



# TRAILBLAZER

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## It's Fall Roundup Time!

With schools open, everything is getting back to normal after an active summer. NOW is the time to get serious about getting your unit back on a regular schedule. First, let's make the great Scouting adventure available to all youth and families in your chartering organization and neighborhood. Plan the best Join Us meeting possible. Promote it through flyers, posters, yard signs, your school or church's newsletters and, most of all, by having your boys invite a friend. Your unit commissioner should be invited to help, plus the district membership team is available to help. Make it a big event aimed at showing how great your unit is. After the event turn in all youth and adult applications and fees immediately so your annual Rechartering kit will list all new members on its roster. Then get all new adults to attend training.



The council has many new materials to help your pack recruit as many boys as possible. These materials include; flyers, posters, yard signs, invitations, stickers, and parent pamphlets.

Make sure that your flyers get to all prospects and that you publicize your sign up date well in advance so all interested boys and parents can attend. Recruitment of adults is just as important as signing up the youth so pay particular attention to that aspect. Follow up all loose ends and be prepared to turn in all applications and fees as soon as possible.

Units should set goals for the fall roundup by looking at where their unit ended in membership at the end of last December. The race is on to make this year's fall roundup a huge success. Let's make the great Scouting adventure available to all youth and families in your area. Packs are also encouraged to send a letter to all current members reminding them that the Pack is getting started again after the summer break. It is a good time to keep those members from dropping out and keep the leaders as well.

### **Bobcat Boot Camp**

Each new Cub Scout that has signed up prior to September 30th is invited to attend Bobcat Boot Rookie camp on Saturday, October 3rd at Rhodes France Scout Reservation. If the new Cub Scout was recruited by a current Cub Scout, the recruiter may also attend.

The day will begin at 9:00am with registration and conclude by 3:00pm. The program will consist of BB guns, archery, crafts, and a nature hike. Lunch will be served at no cost.

Remember, this is NOT a pack activity. This is an event designed for new Cub Scouts and those who recruited them. Each Cub planning to attend needs to RSVP to the Council Service Center at 217-429-2326 or 1-800-416-2328. This will enable the council staff to have enough food on hand for lunch. This will be a great day of fun and is an excellent way to introduce the new Scouts to the outdoor program. For more information contact the Council Service Center today.

## 2010 Membership Fee Increase

The National BSA has decided to increase the membership registration fee to \$15 (we collect \$16 to cover the accident and sickness insurance for all members) beginning January 1, 2010. The Exploring fee will remain at \$10. This is the first membership increase since 2003, and was deemed necessary to continue the support of the program at its current level. National will do its best to hold that new fee for at least 3 years. As your unit does its annual budget, please take these new fees into account.

As a reminder, this fee will be the one used for Rechartering this year. All units in the council expire on December 31st, 2009, with the recharterers having an effective date of January 1st, 2010. Please keep this in mind when collecting fees for next year.



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