



Scouting is Outing

It is not in the mere material qualities that life in the back bush makes a man a man, but rather in the spiritual development when he finds himself an atom communing daily, face to face and heart to heart with Nature.

As one sits at night by a camp fire, far away, alone in the gloom of the forest, one can muse and deeply think. While the sweet woodsmoke stings one's nostrils, the velvety purple heavens studded with their blazing brilliants serenely watch above one – and the deepest waiting silence rules around, only broken now and then by the sudden splash of a rising trout or by the weird calling of a loon; it is only here that the mind can open out and receive great thoughts and higher impulses.

Robert Baden-Powell
August 1915

Rechartering – October To-Do List

I hope you found last month's article on rechartering useful. Let's continue by looking at what needs to be done this month in order to meet your unit's goal of rechartering on time.

- Conduct Annual Membership Inventory.
- Schedule a review meeting for early November.
- Conduct a uniform inspection.
- Adult selected as unit processor, if new to job, should review tutorial available on Council web site.

To this list I would add – making sure that your new member applications from your recruiting drive are turned in to Council as soon as possible. Any new member whose application is not processed into ScoutNET before you download your rechartering roster will be considered a new member for rechartering purposes. This means that you will have to re-enter all the data into the rechartering system and submit a copy of the application with the charter package.

The following are two short articles on Membership Inventory and Uniform Inspections that you may find useful.

Membership Inventory

We need to monitor the retention of our existing Scouts. This process is called the Annual Membership Inventory. It is the first step in a unit's charter renewal process which should take place about 90 days before a unit's charter renewal month. You should appoint a unit adult to conduct the inventory. The inventory can be a paper exercise if the unit maintains good advancement and attendance records or may require a physical roll call at a unit meeting and discussion with active youth members, den leaders or patrol leaders. The

purpose of this activity is to find out whether each member

- Is active or inactive
- Participated in the unit's outdoor program
- Advanced in rank the previous year.

All absent or inactive members are assigned to various persons to contact them to determine if they are to be reregistered. If a member is not to be reregistered, the unit should be aware of the reason. For example:

- Not having fun
- Boring program
- Conflicts with other activities
- Moved or moving
- Conflict with another member
- Harassment
- Etc.

The results of the membership inventory are reviewed at the unit's charter renewal meeting. It is important for the unit's leaders and committee to understand and discuss the reasons why members leave the program. At times, if we know why a member is inactive, we may be able to make changes and keep him involved. As noted in the Scoutmaster's Handbook, "Boys drop out of a troop for a variety of reasons – scheduling conflicts with sports or school, loss of interest in the program, part-time jobs, family responsibilities, etc. Stay in touch with those boys by making phone calls, sending them the pack or troop newsletter and program schedule, and keeping them up-to-date on Scouting activities. Let them know they are missed and are welcome to return to the unit at any time. Many will." Even if we cannot salvage inactive members, knowing why and making adjustments in the unit's operation can prevent the loss of additional members.

The Uniform

The Boy Scouts of America has always been a uniformed body. Uniforms help to create a sense of belonging. They symbolize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Wearing a uniform gives youth and adult members a sense of identification and commitment.

Uniform inspections should be held periodically to advise boys on the care and correct wearing of uniforms and insignia. Pack inspections are held in the fall. Troop inspections are held in the spring and the fall.

There are printed uniform inspection sheets for Cub Scouts/Webelos, Boy Scouts/Varsity Scouts, male leaders and female leaders. A supply of inspection forms should be secured, one for each youth and adult. These forms may be downloaded from the national BSA web site or purchased through the Scout Shop. Seven to fourteen days before inspection, unit leaders should explain the plan, distribute the forms and instruct the members to bring the inspection forms back to the inspection meeting. These forms are taken home so members can check all details of their uniforms and insignia.

When your unit commissioner and unit committee members are available, use them as inspecting officers. They should meet in advance to co-ordinate how they will award points for the various parts of the inspection. Have them work in teams. While one inspector is checking uniforms, the other can inspect insignia. For Packs, den chiefs should join the inspectors for their own den inspections. With Troops, the senior patrol leader accompanies the inspectors as they inspect the whole troop, and each patrol leader joins for his patrol.

Uniform inspections are kept short and snappy. They are morale features rather than major parts of unit meetings. You can also make it a competition by awarding a prize to the highest scoring den or patrol. You could also offer a prize for any den or patrol that has a higher average score than the adult leaders. Once the inspection is over, give the inspection forms back to the members so that they have a record of what they need to improve.

Triple Crown

Is your pack on its way to winning “The Triple Crown”? How your Pack can earn “The Triple Crown”.

1. Hold a Family Friends of Scouting presentation with your Pack families prior to June 30, 2009.

District Commissioners

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SEMEOS	Michael B. Rosenbaum	jamscounter@yahoo.com
RBD	Ed Lonyai	edlonyai@gmail.com
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Training Dates

Boy Scout Ldr Specific Tng

Date 10/8, 15 & 22/09
Place NJ Water Supply Auth
Rte 31 South, Clinton

OWL/BALOO/ OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS

Date 10/10-11/09
Place KMSR

Den Chief Tng

Date 10/11/09
Place Edison First Aid Squad
2

Cub Leader Specific Tng

Date 10/14/09
Place Samsel Upper Elem Sch
298 Ernton Rd, Parlin

Unit Commissioner Tng

Date 11/7/09
Place TBA

NYLT

Date 11/6-8 & 13-15/09
Place YCSR

OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS

Date 11/7-8/09
Place Round Valley Youth
Center

Council Events

Cub Extravaganza

Date 10/3-4/09
Place KMSR

Popcorn Sale Begins

Date 10/3/09

Beaver Day

Date 10/10/09
Place Yards Creek

OA Fall Fellowship

Date 10/16-18/09
Place KMSR

Popcorn Sale Ends

Date 11/1/09

Unit Charter Turn-in Day

Date 11/21/09
Place Separate location for
each District

Popcorn Money Due

Date 11/30/09

2. Have Pack participation in the Fall 2009 Popcorn Sale.
3. Increase your Pack’s December 31, 2008 registered membership by 5 Scouts by October 31, 2009. (Unit registration figures are based on the BSA ScoutNET system which are available through your district executives.)

If your Pack meets all three of these qualifiers, the Central New Jersey Council will provide each registered Scout in the Pack with a Pinewood Derby car.

CENTENNIAL PATCH DESIGN CONTEST

Would you like to be the designer of Central New Jersey Council’s BSA Centennial Anniversary Council Strip Patch (CSP)? It’s easy.

All submissions must contain the following items:

- Central New Jersey Council, BSA
- The BSA Logo or Fleur-de-lis
- The phrase “Celebrating the BSA Centennial”

Just add the colors and art you think will best portray the Central New Jersey Council as Scouting continues its journey into the next century.

All submissions are due NO LATER THAN October 15, 2009. They will be judged, and the winner will receive a framed copy of the patch and a gift from the Scout Shop.

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