

# Commissioner Newsletter March 2010

## What's Happening?

Adult Recognition Dinner March 26  
Cub Cross over MARCH 5, 2010, 7:30 p.m. CAMP WORKCOEMAN -DINING HALL  
Pinewood Derby March 27 Immanuel Lutheran, Bristol  
Wolfpack-100th Anniversary of Scouting Game March 27  
Rock Cats Scout Night May 8  
Leader Meeting Council Jamboree April 25  
Council Jamboree June 4-6 Hebron Fair Grounds

## Training

CT University of Scouting 2010 March 13 7:15 to 4:00 Crosby High, Waterbury  
P21 Venturing Advisor & Asst PST 3/13/2010 CUS  
Cub Scout Leaders PST 3/13/2010 CUS  
S24 Scoutmaster & Asst PST - Camp Tadmra 3/6/2010 [tadams1@comcast.net](mailto:tadams1@comcast.net)  
S24 Scoutmaster & Asst PST Hockanum River 3/26-27 [hiker472@cox.net](mailto:hiker472@cox.net)  
S11 Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills (Mattabesett District) 3/27-28 [district\\_training@yahoo.com](mailto:district_training@yahoo.com)  
S24 Scoutmaster & Asst PST(Matianuck District) 4/3 [riterd@aol.com](mailto:riterd@aol.com)  
Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)(Matianuck District) 4/3 [mccolganjj@aol.com](mailto:mccolganjj@aol.com)  
S11 Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills Hockanum River(Hockanum River District) 4/10 [hiker472@cox.net](mailto:hiker472@cox.net)  
District BALOO Training 4/4 (Outdoor Session)(Hockanum River District) 4/10 [hiker472@cox.net](mailto:hiker472@cox.net)  
Commissioner Gathering(Connecticut Rivers Council) 4/17 [phmcc@cox.net](mailto:phmcc@cox.net)  
S11 Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills(Mad River District) 4/30-5/2 [faithbannon@charter.net](mailto:faithbannon@charter.net)

## Connecticut University of Scouting

**Saturday, March 13, Crosby High School, 300 Pierpont Rd, Waterbury, CT**

The Connecticut University of Scouting is a Scout leader's learning adventure! It is an action-packed, fun-filled day of supplemental training where you choose the sessions that you want to take. Sessions are led by experienced volunteers, selected for their knowledge, enthusiasm, and presentation skills.

CUS courses are designed to help YOU to improve your skills and increase your knowledge about Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, Commissioner Service, leadership and related subjects. The University of Scouting is a single day packed with a year's worth of fun, program ideas, and information. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to meet and share ideas with Scouters from throughout the four Connecticut BSA councils.

### **Who Should Attend the Connecticut University of Scouting?**

YOU should attend for sure, along with hundreds of your fellow Scout leaders from Connecticut and surrounding states. All registered leaders, potential leaders and parents that are looking for the very best program for their Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers and Venturers will find a variety of courses relevant to their position in Scouting.

## New Belt Loops, Pins, and Merit Badges are Coming

Video Games is one of 13 new belt loops and pins in the Cub Scout Academics and Sports program. It's been more than 10 years since the program expanded, so volunteers and Cub Scouts from around the country have been waiting for this change.

In late January, Scout shops across the country should begin selling a new edition of the Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide (No. 34299), which will include these additions:

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## Academics Subjects:

- Disabilities Awareness
- Family Travel
- Good Manners
- Nutrition
- Pet Care
- Photography
- Reading and Writing
- Video Games

## Sports:

- Hiking
- Hockey
- Horseback Riding
- Kickball
- Skateboarding

Scuba Diving is the first new Boy Scout merit badge in three years; it will become available in December. Click [here](#) for a brochure about the badge that you can share with your volunteers.

Four other new merit badges will appear over the course of the coming year:

- Inventing (First quarter 2010)
- Geocaching (Second quarter 2010)
- Scouting Heritage (Second quarter 2010)
- Robotics (Fourth quarter 2010)

These badges are being introduced because they received positive feedback in a youth interest survey. If five new merit badges seems like a lot, it is. By comparison, the BSA introduced just six new merit badges between 1992 (Collections) and 2006 (Composite Materials).

## National Youth Leadership Training

NYLT is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experiences they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. Connecticut Rivers Council will offer this course during the week of: Monday, August 9 – Saturday, August 14, 2010 @ June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation. Scoutmasters will nominate scouts from their troops for participation in NYLT. Applications and complete information will be mailed directly to Scoutmasters in early April.

## Tech Chip Training

The goal of this new training is to subscribe to guidelines for proper use of electronic devices at scouting events

When the training is complete each scout will be expected to be able to recite 3 rules of electronics use in outdoor environments. Commit to using electronic devices in a safe, courteous manner. Take responsibility for personal devices.

To carry out the training you will need a cellphone for each person or pair, GPS, 2 or 3 nerf balls. It is recommended that you do this training outside in nice weather, in the evening, if possible.

Through this training it is hoped that the outright banning of electronic devices will not be necessary, rather by teaching courteous use, scouts and adults can take advantage of technology to create a safer.

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## New Guidelines for Unit Websites

We've long recognized that unit sites created by individuals at the unit level of Scouting are essentially personal, and therefore beyond the National Council's control or liability. We do offer advisory guidelines to those who publish Scouting-related sites on their own responsibility, and we urge local councils to take the same approach. These guidelines are established to help avoid several common mistakes

**Protection of personal information pertaining to our youth members** and volunteers should be our greatest concern. This organization has used COPPA, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, as its standard in this area. You can read the details on compliance at <http://www.coppa.org/comply.htm>. It would be a good practice to share them with unit-level publishers in your council.

A second concern about individual unit sites is **copyright infringement**. Sadly, photos, music, and video are commonly reused on the Web without permission. Plagiarism is also common. Such practices violate the ethics of Scouting. They are also violations of law, and could expose the publishers legally.

Our third concern is **commercialism**. We don't allow ads on council sites. We recognize that "free" Web services often used to create unit-level sites may contain advertising. This practice may reflect poorly on the Scouting brand, and should be avoided. A more serious concern would be sites that engage in any fund-raising activities not previously approved by their local council. Any independent sales, solicitation, OR collection of donations is prohibited by our bylaws and charter agreements.

## Social Media Guidelines

Initially considered simply a way to socialize with friends, "social media" platforms such as MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are now established as major media channels. These sites let individuals build and utilize personal social networks among friends, family, and colleagues. Both for-profit and nonprofit organizations are using social media as well to build and support their brands, drive engagement, support products, increase sales, and more.

Used properly, these media can be an excellent way for Scouting councils to start a conversation with their target audiences by informing, connecting, and attracting them to Scouting.

There are no hard and fast rules in this new media landscape, aside from the abiding commitment of the BSA to protect children from inappropriate material and maintain the privacy of its membership.

Social media constitute a new form of digital communication providing interaction and dialogue around user-generated content. They go beyond merely pushing content to a reader. Organizations wishing to exploit social media must accept the fact that listening is just as important as speaking in these channels, and Scouters wishing to play in this space should be prepared to do so if they are to reap any value.

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## Requirement Changes for Boy Scouts

The centennial edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is now available, and with the new handbook come several rank requirement changes that are in effect as of January 1, 2010. These can be found below. Note: If a Scout started work toward a rank before January 1, 2010, using the requirements that were current before January 1, 2010, he may complete THAT RANK ONLY using the old requirements. Any progress toward a rank that is begun after January 1, 2010, must use the requirements as they are presented in the Boy Scout Handbook or in the 2010 Boy Scout Requirements book. The fact that a Scout can work on the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class simultaneously does NOT mean that he is "working toward all three ranks". He can NOT use the old requirements for all three. Similarly, if a Scout has multiple merit badges, he is NOT "working toward Star, Life, and Eagle". He may only use the old requirements for the NEXT rank he completes.

## 2010 Rank Requirement Changes:

### **Tenderfoot**

- A Scout must teach another person how to tie a square knot using the EDGE model (explain, demonstrate, guide, and enable).
- He must also be able to discuss four specific examples of how he lived the points of the Scout Law in his daily life.

### **Second Class**

- A Scout must discuss the principles of Leave No Trace and explain the factors to consider when choosing a patrol site and where to pitch a tent.
- He must explain what respect is due the flag of the United States.
- He must again discuss four examples of how he lived four different points of the Scout Law in his daily life.
- He must earn an amount of money agreed upon by the Scout and his parents and save at least 50 percent of it.

### **First Class**

- An additional requirement to the 10 separate troop/patrol activities states he must demonstrate the principles of Leave No Trace on these outings.
- He must discuss four more examples of how he lived the remaining four points of the Scout Law in his daily life.

### **Life**

- A Scout must use the EDGE model to teach a younger Scout a specified skill

### **Star, Life, and Eagle**

- Troop Webmaster and Leave No Trace trainer are two new leadership positions.

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