### Scouter's News

**Spring Issue 2014**

**West Central Florida Council**

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#### 2014 Scout Savings Card

A great fundraising opportunity awaits our Scouts! The West Central Florida Council is pleased to introduce the “Scout Savings Card”, like the Camp Card that was featured last year but BETTER than ever! The Scouts will still have the chance to earn their way to Day Camp, Webelos Camp, Family Camp, Summer Camp or just weekend camping in general at Camp Soule and Sand Hill Scout Reservation! Kickoff begins at roundtables (see dates below).

- **Anclote**: April 9th 7:00pm at CARES Center (4136 Barker Dr - New Port Richey)
- **Miccosukee**: April 9th 7:00pm at First Lutheran Church (1644 Nursery Rd. - Largo)
- **Skyway**: April 3rd 7:00pm at Clearview United Methodist Church (4515 38th Ave. N - St. Petersburg)

As before, the program is risk-free. Simply return any unsold cards when sales proceeds are turned in at the Council Service Center by June 16th. New in 2014, cards will have more discounts and deals available to purchasers and a higher profit potential for Scouts. The cards contain more than $100 worth of savings, making the purchase price a great savings opportunity. In addition, training will be offered at district roundtables and via a webinar. With our community partnerships, the sale of the card is a no brainer!

Cards are $10 each, with the $1.50 cost of the card deducted before the commission is divided between the selling unit and the Council. In other words, for each $10 card sold, $1.50 is allocated to the cost of the card, $4.25 is paid to the selling unit and the remaining $4.25 is retained by the Council. Settlement is due June 16th, for more information and to reserve your cards to be picked up at roundtable, please visit our website at [www.wcfcsa.org](http://www.wcfcsa.org)

Three different area cards will be offered and will include deals from national and local merchants.

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11046 Johnson Boulevard
Seminole, Florida 33772-4715
[http://www.wcfcsa.org](http://www.wcfcsa.org)
Council Charter Update and How YOU can help!

It is anticipated that the conditional charter will be extended through 2014. What does this mean to our council? This will mean we have another year to meet the goals that National will implement to prove that we are a viable and sustainable council. It is crucial to the existence of the West Central Florida Council that WE ALL work together to get out of this conditional status and into a normal chartered status. You may think that you alone won’t make a difference, but you do! Here are some ways that YOU alone can help!

Help by Donating to Friends of Scouting

While all donations to Friends of Scouting are greatly appreciated, it cost the council $206.00 to keep one boy in Scouting for a year. This comes to a little more than $17.16 per month or $0.56 per day to give the gift of Scouting. Please consider a donation today and with your paid donation of $206.00 you will receive the Family Level FOS patch with the 2014 theme being “Helpful”. If you are able to donate $250.00 or more you will also receive the limited edition Endangered Species FOS patch featuring the Florida panther.

Help while you Shop!

Do you shop on amazon.com? If so, did you know that Amazon makes donations to a charity that you select? Now, you can designate West Central Florida Council as your charity and 0.50% of your qualifying purchases will be donated directly to WCFC. You must designate your charity and make purchases at smile.amazon.com though!

1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and login into your Amazon account.
2. You will be asked to select your charity. Search “Boy Scouts of America Seminole, FL”. When you find that option make it your selected charity.
3. After that whenever you shop at smile.amazon.com, your qualifying purchases will automatically generate donations to WCFC.
4. Please share this information with all your friends and family!

Help by Recruiting

We need to increase our membership and we need YOUR help to recruit new members. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to a meeting or a camp out and show them what makes Scouting so unique and special!

Help by Strengthening Your Unit

You may wonder how can you help to strengthen your unit? It’s actually pretty simple and easy. The first step for a strong unit is to have trained leaders. Are you trained in all the areas you should be? Did you know that a many of trainings are available online free of charge 24/7 at www.myscouting.org? For a listing of upcoming classroom trainings you can view the council calendar online at www.wcfcbsa.org. The next step would be working towards your Gold status on you Journey to Excellence (JTE). Each year you review your progress from the previous, complete tasks and maintain good unit cohesiveness through the requirements, in doing this you earn points on your scorecard. These points are a reflection of how your unit is performing. Collectively each unit’s scorecard is reported and is used by National to determine how well our Council is performing as a whole. These small simple steps you can make can have spectacular results for our Councils overall wellbeing.
Updated Annual Health and Medical Record

As of January 1, 2014, the new updated BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) must be used for all BSA activities. If members still have the older version, they are now out-of-date and need to be replaced with the newer form which is available from the council website or at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx. If your unit has any of the older versions, please discard them and have your members utilize the new on-line version immediately.

Youth Protection Training and Adult Registrations

Youth Protection Training is mandatory for ALL registered volunteers as of June 1, 2010. This applies to unit leaders as well as non-unit leaders such as merit badge counselors and unit commissioners. New leaders can take the training by logging onto myscouting.org and setting up their MyScouting account to access the Youth Protection Training module. Upon completion of the training, new leaders should print out their trained certificate and give a copy to their unit. The unit will attach the certificate to the individual’s adult application before submitting it to the council service center. Once the new leader receives their BSA membership card, they will need to go back into their MyScouting account and enter their membership ID number so their training will be recorded.

The certificate is good for two years, so leaders should check their Youth Protection Training status prior to their unit’s recharter month, to avoid delaying their unit’s recharter process. The unit will not be able to recharter with leaders whose Youth Protection Training has expired.

Leaders registered with Venture crews must take the Venturing Youth Protection Training instead of the regular course designed for pack and troop leaders. If venture leaders are also in a pack or troop, they must take both trainings.

Service Hours

Scouting was founded on the premise of doing a Good Turn daily. The Scout Oath includes the phrase “to help other people at all times”. Community service is a very important element in the character-building process and as Scouts, we have made the commitment to give back to our communities. Units are strongly encouraged to have several service projects each year and track their service hours for their Journey To Excellence Award. Don’t forget the annual Scouting for Food drive, our council’s annual service project to help combat the growing problem of hungry families in our communities.

After completing each of your service projects, don’t forget to log onto www.scouting.org/Awards/JourneyToExcellence and look for the Service Hours link on the right side of the page. Follow the instructions to report your unit’s service hours. Troops should encourage their Eagle Scouts to report their Eagle project hours as well for their troop. At the end of the year, the West Central Florida Council will total up all the service hours contributed by our packs, troops and crews and report them to the National Council as part of the council’s Journey to Excellence, so it is important for each unit to report their service hours as they complete their projects.

Summer Camp Staff Opportunities

Sand Hill Scout Reservation is currently looking for staff for summer camp in 2014. Summer camp staff must be able to work from June 8-July 10, 2014 as well as staff training events. We are looking for staff for all areas: Scoutcraft/Outdoor Skills, Nature, Aquatics, Handicraft, Shooting Sports, and C.O.P.E./Climbing. You must be at least 16 years old and a registered member of Scouting before beginning summer camp. Non-Scouters are eligible to apply, but must complete a Scouting background check and a registration form. Area Director positions are also available.

If you would like to apply or want more information, contact Ken Knaebel at 727-687-9254 or tokala@tampabay.rr.com.

You can also complete an online application at:

www.sandhillscoutreservation.com or http://www.wcfcbsa.org/about-scouting/employment-opportunities/54808
Wood Badge

The West Central Florida Council is offering Wood Badge to all registered Scouters in the council. Wood Badge is the ultimate leadership training program for adult Scout leaders. The course brings together leaders from all areas of Scouting – Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts & Venturing along with district and council leaders.

All course participants are required to have completed Specific Basic Training for their registered Scouting position. Cub Scout leaders must complete Cub Leader Specific Training. Scoutmasters & Assistant Scoutmasters must complete Scoutmaster Specific Training along with Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Troop committee leaders must complete the Troop Committee Challenge. Varsity Scout leaders must complete Varsity Specific Training and Venturing leaders must complete Venturing Specific Training. District and council leaders must complete the training specific to their position. Leaders who have completed Cub Basics, Scoutmastership Fundamentals (SMF) or Venturing Training under the old training curriculum already meet the training requirements. In addition, a physical current for the course will be required.

The 6-day course will be conducted over two 3-day weekends at Camp Soule. Participants will be expected at camp early Friday morning and remain through Sunday late afternoon. Attendance at all portions of the course is mandatory. The dates and times are 07:30 AM Friday morning, February 27, 2015 to 5:00 PM Sunday, March 1, 2015 and 07:30 AM Friday morning, March 20, 2015 to 5:00 PM Sunday, March 22, 2015. The first weekend is held primarily in a classroom with overnight stay in campsites. The second weekend is an outdoor camping experience.

The course fee has not been established yet. There is only room for the first 64 applicants paid in full with training prerequisites and physical. All prerequisites need to be fulfilled by January 29, 2015. If we do not have 30 participants fully trained and paid by January 29, 2015, the class will be cancelled. If you should have any questions this early, contact Course Director Bruce Nichols at 727-424-3585 or wbS48915@aol.com.

Need Quality Trained Youth for Your Youth Run Program?
National Youth Leadership Training (N.Y.L.T) is coming!

This summer, the West Central Florida Council will be hosting a National Youth Leadership Training (N.Y.L.T.) course July 11-13, 2014 and July 18-20, 2014 at Sand Hill Scout Reservation in Brooksville, FL. N.Y.L.T. is an exciting, action-packed six-day program designed for councils to provide 13-20 year old youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home units and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.

The N.Y.L.T. course centers around the concepts of what a leader must be, what he must know, and what he must do. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on how to. The skills come alive during the two weekends as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

N.Y.L.T. is a six-day course. Content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and aided by the use of memory aids, which allows participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster.

Built on the legacy of past successes, the N.Y.L.T. integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience. Through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audiovisual support, N.Y.L.T. participants will be engaged in a unified approach to leadership that will give them the skill and confidence to lead well. Through a wide range of activities, games, and adventures, participants will work and play together as they put into action the best Scouting has to offer.

For further information about this year’s N.Y.L.T. course please download the information packet, available online at [www.wcfcbsa.org](http://www.wcfcbsa.org), or contact Matthew Kamat, Course Director, at (727) 808-6800 or by email at matthew.kamat@gmail.com.
April 2014

- 4-6 Leave No Trace Training
- 5 Cub Rangemaster Training
- 5-6 Cub Family Camp—Soule
- 11-13 OA Section Conference
- 12 Archery Instructor Training
- 18 Good Friday—Closed
- 19 Lifeguard Training—Part 1
- 20 Council Silver Beaver Banquet
- 26 Paddle Craft Safety Training
- 30 Lifeguard Training—Part 2
- 30 SM Specifics—Part 2

Silver Beaver Recognition Banquet

The 2014 Banquet will be held on April 24, 2014 at the Feather Sound Country Club, 2201 Feather Sound Dr, Clearwater, FL 33762. We will begin our program at 7:00 PM. All council members and leaders are encouraged to attend this annual event. The recipients of the Silver Beaver Award will be honored. Tickets are available for purchase now through March 7th at our council website: www.wfcbsa.org or by contacting Donna Felsh at 727-391-3800 x212 or by email at Donna.Felsh@scouting.org. Tickets are just $35.00 per person, so mark your calendar and make your reservations today!

Cub Scout Family Camping

All registered Cub Scouts and their families are invited to attend one (or more) of our four family camp weekends. This is a busy, fun-filled overnight campout where Cubs can shoot BB guns, go on a scavenger hunt, meet new friends, and play wacky games! We are looking forward to spending a wonderful overnight with all of our Cub Scouts & Families. Every Family Camp has different activities. Family Camp is open to all Cub Scouts and his friends and family! Campers need to bring the following: tent, sleeping bag or bedroll, suitable clothing, hat, raingear, lunch for Saturday, closed-toe shoes, and a great attitude!!! Enjoy Saturday night dinner then an interactive campfire. Sunday breakfast followed by an interfaith service and then a recognition and awards ceremony to close camp.

Check-in is at 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturday, the program activities start at 12:00 pm Saturday, and check-out is at 11:00 am Sunday. Cost is $15.00 per camper (not to exceed $70.00 per family). Pre-register as registration closes at camp capacity regardless of cut-off date.

There will be no walk-ins accepted at the day of check-in.

April 5-6, 2014 at Camp Soule, Clearwater, FL

Program Preview—Save The Date

Be sure and put May 15 on your calendar so you won’t miss this year’s annual Program Preview! This is the biggest gathering of Scouters in the council every year and the place to be to pick up the latest information and the new Council Calendar. The materials available here will be invaluable to you and your unit as you get ready to plan your program starting this fall. Location and other information will be emailed to leaders in late April and posted on the council website.

University of Scouting 2014

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s University of Scouting on March 15 at Camp Soule. The Scouting program remains strong in West Central Florida Council; due in large part to friends like you who donate their time, talent and treasure to make it so. Participants were heard saying how much they enjoyed the networking opportunity to exchange ideas and share Scouting experiences while enjoying our wonderful camp and the weather.

We had a great day of learning, fellowship and fun! We took full advantage of our beautiful spring weather and the camp. Lakeside was the perfect location for the colorful vendor midway and a BBQ lunch. Lots of Dutch oven recipes were traded at the trading post. The aroma from the morning and afternoon recipes were enticing! Congratulations to Troop 135 for winning the first annual Unit Trailer Challenge! In a close race, the Golden Hitch award for participants’ favorite went to Troop 305. They’ve got bragging rights for the next year.

Speaking of next year... as you start planning your annual calendars for 2015, mark down and reserve April 18, 2015 for WCFC’s next University of Scouting. If you’d like to help with planning for next year’s event, stop by the council’s training committee table at Program Preview on May 15.

May 2014

- 2-4 Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training
- 3 Lifeguard Training—Part 2
- 3 Swimming Water Rescue
- 7 Lifeguard Training—Part 3
- 10 Lifeguard Training—Part 4
- 10 Cub Scout Rangemaster Training
- 10 Day Camp Volunteer Training for Weeks A & B
- 11 Mother’s Day
- 15 PROGRAM PREVIEW
- 17 Lifeguard Training—Make Up Day
- 17 Fundamentals of Training
- 21-23 BSA National Meeting—Nashville
- 24-26 Camps Closed—Memorial Day
- 26 Memorial Day
- Council Service Center and Scout Shop Closed

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Summer Camps

Summer is just around the corner, so be sure and make plans now to attend one of the summer camp experiences here in the West Central Florida Council.

Cub Scout Day Camp — We are excited to announce Cub Scout Day Camp 2014!! The theme for this summer is “Legends and Lore”, it will be filled with good old fashion fun and a lots of activities that will help you to solidify a great year of Scouting for your Cub Scouts.

All registered scouts may attend any or all weeks of Day Camp! This gives the Cubs, Boy Scouts and Volunteers the chance to meet a whole new group of Scouts from their area as well as another area in our Council. If you are unable to attend the week your pack is attending you may still sign up and enjoy a week or two of safe, action filled fun!!

Cub Scout Day Camp is the highlight event of the summer for your Cub Scouts! Scouts who attend camp will get an opportunity to meet new friends, learn more about the Scouting programs, participate in all kinds of games and sports, arts & crafts and they even can learn how to safely use a bow and arrow and BB gun.

The West Central Florida Council offers 3 weeks of Day Camp beginning in early June. These Camps are run by volunteers, just like you, who serve as our Camp Directors, program directors, medics, shooting sports instructors, program area leaders, and many more.

Registration information and online registration is now available online at www.wfcbsa.org.

Week A—June 9-13 at Camp Soule
Week B—June 16-20 at Camp Soule
Week C—June 23-27 at James E Grey Preserve, NPR

Webelos Camp Residence Camp — this summer Webelos Scouts can participate in their own four-day/three night camp program at Sand Hill. Register your pack today at www.wfcbsa.org.

July 6-9, 2014

Boy Scout Summer Camp—are you looking for a close camp to have some fun? Look no further, we have spots still available. What if your unit is not camping locally or not at all and you want to? Not a problem we offer provisional camping!! Register today at www.wfcbsa.org or contact donna.felsh@scouting.org for more information!

Session 1—June 15-21, 2014
Session 2—June 22-28, 2014
Session 3—June 29-July 5, 2014

Venture Camp—Sand Hill Scout Reservation is happy to once again offer a Venture's Camp. This camp will offer selected challenges and programs to aid Venturers in the progress of the Outdoor Bronze Award, Silver Award and possibly the Ranger Award.

Venturers will have opportunities to work on activities to satisfy some Bronze Award core and elective requirements. Time is available each evening to relax in the pool or challenge the climbing and rappelling walls. We’ve added slacklines for Venturer's to test their balance and a marksmanship program for them to improve their shooting sports skills.

Register today at www.wfcbsa.org or contact donna.felsh@scouting.org for more information!

July 6-9, 2014
Lowe’s Grant, 2013-14

Our council was initially allocated fifteen–$100.00 Lowe’s Grants. National Grant administrators report that sufficient Grants remain to lift our limit of fifteen, but time is running out. Lifting our cap means that we may submit more than those originally allocated to the Districts.

At this point, there is a need to follow through with those who requested Grants. Part of their obligation was:

“The deadline for reports on grant-funded Eagle projects is April 30, 2014. In his packet cover letter, each Grant Recipient received a link to a reporting website where he must submit a very brief report on his project. The Scout will enter his name, gift card number, phone number, council, unit, project beneficiary name, the location of the project, key words on the type of project, a brief description of the project, and project start and finish dates.”

In addition, the Scout is responsible for providing to the Council Advancement Committee photos of their project as well as receipts (copies) for goods or services purchased with the Lowe’s gift card. The Advancement Committee will collect these items to forward to Lowe’s, no later than May 31, 2014. To date, the Advancement Committee has received very few reports while time is becoming short.

Scouts who would like to thank the Lowe’s Foundation may either send thank-you messages or scanned letters to lowes.grant@scouting.org, or they may mail them to Program Impact Department; S209 Lowe’s Project; National Council BSA, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. National will forward them to the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Fundamentals

Most Eagle Scout Service Projects require fundraising activities and therefore require fundraising approval. This approval must be requested as soon as possible after the detailed planning and after the candidate has budgeted or estimated the cost of the Project. But there are exceptions to seeking Fundraising approval. Primarily, if the fundraising effort involves contributions only from the beneficiary or the Candidate, his parents or relatives, his unit or its chartered organization, or parents or members in the candidate’s unit, submitting the fundraising application is not necessary. If the Candidate will be obtaining money or materials from any other sources, he must submit a completed application to, first, his beneficiary and, then, the local council service center to request Fundraising Approval using the Application included within the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.

- Fundraising applications should be submitted as part of the final planning process, and two weeks in advance of fundraising efforts.
- The candidate will be contacted if the application cannot be approved, otherwise a signed and approved application will be returned to the candidate.
- Note that no Scout leader at any level has the authority to require fundraising for an Eagle project.

Since the candidate attests at his Project Proposal approval session that “as a Scout, I have read this entire workbook that includes the ‘Message to Scouts and Parents or Guardians’”, he is responsible for adhering to the requirements in his Service Project Workbook titled “Procedures and Limitations on Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising”. Note that this page appears in the Workbook after the last page of the “Detailed Plan.” After-the-fact fundraising approvals are difficult to get approved.

As a final note “of caution” from the March issue of Advancement News: “All monies, supplies, and materials obtained through Eagle project fundraising efforts belong to the beneficiary. The Eagle Scout candidate must make it clear to donors that anything left over remains the property of the beneficiary. Should any donor want documentation of a gift, this must be provided by the project beneficiary, not the unit or the Boy Scouts of America. If the beneficiary is not allowed, for whatever reason, to retain excess funds, supplies, or materials, the beneficiary should be asked to designate a suitable charity to receive them. The charity could be the Scout’s unit, but the unit must not influence this decision.”

Unofficial Websites

Many unofficial websites exist with a few even providing a useful service. On the other hand, one should use caution with material obtained from these sites. Verify material with “official” BSA material prior to incorporating it for use by your local Council, District or Unit.

Continued on next page
Merit Badges

The **Mining in Society** merit badge was released Feb 24th 2014, at the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration’s Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. You may now find the requirements at the following BSA’s website. The Scout Shop has copies of the Merit Badge Pamphlets.

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-MINE.aspx

**Digital Technology** was also recently released. You may also find these requirements on BSA’s website, but the Scout Shop does not yet have this pamphlet.

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-DIG_TECH.aspx

**Merit Badge Counselor Training**

What is required for a Merit Badge Counselor to register and be recognized to approve merit badges in the West Central Florida Council? Reference 7.0.1.4 of the Guide to Advancement. “The council advancement committee is responsible for approval of all merit badge counselors before they provide services, although it is acceptable to delegate authority for this function to districts,” as is the case in the WCFC. For the Merit Badge Counselor orientation (training) schedule, contact your District’s Advancement committee. Key contacts are listed at the end of this Advancement Note. How does one become a Merit Badge Counselor? All Merit Badge Counselors should seek training. It is important that they have a full understanding of their responsibilities and also of the recommended practices for quality counseling. A prospective counselor must:

- Be at least 18 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America.
- Complete Youth Protection training.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting or the Guide to Advancement—or seek others who are so qualified to assist him.
- Be able to work with Scout-age boys.

A number of merit badges involve activities that are restricted or require certification or special training for those supervising these activities. See the Guide to Advancement, topic 7.0.1.1, “Qualifications of Counselors.” Merit Badge Counselors may personally meet these required qualifications, or they may use others so qualified. Additionally, the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting has specific requirements and procedures for shooting sports and for aquatics, winter, and other activities. These policies apply to all BSA activities, including merit badge instruction. For other merit badges where specific BSA requirements do not exist, counselors should have sufficient depth of knowledge and experience to understand how to safely present the material. Refer to BSA Form 34405. “Merit Badge Counselors must submit the Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet, No. 34405”, after receiving orientation from the appropriate District’s Advancement Committee. See contact listing at the end of this note. In addition to listing the intended merit badge(s), the counselor must list the training, proficiency or other essentials that the prospective counselor believes qualify him to instruct the skills required for each merit badge. Leaving the third column of the application blank is not acceptable and the application will face rejection by the Advancement Committee for incomplete data. Merit Badge Counselors must also register as adult Scouters (even if already registered with a unit) and be approved by the Council Advancement Committee for each merit badge listed on the Merit Badge Counselor Information form. A Merit Badge Counselor does not have to pay a registration fee, but:

1. Must complete an Adult Application for position code 42,
2. Completely fill Merit Badge Counselor Information application, and
3. Complete BSA Youth Protection training.

Counselors may wish to associate with a particular unit but are encouraged to serve any Scout from any unit within their District.

**Advancement Contacts**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANCLOTE:</th>
<th>Theresa Ronayne</th>
<th>(727) 798-4137;</th>
<th><a href="mailto:jbkj6@aol.com">jbkj6@aol.com</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>MICCOSUKEE:</td>
<td>Stacey Glogowski (727) 487-4122;</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mglogowski@tampabay.rr">mglogowski@tampabay.rr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKYWAY:</td>
<td>Jeanette McCullough</td>
<td>(727) 527-6674;</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeannette1953@ix.netcom.com">jeannette1953@ix.netcom.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNCIL:</td>
<td>Mathew Balasis</td>
<td>(727) 345-4855;</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mathewbalasis@verizon.net">mathewbalasis@verizon.net</a></td>
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UPCOMING TRAININGS

Aquatic Trainings

Swimming & Water Rescue expands the Safe Swim Defense training to include skills and knowledge to prepare a unit leader to prevent, recognize, and respond to swimming emergencies during unit swim activities. Although Safe Swim Defense training provides guidelines for conducting safe swimming activities and is required of unit leaders it does not provide the skills training mandated by those guidelines. This course supplements and provides in-depth training. The course takes approximately 8 hours and is valid for three years. Trained SWR Cards will be issued after passing required skills and completing the test exam with a score of 80% or higher. This course will be instructed by a BSA Aquatics Instructor and the WCFC Aquatics Committee team. Join us May 3, 2014 at Camp Soule Aquatic Facility the cost is $15.00.

Paddle Craft Safety expands the Safety Afloat training to include skills and knowledge to prepare a unit leader to prevent, recognize, and respond to boating emergencies during unit activities. Although Safety Afloat training provides guidelines for conducting boating activities and is required of unit leaders it does not provide the skills training mandated by those guidelines. This course supplements and provides in-depth training. The course takes approximately 8 hours and is valid for three years. Trained PCS Cards will be issued after passing required skills and completing the test exam with a score of 80% or higher. This course will be instructed by a BSA Aquatics Instructor and the WCFC Aquatics Committee team. Join us April 26, 2014 at Camp Soule Aquatics Facility the cost is $15.00. Registration closes April 23 and requires 4 students for the course to take place.

Leave No Trace

This is not simply a program for camping. It is at the cutting edge of Scouting values. BSA offers Leave No Trace training as part of its core outdoor training programs. Learning about the BSA’s Outdoor Ethics begins with you and your unit. Please come and join us at one of our trainings and learn how to be a good steward of our great outdoors. There are two trainings scheduled for 2014—April 4-6 at Sand Hill Scout Reservation and November 21-23 at Camp Soule. If you have any questions about Leave No Trace training, please contact Jeanette McCullough at jeanette1953@ix.netcom.com

Scoutmaster Specifics and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Training

This course is suggested for Boy Scout leaders and any registered Scouter may take the course. Pre-Requisites: Youth Protection. Scoutmaster Specifics (SMS) $20.00 (you must complete both days to be trained for SMS) will be April 23,2014-Part One and April 30,2014-Part Two from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM at the Camp Soule Dining Hall. Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) $30.00 will be held on May 2-4,2014-Arrival: Friday 6:30p.m. Camp Soule-Depart: Sunday 11a.m. Register before April 7th and get both courses for only $40.00. SMS AND IOLS are pre-requisites for Scoutmasters and Asst Scoutmasters for Wood Badge.

BALOO and WOLT Training

We are taking BALOO and WOLT training and putting them together for a full day of Cub Scout Outdoor Training. This course is great for any Cub Scout Leader, no matter how long or short they have been in the program. Learn the basics on how to plan and run outdoor events and camp outs. Join us April 12th, 7:30a.m. to 5:30p.m. at Camp Soule. The cost is $15.00 and the registration deadline is April 7.
Training Update

The council training committee is working to provide many opportunities to increase the percentage of trained leaders. Take advantage of these opportunities and earn JTE points too! Here are some scheduled events in April, May and June to add to your calendars! Go to the council website and click on the date in the council calendar. The link will take you directly to online registration – it’s that easy!

- Leave No Trace Training—April 4-6
- Cub Scout Rangemaster Training—April 5
- BALOO and WOLT – April 12th
- Archery Instructor Training—April 12
- Scoutmaster Specifics Training-Part 1—April 23
- Paddle Craft Safety Training—April 26
- Lifeguard Training-Part 1—April 30
- Scoutmaster Specifics-Part 2—April 30
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills – May 2-4
- Lifeguard Training-Part 2—May 3
- Swimming Water Rescue—May 3
- Lifeguard Training-Part 3—May 7
- Cub Scout Rangemaster Training—May 10
- Lifeguard Training-Part 4—May 10
- Day Camp Volunteer Trng—Weeks A&B—May 10
- Program Preview—May 15
- Fundamentals of Training—May 17
- Lifeguard Training-Make Up Day—May 17
- Webelos Day Camp Swim Check—June 7
- Day Camp Volunteer Trng for Week C—June 7

If you need any assistance or have questions about training for your unit please reach out to any of the following training chairs:

- Council Training Chairman: Natalie Coser
  - (727) 785-9786
  - rvctoy@netzero.net
- Anclote Training Chairman: Rick Llanas
  - (727) 207-5985
  - 727ricnic@gmail.com
- Miccosukee Training Chairman: Susan Haslem
  - C - 642-5912
  - susan@thunderbirdflorida.com
- Skyway Training Chairman: VACANT

West Central Florida Council Scout Participates in Report to the Nation

A 20-year old Sea Scout from the West Central Florida was among the nine young people selected to represent the Boy Scouts of America during the recent Report to the Nation in Washington, D.C. As the National Sea Scout Boatswain for the past year, Billy McElligott (fifth from the right in the picture) represented the Sea Scout program in the delegation. Bill is a member of Ship 956, chartered to the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Clearwater and his awards include the Sea Scout Quartermaster, Venturing Gold and the William T. Hornaday Silver & Bronze Awards. He currently attends Florida Atlantic University, studying for a degree in Law with plans to pursue his masters in intelligence studies. He currently serves as the top youth leader for the Sea Scouts as the National Sea Scout Boatswain.

The nine BSA youth representatives toured D.C., visited monuments and smiled for countless photos with powerful politicians. But their primary duty in our nation’s capital was to present the 2013 Annual Report to key members of Congress from both parties. They hand-delivered the report to the top Republican and Democrat leaders in the House and Senate.
Anclote District

Family Friends of Scouting

This is the time of year when your district volunteers are doing the Family Friends of Scouting campaign for 2014. If you have not been contacted yet to schedule your Friends of Scouting campaign you will be shortly. As you know, Family Friends of Scouting is an essential part of paying for all the council resources you use during the year, including camp sites, special events like camporee and encampment, training opportunities and much more.

The Family Friends of Scouting presentation will take about 15 minutes and should ideally be done at a time when most of the parents will be at a meeting. For a pack, that means Blue and Gold and for a Troop a Court of Honor. We are asking units to designate a committee member to help coordinate the presentation.

A special Friends of Scouting council shoulder patch is available to those who make a contribution of $206 to our Friends of Scouting campaign. The council shoulder patch will be presented/mailed when full payment is received; $206 is the council's cost to keep a youth in Scouting for one year.

Donors who contribute $250 or more will also receive a limited edition council shoulder patch featuring the Florida Panther; this edition is limited to 200.

Day Camp

Cub Scout Day Camp is coming upon us fast, so make sure you print out the day camp packet at http://www.wcfcbsa.org/ for your unit to ensure you get all the information to your parents for an enjoyable experience for their campers. Camp dates for Pinellas are June 9 – 13 and June 16 – 20 at Camp Soule. Camp date for Pasco is June 23 – 27 at James E. Grey Preserve, New Port Richey. Cost is $90.00 per camper. We are looking for program area leaders this year as well as den leaders plus a few more positions so if you can help, please look at the day camp packet for more information. Boy Scout troops, please send any of your Scouts that need service hours, or that may not be going to summer camp to help as troop guides and den chief’s. This is a great leadership opportunity for scouts who have achieved at least first class rank.

New membership ideas

Did you know that the District has a membership committee to help you with ideas and support to grow your membership? This year, the membership chair Bill Haggard is working closely with units on new ideas to help drive increases in membership figures. He has been busy visiting pack committees to share ideas and hear about best practice and will be visiting troops and crews later in the year as well. If your pack has not yet had a visit from Bill and the membership team, please contact him at membership@anclotedistrict.org or call the District Executive, Mark Sharman at (727) 342-0605.

Scouts at the Blue Jays

Once again, the district has partnered up with the Dunedin Blue Jays for an exciting and entertaining program for Scout Day, which this year will be on May 24th. This year, Scout Day will coincide with Super Hero Day at the Blue Jays event and this will add to the excitement as well as providing us with a great recruitment opportunity.

There will be opportunities for all scouts to run the bases after the game and to visit the Scouting midway for fun games and this year we also plan to host a district open pinewood derby at the game – so have your cub scouts bring their cars for an opportunity to see how they square up with others from around the district! Keep an eye on the website and your email for more information about Scouts at the Blue Jays in the next week!

Anclote District Calendar

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District Chairman
George Romagnoli
(727) 992-2755

District Commissioner
Rob Barbee
(727) 534-3351

District Executive
Mark Sharman
(727)342-0605
Be sure to join the new Facebook page!
www.Facebook.com/pages/Miccosukee-Round-Table/632784756754740

Become Part of the Arrowhead of Miccosukee: A New Spin on Recruitment
Is your unit having a tough time bringing new boys into Scouting? School night not delivering like it once was? The Council and Miccosukee District Membership Committees have some new ideas and resources for you.

We’re looking for Packs to volunteer to try our unprecedented new recruitment program with FULL support of the Council right now. 2 packs are already on board for Spring! Send an email to Steve Tincher (Districtmembership@gmail.com) or AJ Gonzales (Adam.Gonzales@Scouting.Org) for more info!

Roundtable
Be sure to send someone from your Troop, Pack, Ship, or Crew to our monthly Round Table meeting. Held at 7pm at 1st Lutheran Church on Nursery Rd, Roundtable features new topics every month. Focus areas include subjects such as camping, fundraising, local events, JTE, advancement, tips on how to better run your unit, plus an open discussion where anyone can ask anything about Scouting. As always, if you have something you want to learn about, send a shout over to our Round Table Commissioner Diane Palardy (dcpalardy@hotmail.com)!

District Committee Meeting: 1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm@
St Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church

District Roundtable: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm@
1st Lutheran Church

Family Friends of Scouting
This is the time of year when your district volunteers are doing the Family Friends of Scouting campaign for 2014. If you have not been contacted yet to schedule your Friends of Scouting campaign you will be shortly. As you know, Family Friends of Scouting is an essential part of paying for all the council resources you use during the year, including camp sites, special events like camporee and encampment, training opportunities and much more.

The Family Friends of Scouting presentation will take about 15 minutes and should ideally be done at a time when most of the parents will be at a meeting. For a pack, that means Blue and Gold and for a Troop a Court of Honor. We are asking units to designate a committee member to help coordinate the presentation.

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District Chairman
Ed Edstrand
(727) 465-8285

District Commissioner
John Smith
(727) 588-0416

District Executive
Adam “AJ” Gonzales
813-245-9415
To better serve you, the Skyway District did establish a couple preferred methods of communication that information will be distributed to units and leaders:

Council Website: [www.wcfcbasa.org](http://www.wcfcbasa.org) and then go to Skyway District.

**SKYWAY SCOUTS YAHOO GROUP:** To sign up, go to:
SkywayScouts-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Yahoo will put posts directly to your email inbox and allow for questions, etc. Yahoo groups email will be the PRIMARY method of emailing reminders to you, so PLEASE sign up today! Also remind your fellow Scouters to do the same!!!

Facebook: Log in to Facebook and search for Skyway District of WCFC, Boy Scouts of America.

**Family Friends of Scouting**
A family friend of Scouting is how we give our leaders and parents the opportunity to contribute to the expense of providing scouting in our area. Family Friends of Scouting is our annual fundraising effort at the units’ level. The earlier the dates the more time parents get to pay off their pledges. Allow the district a quick 10 minutes of your meeting time and we will explain to your group what giving to Scouting is all about. Unit leaders call us or email us with the dates of your Pack, Blue and Gold, Pinewood Derbies, Court of Honor, Troop and Venturing meetings. Planning for it ahead of time will give us the opportunity to better serve you. Please contact Bruce Nichols our Family FOS Chair at 727-424-3585 with your dates and questions and or comments. Or you can also send emails to bdn42fl@aol.com. A special Friends of Scouting council shoulder patch is available to those who make a contribution of $206 to our Friends of Scouting campaign. The council shoulder patch will be presented/mailed when full payment is received; $206 is the council’s cost to keep a youth in Scouting for one year.

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**Training**
If you enjoy sharing ideas and not afraid of a crowd we need you!!! Skyway District is currently looking for a dedicated and motivated volunteer to represent the District as the Training Chair. The youth we serve deserve trained leaders. The District goal is to train all registered leaders to earn the Gold status JTE award of trained leader. In case you don’t know, most training is available online at myscouting.org or you can check the council website at www.wcfcbasa.org for more training opportunities.

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**Skyway District Calendar**

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**Roundtable**
We will be distributing the SCOUT DISCOUNT CARDS at April’s roundtable. Our goal is to bring relevant information that will help revitalize your units. Roundtable occurs on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00PM. The meeting is at Clearview United Methodist Church, 4515 38th Avenue North, St. Petersburg. Contact Candice Nyarkoh at cnyarkoh@bsamail.org for more information.

**Merit Badge College**
Merit Badge College will be held on Saturday April 26 at Mt Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. 955 20th St S, St Petersburg, FL 33712. Packets have already been sent to all Scoutmasters. If you need a packet or more information contact Todd Kennedy at sapper@juno.com.
Law Enforcement Explorer Posts

Post 900 Pinellas County Sheriff Explorers: Deputy James Butterfield at jbutterfield@psconet.com. Tues 7-9pm. www.post900.com/

Post 912 Pinellas Park Police Explorers: Contact Detective Marc Luginvill at mpluginvill@pinellas-park.com

Post 916 Pasco County Sheriff Explorers: Corporal Theodore (727) 277-7227. Weds 6-9:30pm at Safety Town on SR 52.

Post 980 St Petersburg Police Explorers: Officer Janie Staples (727) 892-5082. Mon night (except holidays) 6-8:30pm at 1301 First Ave. N (Training Building - across the street from the police department). Dept. Website - http://www.stpete.org/police/index.html

Post 995 Gulfport Police Explorers: Contact Officer Jennifer Crowson at jcrowson@mygulfport.us

Have you made your reservations for Summer Camp? With just a $100 deposit your unit’s reservation can be set! Go to www.wcfcbsa.org now and make your reservation today!

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The Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society, provides Troops an opportunity to recognize those Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is to develop camping traditions and promote Scout camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life of cheerful service. The Order of the Arrow is designed to strengthen Troops and challenge Scouts with leadership opportunities. The Order of the Arrow does not remove youth leaders from their Troops. Once each charter year, a Troop may hold an election to elect Scouts to the Order of the Arrow. In order to schedule an election, a Scoutmaster must contact Howard Anderson at handerguy@aol.com or (727) 577-7446. Please note this change in leadership!

Timuquan Lodge members must renew their dues annually. It is not too late to pay your dues for 2014. Dues cost $15 and include your National charter fee and a subscription to The Eagle, the official publication of Timuquan Lodge. Members inducted in other Lodges who are now registered in West Central Florida Council are welcome to join Timuquan Lodge. Simply pay your $15 dues and include a completed copy of the Membership Information Form found at: http://timuquanlodge.com/assets/files/forms/brotherhood_retention/Membership_Information_Request_Form.pdf. Please help retain our members. Encourage the Scouts and leaders in your Troop to renew their dues. Don’t hesitate, renew your dues NOW!

Timuquan recently honored six members with the Vigil Honor recognition. Vigil Honor is bestowed on Timuquan members who unselfishly serve our Council, camps or Lodge. Please congratulate the following Brothers on this high honor: Zak Bowles, Nick Fatolitis, Barb Gieselman, Dane Nichols, Theresa Ronayne and Greg Sammel.

Timuquan Lodge elected new leadership for the 2014-15 Lodge year. They are Nick Fatolitis, Lodge Chief; Adam Ekblad, Administrative Vice Chief; Trevor Case, Inductions Vice Chief, Matt McLoone, Lodge Treasurer; Kyle Denman, Lodge Secretary and PJ Aitken, Lodge Historian. Chapter Chiefs for 2014-15 are as follows: Sean Young, Tocobaga Chapter (Anclote District); Daniel Viera, Osceola Chapter (Mccosukee District) and Dane Nichols, Calusa Chapter (Skyway District).

Timuquan’s Summer Conclave will be held June 6-8 at Sand Hill. Please sign up and help support Timuquan Lodge as it prepares Sand Hill for another year of summer camp.
Come by the Scout Shop and take a look at some new items that are available

Cub Scout Towel $19.99

Solar Cooking Science $13.99

14 oz. Carabiner $14.99

Cub Scout Erasers $1.49

Boy Scout Towel $19.99

Glacier Gel Blister/Burn Kit $9.99

The new Mining in Society Merit Badge book and patches are also available

**NEW STORE HOURS**

- Monday: 9:00 am — 6:00 pm
- Tuesday: 9:00 am — 6:00 pm
- Wednesday: 9:00 am — 6:00 pm
- Thursday: 9:00 am — 6:00 pm
- Friday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm
- *Saturday: 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

*(1st & 2nd Sat. of the month excluding holiday weekends)*
The West Central Florida Council is proud to announce our newest Eagle Scouts:

Patrick Aitken, Troop 60 - Asbury United Methodist Church
Jacob Balcerzak, Troop 79 - The Angelus
Austin Bennett, Troop 334 - Clearview United Methodist Church Men’s Fellowship
Shaun Brickfield, Troop 413 - Northwood Presbyterian Church
Bryce Brooks, Troop 236 - First United Methodist Church
Tyler Burtt, Troop 77 - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs
James Cohen, Troop 236 - First United Methodist Church
Clayton Cravey, Troop 219 - St Raphaels Roman Catholic Church
Garret Enns, Troop 484 - First Lutheran Church
Zachary Fecanin, Troop 77 - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs
Thomas Ford, Troop 263 - Holy Family Catholic Church
David Garcia, Troop 413 - Northwood Presbyterian Church
David Grossman, Troop 417 - Largo Elks Lodge 2159
Mark Klingensmith, Troop 484 - First Lutheran Church
Donovan Latherow, Troop 48 - First United Methodist Church
Joshua Luker, Troop 371 - Christ the King Lutheran Church
John McCoy, Troop 219 - St Raphaels Roman Catholic Church
Riley Michaels, Troop 355 - Oakhurst United Methodist Church
Wesley Morgan, Troop 236 - First United Methodist Church
Shaun Nadig, Troop 484 - First Lutheran Church
Caleb Nagel, Troop 431 - Blessed Sacrament Church
Anthony Nagy, Troop 79 - The Angelus
Chandler Nagy, Troop 79 - The Angelus
Patrick Prior, Troop 236 - First United Methodist Church
David Sowinski, Troop 10 - First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin
Stephen Sturtevant, Troop 337 - First Baptist Church of Pinellas Park
Daniel Tong, Troop 236 - First United Methodist Church
Micah Tonnesen, Troop 413 - Northwood Presbyterian Church
Peter Vasquez, Troop 340 - Men’s Club of Seminole United Methodist Church
Eric Voorhis, Troop 301 - Pasadena Presbyterian Church
Timothy Weaver, Troop 77 - Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs
John Yann, Troop 375 - Calvary Chapel of St Petersburg
Anthony Zsido, Troop 431 - Blessed Sacrament Church
To make a donation to the Boy Scouts of America, make your check payable to BSA and sent it to the address below. Be sure to include on the memo line of the check the following:

The name of the person for which the donation is being made and one of the following, in memory of, in recognition of, or in honor of. An acknowledgement will be sent indicating that a gift (not the amount) has been received.

Mail your Gift to:

TRIBUTE FUND
West Central Florida Council, BSA
11046 Johnson Boulevard
Seminole, Florida 33772-4715

☐ In Memory  ☐ In Honor  ☐ In Recognition  ☐ Other (specify)

Please acknowledge:

Gift from:

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Year-round Online Camp Reservations

The West Central Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce the launching of the Camp Reservation System which is now available at www.wcfcbsa.org!! This new feature allows units the ability to logon and reserve campsites, equipment, program areas and much more.

We realize that a lot of you have a busy Scouting year ahead of you and we want to help ease the process of planning your camping trips as much as possible. Even if you don't have an exact date in mind, logon to see what's available. Once you have a definite date all you have to do is reserve, pay, get your receipt and have a GREAT trip!

Just a few reasons the new system is so awesome (and important things to keep in mind):

- Eliminates the process of calling ahead to see if something is available
- Multiple buildings/locations/equipment can be added to your cart at one time
- Going GREEN is always a plus especially this day in age, we are happy to eliminate camp usage forms, envelopes, postage, or even a trip into the office
- The ability to navigate from one camp to the other during one transaction
- Reservations are still made on a first come-first serve basis (**at least 2 weeks in advance**)
- Campsite reservations are done by weekends only. When checking availability, check by Friday's date as this will book the entire weekend (a green check mark indicates availability for the weekend).
- All payments are collected ahead of time, even the $1.50/person/night (refunds to unit accounts are available in cases of over payment/less individuals attending)
- If you have a special request i.e. equipment please contact Donna Felsh at the Council Service Center at (727) 391-3800 Ext. 212.

We welcome your feedback on the new system and please let us know if you find any problems or bugs that we need to be aware of. Please email Donna Felsh (donna.felsh@scouting.org) with your questions or comments.
Scouters’ News Subscription Order Form

We have eliminated the printed issue of the Scouters’ News in our council’s effort to reduce resources and “Go Green”. Subscriptions are available to those who wish to still have a printed copy mailed directly to them. Subscriptions will be $6.50 annually and will cover the printing and mailing costs. The Scouters’ News is a quarterly newsletter; to arrive the first of January, April, July and October of the each year.

To place your order please contact Donna Felsh at 737-391-3800 or email her at donna.felsh@scouting.org or mail the form below to:

West Central Florida Council, BSA
c/o Scouters’ News Subscription
11046 Johnson Boulevard
Seminole, FL 33772-4715

Name:_______________________________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________
Phone:______________________________________________________________
Payment method:    Check      Credit Card #________________________________
                      Expiration Date:___/___  3-digit code on back:_______
Signature:________________________________________