



TRAILBLAZER

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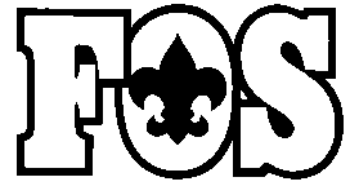
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Newsletter of the Lincoln Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America

July - Aug. 2009

Friends of Scouting Reaches \$97,000

Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of our communities and families, the council has reached nearly \$97,000 in the Friends Of Scouting campaign, which is 55% of our \$175,000 goal. The Two Rivers district is leading the way, nearly reaching its goal already! Redhawk district is in second place with Railsplitter running close behind. Our hope is to raise our FOS goal by June 30 each year so that we can spend the second half of the year putting most of our efforts into camping programs and youth recruitment. As you palm your 2009 2010 Scouting calendar, please remember to schedule your unit Friends of Scouting presentation. We would like to conduct a presentation in every unit in the first quarter of the year, preferably at a Blue and gold Banquet or a Troop Court of Honor.



Troop Courts of Honor

Excerpt from The Scoutmaster Handbook: "A Scout should receive his new badge as soon as possible after his achievement has been certified by a board of review. A Simple ceremony at the conclusion of a troop meeting or during a campout is ideal..." "In addition, a troop holds a court of honor every three months - a formal recognition with families, friends, and the public in attendance." Does your troop hold a court of honor every three months? If not, you may be losing Scouts because of advancement issues.

When young Scouts come directly from Cub Scout packs they are conditioned to receive recognition for their efforts. Many packs use the instant recognition kits, giving the Cub Scout a bead right away. Webelos Activity Badges are often given out monthly. If they come to your troop and don't get recognized with advancement until your "annual" court of honor, the Scout may well lose interest... A court of honor doesn't have to be a huge deal, but recognition of your Scouts is important, and easy to do. As part of the program planning process, please schedule additional courts of honor - you may be very surprised at how many of these new Scouts you retain!



CAMP INFERNO!!!

Coming this fall, NEW to Rhodes France Scout Reservation on October 23-25 is CAMP INFERNO. Tired of the same old fall camporee? Looking for something new for your Scouts? Mark your calendar now and plan on attending CAMP INFERNO. Fire and public safety will be the highlights of the event. Visit lots of demonstrations, fire trucks and police vehicles, obstacle course, drunk driving course, auto extrication, grease fire demo with 20 foot flames, bomb squad, dog searches, self-defense class, and merit badges. These are just some of the possible demos that will be available. Also new, the shooting range will be open in the morning for troops, and the afternoon for Venturers. Venturers will be able to shoot pistols. A special pistol class will be available for Venture Crews before the camp, this class must be taken to shoot pistols. So Venture Crews, mark your calendars for this special part of the event just for YOU!

Adults, if you have any police or fire contacts, and would like to help with this special event, please contact Doug Zaring at 217-620-0772 or douglas.zaring@scouting.org. All of us working together will help make this a spectacular event for the Scouts.



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