



THE CBD CHATTER

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

Holiday/NewYears Issue 2013-14

With the holidays fading behind us and the new year is upon us, I hope you all had some quality time with family and friends. Let's move forward with our batteries charged there's a lot of scouting left this and many opportunities. The latest arctic vortex is upon us and a warm up is ahead. Bbbrrrrrrr, yeah those Minnesota winters.

Steve Engel—Editor



District Dinner

The Chief Black Dog (GO!) District Dinner is Saturday, April 5, 2014. Watch for details, more information, and registration information on the [district web site](#). The dinner is about a month earlier than last year. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend. We call it a District Dinner but it is really a recognition dinner for all of our scout leaders at all levels.

Recognition Nominations

The District Dinner is a time thank you all of our volunteer leaders for the efforts this year. And we want recognize those leaders who have provided that extra "spark" or have gone "above and beyond" and provided the extra effort. We all have those leaders deserving of the recognition. Please consider nominating them for one of these recognitions:

- **Spark Plug Award** For the leaders who give that extra effort, that extra "spark".
- **Outstanding Leader** For nearly every volunteer position, for the leader just a cut above.
- **Distinguished Leadership** For the leader who sets the example above and beyond.
- **District Award of Merit** The highest award of recognition on the district level, for truly outstanding service.

Forms can be found on the district web site at [nomination forms](#). **Important:** Because the dinner is month earlier the nominations are due a month earlier. **Nominations due at February Roundtable (February 13, 2014).**



Calendar

January 9	Roundtable OA Chapter Meeting OA Unit Election Training
January 18	Wood Badge Breakfast
January 25	Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
February 1	Fort Snelling Service Project AV Mid-Winter Fest
February 8	District Annual Planning Mtg.
February 12	Roundtable
March 22	Council Recognition Dinner
April 5	District Pinewood Derby District Recognition Dinner



Photos Wanted

As in past years we'll show a slide show during the District Dinner, so we need photos of your Scouts doing what they do best: having fun! Please send pictures of your Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, and Venturers to [Paul Najlis](#). If you have a lot of photos, consider putting them on a CD labeled "District Dinner Slideshow" and giving it to Paul at Roundtable. (Ask the families in your Unit for their photos, too.)

Show your Appreciation for your Unit Leadership

We have many "unsung" heros in our district. We want to recognize those individuals. First, seriously consider nominating them for district recognition. Second, show your appreciation by asking them to attend the dinner and pay for their registration. Don't forget to include spouses also.

God and Country Religious Emblem Classes



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will be hosting Protestant God and Country religious emblems classes in the spring of 2014 for Protestant Scouts of all ages. Boy Scout classes will begin on Sunday, January 26. Cub Scout classes will begin on February 23. Please alert all Protestant Scouts in your units to these classes. Girl Scouts are also welcome; families with Girl Scout siblings are encouraged to spread the word in their units as well. A registration form including a full schedule of dates and times can be found on the Religious Emblems page of the district web site. Please contact [Bob Elliott](#) with any questions and to register for the classes.

Pinewood Derby Time

The halls will soon be filled with the sound of cheers, encouragement and excitement as our Cub Scouts race their cars towards the finish line. Complete Pinewood Derby rules to be posted on the web site.

Need help getting that derby car ready to go or looking for that technical help give your car that edge. More information on the workshop schedule coming soon.

Apple Valley Relay for Life

Chief Black Dog(GO!) Scouts have been asked to help support and assist the Apple Valley Relay for Life. We find this to be an excellent service opportunity. Specifically, they asked the Scouts to provide the color guard for the opening ceremony. We'd like to see Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity and Venture Scouts all represented in the color guard. Other areas discussed would be assisting groups or teams with materials and supplies to their "campsites". The Apple Valley Relay for Life will begin at 6pm, on Friday, July 18 and last to Saturday morning. Watch for more information in future issues. If you are not familiar with "Relay for Life" check out their website. "[Relay for Life](#)" is an inspiring opportunity to honor cancer survivors, promote how

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individuals can reduce their cancer risk, and raise money to help end cancer. If your unit would to help with this event, especially the color guard please let me know, [Steve Engel](#).

Winter Camping

We've had a lot of snow and cold! And a winter warm up just ahead. Looks like a great time for a winter outing. Have you made reservations for your winter outings?



Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet



Reminder the Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 11. The dinner will be held at Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Road, Shoreview, Minnesota. For complete details go [Winter Banquet](#).

OA Vigil Nominations

Consider nominating a fellow Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow for the Vigil Honor. Nominations are due to [Kay Stewart](#) by January 22. For more information on the Vigil Honor and nominations go to [Vigil](#).

Council Community Service Award

Don't forget about the new Community Service Award? The purpose of this award is twofold:

- to promote character and citizenship in Scouts and Scouters, realizing their responsibility to serve their city, state and nation, individually and through group effort; and
- to recognize Scouts and Scouters who provide a number of community service hours.

For more information go to [Community Service Award](#) (PDF 391kb).

District Planning Meeting

The annual district planning meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8, 8:00 am at Think Bank 4245 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Eagan, 55122. All district leaders and interested parents and invited to attend and provide input and suggestions as the past year and goals are discussed, and activities and plans are set for the year ahead.

January Roundtables

Make it a new years resolution to attend the January all Roundtables for the coming year. Why attend Roundtable? First it's supplemental training, a chance to ask questions, get the answers you need, get new ideas, learn about new opportunities, help other leaders and meet your district committee. Second, Roundtable attendance is one of the items for the Journey to Excellence (JTE). In addition to attending all roundtables, plan to attend as a team from your unit. If you have a "Unit Roundtable Team", then not everyone has to make it each month and you'll get the most out of Roundtable by splitting up and attending the different breakout session.

Boy Scout Breakout will feature a presentation by Troop 205 about the high adventure canoe base, a discussion about Order of the Arrow leadership, and how to take advantage of high adventure opportunities through the Order of the Arrow.

The "admin" breakout will continue the discussion of recruiting committee members: "Now You Got 'em, Get 'em Trained.

Remember At least 2 leaders from your unit need to attend to take advantage of and get the most from these breakouts.

Cub Scout Breakout will feature discussion about Blue 'n' Golds, preparation and decoration, scout songs and preparing for Webelos Transition/Crossover.

Camping Chat - Camp Promotions

Scoutmasters – Cub Camp Promotion Time -

Many of your scouts who are members of the OA have signed up to making camping presentations to cub packs as a way to promote cub camping. Your feeder pack or packs are the logical partners in this effort. Some troops have already indicated what cub pack they will present to and the scout masters have agreed to encourage their scouts to prepared a presentation for some time in the next couple of months. This is a great way not only for OA members to carry out their responsibility to promote camping ("honor campers") but also one of the best recruiting tools you can use.

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Please notify Bob Gwinn, CBD Camping Chair, regarding what pack or packs your scouts will be visiting and if any resources or materials are needed. For the most part sharing stories, skits, songs and enthusiasm is about all they need. The district and council can provide DVDs, registration materials, and fliers if you need them.

It would be a good idea to contact the Cubmaster of the pack to set up the date of the presentation well in advance. We need to determine what packs don't have a good troop connection so we can follow through with them at a later date with a different promotion team.

See [Bob Gwinn](#) at the roundtable or by email at or by phone 952 688 7298 to sign up and if possible let him know the date of the presentation.

Cub Leaders – Cub Camp promotion time!We are encouraging our scout troops through their OA members and older scouts to offer camp promotion presentations at an up coming pack meeting. This a great opportunity to encourage cubs to participate in a summer camping experience as well as meet older scouts who can shared the excitement and enthusiasm of our many outdoor programs. Order of the Arrow members are standing by and charged as a part of their membership to promote camping. Many of them are high school students (including Eagle Scouts) and great role models for your cub scouts.

As noted above in the scoutmaster section, we are asking them to make contact with feeder packs to set up these presentations. This communication could also come from you to the boy scout leaders who can help you arrange the visit. These presentations would be a great addition to any pack meeting or Blue and Gold Dinner.

If you don't make connection with a scout troop leader contact Bob Gwinn, CBD Camping Chair, so we can organize a team for your presentation.

For additional information on any aspect of scout camping contact [Bob Gwinn](#), at 952 688 7298 or see him at the roundtable. More information is also available on the Northern Star council website under the camping link.

