

# Newsletter February 2010

## Calendar of Events

Klondike	February 6-7, 2010
Pacesetter	February 8, 2010
District Awards Dinner	March 4, 2010 6pm
University of Scouting	March 13, 2010
Pinewood Derby	March 27, 2010

## 2010 Friends of Scouting Pacesetter Dinner

February 8, 2010, 6:30 P.M. Reception , 7:00 P.M. Program & Dinner

Crowne Plaza , 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, Connecticut

The **Connecticut Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America**

*Cordially Invites You To Join Us For An Evening Of Inspirational Scouting Stories*

*Past And Present At Our*

**Sixth Annual Friends of Scouting Pacesetter Dinner**

*Eagle Scout & WTIC Radio Sports personality **Scott Gray** will Emcee this Celebration of  
100 years of Scouting.*

*There is no fee to attend, but you do need to register. Thank you.*

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### CUB SCOUTS

Mad River Cub Leader Specific - WDL only February, 2010 [faithbannon@charter.net](mailto:faithbannon@charter.net)

Mad River Cub Leader Specific - DL only March 2010 [faithbannon@charter.net](mailto:faithbannon@charter.net)

Matianuck Cub Leader Specific March 8, 2010 [mccolganjj@aol.com](mailto:mccolganjj@aol.com)

Mad River Cub Leader Specific - Tiger DL only April 2010 [faithbannon@charter.net](mailto:faithbannon@charter.net)

Matianuck Cub Leader Specific April 1, 8, 2010 [mccolganjj@aol.com](mailto:mccolganjj@aol.com)

Mattabesett Trail Cub Leader Specific April 2010 [district\\_training@yahoo.com](mailto:district_training@yahoo.com)

Mad River Cub Leader Specific - Pack Trainer May 2010 [faithbannon@charter.net](mailto:faithbannon@charter.net)

Mark Twain Cub Leader Specific May 15, 2010 [rev\\_srs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rev_srs@sbcglobal.net)

### SCOUT MASTER

Matianuck SM/SA Specifics February 22, March 1, and April 3, 2010 [mccolganjj@aol.com](mailto:mccolganjj@aol.com)

Mad River SM/SA Specifics March 16, 23, 30,

Mattabesett Trail SM/SA Specifics March 2010 [district\\_training@yahoo.com](mailto:district_training@yahoo.com)

Mohegan SM/SA Specifics March 6, 2010

Hockanum SM/SA Specifics March 26-28, 2010

Mohegan and Mattabesett Trail Districts Outdoor Leader Specifics Training

Start Date/Time: 3/27/2010 8:00:00 AM to Time:3/28/2010 12:00:00 PM

Contact E-mail: [tadams1@comcast.net](mailto:tadams1@comcast.net) Cost: \$25.00

## ANNUAL ADULT PINEWOOD DERBY RACE

Since 2004 the Scoutreach Division of the Connecticut Rivers Council has provided youth in Connecticut's urban cities the opportunity to experience the joys of scouting regardless of their circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background. The Scoutreach Division now serves over 2,300 youth in Waterbury, East Hartford, Hartford, New Britain and now expanding into the New London area. 2010 will mark the Scoutreach Division's first ANNUAL ADULT PINEWOOD DERBY RACE held in Foxwoods Resort Casino's Sunset Ballroom. Participants can be adult individuals or teams comprised of families, organizations or corporations. Your contribution and support of this fundraiser will help provide year round scouting

program activities for our urban youth. For example, week-long resident summer camp, seasonal weekend camporees, overnight campouts and day trips to historical landmarks.

## **100 YEARS OF SCOUTING AND THE COMMISSIONER SERVICE**

### ***Looking into the Future***

During all these years, commissioner service was the one unifying factor that made Scouting permanent. The commissioner has remained the line of service from council to unit and chartered organization. With your help, commissioner service will continue to be the catalyst for growth and quality in the BSA for the next hundred years. These words from our National Commissioner 2010. Please be sure to read the article on the role that the Commissioner Service has played through the first 100 years of Scouting.

## **CONNECTICUT UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING**

The mission of the Connecticut University of Scouting is to provide Connecticut Scouters with a distinctive educational experience including a broad array of introductory, supplemental, and advanced training for all Boy Scouts of America adult leader positions in support of all BSA youth programs. As such, the CUS provides the broadest range of training courses of any BSA training venue in the state of Connecticut. Our purpose is to provide YOU with the best possible opportunity to improve your capability as a Scout leader and improve your productivity so that you can accomplish more in less time. The motivation for both the staff and students at CUS is our drive to provide the highest possible quality Scouting experience for our youth.

CUS course offerings are organized in eight Colleges. Because they are Scouting's most popular programs in Connecticut, there are specific colleges for Cub Scout and Boy Scout program related courses. The other six colleges; Culinary Arts, Commissioners, General Studies, Health & Safety, Information Technologies, and Order of the Arrow, provide courses of general interest across all Scouting programs. Many of the specialized courses are not available at any other training event.

## **COMMISSIONER TRAINING PLANNING**

A Commissioner Gathering is being planned at Camp Workcoeman New Hartford, CT for April 17, 2010. More information will follow.

A Basic Commissioner class is planned for the eastern part of the Council on February 27, 2010. More information will be available in a few weeks.

Another Basic Commissioner class and either Roundtable Commissioner or District Commissioner/Ass't District commissioner Training on May 8, 2010 at the Council Office

## **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

In 2006, the Boy Scouts of America chartered 13,833 new units nationally. By the end of September 2009, only 4,817 of those units were still chartered. For every dropped unit, there are disappointed kids and parents. There are some very important steps that should be taken in the new-unit organization process to ensure retention. Several councils across the country have focused on this situation, and the following is an overview of their strategies.

### ***How Commissioners Can Help Retain New Units***

- The district commissioner should meet with the district executive and district membership chair to review the list of prospective new units. At this stage, a volunteer new-unit organizer is identified along with a new unit commissioner before any new unit is organized.

- Once recruited, the district executive, new-unit organizer, and unit commissioner meet with the prospective chartered organization. A district executive should not go alone.
- Commissioners should work with the new-unit organizers during the organization process to encourage the new unit to begin with at least 10 youths: two full dens or patrols, or a crew of 10. Units most likely to succeed will have at least five adults in leadership roles.
- Commissioners should help new units set goals to achieve their Quality Unit Award and help with a program plan.
- Once the unit is chartered, the new-unit commissioner stays with this new unit for 36 months to ensure its longevity. Many councils use a color code to identify unit health, such as: green=active units; yellow=slightly active; red=dropped units; orange=new units, regardless of strength.
- Unit commissioners should add unit visits in UVTS.
- Commissioners continue to meet with unit leadership to keep the unit organized and on target with its goals. For more information, check out the two new PowerPoint presentations on the Web site—Retention: New Unit Focus, and Strengthening Your Unit.

### ***New-Unit Focus***

The National Capitol Area Council recently put new-unit retention at the top of its priority list. Through extensive research and a creative action plan, the council has begun to see real results. Other councils have contributed ideas, and the result is a new national strategy that will be part of a pilot study this year. New-unit focus is a multi-faceted approach. Research revealed that although many new units successfully recharter after the first year, the success rate has dropped with the second and third-year recharterers. We need to change commissioner thinking about how long a unit should be considered "new." The plan recommends that a unit receive special attention for three years. The plan combines the use of an assistant council commissioner for new units as defined in the commissioner manual with other "specialty" assistant district commissioners for new units. In addition, there will be unit commissioners who specialize in serving new units. They will be called new-unit commissioners (N-UC), and will have special training as well as a service plan focused on the needs of the units they serve. The plan encourages the early involvement of the N-UC in the organization of new units and outlines the ideal role the district committee should play in supporting these units during the first three years. If your council would like more information on this project, please contact National Commissioner Support Chair for Recruitment and Retention Ellie Morrison at [esmorrison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:esmorrison@sbcglobal.net).