



THE CBD CHATTER

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Official E-Newsletter of Chief Black Dog District, Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

December 2017

After a run of warmer than average fall weather, winter might be just around the corner.. Remember to continue to follow up from School Night for Scouting and turn any outstanding applications as soon as possible. Also take note of the New Member Coordinator position. Join us for a “Holiday December Roundtable”. Take note of the situation facing Scouts in Puerto Rico. And if you order from Amazon.com use Amazon Smile and support Northern Star Council. Happy Holidays everyone!

Steve Engel—Editor



December Roundtable

Roundtables are supplemental training for Scout Leaders and held the second Thursday each month (September through May, August is the third Thursday) at: the Church of Latter Day Saints - Burnsville’ 651 Southcross Drive East. Be sure your unit is well represented as there are usually many breakout sessions.

Roundtables are a time for training, fun, fellowship and sharing. The December Roundtable will depart from the usual schedule. After the opening, gather in the gym again for an ornament exchange game and hors d'oeuvres. Those wishing to participate should bring a new, wrapped ornament costing under \$5.00. (If you forget, there will be extras.) Please join us and celebrate the holiday season with your scouting family.

Cub Scout In addition to the usual breakouts, there will be a discussion of “forgotten” and little known awards. There are probably a few awards you haven’t realized that you have already earned them.

Boy Scout breakout will include a discussion of religious awards, recognition and faith in Scouting. The merit badge opportunities for December are Collecting (begins at 6:15) and Citizenship in the Nation (part two) at 6:30. Contact [Joe Schulte](#) to sign up for the merit badges. Check out [Roundtable Merit Badges](#) for upcoming merit badges.

OA Corner

OA Chapter Meeting Remember OA Chapter Meetings are held each month during roundtables. Invite your OA Representative to attend.

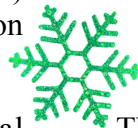


Winter Banquet

Chief Black Dog(GO!) will be hosting the OA Winter Banquet for 2018. Both youth and adult OA members are needed to help staff this event. Please contact [Kay Stewart](#) for more Information.

OA Unit Elections

OA Election Team training will take place at the December, January and February Roundtables. Plan to have a minimum of 2 youth and 2 adult leaders at one of these sessions.



Friends of Scouting

The Friends of Scouting 2017-18 campaign is underway. And we need we your unit coordinators name and contact info and your presentation dates. Please contact [Lisa Fix, Family Friends of Scouting Coordinator](#), with this information.

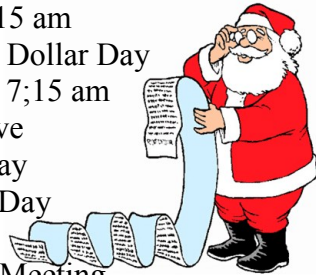
Friends of Scouting Unit Coordinator Training will be held at the December Roundtable. All Unit FOS coordinators and presenters should attend this training.



Calendar



December 14	Roundtable OA Chapter Meeting OA Unit Election Training at 6:15 pm Friends of Scouting Training 7 pm
December 6	FOS Million Dollar Day St. Paul, 7:15 am
December 7	FOS Million Dollar Day Base Camp 7;15 am
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 11	Roundtable OA Chapter Meeting OA Election Training
January 13	Wood Badge Breakfast
January 13	OA Winter Banquet
January 20	Council Coordinated Committee Meetings



- *New Position Continued*

A complete detailed explanation of the position is at [position description](#).

The Welcome training video on my.Scouting.org is sufficient for the volunteer to get started in this exciting new role. Additional detailed training on Sharing the Benefits, Coordinating Recruitment and the Joining and Welcoming Process will be available soon.

The New Member Coordinator position has been designed to be a FUN and engaging position, forming relationships with new members and their families using a team approach by encouraging more than one New Member Coordinator in a Unit, allowing them to tailor their work to individual interests or expertise, as well as to recognize the particular needs of the Unit. This position fits every type of Unit, every program and age level.

Unit leadership should fully support the New Member Coordinator, ensure he or she is provided with training both online and face-to-face; be mentored by the District Membership Chair and be a part of the District Membership team. Coordinators should be easily identifiable at Unit activities by their welcoming smiles and their BSA "Welcome" logo on an activity shirt, hat, vest or pin on their Class A uniform.

Every Unit will benefit substantially by having at least one New Member Coordinator to promote the benefits of Scouting and help with recruiting, but the most important role is to help new arrivals feel a strong sense of belonging. This warm welcome is the best way to ensure that new members want to stay and experience all that Scouting offers.

To learn about this new volunteer position and how to begin training, please visit [New Member Coordinator](#). If you have any questions about the role not answered here, reach out to Chief Black Dog Membership Chair [Renee Estrella-Wells](#).

School Night for Scouting - Follow Up

Please continue to follow up with interested families from school night. And recruiting does not end here; recruiting must be year around, taking advantage of every opportunity to recruit new scouts. Anytime is the perfect time for an invite a friend, neighbor, or a families to an "invite a friend" event.



New Position New Member Coordinator

Sustaining strong membership in any Pack, Troop or Crew depends not only on having new members join the Unit, but also on engaging youth and their families in the Unit experiences so that they feel welcomed and want to stay.

The New Member Coordinator position is a new role for Unit volunteers who'll share the benefits of Scouting with new members, coordinate recruitment in the Unit and help guide the joining process for new Scouting families. This volunteer promotes helping youth and families to make friends, learn the ropes, answer questions, and engage in the fun and purpose of Scouting on day one. But that's just the start.

- *New Position Continued next column*

Advancement Reports

Rather than keeping advancement information local and uploading or updating infrequently, please make every effort to update Scoutnet as soon as possible as youth complete rank requirements.

- *Advancement Reports continued*

This applies to all, Pack, Troops and Crews. This keeps our District and Council Advancement information current. The focus is on ranks for Cubs and ranks and merit badges for Boy Scouts.



Pinewood Derby

The Chief Black Dog (GO!) District Pinewood Derby will held on Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at the Falcon Ridge Middle School Cafeteria. The Pinewood Derby rules for 2018 should be published soon on the council website. For more Pinewood Derby information you may want to check out www.PwdRacing.com (for Local Information, workshops, races, etc.) or www.PwdRacingLeague.com (a National Forum - extremely helpful)

Puerto Rico Scouting Hurricane Disaster Relief

After doing some searching on the internet the last few days, I came across some information on Puerto Rico Hurricane Disaster Relief. As we all now Puerto Rico was hard hit by Hurricane Maria about 2 1/2 months ago. Recovery is on going and will take several more months. The Boy Scouts of Puerto Rico have also been hit by this devastation. I have included a couple links where you can read more about the effects of the Hurricane Maria and the efforts to rebuild their camps and facilities. And if you are so moved in the spirit of the holidays, to make a donation in support of their efforts. Here a couple of links:

[Hurricane Maria affects BSA members in Puerto Rico.](#)

[Rebuilding Puerto Rico Council's Guajataka Scout Reservation](#)

Use Amazon Smile and Support Northern Star Council

The holiday season is a good time to remind you to use Amazon Smile if you order online from Amazon. Amazon Smile works just like Amazon.com and you can designate Northern Star Council as the charity and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Northern Star.



Eagle Scholarships

For all of you seniors who've made Eagle, check out the Eagle Scholarship program for college assistance. There is more info from Northern Star's Communications Director, Kent York, on the internet. If you go to [scholarships](#) you can get all the scoop on the program.



Project Explore Needs Volunteers

Project Explore is a District 196 Community Education (and surrounding districts) program that serves adults with disabilities, providing programs, classes and activities. Project Explore depends on volunteers and there is a shortage of volunteers as we enter the holiday season and look to next year. This would be an excellent opportunity for older Scouts to earn some service time towards their next ranks. Here is a partial list of opportunities:

December

- * Thursday 7, Holiday Dinner Set Up at Messiah Lutheran Church from 5-8:30. We would need 3 volunteers.
- * Thursday 7, Candy Wreath at VMS from 6-8:30. We would need 2 volunteers.
- * Friday 8, Holiday Dinner at Messiah Lutheran Church from 5:30-7. Need 3 volunteers.
- * Friday 15, Christmas Dance at SHMS from 4:30-6, we would need 4 volunteers and from 6-9:30 we would need 4 volunteers.

January

- * Monday 8, Gluten Free Chicken Fingers at SHMS from 5:30-8:30. Need 1 volunteer.
- * Wednesday 10, Mr. & Mrs. Snowman at VMS from 6-8:30. We would need 3 volunteers.
- * Friday 12, Winter Dance at SHMS from 4:30-6, we would need 4 volunteers and from 6-9:30. We would need 4 volunteers.
- * Monday 22, Gluten Free Chicken Fingers at SHMS from 5:30-8:30. Need 1 volunteer

The December opportunities happen pretty quick. Please be sure your Scouts are aware of these opportunities. Scouts or Scouters should call Deb Jeska, (651) 423-7932 prior to the event or activity. It would be great if a unit would adopt Project Explore as an ongoing service project opportunity.

