



TRAILBLAZER

Serving families in the counties of Christian, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby.



A cooperating partner with the United Way

Vol. 11 - No. 1

Newsletter of the Lincoln Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America

Jan. - Feb. 2009

Do You L♥VE Camp?

Our first annual *Valentine's Day for Camp* campaign will begin with this newsletter. Rhodes France Scout Reservation is a beautiful facility that needs your help. We have a lot of very dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours of their time, and quite a bit of their money, to keep camp in great shape for our Scout campers. Now is your opportunity to return the favor by showing how much you LOVE your camp, by providing tools, equipment, and materials necessary for those volunteers to get the job done. Please consider donating new or gently used items from the list below so that we can do our camp justice. Call Chris Long at the Scout Service Center if you have any of the items listed below that you would be willing to provide. Many thanks in advance for your support of this new campaign.

Scouting Volunteers
Lincoln Trails Council



**Happy
Valentine's Day!**

Rhodes France Scout Reservation
Pana, IL 62557

Items Needed:

Tractor	Zero-turn Mower	Forks for the Bobcat	Mechanics Tool Set
Chain Saws (14", 18", 20")	18 Volt + Power Tools	Utility Vehicle (Gator)	Power Pruner
Rough Cut Mower	Dump Trailer	Weed Eater (Commercial Grade)	Milk Cooler
Commercial Refrigerator	Commercial Freezer	Serving Utensils	DVD Players
TV/DVD Combos	Generators	Folding Tables	Tool Chests
PFD's	Computers	File Cabinets	Sound System
Projectors	Window Air Conditioning and Heating Units		

Friends of Scouting

The annual FOS campaign is about to kickoff, and we are asking each pack, troop, and crew to set aside a few minutes so that our district finance teams can make a short presentation to the parents of your Scouts, and ask them to support their son's experience in Scouting. We hope to have a short DVD presentation that will explain how the Lincoln Trails Council supports Scouting, and how the council is financed. A district FOS volunteer will be calling you very soon to schedule this presentation, hopefully at a meeting where most of your parents will be in attendance. Our total goal this year will be \$175,000, so we will need everyone's help.



WWW.LINCOLNTRAILSCOUNCIL.ORG





Scout Executive's Message Christian J. Long, SE

I have yet to meet a Cub Scout or Boy Scout who has told me that he joined Scouting to have his character developed, be trained in citizenship, or get more exercise. On the other hand, most will tell you that one of the reasons that they did join was to go camping! Camping in the BSA provides young people with an outdoor classroom where they learn new skills, interact with their friends, develop an appreciation for the world around them, and yes, have fun.

Is your unit signed up for camp this year? Opportunities abound for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and families to get involved in the most wonderful educational program in the world, and in a fun, recreational way! Sure, we'll develop your boy's character, teach him citizenship in his community, nation, and world, and he'll get his opportunity to stay physically fit, all while having the time of his life at one of our many camping experiences. Summer camping participation is one of the major activities that keep our Scouts involved in Scouting, and as we learned many years ago, the longer a boy stays in the Scouting program the better.

Please discuss Scout Camping at your unit's next committee meeting. You'll be doing your Scouts a great service and help Scouting to "Deliver the Promise" of a fun, exciting adventure this summer!

Yours in Scouting,

Christian J. Long
Scout Executive

2009 Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair



The Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair will be Saturday, February 21st at the Caterpillar Decatur Facility. The event will run from 7:00am - 4:00pm. Registration will begin at 7:00am and continue until 8:30am. Breakfast WILL NOT be served. Lunch is included in the \$10 fee.

Merit badges being offered this year are: American Labor, Automotive Maintenance, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Computers, Drafting, Electricity, Emergency Preparedness, Engineering, First Aid, Law, Plumbing, and Traffic Safety. There will also be Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specific training and a knot tying session for adults attending.

Registration forms must be turned in no later than Friday, January 23rd, 2009. All registrations and \$10 entry fees per person must be sent to the Caterpillar Facility at 27th St. & Pershing Rd. Attn: 2009 Merit Badge Fair, Decatur, IL 62526. Registration forms are available from the Council Service Center and on the website at www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org. NO WALK INS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Come prepared to learn and have fun.

2009 Lincoln Pilgrimage

The 2009 Decatur Lincoln Pilgrimage will be held March 28th. This event will recognize the exciting life of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. His journey to the presidency and his steps as a lawyer will be examined during this hike. Exact stops will be announced soon. All units are encouraged to attend this event. If you have questions, contact Lawrence Trimble at 217-429-2326 or lawrence.trimble@scouting.org.

The Trailblazer is the newsletter of
Lincoln Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America
262 W. Prairie Ave. Decatur, IL 62523

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Fax (217) 429-3326

Toll Free 1-800-416-2328

Service Center Hours

Monday through Friday

9:00 am - 5:00pm

(262 W Prairie Ave. - 2 blocks west of downtown
Decatur)

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Council Commissioner

Willard Sudduth - wsudduth@hlcllp.com

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The Trailblazer is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November

The Trailblazer is available online at www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org. To be added to the distribution list please contact Matt Kaufman.

Railsplitter District

Serving Macon and Piatt counties.

District Chairman

District Commissioner

District Executive

Lawrence Trimble - (c) (217) 521-1743 - lawrence.trimble@scouting.org

District Director

Jonathan Crocker - (c) (217) 521-3059 john.crocker@scouting.org

Roundtable

January 8th

February 5th

St. Patrick's Catholic Church - 7:00pm

Roundtables will be held on January 8th and February 5th at St. Patrick's Church starting at 7:00pm. This is a time when valuable information is made available to your unit. Each Pack, Troop, and Crew is highly encouraged to attend these meetings so they can prepare the best program for their units. Don't miss out on this opportunity, mark your calendar now and we will see you there.

District Committee Meeting

January 20th

St. John's Lutheran Church

The next Railsplitter District Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at St. John's Lutheran Church. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm and all Scouters from the district are encouraged to attend. Come join this important meeting and help make 2009 a great year for the Railsplitter District.

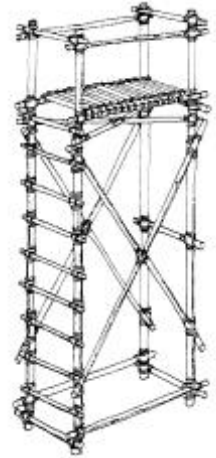
Friends of Scouting Presentations

The District is aiming for 100% unit participation in the Family Friends of Scouting Campaign. This would give each family in our district the opportunity to support the Scouting program in a special way. Each unit is asked to let us know when in January, February, or March we can come give the Friends of Scouting story to their unit. Blue and Gold Banquets, Troop Courts of Honor, or Crew meetings are great times to invite the district to give this important information. To set your date now please call Jonathan at 429-2326. Thank you for your support.

2009 Hickory Point Mall Show

February 28th

The 2009 Mall Show will be held on Saturday, February 28th at Hickory Point Mall. The show will consist of a pinewood derby race for the Cub Scouts and booths and exhibits set up by the district's packs, troops, crews, and posts. Each pack is encouraged to set up a booth displaying crafts, games, or other activities. Troops are encouraged to have booths that show Scouting skills in action. Crews and posts should highlight their unit's special interest. All Cub Scouts are encouraged to participate in the derby race and all units are encouraged to set up a display. For additional information please call Jonathan Crocker at 217-429-2326 or email him at john.crocker@scouting.org



District Award of Merit



The District Award of Merit recognition is presented annually in each district to Scouters who have rendered noteworthy service to youth in Scouting, outside of Scouting, or both. The nature and value of "noteworthy service to youth" may consist of a single plan or decision that contributed vitally to the lives of a large number of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time. Nomination forms for this award are available through your District Executive or the Council Service Center. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 1st. All nominations must be submitted to the Council Service Center.

Get Involved!

The District is always looking for Scouters to serve on the various operating committees including membership, program, advancement, training, roundtable, and much more. For more information, please contact Jonathan Crocker at the Council Service Center.

Railsplitter District Calendar

January

1	New Year's Day
8	Roundtable
10	Klondike Derby
19	MLK Jr. Birthday - Service
	Center Closed
20	District Meeting

February

5	Roundtable
8	Scout Sunday
10	Railsplitter Annual Recognition Dinner
21	CAT Merit Badge Fair
28	Railsplitter Mall Show

Two Rivers District

Serving Christian, Effingham, Fayette,
Moultrie, and Shelby counties.

District Chairman

Dan King - (h) (217) 347-5658 dankingeff@consolidated.net

District Commissioner

Dennis Hostetter - (h) (217) 459-2784 draks@consolidated.net

District Executive

Doug Zaring - (h) 217-347-2745 (c) 217-620-0772
douglas.zaring@scouting.org

Roundtable

January 8th & February 5th at 7:00pm
Shelbyville First United Methodist Church

We have been having a lot of fun at our Roundtables, come on out and have some fun too. Roundtables are for all of the unit leaders to get together and share ideas. If you have not been to a Roundtable recently, you have truly missed out. We have prizes for first time attendees. We will also have a drawing at the end of the year from those that have attended the Roundtables for some cool Scout stuff. Your name will get put in the drawing for each Roundtable you attend. There is also a lot of information handed out at each Roundtable. So come on out and have some fun with us.

Friends of Scouting

We are currently scheduling family Friends of Scouting presentations in all units to be held in January, February, or March. Please contact Doug Zaring to schedule a time for this presentation at a pack meeting, troop court of honor, or other family activity.

Blue & Gold Banquets

It is time for packs to start planning their Blue and Gold Banquets for 2009. Please contact Doug Zaring with your dates as soon as possible. Contact Doug at 217-620-0772 or douglas.zaring@scouting.org

District Meeting

The next District Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on January 22nd at Monicals Pizza in Shelbyville. Come early and get something to eat and get to know one another.

2009 Village Square Mall Show

February 28th

The Village Square Mall show will show the public what Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers do. Each unit should have a display or exhibit for the Mall Show. The show should be a showcase of the Scouting program. There will also be a district-wide pinewood derby race during the Mall Show. Contact Doug Zaring with any questions.

Race Times

	Weigh In	Race
Webelos (4th & 5th grades)	8:30am - 8:59am	9:00am
Tigers (1st grade)	10:00am - 10:29am	10:30am
Wolf (2nd grade)	12:30pm - 12:59pm	1:00pm
Bear (3rd grade)	2:00pm - 2:29pm	2:30pm

Geritol (any non-cub Scout or adult) - Race immediately following the Bears!

**Don't be late. Once the race starts, no boys can be added to the computer!
**No lubrication is allowed in the Mall, please lube outside the mall!

Annual Recognition Dinner & Business Meeting

The Two Rivers District Annual Recognition Dinner and Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26th at 6:30pm in the Effingham Knights of Columbus Hall.

This event is for all adult Scouters in the Two Rivers District. This meeting will give recognition to those units and individuals who have helped make our district the best it can be over the past year. These include those units who achieved Centennial Quality Unit status and those who have excelled in membership and camping. Serendipity awards may also be awarded by an individual to any unit or individual.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the District Award of Merit and the 2008 Eagle Scouts from the district.

Two Rivers District Calendar

January

1	New Year's Day
8	Roundtable
10	Klondike Derby
22	District Meeting

February

5	Roundtable
8	Scout Sunday
26	Annual Business Meeting and Recognition Dinner
28	Two Rivers Mall Show

Redhawk District



Serving Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland,
Edgar, and Jasper counties.

District Chairman

Steve Sell - (h) (217) 234-6785 stevenf@consolidated.net

District Commissioner

David Murphy - (h) (217) 382-5770 alikatt@mchsi.com

District Executive

Ellen Watkins - (c) (217) 620-7205 ellen.watkins@scouting.org

Redhawk District Dinner

The Redhawk District will be holding its annual business meeting and recognition dinner on Thursday, March 19th. All unit leaders, unit committee members, and unit commissioners are encouraged to attend. During this time there will be a recognition of the Eagle Scout Class of 2008. The highlight of the evening will be the awarding of the District Award of Merit and recognition of adult leaders for their contributions to Scouting during the past year.

The annual business meeting will also be held at this time. There will be a review of the events of 2008. The election of district members and a district chairman as well as the nomination of a district commissioner will take place.

Friends of Scouting

We are currently scheduling family Friends of Scouting presentations in all units to be held in January, February, or March. Please contact Ellen Watkins to schedule a time for this presentation at a pack meeting, troop court of honor, or other family activity.

District Meetings

January 22nd & February 19th

Joe's Pizza - Casey - 6:30pm

Dinner is at 6:30pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. All Redhawk Scouters are welcome to attend and assist us in better preparing a program for all of our youth.

Roundtables

January 8th & February 5th

First Christian Church - Casey - 7:00pm

All Scout leaders are encouraged to attend Roundtable. Bring a leader that has never attended and come enjoy the fun and fellowship.

District Award of Merit



The District Award of Merit recognition award is presented annually in each district to Scouters who have rendered noteworthy service to youth in Scouting, outside of Scouting, or both. The nature and value of "noteworthy service to youth" may consist of a single plan or decision that contributed vitally to the lives of a large number of youth or it may have been given to a small group over an extended period of time. Nomination forms for this award are available through your District Executive or the Council Service Center. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 1st. All nominations must be submitted to the Council Service Center or to Ellen Watkins, District Executive.

Introducing Ellen Watkins

We are excited to welcome Ellen Watkins to the Lincoln Trails Council as the new District Executive for the Redhawk District. She is a veteran volunteer in the Redhawk District and will bring years of knowledge and commitment to the position. Ellen has an Associate's Degree from Illinois Central College and a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Illinois University. She will be responsible for the recruitment, training, motivation and leadership of volunteers in the Redhawk District to grow the Scouting program. Welcome aboard Ellen!

2010 National Scout Jamboree

Spots are filling quickly on the Lincoln Trails Council's 2010 National Scout Jamboree contingent. The Jamboree Troop will consist of 36 youth and 4 adults. As of the writing of this article there are still 12 youth spots remaining.

The 2010 Jamboree will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. This promises to be a great event for all who attend. The Council contingent will be touring Washington, D.C. and Baltimore prior to the Jamboree.

If there are Scouts in your unit who would like to attend please direct them to the council website (www.lincolntailsCouncil.org) to download the interest form and have them send it along with the \$100 deposit as soon as possible to the Council Service Center. We need to make sure that every youth who would like to attend knows about this event. If you have any questions about the Jamboree, please contact Doug Zaring at 217-620-0772 or Matt Kaufman at 217-429-2326

Redhawk District Calendar

January	February
1	5
8	8
10	19
22	21
New Year's Day	Roundtable
Roundtable	Scout Sunday
Klondike Derby	District Meeting
District Meeting	CAT Merit Badge Fair

Scouting's Anniversary Week

February 8th - 14th, 2009



Ways to Celebrate

The week of February 8th - 14th is Boy Scout Anniversary Week. All units in Lincoln Trails Council are encouraged to showcase what Scouting is doing in our Central Illinois area and to show that Scouting is alive and thriving. Units can do a service project, participate in a Mall Show, or wear their uniforms to church on February 8th. Let's go out and show our Scouting spirit and celebrate this important week in Scouting history.

Silver Beaver Nominations

The Silver Beaver is the highest award presented by Lincoln Trails Council to volunteers for outstanding service to youth. Nominations for this prestigious recognition are open until February 28th. The only way a worthy individual can be selected is by someone nominating him or her. Take time to nominate that volunteer you know who goes the extra mile for the youth of our council as well as their community. Nomination forms can be obtained at your district roundtable meetings as well as the Council Service Center. The nominations must be returned to the Service Center no later than February 28th to be considered. Please turn in the nomination in a sealed envelope addressed to the Silver Beaver Selection Committee. The award(s) will be presented at the Council Annual Recognition Dinner on April 19th.

The Council Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 20th.

Scout Sunday

It is hard to believe that the Scouting program is almost 100 years old. From "One Good Turn" by a British Scout we have the Scouting program today which boasts a membership of over 5 million Scouts and Scouters. There are few programs that give their members a program of character, education, physical fitness, positive values, and family morals.

February 8th is marked as Scout Sunday and Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to attend a service at their local church wearing their Scout uniform. Units are encouraged to help in anyway the church will allow. This will show the churches that sponsor and support our units just how much we appreciate them.

Encourage your church to take part and plan a special service and have all of your Scouts attend in uniform. Your unit can purchase a special program cover to be used from the Council Service Center.

If your unit is sponsored by a church, attendance there will show the congregation how much the unit appreciates the support. If not a church sponsored unit, you could start a tradition and rotate attendance each year among the religions represented in your unit. Many boys get their first contact with a church through Scouting.



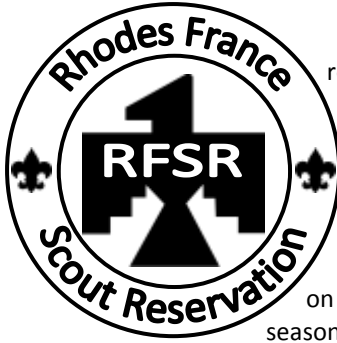
Cub Scout Summer Program



Now is the time to start promoting the fun-filled summertime program to all Cub Scouts in Lincoln Trails Council. We are looking forward to some new and exciting changes to our summer program. Cub Scout summer camps are held at many locations throughout our council so every Scout will have a good opportunity to take part in them.

Cub Scouts will be able to work on belt loops and activity pins at the camps again this year. Information packets for all of the camps will be sent directly to every registered Cub Scout in late March or early April. Cubmasters will receive the Cub Scout Summer Camp Leader's Guide on CD in the near future. All individual registration forms must be turned in to your Cubmaster. The Cubmaster will then submit all forms and applicable fees to the Council Service Center. If you would like to view last year's Cub Scout Summer Camp Leader's Guide it is available online at www.lincolntrailscouncil.org under the resources menu.

2009 Summer Camp



Troops who have not reserved a campsite for Summer Camp 2009 should plan to do so now. All that is required to reserve your site is a \$50 reservation fee.

Applications to be on staff for the 2009 summer season are available from the

Council Service Center and online at www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org. Target dates for employment are June 7th - July 25th. Many positions are available for enthusiastic Scouts. Scouts who are 15 or older are eligible for employment. Boys who are 14 years old are eligible to become Counselors in Training (CIT). For those Scouters over the age of 18 positions are also available. If you would like to be a member of the team please contact Doug Zaring, Camp Director, at 217-620-0772 or douglas.zaring@scouting.org.

2009 is going to be another great year for Scouts and Scouters attending Rhodes France Scout Reservation. The camp and its staff had great reviews in 2008 and the directors are striving to make 2009 even better. The open Merit Badge Program from 2008 is returning to the Handicraft and Nature areas and the Trail to Eagle program is back as well. Plans are also underway to offer Horsemanship merit badge this summer. If you have any questions about Summer Camp please contact the Council Service Center.

Scoutreach Update

As we begin 2009 we are planning on continuing great success within the Scouting program. I would like to take this time to announce new committee members who will serve the Scoutreach Committee. Keith Waldron is the new District Commissioner, Arthur Hinton is the new Membership Chairman, Gary Birschbach is the new Nominating Committee Chairman, Cayla Hittmeier is the new Fundraising Event Chair, and Fredrick Minner is the Education Committee Chair.

Thank all of these new community leaders for taking the first step in assisting the Scoutreach program. We are looking forward to doing new things in the district as well as improving the quality of program being offered to youth. Scouting does wonders for you and Scoutreach is committed to taking the Scouting program to all youth, be it in day care centers, churches, service clubs, after school programs, or community centers. We are committed to "Making a difference, one life at a time..."

Introducing Ruby Mathews

We are pleased to welcome Ruby Mathews to the Lincoln Trails Council as our new accountant. Ruby has a lot of experience in the accounting field, working with several accounting firms in Decatur. She is a graduate from Maroa-Forsyth and Richland Community College and is active in the Prairie City Chapter of American

Business Women Association. She also enjoys gardening, reading, and playing bridge. Welcome aboard Ruby!

2009 Campsite Reservations

Campsite	Week 1 June 14th - 20th	Week 2 June 21st - 27th	Week 3 July 12th - 18th	Week 4 July 19th - 25th
Ambucs	T-134		T-165 oc	T-212
Anamet North		T-104	T-5	T-305
Anamet South		T-13 oc		
Berg				
Dovetail		T-3		
Eagle's Rest		T-202		
Lakeside		T-142		T-47
Lonesome Ridge		T-81		
Pioneer Point		T-401		
Prairie Village		T-51		
Spinner				
Tachquiwi	T-137	T-141	T-31	
Timberhitch	T-85	T-901		
SCUBA Participants				

2008 Popcorn Sale Recap

Trails End Popcorn and General Commercial Corporation partner with Lincoln Trails Council to provide a means for our youth and units to participate in a quality fund-raising program. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers collaborated to sell over \$436,000.00 worth of popcorn to provide a quality Scouting program. This represents an increase of 13% over the 2007 sale. Please join me in recognizing the following units and youth for outstanding sales.



Top Council Salesman - Sam Ward - Troop 31 - Argenta - \$5,560.00

Top Selling Units & Individual Sales for Each District

Railsplitter District

Pack 43 - \$17,073.00
Troop 31 - \$11,598.00
William Aubert - Pack 104 - \$2,733.00

Two Rivers District

Pack 39 - \$22,221.00
Troop 39 - \$4,107.00
Jonathan Gavin - Pack 39 - \$4,627.00

Redhawk District

Pack 324 - \$15,160.00
Troop 141 - \$8,116.00
Jeremiah Caballero - Pack 901 - \$2,544.00

2008 \$1,000.00 Popcorn Sellers

Railsplitter District

Clayton Stock
Pack 35 - \$2,649.00
Connor Dickey
Pack 25 - \$2,580.00
Parker Hale
Pack 91 - \$1,571.00
Nick Lewis
Pack 43 - \$1,529.00
Noah Robinson
Pack 104 - \$1,514.00
Jeremy Miller
Troop 5 - \$1,506.00
Evan Oleson
Troop 104 - \$1,323.00
Kaleb McMillion
Troop 31 - \$1,270.00
Jacob Garrett
Pack 43 - \$1,215.00
Devon Nichols
Pack 85 - \$1,202.00
Michael Iverson
Pack 91 - \$1,149.00
Will Bryan
Pack 91 - \$1,129.00
Nathan Gentzyl
Troop 31 - \$1,048.00
Zach Collins
Troop 134 - \$1,031.00

Two Rivers District

Dakota White
Pack 118 - \$3,089.00
Dylan Garrett
Pack 315 - \$2,087.00
Hunter Potter
Troop 51 - \$1,933.00
Sean Johnson
Troop 39 - \$1,609.00
Alex Menke
Pack 39 - \$1,548.00
Josh Ledbetter
Pack 140 - \$1,526.00
Christian Freezeland
Troop 140 - \$1,502.00
Jacob White
Pack 39 - \$1,217.00
Conner Gullett
Pack 176 - \$1,126.00
Trent Percy
Pack 335 - \$1,098.00
Clayton Florida
Pack 140 - \$1,055.00
Jacob Gaugh
Pack 242 - \$1,042.00
Brayden Mesnard
Pack 39 - \$1,038.00
Ethan Kuhns
Troop 3 - \$1,034.00
Ryan Shaw
Pack 176 - \$1,031.00

Two Rivers District

Jacob Lucy
Pack 140 - \$1,024.00
Brayden Mitchell
Pack 39 - \$1,016.00
Tyler Homann
Pack 335 - \$1,016.00
Dakota Weck
Pack 402 - \$1,004.00

Redhawk District

Will Cox
Pack 324 - \$1,789.00
Hunter Duitsman
Pack 84 - \$1,682.00
Zach Hays
Troop 901 - \$1,222.00
James Black
Pack 282 - \$1,212.00
Cameron Jones
Pack 47 - \$1,202.00
John Wyckoff
Troop 901 - \$1,180.00
Mike Kirk
Pack 8 - \$1,162.00
Zion Liddle
Pack 901 - \$1,072.00
Danny Hudson
Troop 141 - \$1,042.00
Ian Sherer
Pack 282 - \$1,025.00

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 MyScouting, accessed on www.scouting.org.

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 for Tour Permits.

Authorized council staff members will review the and process the 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 MyScouting.

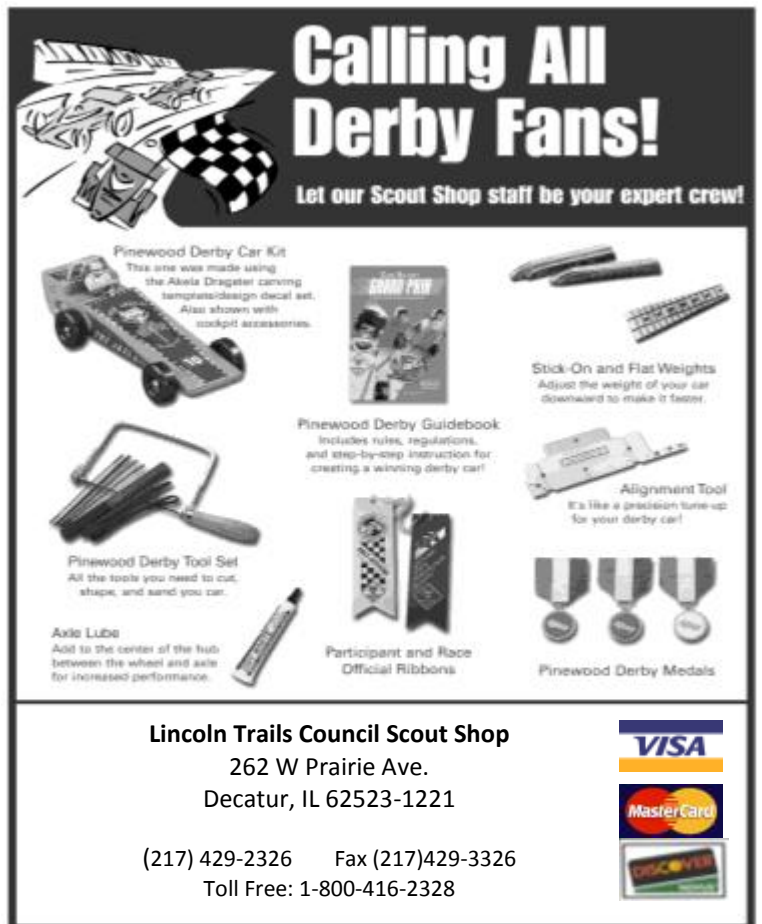
As a reminder, local tour permit applications should be submitted two weeks before the tour and national applications at least one month before the tour start date.

We encourage all Scouting units from our council to use this new service to submit their tour permit applications online.

Registration and Boys' Life Fees for January & February (Including Insurance)

Jan. Registration - \$11.00 Boys' Life - \$12.00

Feb. Registration - \$10.25 Boys' Life - \$11.00



Calling All Derby Fans!
Let our Scout Shop staff be your expert crew!

Pinewood Derby Car Kit
This one was made using the Akela Dragster carning template/design decal set. Also shown with cockpit accessories.

Stick-On and Flat Weights
Adjust the weight of your car downward to make it faster.

Pinewood Derby Guidebook
Includes rules, regulations, and step-by-step instruction for creating a winning derby car!

Alignment Tool
It's like a precision turn-up for your derby car!

Pinewood Derby Tool Set
All the tools you need to cut, shape, and sand your car.

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Add to the center of the hub between the wheel and axle for increased performance.

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Hazardous Weather Training

Be the first on your block to take Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather training, the latest e-learning course available on the national Web site, www.scouting.org.

Effective January 1, 2009, this training in mandatory for at least one adult on each tour. The course includes training, testing, and additional resources on weather conditions that may be encountered during BSA activities, including lightning, flash floods, tornadoes, hot and cold weather, hail, and hurricanes.

Participants who complete the course earn a Weather Smart Certificate of Completion. The course content is appropriate for Boy Scouts and Venturers as well as adult leaders.



Order of the Arrow

Woapink Lodge

Lodge Chief - Tyler Goeckner
Lodge Adviser - Steve Sell
Lodge Staff Adviser - Doug Zaring

Winter Banquet

The 2009 Woapink Lodge Winter Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 7th in Mattoon. The location will be announced at a later date. All members and their families are invited to attend. Be on the lookout for registration forms in the mail soon!

Unit Elections

Just a reminder - each Chapter Chief will be contacting each Scoutmaster in his chapter to set the date for the Order of the Arrow Unit Elections. These are the elections where members of each troop choose who will be inducted into the Order of the Arrow this year. All elections must be conducted by a trained unit election team from the lodge and must be completed by June 1st. The 2008 - 2009 Chapter Chiefs are: Tim Wetzell - Railsplitter District, Doug Muhs - Redhawk District, and Kyle Brown - Two Rivers District.

Chief Illini Trail Workday

Woapink Lodge has long been a sponsor of the Chief Illini Trail around parts of Lake Shelbyville. The Lodge hosts a workday each year in April to help prepare the trail for the camping/hiking season. This year's workday will be Saturday, April 18th. Units wishing to participate will need to meet at Lone Point campground at 8:00am on the 18th. Several projects will be completed to make sure that the trail is in tip top shape for 2009. Camping is available at the Walleye Campground for units interested. Arrangements must be made with the Army Corp of Engineers. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Chief Illini Trail Adviser Rick Tucker at 217-330-8580.

Remember, all Lodge mailings are sent only to current paid members. To check whether your dues are currently paid please contact Matt Kaufman at the Council Office.

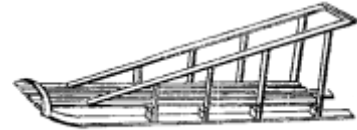
Subscribe to the E-Trailblazer



If you would like to receive an e-mail notice when the Trailblazer is published online please send an e-mail to Council Registrar Matt Kaufman at matt.kaufman@scouting.org.

2009 Klondike Derby

The Council-wide Klondike Derby will be held on Saturday, January 10th at Rhodes France Scout Reservation. Registration will begin at 8:30am with events starting at 9:30am.



All participants are to wear proper winter footwear (no tennis shoes) and winter clothing. Each Scout patrol will need a Klondike Sled, first aid kit (including splints and triangular bandages), 8'X10' tarp, Scout handbook, hatchet, tinder for fire, fire starters, matches or flint and steel, pocket knife, canteen, firewood for a small fire, small mobile fire pit, blankets, compass, stopwatch, binders twine, 2 - 6' staves, and a patrol flag. The sled must be built to carry a passenger and the patrol's gear. All units will be responsible for their own lunches. You must haul your garbage out.

Each Troop may camp overnight Friday and/or Saturday by making arrangements with the Council Service Center.

2009 Scouting for Food



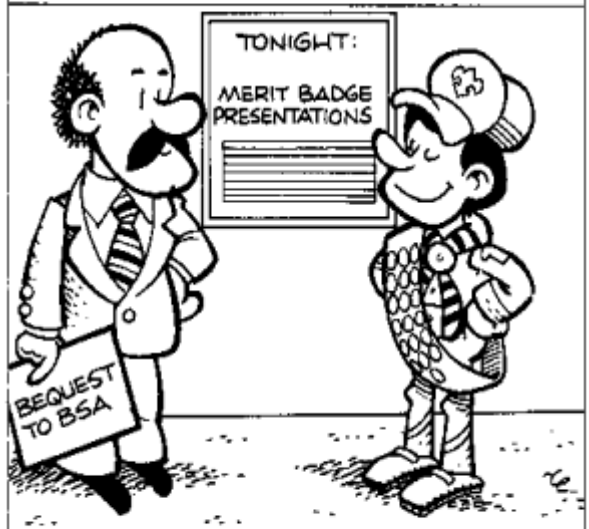
Are you ready to make a mark in your community? Are you willing to help those who are less fortunate than you? Are you ready to fulfill the Scouting duty to help other people at all times? If so, the 2009 Scouting for Food drive is what you are looking for! This year we are planning to collect enormous amounts of food for those who are less fortunate than we are. All units are encouraged to participate in the food bag distribution on Saturday, February 7th and collection on Saturday, February 14th. We will have commitment forms available on the website as we approach the dates for this event. Who will collect the most food? Who will perform their duty to their country to their fullest potential? Let's make this year the best year for Scouting for Food! Do a Good Turn for America!

Venturing Resources

The Central Region Venturing Program has many links available on their regional Web site. You can find information on International Opportunities in the Article Archives as well as within the General Scouting links. Please explore the site at www.crventuring.org.

WILL SEZ:

"FOR OUR OWN SUCCESS TO BE REAL,
IT MUST CONTRIBUTE
TO THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS."



REMEMBER SCOUTING
IN YOUR WILL!

New Eagle Scouts



- Jordan Farnham - Troop 43
- Jared Newell - Troop 253
- Samuel Hughes - Troop 134
- Adam Collins - Troop 134
- Jared Hughes - Troop 103
- Travis Burt - Troop 61
- Brian Berndt - Troop 15
- Robert Betzer - Troop 15
- Mark Stanford - Troop 57
- Grayson Thomas - Troop 295
- Benjamin Zuber - Troop 137
- John Runde - Troop 137
- Zachary Huston - Troop 137
- Jacob Summerlott - Troop 117



The Memorial/Tribute Fund is an outstanding way to honor or remember a friend or family member as a living memorial and lasting tribute. It is an everlasting tribute to Scouting marking occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, or recognitions such as Eagle Scout or Silver Beaver.

Contributions

*In Memory of Terri Miller
Tom & Nelda Foster*

*In Memory of Patricia Berlin
Dr. Charles Maris*

*In Memory of Warren Wollrab
Mr. & Mrs. David Marshall
Gib & Ginny Maines
Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger
Austin & Elizabeth Young*

*In Memory of George Farnham
Dixie Rucher
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McCullough
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bobbit
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Howard
Margit Machalek
Nancy Mains
Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Montgomery
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Mr. & Mrs. Myron Riggs
Dalton City United Methodist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Beck
Gloria Frey
David Ringling*

*A Living Tribute In Honor of Jeff Stout
Jerry Lutz*



Lincoln Trails Council Calendar January - February 2009



January

- 1 - New Year's Day - Service Center Closed
- 4 - OA Lodge Executive Committee Meeting
- 10 - Klondike Derby - at RFSR
- 19 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - Service Center Closed
- 20 - Council Executive Board Meeting

February

- 1 - OA Lodge Executive Committee Meeting
- 7 - Scouting for Food Distribution
- 8 - Scout Sunday
- 14 - Scouting for Food Collection
- 16 - President's Day - Service Center Closed
- 17 - Council Executive Committee Meeting
- 21 - Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair
- 27 - Silver Beaver Nominations Due

For more information, log on to
www.lincolntrailscouncil.org

To our valued volunteers:

Lincoln Trails Council
Boy Scouts of America
262 W. Prairie Avenue
Decatur, IL 62523

