



# THE CBD CHATTER

December 2016 Volume IX, Number 5

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

## *Holiday Issue - December 2016*

Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings. While we are taking a break to spend time with family and friends, let's not forget plans for our winter adventures, perhaps a holiday service project, the Klondike Derby in February and Apple Valley's Mid-Winter Fest celebration on February 4, 2017.



Steve Engel—Editor

### December Roundtable

- training continued

**Cub Scout** A small rock topic this month will focus on the value of Woodbadge Training. Also a look at ideas for February Pack meetings and the theme "A scout is Reverent". And possibly a skit?

**Boy Scout** The feature will be Den Chiefs - what and who they are, why is this an underutilized position and how to use them to improve your program and aid in transition. The merit badges this month will be Inventing and Entrepreneurship. Contact [Joe Schulte](#) for information and to sign up. Next months merit badges will be listed on the website under roundtables right after the December roundtable.

**Annual Holiday Activity** After the breakouts there will holiday snacks and treats and an "ornament exchange game. If you wish to participate in the exchange game, bring a \$5 (approximate) wrapped ornament. There will be extras, if you forget.

### Trainings at Roundtable

**Family Friends of Scouting** training will be held at the December Roundtable beginning at 6:15 pm. Please be sure your unit FOS coordinator attend this training if they have not already done so. Training will include the online process to make the FOS donation. Packets will be available.

- training continued next column

**OA Election Training** will also be held at the December Roundtable also beginning at 6:15 pm. As in previous years troops will paired and will hold each others OA election. All units need to have one adult and youth (OA member) at training.

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



**Black Hills Trip - National Jamboree** After the opening there will be a short question/answer session on the Black Hills Trip and/or the National Jamboree next summer. We'll be in a separate room for a short time at the beginning of the breakouts. Anyone interested in these opportunities is welcome. See separate articles this issue. Contact [Steve Engel](#).

### Family Friends of Scouting

Please be sure your unit has turned in your FOS Unit Coordinator name and contact information and your FOS presentation information to [Lisa Fix](#) or [Jerry Gohl](#). There will be training for FOS Unit Coordinators at the December Roundtable.





## Calendar



December 7-8	Million Dollar Days
December 8	Roundtable OA Chapter Meeting OA Election Training 6:15 pm FOS Training 6:15 pm
January 3	Combined District Committee District Commissioner Mtg
January 12	Roundtable OA Chapter Meeting OA Election Training 6:15 pm
January 14	Wood Badge Breakfast
January 21	Council Coordinated Committee Meeting OA Winter Banquet
February 4	Apple Valley Mid-Winter Fest
February 5	Scout Sunday
February 9	Roundtable
February 11	Scout Sabbath
February 17-19	Klondike Derby

### School Night for Scouting (SNFS)

The magic word is “follow-up”. Continue to follow up, follow up, follow up with interested families who have not yet registered. Remember recruiting must be a year-round effort. A good time to ask current Cub Scouts to invite a friend to your next pack meeting, outing or activity. Questions? Contact [Renee Estrella-Wells](#), or 952-564-9133

### Million Dollar Day Friends of Scouting Kick Off

The 2016-17 Friends of Scouting Campaign officially kicks off with the Million Dollar Day breakfasts, December 7 in St. Paul or December 8 at Base Camp. Go to [St. Paul](#) or [Base Camp](#) for more information. Or contact [Dave Hanson](#).

### Sign Up For the CBD Chatter

Encourage all your unit leaders, volunteers and parents to sign up to email notices and the CBD Chatter. There is often news and information of value to parents, individuals, as well as the units. Go to [subscribe](#) to subscribe.

## Joint District Committee District Commissioner’s Meeting

A joint District Committee/District Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 pm at the Shepherd of the Valley church in Apple Valley. This has been an annual meeting where we evaluate what has worked well and what needs to be improved or changed. All interested leaders and parents and, of course, District Committee members and Commissioners are invited to attend.

### Apple Valley Mid-Winter Fest

The Apple Valley Annual Mid-Winter Fest will be Saturday, February 4, 2017. We’re looking for any and all Scout units who would like to have a display, game or activity for families attending Mid-Winter Fest. We’re also looking for non-scouting groups that would be of interest to scouts and families as well. Contact Steve Engel with ideas and suggestions.

### Senior Patrol Leader - Fast Start On-Line Training Module

Online training for Senior Patrol Leaders is now available. This training is designed to be a Fast-Start web-based method to give Scouting youth some ideas of how Troops should be run and their place within the Troop structure. It strengthens the ideas that Troops should be, and must be, youth-led. It lets the Scout know the roles of many positions in the Troop, both youth and adult. It is designed for all youth to take, not just the SPL. Any rank, age, position can take the training. Anyone that has been, is, wants to, or may someday be the Troop SPL should take this training.

Visit the webpage, create an account, and begin your training, [SPLFastStart.MnTroop171.org](http://SPLFastStart.MnTroop171.org). Questions? please email [Tim Liffrig](#).



### Venture Crews Need Members

Do your Scouts have sisters, ages 13 and older who have completed the 8th grade? Would they love the opportunity to do things their brothers do? Then introduce them to Venturing! Contact [Kay Stewart](#) or [Dave Lockwood](#) for Venturing.

## The Wreath of Service

A new item in the monthly CBD Chatter will be the “The Wreath of Service” column or article. “The Wreath of Service” will contain information and notices from the Commissioner Staff and our District Executives. With the changing role of our professional district support we will be relying more and more on our District Commissioner Staff and District Committee.

The "wreath of service" is located on all commissioner position emblems. The laurel wreath is a traditional Roman symbol of victory, triumph, accomplishment, and civic service. The BSA uses the laurel as a symbol for the service rendered to units and the continued partnership between volunteers and professionals. The wreath of service represents commitment to program and unit service.

The Commissioner position is the oldest in Scouting and is the origin of the professional Scouting positions, which is why badges of the professional Scouters have that feature as well. The wreath of service is a feature on all commissioner and professional position patches. Primary commissioner (Council Commissioner, District Commissioner, Unit Commissioner) insignia bears a silver laurel wreath in accordance with the long-standing BSA award standard (based on the U.S. military concept) of silver being higher than gold. Accordingly, assistant commissioner (Assistant Council Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner, Roundtable Commissioner) insignia bears a gold laurel wreath.

We will now be served and supported by two District Executives and will share their time with a neighboring district (a new district as a result of the merger between Rolling Hills and Prairie Lakes). Daniel Knutson will be our District Executive for program (PRE – we do love our acronyms, do we not?) and Justin will be our District Executive for Community Relations (CRE). Meet them both in the January issue.

- Wreath of Service continued next column

- Wreath of Service continued

How will this work for unit support? First, when unit leaders or volunteers have questions or concerns please contact your Unit Commissioner or possibly the appropriate District Committee chair. If he or she does not know the answer, they will, as necessary contact the Assistant District Commissioner or District Commissioner as needed. This will take some of the pressure off our District Executives who, in addition to being shared with another district, will also have limited hours.



## “Our Heritage” Fall Camporee 2017

The theme for the 2017 Fall Camporee is “Our Heritage”. Fall Camporee will be held on September 22, 23, and 24, 2017 at Phillippo Scout Reservation. We will be using the upper level. As the name and theme suggests, we will be exploring the various aspects of “Our Heritage”, including cultural, historical, scouting and environmental.

The focus will on be the “Patrol Method” and patrol participation. Competition will be based on participation and more points will be earned for patrol participation versus individual participation.

There are opportunities to begin earning points **now** almost a year before the 2017 Fall Camporee will happen. Two opportunities have already passed. Watch the Chatter and E-Chat for further opportunities, and how to register your patrol and report participation points.

## Unit News (We want to hear your stories!)



Scouts from Troop 345 readied their pumpkins for the great pumpkin launch! Patrols built and assembled catapults at camp to launch pumpkins as far as 110 feet!

## Protestant Religious Emblems at Shepherd of the Valley

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will offer Protestant religious emblems for all grades from 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls and non-Scout siblings are all welcome. You don't need to be a member of SOTV and don't need to be Lutheran. Classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older start January 22, 2017; 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below start February 26. Please contact [Bob Elliott](#) for details, and watch the District website Religious Emblems tab for a registration form.

## Black Hills Adventure - Update

A high adventure trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota is planned for next spring, June 28 to July 5, 2017. Scouts need to be First Class and 13 years old by the start of the trip. All adult leaders, committee members, and parents are also welcome. Stops will include, Pipestone, Badlands, Mount Rushmore National Monuments, Crazy Horse, the Air Force Museum, and Wind Cave National Park. The cost has been set at \$400. This is a camping trip and we will need to bring our own equipment and do most of our own cooking. Watch the Chatter for more information or contact [Steve Engel](#).



## 2017 National Jamboree

The National Jamboree will be held July 19 - 28, 2017 at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia. Northern Star Council is looking for more Scouts to fill our 6 troops and 1 crew. They are also looking for Scout Leaders to serve on staff at the National Jamboree. Find more information at [Council Info](#) or [National Info](#)

*A short breakout will be held after the opening at the December Roundtable to address any questions regarding the National Jamboree or the Black Hills trip.*



## Chief Black Dog (Go!) Upcoming Activities

### Klondike Derby

The 2017 Klondike Derby will be a combined event with the Chief Black Dog, Prairie Lakes and Rolling Hills districts participating. The Klondike will be February 17 - 19 on the upper level of Phillippo. Watch the district website for more information.

### District Pinewood Derby

The 2017 CBD(G!) District Pinewood Derby will be April 1, 2017 at Falcon Ridge Middle School. Start making your cars now while the weather is warm. The 2017 rules and flyer are available at: [District Pinewood Derby](#). Visit [PWDRacing.com](#) for workshop information.

### Scouting for Food

Scouting For Food will be April 29, 2017. The need for food shelf donations is great this year and your help will be appreciated. Drop off sites will be Prince of Peace & Eagan Open Door Pantry. Plan now to participate in Scouting for Food. We want to see 100% participation by our units.

### Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be also be held on April 29, 2017 at Shepherd of The Valley. Now is the time to consider nominating your fellow volunteer leaders for Sparkplug awards, Outstanding Leadership Awards (one for every unit leader position), Distinguished Leadership, and the District award of Merit.

### Webelos Woods/Spring Camporee

On May 19 - 21, 2017 the Webelos Woods and the Spring Camporee will be held at Gwin Center at Phillippo. This is a great opportunity for Packs and Troops to camp together and a great way to encourage transition.

