting is the unit leader's guide for current policies and procedures for Safe Activities. It is a great resource that every leader should use and be familiar with.

In October we had an injury at a Pack which could have been prevented. The general guidelines for BSA Safety are found on page 27 titled: "The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety."

Note the very first statement is that good judgement and common sense are applicable to all activities. The section continues with 16 points, which are each elaborated.

1. Qualified Supervision
2. Physical Fitness
3. Buddy System
4. Safe Area or Course
5. Equipment Selection and Maintenance
6. Personal Safety Equipment
7. Safety Procedures and Policies
8. Skill Level Limits
9. Weather Check
10. Planning
11. Communications
12. Permits and Notices
13. First-Aid Resources
14. Applicable Laws
15. CPR Resource
16. Discipline



HELP WANTED

The Chief Okemos Website Committee is currently seeking volunteer assistance to help upgrade and maintain certain areas of our website. We are looking for anyone, young or old, who would like to share some of their time and talent. This would be an excellent opportunity to get practical experience for someone going in to this type of career field. The Council would be glad to be a reference for employment opportunities. Please contact John Hogg, Assistant Scout Executive, johogg@bsaemail.org if you would like to help.

Religious Award

**Level: 1 God and Me GRADES 1-2-3;
AGES 6-8**

Matthew Segerlind
Unit 224
Christopher Smith

University Baptist
4608 S. Hagadorn Rd
East Lansing, MI

Courage, Strength, Fraternity, Character

These are some of the key things that Scouting can give a boy. Scouting is a game with a purpose. Scoutmasters train boys to be leaders and then let them do their jobs. In troops and patrols Scouts learn to work together and that "shared leadership" sometimes means supporting others when they may be able to perform a skill better than you.

Responsibility, Courage, and Character are encouraged in Scouting and Scouts exhibit this when they do the right thing even when no one is looking. The advancement program and activities help Scouts progress and gives them confidence. These attributes help them as they move on to become successful citizens.

Assistant Scout Executive's Minute



By

John S. Hogg

(This takes about a minute or so to read)



"The Best Present you can give your Child this Holiday Season is..."

It will be two years this month, but a day does not go by that I don't think about. It was December 10, 2001 at around 7:20 AM. I was on the home computer. My 17 year-old son gave a cheerful good-bye as he walked out the door to drive to school. Fifteen minutes later he was dead. Killed instantly when a car struck him as he crossed the road to check on another driver who was involved in a minor accident with his car.

Life has no guarantees. He was a high school senior, honor roll student, Eagle Scout, President of his Venture Crew, Order of Arrow member, top student in his aviation technology course at the Gerald R. Ford Airport, popular student, and had many friends. Gone in a heartbeat, eleven days before his 18th birthday.

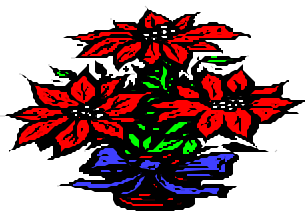
As we prepared for the funeral we got pictures out to display at the funeral home. We had hundreds of pictures when he was a Cub Scout receiving all his badges of ranks, arrow points, pinewood derbies, bowling with his den, field trips to a construction site to earn his engineering pin. We had hundreds of pictures as a Scout backpacking, camping, whitewater rafting, National Jamboree, rock and ice climbing, summer camp. You name it we did it together. He is gone. But nothing can take the fun memories of all the times we spent together because of Scouting.

This time of year parents will be buying their children all types of presents for the holidays. The best present you can give your child now and throughout the year is your time. Even when you think you are too tired, too busy at work, or too busy with your own recreation. Take the time. There is not a greater way in the world to spend time with your child than in Scouting. Take the time, bring your camera, and spend every opportunity you can with your child. This New Year make a resolution to spend time with your children. You'll never regret it. There is no guarantee, if you put it off until tomorrow. Above all else, don't forget to give them a hug everyday before they leave the house.

Eagle Scout Living Memorials

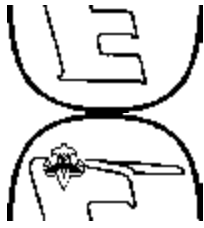
The National Eagle Scout Scholarship Endowment accepts tax-deductible contributions in memory of deceased Eagle Scouts or in tribute to Eagle Scout achievers.

Contributions may be sent to NESAs, Director, S220, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Please mark the envelope "Personal and Confidential," make the check payable to NESAs, and mark the check "In Memory of (name of person)" or "in tribute to (name of person)".



2004 Boy Scout Aviation Badge

Kalamazoo Air Zoo is hosting a Boy Scout Aviation Badge day on March 13, 2004 from 9:30 to 4:00. Registration is required. The fee to attend is \$7.00 if registered by 1-31-04 or \$10.00 if registered 2-1-04 through 2-28-03. All Scouts must bring the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge book. Contact Kalamazoo Air Zoo at 269-382-6555 for more information. Their address is 3101 East Milham Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49002.



Exploring/Learning for Life

Nichole Waters, Exploring Executive



Explorer Posts to Renew Charters

Now is the time for Explorer posts to begin the charter renewal process. Recently, at an Advisors meeting, the re-charter schedule was provided. Please contact Nichole to schedule your charter renewal meeting.

New Membership

Please get all new members registered as soon as possible. New members who are not registered but actively participating in Post activities are doing so without the protection of liability and accident insurance. Please send in the registrations as new members join your Post. If you have any questions about the registration process or fees associated with membership please contact Nichole at 321-7278 ext. 105 or nwaters@bsamail.org.

Friends of Scouting

Reminder: As your Post Family or Awards Night nears, please remember to contact me to do a Friends of Scouting Presentation. Friends of Scouting is our annual fundraising campaign and is crucial to maintain quality services for all involved. To schedule, contact Nichole. Thank you in advance for participating.

Handy with a Needle & Thread?

The Scout Shop is often asked to recommend someone willing to sew on badges, make a hem, or do alterations. If you or someone you know would like to help, please call or send a note to: Marjorie Findlay, Scout Shop, Chief Okemos Council, 4000 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917 or call #321-9400 x112. We will gladly pass on the information.

Summer 2004 Exploring Conferences

A number of Exploring events are scheduled for summer 2004. Here is the rundown:

National Law Enforcement Conference will be held July 19-24 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. The conference is open to Law Enforcement posts. For all the details and forms go to www.learning-for-life.org.

Explorer base Camp, July 24- Aug. 1 at AirVenture at Whitman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Look for a 2004 fact sheet www.learning-for-life.org

Exploring Ski Weekend **Jan. 23-25, 2004:**

December 19, 2003 deposits due! Deposits are due at the Council Service Center on Dec. 19, 2003 to reserve your space in the annual ski weekend. All forms and information can be found on the web-site at www.chiefokemosbsa.org. Remember that all participants must be at least 14 years old and a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. If you have any questions, please contact Nichole at 321-7278 ext. 105 or nwaters@bsamail.org. See you there.

Exploring Recognition Dinner

Save this date! February 12, 2004 is reserved for the 1st Annual Exploring Recognition Dinner at Holiday Inn South. Explorer of the Year, Advisor of the Year, Explorer Post of the Year are just a sample of the types of awards that will be given. Nomination packets are now available at the service center and at www.chiefokemosbsa.org. Nominations are due by January 15, 2004. This event is open to all and will be a night to remember. Come join in the celebration.

Exploring Continued on page 5.....



Order of the Arrow

Gabe-shi-win-gi-ji-kens #374



Lodge Key – 3

Lodge Chief–David Graff 655-5140
Lodge Lay Adviser-Rick Todd 543-3301
Lodge Staff Adviser-Jason Kerschke 321-7278 ext. 106

Unit Elections

Unit Elections for the year 2003 are almost here. Now is the time for your unit to sign to have an election. Unit Election request forms can be picked-up at the Scout office. **Remember the Lodge asks for six weeks advance notice so that they can plan accordingly.** If you have question please call a member of the Lodge Key – 3.

Lodge Calendar

Dec. 7 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00
Jan. 2-4 – OA Winter Extravaganza
Jan. 4 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00
Jan. 15 – **First NOAC Payment is due - \$100**
Feb. 1 – Lodge Executive Committee – Council Service Center – 2:00
Feb. 7 – Section C-2B Council of Chiefs meeting at Camp Rotary
Feb. 28 – OA Winter Banquet (**Second NOAC Payment is Due - \$100**)

Charter Renewal

As we get closer to the end of this year, the Lodge is preparing the Lodge charter renewal and the annual report to the Council. Our records indicate that many lodge members have not paid their dues for the year 2003. The cost for dues is \$8.00. Now is the perfect time to pay your 2003 and 2004 dues to remain active in our Lodge.

NOAC 2004

We will soon begin planning for the 2004 NOAC (National Order of Arrow) at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Since the cost of the event is approximately \$350 our Lodge has a payment plan to assist you. The first payment is due on January 15, 2004. The dates are July 31 – August 5, 2004. This Conference attracts over 7,000 participants every two years and is an event you won't want to miss! We hope to have a large contingent so that we can have fun and to prepare for the 2006 Conference which will be at Michigan State University!

.....Exploring Continued from pg. 4

Tour Permits & Youth Protection Training

A tour permit is required anytime your Post takes a trip outside of the Council boundaries. A local tour permit is required for trips less than 500 miles, any trip more than 500 miles requires a National Tour Permit. Both types of tour permits can be found on our web-site at www.chiefokemosbsa.org.

For tour permits to be approved, leaders must be trained in Youth Protection. Youth Protection Training can be done on-line at www.chiefokemosbsa.org. Follow the prompts and complete the downloads and form at the end of the training. Shortly after you will receive an email – this is your “trained” card. Please provide a copy of this card when submitting your tour permits. If you have any questions, please contact Nichole.



Mawanjidiwin District

District Calendar

- Dec. 4 – District Commissioner’s Meeting –Great Lakes
Christian College Cafeteria-6:00
- Dec. 4 – District Committee Meeting – Great Lakes
Christian College Cafeteria-7:00
- Dec. 11– District Roundtable – Lawrence Ave. United
Methodist Church –Charlotte-7:00
- Dec. 15 – RECHARTERS DUE
- Jan. 8 – Council-Wide Roundtable & Camping Kick-off
- Jan. 11 – District Operations
- Jan. 16-18 – Mawanjidiwin winter Camporee – Camp
Kiwanis
- Jan. 17 – Mawanjidiwin Webelos Winter Event – Camp
Kiwanis
- Feb. 5 – District Commissioner’s Meeting –Great Lakes
Christian College Cafeteria-6:00
- Feb. 5 – District Committee Meeting – Great Lakes
Christian College Cafeteria-7:00
- Feb. 12– District Roundtable – Lawrence Ave. United
Methodist Church –Charlotte-7:00

FOS

Have you scheduled your unit’s Friends of Scouting presentation for 2004? Please plan to have a presentation in January, February, or March of next year. This fundraising campaign helps to provide and maintain a good scouting program in your community. Together we can all contribute toward reaching our financial goals quickly and then move on to bigger and better things as a District. Contact Jason at 321-7278 ext.106 to schedule your presentation today.

District Committee

- District Chair- Vacant
- District Commissioner-Bill Hull 627-2439
- Vice Chair of Program - Chuck Rabey 543-3295
- District Executive-Jason Kerschke 321-7278 ext. 106
- Activities Chair - Tom Baker 663-4315
- Membership Chair - Vacant
- Finance Chair-Vacant
- Training Chair-Kurt Johnson 541-1124
- Advancement Chair-Jim Welling 543-6031
- Outdoor & Camp Promo Chair Joe Wright 647-7123
- Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner-Tom Watson 543-2995
- Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner-Carolyn Newcomb 647-2323
- Popcorn Chair-Bernadine Henley 694-5275

Great Stories

Attention all units! Do you have a great story to tell about your pack or troop and its members? If so we want to know about it so that we can include them right here in Signals each month. Please feel free to submit articles and pictures highlighting what your unit is doing. We ask that articles are not more than a few paragraphs in length and that with pictures, you clearly identify the people and include a brief description of what is happening. Please note that all articles are due by the 20th of each month and will appear in the next available month’s issue. (For Example; Oct. 20th submissions will appear in December Signals)



Rechartering

Rechartering time is almost over. Now is the time to finish the paperwork and turn in your completed charter for another year of scouting. At this month’s roundtable we will be able to assist you with any questions regarding the paperwork to ReCharter. For more information or if you have question please call Bill Hull at 627-2439 or Jason Kerschke at 321-7278 ext. 106.



Migisins District



DISTRICT CALENDAR	
12/04	District Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Building, Dewitt
12/11	District Roundtable 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Building, Dewitt

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

District Chairperson	Jim Gunther	224-6137
District Activities	Nancy Roney	669-6191
District Advancement	Jim Winslow	647-6134
District Camping	Dave Mongson	374-6599
	Steve Bassette	224-7939
District Finance	Vacant	
District Membership	Vacant	
District Training	Larry Proctor	224-8422
District Commissioner	Jeff Carter	484-8725
District Executive	Don Walker	321-9400, ext. 107

SAY HELLO TO PACK 517!

Thanks to the efforts of parents Andrae Koval and Heidi Stoll, we have a new Cub Scout Pack in Migisins comprised of Catholic Home School Families. Andrae and Heidi will serve as Den Leaders for a combined Bear/Wolf Den. Andrae's husband Jason will serve as Cubmaster and Heidi's husband Matthew will serve as Chartered Organization Representative/Committee Chair. Pack Committee members James Despelder and Leo Laporte round out the team. Please take every opportunity to welcome these new Scouts and leaders to the district and to the Chief Okemos Council.

DISTRICT AWARDS

Please be reminded that nominations for the District Award of Merit, Scouting Family of the Year, Boy Scouter of the Year, and Cub Scouter of the Year are due by December 31. If you wish to have your Pack or Troop considered for the "Best Program of the Year," you must submit your program information by the end of December as well. Nomination forms are available from your Cubmaster/Scoutmaster, on the Council website, and at the Council Service Center (hallway outside Scout Shop). The Awards Committee will meet in January and the district's Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held the evening of March 11, 2004. If you missed last year's event for whatever reason, you missed a great opportunity to witness volunteers and units being recognized for their outstanding contributions to Scouting.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

I would like to personally thank each and every one of our leaders, parents and Scouts who helped make 2003 another successful year for the Migisins district. For the third year in a row, our district led the Council in terms of percentage of "Friends of Scouting" goal achieved. For the first time in my tenure, several Packs made the effort to recruit new Tiger Cubs in the spring, providing these new Scouts an opportunity to attend Cub Scout summer camp programs. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers Linda Lupu and Terri Perry, attendance at the district's Cub Scout Day Camp increased from 70 in 2002 to 140 in 2003! Our "Fall Roundup" so far has resulted in the recruitment of 317 new Cub Scouts, just slightly behind the 329 recruited last year. The fall popcorn sale is off to a good start, with all but a very few Packs participating. Once again this year, a significant number of our unit leaders have completed the "New Essentials" and "Position Specific" training sessions. As I close out my 35 year career in youth services (I will be retiring in April) I will look back with pleasure on the years that I was fortunate enough to work with volunteers such as you.

Don Walker, D.E.





Ojibwas District



DECEMBER

- 4 Commissioner Staff, 6:00 p.m., Foster Building, Lansing
District Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Foster Building, Lansing
- 11 Charter Turn-in night at Roundtable
- 11 Cub Scout & Boy Scout Leader's Roundtable, Chippewa Middle School, Okemos
- 19 February *Signals* articles due
- 22 Camp Staff Interviews
- 24-26 Service Center closed for Christmas

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day - Council Service Center and Scout Shop are closed
- 2 Commissioner Staff, 6:00 p.m., Foster Building, Lansing
District Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Foster Building, Lansing
- 4 \$800 Popcorn Party
- 8 District Committee and Commissioners joint meeting before Council-wide Roundtable
- 8 Council-wide Roundtable, Camping and Friends of Scouting Kick-off
- 9 Popcorn Party
- 19 Martin Luther King day - Council Service Center and Scout Shop are closed
- 26 March *Signals* articles due

District Committee

- District Chairman -
- District Commissioner - **Noah Belanger** - (H) 655-4450
- District Vice Chair of Program - **Vacant**
- District Director - **Bob Vergamini** (W) 321-9400 ex. 110
- Senior District Executive - **Clarence Smith** (W) 321-9400 ex. 109
- District Vice Chair of Urban Scouting - **Ron Landfair** - (H) 484-6679
- District vice Chair of Venturing - **Mick Potter** - (H) 339-0493
- District Membership Chairman - **Bill Ames** - (H) 393-8622
- District Finance Chairman - **Tom Monkowski** - (H) 676-4554
- District Friends of Scouting Coordinator - **Suzanne Cox** (H) 347-1157
- District PR and Marketing Chair - **Jeff Pillon** (H) 882-2030
- District Activities Chairman - **John Parker** (H) 694-0842
- District Advancement Chairman - **Dave Merchant** - (H) 351-0360
- District Camping Chairman - **Tom Pavlik** - (H) 882-2030
- District Cub Scout Activities Chairman - **Kate Caddy** (H) 339-2978

Boy Scouts Needed!

Where are they? Where are the great Boy Scouts we used to have? Ojibwas District troops are growing backwards! We're getting smaller - even though there are still lots of boys who want to be Scouts out there. Scoutmasters, ask your boys to get their friends to join. Let them earn their "recruiter patch" and wear it with pride. Give another boy a chance to have the experience of a lifetime at camp or on a high-adventure trip. Every boy can get something out of being a Scout. It's a real shame that we don't give them the opportunity!

Commissioners Needed

The Ojibwas District is looking for experienced Scouters to fill key Unit Commissioner vacancies. Have you been involved in Scouting and are looking for some new challenges? Then maybe you should consider Commissioner Service. The main responsibility of a Commissioner is to keep Scouting Units active, healthy, and registered on time. Commissioners meet once a month to discuss Unit and District needs and plan for upcoming events. If you would like to serve as an important resource for Packs, Troops and Venture Crews by supporting training needs, camping programs, advancement and assist with unit registration, please contact Noah Belanger, Ojibwas District Commissioner in the evening at (517) 655-4450 or by e-mail to nbelanger@peckham.org

Unit Charter Renewal and Turn In

Each Unit needs to send one or more representatives to the annual Unit Charter Renewal Preview and Turn In to be held the evening of Thursday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. directly preceding Roundtable at Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos.

Unit leadership in attendance will be able to turn in their completed charter renewal that evening! Each unit representative must bring his or her unit charter renewal application with the proper signatures, plus the unit's checkbook, and a current roster of youth and adults to assist in the review.

Our District Commissioner, Noah Belanger can answer any questions you might have. Contact him at home evenings at 655-4450.

Nominate Someone Deserving

Your unit has already received a very important packet that could greatly affect the life of someone you admire. It's the nomination packet for District level awards. Someone you know is eligible for recognition. Someone you know deserves to be recognized! Someone you know should receive an award, and do you know what? If you don't nominate them they might never be considered. If you don't take a few minutes to give us a little information about that person they won't be considered. They won't receive that award, and they'll never be recognized as special. Please help us out! Even if you think they're already in the running, fill that paper out and send it to us. Don't let your chance to be the "good guy/gal" slip by! Nominations must be received at the Council Service Center on or before Friday, January 12, 2004 in order for your nominee to be considered this year.

Since you've been a good boy or girl and nominated someone for an award (and even if you haven't) you will want to attend the awards banquet. The banquet honoring our 2003 recipients is scheduled for Thursday Evening, March 11, 2004 at the Mason's Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. If you have not yet attended one of these banquets, be assured you will have a great time!

While we're mentioning awards, if you have been in Scouting as a volunteer for more than a couple of years, you have probably earned a patch or two you haven't received yourself. There are probably more tenure awards that have been earned and never applied for than there are those that have in Ojibwas District. Don't forget to recognize yourself! If you've been attending Roundtable regularly as you should, and have taken an active part in your Pack or Troop, fill out that training award form. Have you been a Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Den Leader, or other adult leader for a while? Fill out a leadership award form. If you don't know what these things are and want to know if you qualify, contact our District Awards Committee Chairman Curtis Probst at 349-1263 at home or 355-5199 at work.



Roundtable

A little bird told me that a rumor has been circulating around the District that Roundtable attendance is not necessary! That rumor is totally false! It's not mandatory, true. But it is totally necessary! At least it is for those of us who believe that there is no such thing as a program too good for our own children. I have never believed that something was too good for my kids! The best was only just good enough! I'm not talking about things! I'm talking about people to associate with, ideals that are higher than average, standards of behavior, program opportunities, et al. There is no way that your pack or troop program can be as good as possible without input from others and you get that at Roundtable.

December Boy Scout Roundtable

Come join us for some training at the Ojibwas Roundtable! We will be offering the Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training and certification for any and all troop adults on Thursday, December 11th. This training is good for two years, so if you need to update it, join us and be prepared for next summer! We will meet at the usual place – Chippewa Middle School, at the usual time – 7 PM. The council will also be holding its annual charter renewal session beforehand from 6 PM to 7 PM. So come on over, get your troop paperwork updated, have some fun and learn something!

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

Have you set your presentation date yet? Do you know how important Friends of Scouting is to the continued health of the Chief Okemos Council? If you do, you know that Scouting in the tri-county area cannot survive without your FOS support! So set your date now! It's easy, just tell us when the largest number of parents will be attending a meeting between January and April. That's three months worth of meetings to choose from. And when you've set a date – let us know! Call Joe or Suzie Cox at 347-1157 or your friendly District Executive at 321-9400.

2004 Council Wide Roundtable

W^{HEN} January 8, 2004
 Registration starts at 5:45
 Dinner starts at 6:15 p.m.
 Program starts at 7:00 p.m. & ends by 9:00 p.m.

**Let's all
 go to
 camp!**

W^{HERE} Holt Junior High School
 5780 West Holt Road, Holt
 (On Holt road between Grovenburg Rd. &
 Washington Rd)



W^{HO} All ADULT volunteer leaders are encouraged to attend

- W**^{HAT} The evening's program will include the following:
- New Camp Promotion presentations & Unit Leader/Parent Guides*
 - Family Friends of Scouting presentation & Unit Leader Guide*
 - Unit Recruitment and Recharter incentive -Three lucky units will when a \$300, \$200, or \$100 gift certificate to the Chief Okemos Council Scout Shop. Don't miss this! It might be YOU!**
 - Display tables/Information on: Future Training courses, Camping Programs, Activities, & Civic Service, Advancement & Recognition, Order of the Arrow, International Scouting, OKPIK, and Spring Popcorn sales.*
 - Food, Fun, Fellowship, and Door Prizes*

C^{OST} **FREE** – if you pre-register (in writing) with the Council Service Center by FRIDAY, January 2nd. After January 2nd, the cost at the door is \$4.00 per adult attending.

This year's camp presentation will be new and different! Much more exciting – and laced with great information for you to take back to your unit. **BE THERE – OR MISS OUT!!!**

Please clip and return by January 2nd (Please print)

Unit Number _____ District/Division _____ Pack _____ Troop Team Crew
 Post _____

(Circle the appropriate

one)

Names of Attending Adults:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Return to:
 Chief Okemos Council, BSA
 Council-Wide Roundtable Registration
 4000 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, Mi. 48917
 or FAX to (517) 321-7298



2003 Chief Okemos Council Popcorn Sale



The annual Chief Okemos Council Popcorn Sale was completed last month. It looks like an another great sale. In January Signals we will print the names of all the \$800 and \$1,000 sellers. We'll let you know who the top sellers were in each district and council. Check out the Council website.

Mark your Calendars!

\$800 Sellers Party

Saturday, January 10, 2004, \$800 sellers party will be at Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917, starting at 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. There will be pizza, pop, swimming, and fun and games.

\$1,000 Seller Party

Sunday, May 23, 2004, is the date for the \$1,000 seller's terrace party, which includes lunch and two tickets to the game. This is also Scout Day with the Lugnuts. Hundreds of Scouts and families attended last year
Congratulations to all the units who sold popcorn. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised to help your unit program. Great Job everyone.

COUNCILWIDE ROUNDTABLE RECRUITMENT AND RECHARTER INCENTIVE

DRAWING

\$300 \$200 \$100

Thursday, January 8th

Three lucky units who participated in the fall recruitment and recharter plan will win a \$300, \$200, or \$100 gift certificate to the Chief Okemos Council Scout Shop
Plan to bring all you Pack, Troop and Crew Leaders

Eager Beavers with Chain Saws?



The date was October 4th, 2003 just after the crack of dawn and two Eager Beavers were already taking down a few trees one at a time. Over the next four days the property lines were cleared, holes were dug, poles driven and fencing was erected. Slowly the process evolved until some 1,300 feet of wire fencing was in place over some extremely rugged terrain. And so started the project with 10 Eager Beavers which eventually will end with nearly four miles of fencing to embrace the 650 acres we proudly refer to as Northwoods Scout Reservation.

Elsewhere trenches were being dug to add new underground electrical cables along with water and sewer lines. Some Eager Beavers were busy painting those brown and yellow signs throughout Northwoods. While others gave a much-needed coat of paint to a few buildings to protect them from the elements. In the new maintenance building vehicles and equipment received oil changes and tune-ups to insure they would be ready to run when needed.

All told that weekend, three times a day some 30 Eager Beavers came together to share some great food and conversation. After each meal the dining hall would empty as the Eager Beavers returned to their projects hoping to finish what they had started.

By Sunday evening the Eager Beavers had packed up their gear and headed back home having the satisfaction of knowing they had made a difference.

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

Come the spring of 2004, Northwoods won't look noticeably much different than it did the year before. But because of the foundation of dedicated volunteers the campground's ability to serve our boys and us keeps improving one project at a time.

Just in case you didn't know, twice a year (May and October) for the last forty years a group of volunteers help to build or maintain just about anything imaginable up at Northwoods. Eager Beaver Weekend is open to any adult who wishes to volunteer their time, skills and energy.

The next Eager Beaver Weekend will be held on Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd 2004. Lodging and meals are provided. If you would like to join us or have further questions please contact Mike Myrand at 517-339-9127.

The Travels and Adventures of Eager Beaver



Did you read that article about all of the stuff we got done at Northwoods? Were we great or what! It is amazing what a good group of people can get done.

We're getting ready for the holidays at my lodge. Ready wanted to be the first to see Santa this year. As you can see he was really excited. From my lodge to yours a very happy holiday season. I hope you get a lot of presents. See you next year. I just love saying that.

An OA Look Back



Hey everyone. The 2003 calendar year is almost over. As I look back over the past 12 months I recall many wonderful experiences. We began the year with the OA Banquet, where we honored those who have served the lodge. Few will forget the snowstorm that hindered our trip to St. Johns.

In March came the Brotherhood Weekend at Camp Kiwanis which was colder than it has been in recent years. Then came the much-anticipated Chapel project weekend. Thirty-five of our Lodge's members spent a beautiful weekend at Northwoods where they nearly completed the whole project in just one weekend. The month of May brought us to the Central Region's "One Day of Service." Eighteen Lodge Members worked on two projects that benefited a local Community Garden and the Ingham Conservation District.

Then came the Summer Season. June began with the Spring Ordeal where we inducted new members, elected new Lodge officers, and had sixteen members complete their brotherhood marking the single largest brotherhood conversion in many years. Summer Camp included service to Northwoods through work on the OA Chapel and the beginning stages of the new rifle range. The lodge also conducted many call-out ceremonies and converted 17 additional people to brotherhood.

As the summer came to a close and we headed into the fall, the lodge prepared for the annual Section Conclave. Forty-one lodge members head to the U.P. for a rain-filled weekend of fun. Two of our lodge members were elected to serve as Section officers and the contingent successfully won the Coup Stick for the third year in a row. Next came the Fall Ordeal. Once again, we completed service projects throughout the camp and welcomed new members into our lodge. Our lodge also worked concessions at the MSU football games this fall. Watching the Spartans win most of their early season games was an added treat.

We now look to 2004 and the fun that lies ahead. The lodge banquet is coming in late February and we hope to see you all there. Also the 2004 Section Conclave will be at Northwoods in April and in August we will be sending a contingent to the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Please join us in making these future events great memories as well.



New Eagle Scouts in Ojibwas District

Congratulations to these fine young men who have recently achieved the highest rank available in the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout:

Blake Brown	Troop 96	Williamston Stake, LDS Church
Marcus Houser	Troop 417	St. Casimir Catholic Church, Lansing
David Graff	Troop 63	Williamston Kiwanis
Justin Fisher	Troop 33	Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Lansing
Bryan Howser	Troop 64	First Baptist Church, Okemos

OKPIK COLD WEATHER CAMPING TRAINING

The Boy Scouts of America official cold weather camping training course



OKPIK: The Aleut word for snowy owl

What is OKPIK? A training program to help you learn outdoor cold weather camping skills. It is for Scout and Venture leaders, Scouts minimum age of 14 years and first class rank, and all Venture Youth

In Michigan 9 months out of the year (Sept-May) the temperature can drop below freezing at night. Be like the wise owl and learn the skills and knowledge of OKPIK, and you will enjoy camping comfortably all year long.

Learn these winter camping skills:

- ◆ Clothing: How to dress for cold weather camping. Snow camping is more than just summer camping with more clothes.
- ◆ Snow Shelters: Skills taught will be construction of thermal shelter, the snow piled quinzhee, and the cut block igloo. Snow shelter builders will sleep in their shelters!
- ◆ Cross Country Skiing skills
- ◆ Snow Shoeing skills
- ◆ Ice Fishing
- ◆ Equipment Needs: It's not bringing more gear, it's all about bringing the right gear for cold weather camping.
- ◆ Participants who complete the course (earn a cool looking patch) will be able to instruct others to prepare for your next winter camping or polar bear campout.

Plan now to attend! We anticipate this course will be filled up!

Mark your calendars now!

Session 1: Saturday, January 31, 2004 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Camp Kiwanis, Mason Michigan

(This session will be held indoors. Training will teach cold weather camping skills, form patrols and complete plans for the outdoor session

Session 2: Friday to Sunday, February 20-22, 2004

Northwoods Scout Reservation

Friday registration 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Stay indoors

Saturday: Outdoor activities and camping

Sunday: Closing ceremony and recognition

Cost: Early Bird Fee \$35 if paid by January 23 (includes meals, patch, and program materials)

For more information contact Course Director Orville "Red" Turner at 989-473-2305 olt@m33access.com or John Hogg at 517-321-9400 x104 johogg@bsamail.org www.chiefokemosbsa.org

2004 OKPIK COLD WEATHER CAMPING TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Unit # _____ District _____

Adult in Charge: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone (Hm) _____ (Wk) _____ email: _____

Total Youth Participants _____ x \$35 each (after January 23, 2004 \$40) = \$ _____
 Total Adult Participants _____ x \$35 each (after January 23, 2004 \$40) = \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to: "Chief Okemos Council, Boy Scouts of America"
 Take out of unit Account # _____ per _____ (please print and must be on account)

Detach and return by January 23, 2004 to Chief Okemos Council, 4000 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing 48917
 Fax: 517-321-7298

For more information contact Course Director Orville "Red" Turner at 989-473-2305 olt@m33access.com or John Hogg at 517-321-9400 x104 johogg@bsamail.org www.chiefokemosbsa.org

How many youth attending: # _____

Please fill in below or attached your own roster

Names: (Please Print)	Age Rank	Names: (Please Print)	Age/Rank
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

How many adults attending: # _____

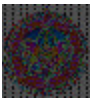
Names: (Please Print)	Names: (Please Print)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Duplicate as Needed

IMPORTANT!! REVISED DATE-NOW MARCH 11!!



**OJIBWAS DISTRICT
RECOGNITION DINNER**

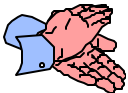


Troops and Packs will have the opportunity to recognize and honor those hard working volunteers who make Scouting so much fun and such a success! Come, see, and meet this year's Cub Scouter of the Year, Boy Scouter of the Year, and Scout family. Cheer as some very special people are recognized with the District award of Merit! And let's not forget all those other great awards – recognition for length of service, training, and participation in District events. Make this year's dinner special – recognize

YOUR Pack or Troop efforts at success by nominating **ALL** qualified individuals, and then **BE THERE** to see them receive their awards!

The dinner is planned for **THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004** at the Masonic Temple in Okemos, at 2175 Hamilton. Registration and socializing begins at 6, with dinner at 6:30. The evening's program will begin at 7:15 and be concluded no later than 9. The meal is a sit-down, family style dinner of oven-roasted chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, hot vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert and beverages, and is all you can eat. No waiting in line - dinner will be served to you at your table.

The cost this year is \$11 for individuals. Special arrangements have been made for couples and large groups. Couples may attend for \$20, and tables of 8 will be reserved for \$76. Why not bring the entire committee and really enjoy the fun?



Please complete and return this registration form to the Council office, care of Clarence Smith, by **Thursday, March 04, 2003**. Any questions, please call the council office at 321-9400 ext 109. Registrations may be faxed to 321-7298, but payment **MUST** be received by March 04. Registrations will **NOT** be accepted at the door.

Pack/Troop #_____ would like to reserve a table of 8. Our registration fee of \$76 is enclosed.

I/we plan to attend the Ojibwas District dinner on Thursday, March 11. There will be _____ attending. Our registration fee of \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

Name _____ Unit _____

WINTER SCOUT SHOP HOURS IN EFFECT OCTOBER 1ST.

Monday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am to 5:00 pm



The first Saturday of each month, October through May, from 10 am to noon

Sundays closed.

Please advise your Den/Pack/Post/Troop/Venture unit leaders and parents of these hours, and the fact that the store does exist!

THE STORE IS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM DECEMBER 24, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2004.

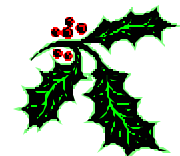
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH INVENTORY ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30. Call Marjorie in the Scout Shop the week of December 15, 2003 and let her know you're willing to help. If we get enough volunteers, it can be done in one day!

A Mawanjidiwin Thank You

As we head into the heart of this Holiday Season, I want to thank everyone who helped make scouting a success in Mawanjidiwin District during 2003. This time of year causes me to reflect on all the wonderful things scouting does for kids in our community. I cannot help, but notice that all of this would not be possible without the countless hours of dedicated service given by volunteers. On a District level I want to say thank you to everyone who helped with Roundtables, Camporees, Day Camps, District Committee Meetings, FOS Presentations, the Popcorn Sale, Summer Camp, Eager Beaver Weekends, and everything in between. Your dedication and support have helped to enhance the scouting experience for so many scouts. And on the Unit level I want to say thank you to everyone who helped their unit with Den, Pack, and Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, Blue and Gold Banquets, Popcorn sales and fundraisers, Pinewood Derbies, Eagle Scout projects, Campouts, and Activities. All of these things together make for a fantastic program that benefits the kids of our community and makes for a better future. With Christmas just around the corner, I think that is the best gift we give them.





GM Employees

Attention all GM employees! Did you know that your volunteer time is worth \$250! That's right, if you spend 50 hours or more of your time volunteering, GM will give \$250 to the local council to support scouting. What is great is that you can do this every calendar year. In fact, GM Employees have until the end of January to get credit for the volunteer hours they completed in 2003. All we need is your help in receiving these funds. Just go to your personnel/human resources office and request the form for the GM Plus Program. Fill out the form and send it to the council office where we will verify the information and then return the form in exchange for a \$250 contribution. This program is a great way for volunteers to help scouting in more than one way and helps to build a strong relationship between GM and scouting. For more information contact Jason at 321-7278 ext. 106.



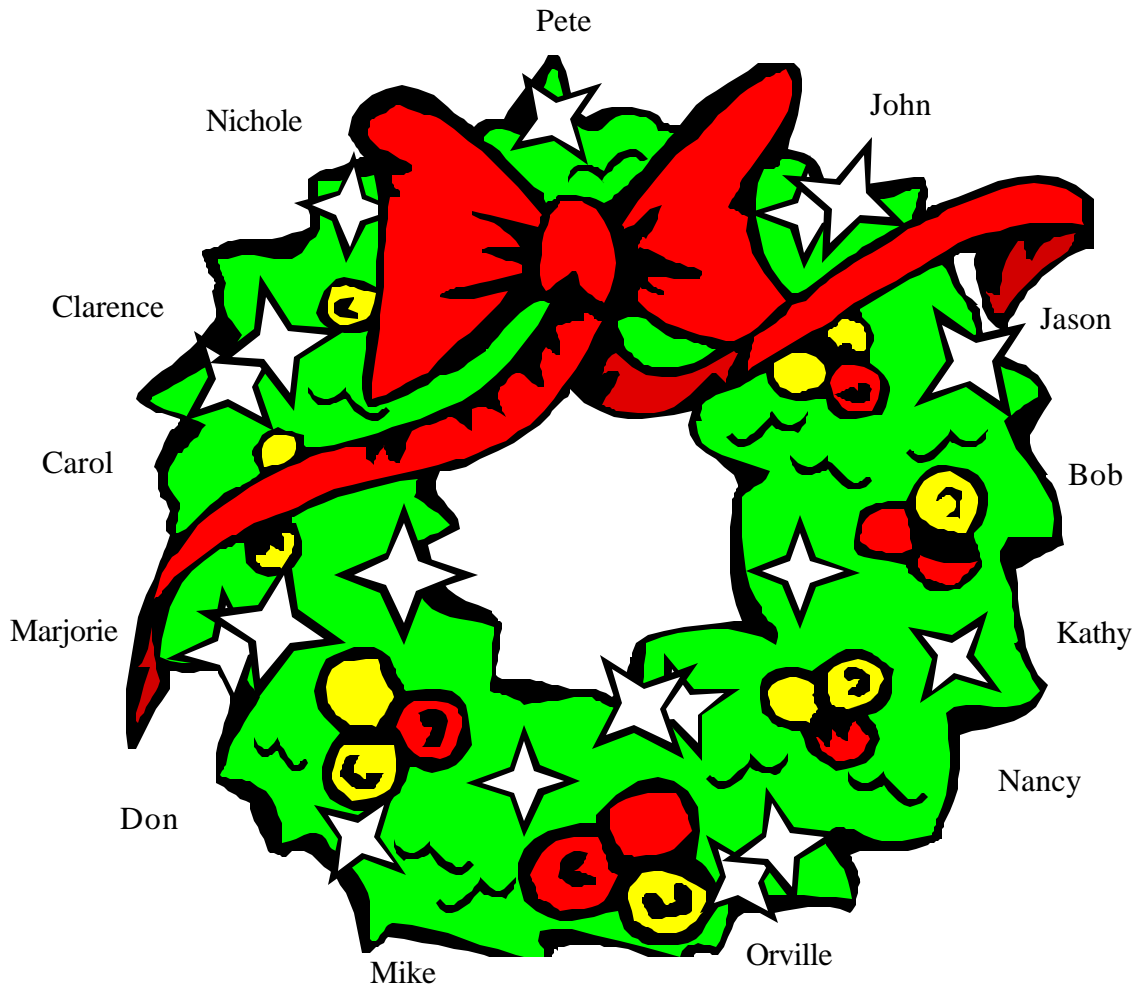
Christmas Trivia

Take the challenge. Some of the answers will probably surprise you. Answers at the bottom of the page.

- The first instrument on which the carol "Silent Night" was played was:
 - [A\) A harp](#)
 - [B\) A pipe organ](#)
 - [C\) A guitar](#)
 - [D\) A kazoo](#)
- In Guatemala, Christmas Day is celebrated:
 - [A\) On January 6](#)
 - [B\) On December 25](#)
 - [C\) On October 31](#)
 - [D\) Never](#)
- Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:
 - [A\) 1492](#)
 - [B\) 1895](#)
 - [C\) 1944](#)
 - [D\) 1976](#)
- Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?
 - [A\) Abyssinia](#)
 - [B\) England](#)
 - [C\) Bohemia](#)
 - [D\) Gondor](#)
- Medieval English Christmas pantomimes did NOT include which character?
 - [A\) St. Nicholas](#)
 - [B\) The Bold Slasher](#)
 - [C\) Father Christmas](#)
 - [D\) The Turkish Knight](#)
- The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was:
 - [A\) Bob Cratchit](#)
 - [B\) Jerry Cornelius](#)
 - [C\) Bill Sykes](#)
 - [D\) Jacob Marley](#)
- In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use:
 - [A\) Old hats](#)
 - [B\) Beer mugs](#)
 - [C\) Shoes](#)
 - [D\) Stockings, just like everybody else!](#)
- The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in which country?
 - [A\) Canada](#)
 - [B\) China](#)
 - [C\) Mexico](#)
 - [D\) Spain](#)
- Which name does NOT belong to one of Santa's reindeer?
 - [A\) Comet](#)
 - [B\) Prancer](#)
 - [C\) Blitzen](#)
 - [D\) Klaxon](#)
- In Syria, Christmas gifts are distributed by:
 - [A\) The Three Kings](#)
 - [B\) Tom o'Bedlam](#)
 - [C\) One of the Wise Men's camels](#)
 - [D\) Father Christmas](#)

Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-B, 4-C, 5-A, 6-D, 7-C, 8-C, 9-D, 10-C

Season's Greetings from All of Us at the Chief Okemos Council



Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

EMPLOYEE PHONE EXTENSION & E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Council Service Center Phone 517-321-9400 Fax 517-321-7298

www.chiefokemosbsa.org info@chiefokemosbsa.org

Pete Shannon, Scout Executive
Extension 116
Pshannon@bsamail.org

John Hogg,
Assistant Scout Executive
Extension 104
Johogg@bsamail.org

Bob Vergamini
District Director
Ojibwas District
Extension 110
Rvergami@bsamail.org

Clarence Smith,
Senior District Executive
Ojibwas District
Extension 109
Clsmith@bsamail.org

Nichole Waters
Exploring Executive
Exploring Division
Extension 105
Nwaters@bsamail.org

Jason Kerschke
District Executive
Mawanjidiwin District
Extension 106
jkerschke@bsamail.org

Don Walker
District Executive
Migisins District
Extension 107
Dwalker@bsamail.org

Kathy Pelky, Secretary
Extension 101
kpelky@bsamail.org

Carol Bancroft, Registrar
Extension 103
Cbancrof@bsamail.org

Nancy Houghtaling, Bookkeeper
Extension 115
Nhoughta@bsamail.org

Marjorie Findlay, Store Manager
Extension 112
mfindlay@bsamail.org

Orville Turner, Ranger
Northwoods Scout Reservation
989-473-2305
olt@m33access.com

Mike Ames, Ranger
Camp Kiwanis
517-676-6101
RangerGord1@juno.com



Chief Okemos Council
4000 West Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48917

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 1197