



# THE CBD CHATTER

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

## *Happy Holidays!*

Happy Holidays fellow scouters! “It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas”, then a warming trend, then rain and now more snow. Will it be enough or will mild temperatures change that. This issue contains some timely information and reminders. Let’s all be sure to take some time with family and friends as we celebrate the holiday season and prepare for the new year. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

*Steve Engel—Editor*



### January Roundtable

**Cub Scout** January Roundtable will feature everything “Derby”. There is more to derbies than just Pinewood! We'll talk about all the options and we'll even be participating in our very own derby! See you all on January 8th.

**Boy Scout** The Boy Scout side will continue with the small group discussion format. Roundtable is about fellowship and sharing. Come and share with others, teach and learn, on topics of interest and concern to other scout leaders. There is always program information available and a chance to talk with the Commissioner Staff or District Committee members. And there is always fellowship before and after the breakout sessions.

**Senior Patrol Leader** There will be no Senior Patrol Leader Roundtable in January. The Senior Patrol Leader Roundtable will resume in February.



### Unit Charter Renewal Absolute Deadline - December 31

Unit Charters are due on December 31, 2014. This is an absolute deadline. Charters must be complete and turned with all necessary signatures and error free by December 31. Units who have not turned in their charter by December 31 will be considered dropped and will have to start over with a new unit application. See your Unit Commissioner for re-chartering assistance.

### Calendar

- December 31 Charters due!  
Final, Absolute Deadline!
- January 1 New Year’s Day
- January 8 Roundtable  
OA Chapter Meeting  
Troop Committee Trng.
- January 10 [OA Winter Banquet](#)
- January 17 [Wood Badge Breakfast](#)
- January 31 District Annual Planning Mtg.
- February 7 Apple Valley  
Mid-Winter Fest

### Friends of Scouting



“FOS” is now underway. If you have not contacted [Sherri St. Clair](#) with your FOS information, (unit contact, presentation date, and back-up date) please do ASAP. If you have not picked up your FOS folder, please call 612-803-5004 to set up a time and location for the pick-up. Congratulations to Pack 9445 for already making your 2015 goal. Many units are close, we are off to an excellent start.

### Order of the Arrow OA Corner



Remember OA Chapter Meetings are held each month during Roundtables. Each troop should have a OA Youth Representative who attends these meetings. Invite them along when you attend Roundtable.

The OA Winter Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 10. Details at [Winter Banquet](#)

## District Award Nominations And District Dinner



Your Scouting program is successful because of your volunteer leadership, so take this once-a-year opportunity to nominate those people for one of these awards!

- Spark Plug
- Outstanding Leader:
  - ◇ Committee Chair and Committee Member
  - ◇ Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Venturing Advisor, and Team Coach
  - ◇ Lion Leader, Tiger Leader, Wolf/Bear Leader, and Webelos Leader
  - ◇ Unit Commissioner
  - ◇ Chartered Organization Representative
- Distinguished Leadership - for service to the UNIT
- District Award of Merit - for service to the DISTRICT
- Chartered Partner

[Nomination forms can be found here](#); nominations are due by Thursday, February 12, 2015 at the latest.

**District Dinner** The awards will be presented at the District Dinner on Saturday, March 28 at Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley. Go to [District Dinner](#) for registration information, coming soon.

Please submit photos or videos to be used in a presentation at the District Dinner by March 13. The photos should highlight your unit's favorite events from past year. Contact [Paul Mahowald](#) (or for details on photo submission.

Do you have musically talented youth in your Unit? We're thinking about having a couple Scouts or Venturers do a song during the Dinner. Contact [Deb Zurales](#) for details.

You will find [Award Nomination](#) forms here.

You will find [District Dinner](#) Information here



## Religious Emblem God and Country Classes

Boy Scout God and Country classes will be held at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church starting January 25, 2015. Cub Scout God and Country classes will begin on February 22, 2015. Classes will meet every other week for an hour on Sunday afternoons. Please alert your unit families to this opportunity for their sons to earn the Religious Emblem and to demonstrate that a Scout is Reverent. Go to [God and Country](#) for more information. Descriptions of the classes, dates, times and a registration form are available online.

### Troop Committee Training at January & February Roundtables

Training will be provided to new and existing Troop committee chairs and committee members from 6:30 to 8:30 on January 8 and February 12. To be fully trained, participants will need to attend both sessions. Participants should take the Troop Committee Challenge online and should obtain the Troop Committee Guidebook from the Scout Shop or download it from the internet before the training sessions. The sessions will use the Troop Committee Guidebook as the starting point for scenario review, discussions of "real life" examples, and will provide plenty of time for questions and answers.

### Apple Valley Mid-Winter Fest Saturday, February 7, 2015

The City of Apple Valley will hold their annual Mid-Winter Fest celebration on Saturday, February 7, 2015. The entire Sport Court (2 full basketball courts) can be ours (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) to set up displays and activities all day from 9 am until approximately 3 pm. We'll be looking units with ideas for activities and to help with activities. **Special Offer for Packs:** Do you have your Pinewood Derby scheduled for February 7 or do have yet to schedule it? If you are willing to hold it at the Apple Valley Community Center during Mid-Winter Fest there will be no reservation or rental fees. First pack to express interest may get the spot. Please contact [Steve Engel](#) for more information.

**From Bob Gwinn  
District Committee Chairman**

Thanks and best wishes to Rich Hedeem who is stepping down from his position as CBD Membership Chair. Rich has served scouts and scouters in the district for many years and has also recently led the Scouting for Food campaigns. Rich and his leadership will be missed.

Save the date! The Council Coordinated Committee meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2015. Watch for more details. the primary agenda item will be the new council strategic plan which will impact and guide all of our efforts and future programs. All members of the District Committee, District Commissioner Staff as well as interested scouters are encouraged to attend.

The District Committee and Commissioner Staff meet on January 6. The first hour of this meeting will combine both groups for some planning and creative problem solving. Meeting will start at 6:30 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

**Chief Black Dog (GO!)  
Annual Planning Meeting**

Just as our units prepare an annual plan, each year our district does so as well. Our district will meet on Saturday, January 31 to prepare our annual plan, set our calendar for the coming year (we are looking to 2015). We will also review the past year and discuss goals for the next year. We meet after the Council Coordinated Committee meeting and will incorporate the council's strategic goals into our vision. We will meet from 8:00 am until noon at Think Bank in Eagan. The District Committee invites the Commissioner Staff and all interested unit leaders are invited to attend.

**Polar Cubs**

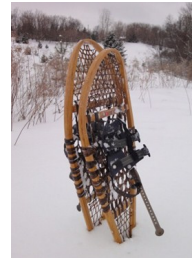
Polar Cubs is one of the best day outdoor experiences for a Scout and adult together. Locations are Stearns, Rum River, and Phillippo. Choose any Saturday or Sunday from Jan. 10 to Mar. 8. Registration is open at [Polar Cubs Camp](#). Get signed up early, especially if you want to go on a Saturday



**Klondike Derby**

February 27 through March 1 is the CBD Klondike Derby. Complete information is on the website at [Klondike Derby](#), including registration information, flyers, and Leader's Guide. Start planning now. Activities will include:

- Klondike Sled race
- Amazing Snowshoe race
- Start Fire and Boil Water from Snow
- Snow Snakes
- Emergency Shelter Building
- Travois Lashing and Walking
- Obstacle Sled Climb
- Snowshoe Obstacle Course
- Ski Challenge
- Cross Country Ski Challenge
- Ice Cream Making
- Ice Rescue and First Aid
- Pinewood Bobsled Derby



**Cub Scout Camping**

Set your summer camp date now and start promoting. Save your date at [GoScouting.org](#) by December 12 for free promotional fliers and a promotional T-shirt. Summer reservations open on February 1. The Summer Camp theme this year is "Wild West." Make sure to get all your Cowboys excited for camp. All promotional and program information is available at [Cub Camping](#).



**Boy Scout Winter Camping**

North Wind (Stearns) and Snow Base (Tomahawk) winter camp registration is open. Reservations are filling up; they are about half full. Only \$25 per participant holds your registration, balance due 1 month prior. More info at [Winter Camping](#). [www.camping.nbsa.org](http://www.camping.nbsa.org).



## Fall Scouting For Food

The fall food drive continues. At their December Court of Honor, Troop 345 contributed an equivalent 726 pounds of food to the community food shelves which is close to ½ of the total amount of food collected. The tally for fall Food Drive currently stands at an equivalent 1,537 pounds of food.

It is not too late for your Scout unit to hold your own Scouting For Food event at an upcoming unit meeting. Maybe you have already held one have one coming up. Remember to report your total to [Rich Hedeem](#).

## Pinewood Derby Rules have been Updated



Pinewood Derby rules have been updated. The new rules are on the Chief Black Dog District Activities web site. Go to [Pinewood Derby rules](#) for the complete update. These rules apply to the CBD District on April 4, 2015 and the Northern Star Council race on June 6, 2015. The main changes are, car clearance, use of washers, and who may race at the District and Council Pinewood Derby Championship Race

## WoodBadge Breakfast



Calling all Woodbadgers! The annual Woodbadge Breakfast is Saturday, January 10, 2015 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Bring a fellow scouter interested in attending Woodbadge. Details at [Woodbadge Breakfast](#).

## Training

### Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

Chief Black Dog (GO!) & Rolling Hills Districts will offer an Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills training session on January 3, 2015, 8am - 5pm. Registration starts at 7:30am, Classes Begin promptly at 8am This training session will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 902 17th St. SW, Faribault, MN. Go to [Outdoor Leadership](#) for more information.



## Commissioner's Corner From the Commissioner Staff

The Chief Black Dog (GO!) Commissioner Staff is here to assist units in delivering a quality program for youth. Commissioners have many tools and



resources with which to assist units. The Commissioner staff is your connection to the District and Council resources, training, programs and activities. Watch this space for more information about the Chief Black Dog (GO!) Commissioner Staff. Here are some items of importance.

**Unit Charter Renewal** is due on December 31 with no defects. If unit charter renewal is not completed by December 31, the unit will be dropped. See article on page 1.

**JTE paperwork** must also be turned in by December 31. If your charter renewal was not turned in on-time (November Roundtable), no level Of JTE can be achieved this year. Please see your commissioner for assistance.

**Outstanding Applications** Please turn in any outstanding applications for new scouts as soon as possible.

**District Planning Meeting** all interested unit leaders are invited to attend our annual district planning meeting on January 31. See article on page 3. We welcome your input on district goals, activities and calendar planning. If you cannot attend please share your ideas and suggestions with your commissioner and they will see that it is shared at the planning meeting.

# Happy

# Holidays

