

March Commissioner Newsletter

Cub Theme for March Round Table

JURASSIC PACK

Explore the land before time! Imagine living in a time when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. What have paleontologists learned about the great beasts that roamed the Earth millions of years ago? Did any dinosaurs live where you do now? Find out what they ate, where they lived, and how they moved. What could we learn of these creatures that lived so long ago? Make a model of a dinosaur or visit a museum where dinosaur fossils can be seen. Make your own "dinosaur footprints" or "fossils" in plaster. Take a "dinosaur" scavenger hike by going on a hike and looking for things that might have been found during the Jurassic era. This would be a great time to work on the Geology belt loop and pin.

Preparing for Tour Permits Online

Soon unit leaders will be able to submit local and national tour permits electronically. This new system takes just four easy steps, and it will save the transportation and training information, so leaders can easily recall it for future permit applications. All registered unit leaders will have access to Tour Permits from My-Scouting, accessed on www.scouting.org. Councils will approve or return the permit applications using MyBSA. The MyScouting account verifies that the owner is a BSA leader associated with a unit. Within Tour Permits, the leader has access only to his unit. This authentication replaces the physical signatures on tour permit applications. Other unit leaders are notified via e-mail when an application is submitted and approved. The volunteer can submit both local and national applications, for either traditional units or Learning for Life posts. Once approved, each tour permit will have a unique tour ID number. Unit leaders enter all the necessary information for the tour, and rules specific to tour permits are applied. When appropriate, helpful messages will advise the leader about any missing information. Once the tour permit has been submitted, the council will evaluate and approve it or return it for further work. Online features allow easy entry of driver information for transportation and required training supervision. There will be automatic notification at all appropriate steps in the process to the permit creator, the tour leader, and the assistant tour leader. The unit committee chair and unit leader will also receive e-mail notifications if they have MyScouting accounts. The online Help document explains how to complete and submit permit applications to the council. Additionally, the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available on the site for easy reference; *Safety First Learning for Life Guidelines* is also available for Learning for Life posts. Other documents, such as the *BSA Transportation Guidelines* and the *Pledge of Performance* can also be accessed from Tour Permits. Authorized council staff members will review and process submitted applications. The tour permit creator receives a PDF version of the approved permit via e-mail. The approved permit PDF can also be obtained from Tour Permits in My-Scouting. As a reminder, local tour permit applications should be submitted two weeks before the tour and national applications at least one month before the tour start date. We encourage all Scouting units from our council to use this new service to submit their local and national tour permit applications online.

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Training

**Commissioner Basic Training
May 2, 2009
East Hartford Service Center**

University of Scouting



The University will be held again at Crosby High School in Waterbury Connecticut.

March 14, 2009

Individual registration required

Registration deadline is

February 20, 2009

Registration fee: \$25.00

After February 20, 2009

LATE REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00

**Registration fee includes: Choice of 6 classes, Lunch, University Patch, Handouts, Midway
Make checks payable to CRC(Connecticut Rivers Council) Event No. 1-6801-375-20**

Leave No Trace Trainer Course

April 25, 8:00 AM to April 26, 2:00 PM

Camp Mattatuck, Plymouth, CT

Camp Mattatuck is on Route 262 / Mt. Tobe Road in Plymouth CT.

Cost is \$20.00 per participant which includes educational materials.

For a class description and/or to register go to www.ctrivers.org or contact

Marshall Berger, Leave No Trace Master Educator at 860-593-6964 or Srteleman@comcast.net

Commissioner's Gathering

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

8:30AM TO 9:00 AM - REGISTRATION

9:00AM – 1:30 PM

CAMP J. W. WEBSTER

ROUTE 44 ASHFORD, CT.

CHOICE OF SESSIONS 1-1, BEING A COMMISSIONER OR 1-2, WHAT'S NEW WITH TOUR PERMITS OR 1-3, ANNUAL UNIT SERVICE PLAN 2-1, UNIT VISIT TRACKING SYSTEM OR 2-2, RECRUITING COMMISSIONERS OR 2-3, COMMISSIONER CAMP PROMOTION 3-1, CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING-ALL

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Camp Workcoeman's 85th Anniversary

Historical Facts About Camp Workcoeman

1924 - This date marked the first official week of summer camp at Camp Workcoeman. The camp consisted of 7 tents with a cleared area for a dining tent, kitchen with an army field range, a shed for storing mattresses and a small building for provisions and tools.

1928 - The first camp session is filled with 28 Scouts and leaders. The expected season total of 100 Scouts will be a record. For the first time, all Scouts must have a physical exam 48 hours before entering camp. The camp fee was \$5.25 per week.

1930 - An artesian well was dug behind the present dining hall. The Scout Mother's Auxiliary pledged \$400 for a fireplace to be erected in a new "recreation building" (dining hall).

1950 - "Bud" Wheelan of Litchfield, a former camper and camp staff created a delightful and humorous character called "Chief Tunxis." This image was emblazoned on all camp emblems, banners, boats, and official t-shirt. The colors of red and yellow were chosen as official camp colors

1952 - During the third week of the camp season a Scout camper was diagnosed with a mild case of polio. The camp was placed under quarantine by Dr. Heinz Markwald. None of the 93 campers or 18 staff could leave camp for a period of 3 weeks. The quarantine was lifted on August 2.

1959 - An open house was held at Camp Workcoeman to dedicate the many improvements made during a capital improvement program. F. Earl Coe unveiled a plaque that honored his family for the original camp property and major benefactors. The new facilities were: Health Lodge dedicated to John A. Calder, Activities Field dedicated to Clayton E. Smith Chapel dedicated to the Scout Mothers Auxiliary Shower building.

GOLD RUSH 2009

Save the date! Saturday, April 18, 2009 is the date for Jurassic Gold Rush 2009 at the Mark Greer Scout Reservation. This year's theme is everything prehistoric, from dinosaurs and cave men to fossils and volcanoes! If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the Gold Rush Committee, please contact Jeff Clark at jclarkpby@comcast.net or (860) 344-5460.

District Awards Dinner

Come and enjoy an evening with your fellow Scouters as the District Award of Merit, Veteran Awards, Training Awards, Commissioner Awards, Distinguished Service in the Mark Twain District, Gold Key Award, and other awards are presented.



Friday, March 6, 2009

Nuchie's Restaurant

164 Central St

Bristol, CT 06010

6 P.M. Social Hour

7 P.M. Dinner

Followed by the Awards Program

\$24.00 per person

Spring Camporee

April 24-26 More details to follow.

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The Annual Commissioner Service Plan

Service Plan Actions

- **January and July- "Unit health" reviews.** The unit serving executive for each district meets with his/her commissioner team to evaluate the units in the district. Units meeting Quality Unit requirements would normally receive a grade of "good." For any unit not meeting the requirements, a plan is developed on how this unit can be brought back to Quality Unit status. This plan is reviewed regularly during the year to monitor progress and to help bring the unit to Quality Unit status.
- **April- Unit leadership inventory.** Conducted by the commissioner and unit committee. Find out who will continue and who will drop. Visit inactive adults. Recruit new adults.
- **May- Troop uniform inspection.** The commissioner helps the Scoutmaster and lends dignity to a high morale event. Encourage uniform for summer camp. Develop unit pride.
- **August- Unit program planning.** Unit commissioners visit with unit leaders to help where necessary with the planning process. With a new program year starting September 1, a unit annual plan should be completed by August 1. This will allow it to be shared with the existing members at your first unit meeting of the fall. It also allows the unit to have it ready for their fall recruiting drive, usually held in August or early September for new members.
- **Fall support.** Unit visits should be done each month to ensure the units get off to a great fall in programming. Support the unit's fall roundup and recruitment drive. Help the training team to encourage that all adult volunteers get Fast Start training, Youth Protection training, and basic leader training in a timely manner. Follow up on the unit health plans to assist units in earning the Quality Unit Award.
- **October- Uniform inspection.** The commissioner helps pack and troop leaders, and lends dignity to a high morale event. Encourage uniform for all members. Develop pack and troop pride.
- **November- Youth Protection visit.** The commissioner explains and promotes the latest BSA child abuse prevention training booklets and videos at a fall meeting of unit adults. Guide your commissioners to make this a meaningful event in each unit.