



South Mountain District News



Minsi Trails Council. B.S.A. September 2006

Dates to Remember

District Meeting 7:30	09-05-06 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	09-06-06 [2]
Powder Horn Course	09-08-10-06 [4]
OA Fall Weekend	09-08-10-06 []
District Commissioners	09-27-06 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	10-03-06 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	10-04-06 [2]
Fall Camporee	10-06-08-06 [98]
Cub Scout Fall Event	10-21-06 [10]
Webelos meet the Troops	10-21-06 [10]
District Commissioners	10-25-06 [3]
New Leader Essentials	10-28-06 [97]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	11-01-06 [2]
Scouting for Food (Distribution)	11-04-06
District Meeting 7:30	11-07-06 [1]
Scouting for Food (Pick Up)	11-11-06
Popcorn pick up	11-17-18-06
District Commissioners	11-29-06 [3]
District Annual Meeting 7:30	12-05-06 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	12-06-06 [2]
District Commissioners	12-27-06 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	01-02-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	01-03-07 [2]
OA Winter Banquet	01-06-07 []
Cub Winter Event.	01-13-07
Council Annual meeting and Dinner	01-26-07 []
District Commissioners	01-31-07 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	02-06-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	02-07-07 [2]
Pinewood Derby	02-10-07 []
District Commissioners	02-28-07 [3]
District Meeting 7:30	03-06-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	03-07-07 [2]
University of Scouting	03-10-07 []
District Commissioners	03-28-07 [3]
Pinewood Derby	03-31-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	04-03-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	04-04-07 [2]
College of Commissioner Science	04-14-07 []
SMD District Dinner	04-21-07 [1]
NYLT	04-20-22-07 []
District Commissioners	04-25-07 [3]
NYLT	04-27-29-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	05-01-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	05-02-07 [2]
Beaver Day weekend	05-04-06-07 []
Council Eagle Dinner	05-17-07 [96]
Webelos Outdoor	05-12-07 []
District Commissioners	05-30-07 [3]

OA Spring Weekend	06-01-03-07 []
District Meeting 7:30	06-05-07 [1]
Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:30pm	06-06-07 [2]
OA Summer Picnic	06-09-07 []
District Commissioners	06-27-07 [3]
Cub Fall Event	10-21-07

Meeting Locations

- [1] East Hills Moravian Church
- [2] Liberty High School Freshman Campus formally known as Northeast Middle School
- [3] St. John's Lutheran Church
- [4] Trexler Scout Reservation
- [5] Camp Minsi
- [6] Minsi Office
- [8] Kutztown University
- [9] Hawk Mt Scout Reservation
- [10] Hellertown Sportsmen's Gun Club
- [] St. Thomas UCC
- 902 E. Macada Rd. Bethlehem, 18018
- [96] Candlelight Conference Center
- [97] Lehigh University,
Maginnes Hall, Bethlehem
- [98] Lake Towhee
- [99] To be Determined

Tunkhannock Chapter



The Tunkhannock Chapter of the Witauchsoman Lodge meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Northeast Middle School, located at 1100 Fernwood

St. in Bethlehem (location changes for the July Meeting). We meet at 7:30 PM on the same date and at the same location as the South Mountain District Roundtable.

Who to Contact

Chapter Chief: Stephen Davis,
Chapter Adviser: Ellsworth C. Machin, III. To contact, call (610)-746-1886



Commissioner's Corner

Hope all of you had a fun summer enjoying camp and the outdoors with your Scouts. Summer is almost over and the kids are heading back to school which means there's a lot happening in South Mountain District - Popcorn, School Nights, the Fall Camporee. But there are also a number of serious challenges facing our district that I need to discuss with you and ask that you do whatever you can.

The First Challenge has to do with how many of us there are. Every year there's fewer and fewer of us. And every year the process of introducing new youth and families to the benefits of Scouting starts with our School Nights where we do our best to recruit new Cub Scouts.

Last year we had a particularly dismal recruiting campaign for Tiger Cubs. However, the reality is that except for 2004 we've had a string of years where the number of Cub Scouts in our district has been declining. In the long run this spells trouble for all Scouting in our district. Eventually it means there will be fewer Cub Scouts crossing over into Boy Scouts. It also means that we have fewer and fewer Moms and Dads who we can enlist in the all-important task of helping out providing our sons (and daughters in Venturing) with fun, quality programs.

Here are some numbers to consider. We have 744 Cub Scouts currently registered in our district and 573 Boy Scouts. We all know that there's a great drop off in the Webelos-to-Scouts transition. Only a fraction of the boys who go through Cub Scouts continue on in Boy

Scouts. Because of this, in order to maintain healthy numbers throughout our Scout programs there should be about three times the number of Cub Scouts as there are Boy Scouts in a district.

But in South Mountain District, instead of having a 3-to-1 ratio, we have a 1.3-to-1 ratio. Unfortunately this isn't because we're doing a fantastic job retaining more of our Webelos. We're not. It means that the number of Boys Scouts we have registered reflects better Cub recruiting classes of years past. That means there's a poor distribution of ages of Scouts in a good number of Troops, with fewer and fewer new Scouts and more and more Scouts nearing their 18th birthday. Sooner or later this results in a population crash - and that means Scouting is withering away in the South Mountain District.

This is an **URGENT** concern! Council leadership expects us to recruit 300 new Cub Scouts in the upcoming recruiting drive. It's a very achievable goal but we all have to do whatever we can to make sure we reach it. Heck, it's not like there aren't boys out there that wouldn't benefit from Scouting. There are. We just have to do a better job convincing them and their parents that our program is worth their time.

(Council also wants us to recruit about 100 new Boy Scouts and a couple dozen more Venturers.)

A lot depends on this. For a number of years our district has not received consistent professional service from council. We're getting it now. However, unless we demonstrate that we can do a better job recruiting, that service could be



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at risk. Believe me when I say we can't afford to let this happen as a district.

I hate to sound so desperate but I need all of you to understand how urgent this challenge is. We are literally talking about the future of Scouting in South Mountain District.

The Second Challenge, unfortunately, is about money, specifically our Friends of Scouting campaign. I know all of us deal with fundraising in Little League at our schools in our churches and just about everywhere else. I'm also very aware that the Council has been asking all of us to contribute to the Buy-A-Brick capital campaign. However, the reality is that without sufficient funds it's difficult to provide quality programs at either the district and Council level. It's a fact of life.

We all run on budgets at home and in our units. And we all know what happens when expenses exceed revenues. The Council budget is, in part, built on each district's FOS projections. Most of the Council's other five districts have already met their FOS goals. However, our district is about \$12,000 short of our goal.

Let me throw some numbers at you again. There are 1,396 youth registered in our district and we have 673 registered adult volunteers. If we get \$5.80 for every Scout and volunteer, we make the goal. If we find a couple of corporate donors who can cut the shortfall in half, we're talking about less than \$3 per person. That's less than what you can get a fast food lunch for.

Again, unless we're willing to make the effort and commitment, we put at risk the quality of the programs and service we all expect for our Scouts. If you attended

camp at Trexler or Minsi this year, you've seen where some of the money is going. And you've also seen how much more work needs to be done.

I don't like having to make a hard sell like this. However, the truth is we can't take for granted that Scouting will always be there for our youth unless we take the necessary steps to make sure our programs remain healthy. This fall the biggest job we all face is to make sure we convince more boys and their families to give Cub Scouting a try. I know all of you can, will and have been doing your best to make sure our boys are having a fun, quality Scouting experience. And we also have to put a little more of our money into it, too.

If any of you have concerns, thoughts or suggestions on any of this, don't hesitate to use the contact information in this newsletter to get in touch with me or South Mountain District Director Greg Wilson. We want to make sure our district provides our youth with the best units and programs possible. This really is about a better future for them, our families and our communities. Thanks for hearing me out.

Yours in Scouting,
Eric Chiles

South Mountain District Commissioner

2007 District Dinner

Mark your calendar for the 2007 District Dinner on April 21, 2007 at the East Hill Moravian Church.



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Cub Winter Event

Cub Winter Event – Correct Date
The correct date is Saturday, January 13th.

Cub Fall Event

The tribes are out to hunt down some Cubbies to join them in a FUN filled day of events. Come out to the Cub Fall Event on Saturday, October 21, 2006 at the Sportsmen’s Gun Club in Hellertown. This event will be held rain or shine from 8:30 (registration) until 12 noon. This year’s theme is Indian Lore. The cost is \$4 for pre-registration up to Friday, October 6th. Cost is \$5 after the 6th and at the door. Price includes a patch, hot dog and soda. Our OA team dancers will have individual dance demonstrations and have the cubbies join in the Indian dancing at 9:30 and 10:30 am. At 11:30 am they will be demonstrating the team dance. The boys will be able to have their pictures taken in an Indian costume. There may also be a surprise to go along with this. Come out and find out what it may be!! Any troop or pack that wishes to help run an event, please contact Marci Weaver at smiley9@ptd.net or 610.282.0921. We need the support of our units to help make this event a success. Please contact Marci with any questions you may have about this event.

Powder Horn



I am happy to report that the first weekend was a huge success. I am more exhausted by the enthusiasm and response from the participants and their “hunger” for more. Then if I had to physically build something. It gives me a great feeling

working with such a great staff and participants

As was reported in prior newsletters, we have assembled a great team of consultants who are providing a stimulating and engaging program, leaving our Crews wanting more. Although, I was concerned that the long days and even longer night sessions would dampen the participants Scouting Spirit, I wrong. It only left them wanting to learn more and do more with their Crews back home.

Not even a dreary damp day and periodic rain storms kept our participants from Canoeing, Kayaking, Sail boating and Scuba diving. I was impressed with how the crews came together and how the participants chipped in to help us at the end of the day when it came to putting the kayaks, canoes and sailboats away, they paddled them across the lake to the storage area. We are blessed to have Crews like we have.

As an outcome of Session I - Crews are seeking a Cluster activity among Councils. More to come from our next session.

I was delighted that our Crews met and loved the knowledge of our Expert Consultants; people like Greg Ritter; Wilderness EMT and Kayaking. By the way Greg is a local Crew Advisors to, Lee White, the author of Woods Wisdom and who also serves on the National Program Committee. Lee’s inspirational words were a highlight for everyone, including me as Lee is a long time friend and a friend to scouting for many years... Lee autographed copies of the “Tips from the Tee Pee” the basis of Woods Wisdom. We are honored to have John Wolfgang, Powder Horn Course Coordinator and National Outdoor

Training Committee

Training Schedule

New	Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training	Youth Protection and Safety
10/28/2006 7:00:00 AM to 11/1/2006 1:00:00 AM	10/28/2006 8:30:00 AM to 11/18/2006 2:30:00 PM	12/6/2006 7:30:00 PM to 12/10/2006 1:30:00 PM
Lehigh University, Maginnes Hall, Bethlehem view all training register for course	Lehigh University, Maginnes Hall, Bethlehem view all training register for course	Old North East Middle School, Bethlehem view all training register for course



Committee member attend as well. Those are just a few of the many consultants that have come to make our course a success.

I also want to personally thank John Leach, Camp Ranger, Minsi Trails Camp for coming through and providing very much needed equipment and facilities. Had John not been there for us we would have had a very difficult time in providing the consultants with an area for which they do there demonstrations. I also want to give a huge thank you to our kitchen staff, they have worked extremely hard and the food has been great. Jeremy keep up the good work your efforts are truly appreciated.

The second weekend of our course starts on September 8th, 2006 and we will continue to have the best Powder Horn ever.

Lightning Safety for Organized Outdoor Events



Practice and training increase recreation and scouting performance. Similarly, preparedness can reduce the risk of the lightning hazards. As a Scout we are taught from an early age to always "*Be Prepared*". Lightning is the most frequent weather hazard impacting scouting, camping and sporting events. Events such as boating, camping, hiking baseball, football, lacrosse, skiing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track and field events...and all other outdoor sports have been visited by lightning.

Education is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety. A lightning safety program should be implemented at every facility, every camp.

The following steps are suggested:

1. A responsible person should be designated to monitor weather conditions. Local weather forecasts - from The Weather Channel, NOAA Weather Radio, or local TV stations - Weather conditions should be observed 24 hours prior to outdoor events. An inexpensive portable weather radio is recommended for obtaining timely storm data.

2. Suspension and resumption of camping and or athletic activities should be planned in advance. An understanding of SAFE shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation sites include:

- Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up.
- Substantial buildings.
- The low ground. Seek cover in clumps of bushes.

3. UNSAFE SHELTER AREAS include all outdoor metal objects like flag poles, fences and gates, high mast light poles, metal bleachers, golf cars, machinery, etc. AVOID trees. AVOID water. AVOID open fields. AVOID the high ground.

4. Lightning's distance from you is easy to calculate: if you hear thunder, it and the associated lightning are within auditory range...about 6-8 miles away. The distance from Strike A to Strike B also can be 6-8 miles. Ask yourself why you should NOT go to shelter immediately. Of course, different distances to shelter will determine different times to suspend activities. A good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

5. If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or hear "crackling noises" - you are in lightning's electric field. If caught outside during close-in lightning, immediately remove metal objects (including baseball cap), place your feet together, duck your head, and crouch down low in baseball catcher's stance with hands on knees.

6. Wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.

7. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help promptly.

For more information on this important topic visit the website at <http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=13656> or contact Dan Stryker for full details at dan@gainsllc.com



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Patriots' Path Council

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING / POW-WOW
Saturday, October 28, 2006 Randolph Middle School
Check-in at 8:00 AM. Opening at 8:30 AM. Classes start at 9:00 AM. Closing ceremony at 3:20

Go to the Patriots' Path Council Website at PPBSA.org
Click on the University of Scouting and print the registration form

Den Chief Training

Saturday, October 28, 2006 at Randolph Middle School, 500 Millbrook Ave, Randolph, NJ. Cost \$5.00 For reservations call Phone: 973-765-9322 ext. 239

Two sessions are available: 8:30-11:30 am or 12:30-3:30 pm



Operation: Popcorn

What is Show and Sell Popcorn? Show and Sell Popcorn is ordered by your unit, prior to the scheduled Take Order Sale. As the name implies, it gives your unit the opportunity to "show" the popcorn to a prospective buyer and then "sell" it to them.

Where is Show and Sell Popcorn Used?

Show and Sell Popcorn is an added way for your unit to sell popcorn. **It is not a substitute for the take order sale!** Many units use Show and Sell Popcorn at flea markets, church sales, community carnivals, and outside stores such as Wal-Mart....(make sure to get approval from the store first)!

How much does our unit have to order?

The minimum order is 1 case. Unlike the Take Order Sale, the Council can not provide Show and Sell Popcorn in single container orders. There is no maximum order.

Does our unit have to pay for Show and Sell Popcorn "Up Front"? The Council would prefer payment for Show and Sell Popcorn at the time the popcorn is picked up by your unit. However, if your unit is unable to do this, the Council will work with you to arrange a mutually agreeable time for payment. Show & Sell payment must be made before Council can accept a Unit

Order & Settlement Form for the Take Order Sale in November.

How much does our unit make?

Commission from Show and Sell Popcorn is 37%.

Are youth/unit prizes part of Show and Sell? Yes! Your unit will be able to count their Show & Sell orders as part of the overall prize program! It should be noted that each unit is responsible for breaking out the Show & Sell order amongst the boys in your unit (i.e. Which boys get credit for how much money raised is a unit decision).

What if our unit has Show and Sell Popcorn left over? Each unit should carefully consider how much Show and Sell Popcorn to order. It sometimes pays to be conservative. However, if your unit has left over Show and Sell Popcorn, you can deduct the amount left over, from your Take Order Sale prior to placing the order on November 3, 2006. This will prevent your unit from having leftover popcorn. The Council can not take back any unused / leftover popcorn!

Do you have additional questions? Please call Jim Gillick at (610) 465-8566, or e-mail jgillick@minsitrails.com

SMD Website

The South Mountain District web site has added a page with links for online training at http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/online_training.htm.

The links go to the BSA Online Learning Center and other online courses offered by the national BSA's official web site. The courses include Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense, Fast Start for Cub, Boy Scout, and Venture leaders, and basic training for most Cub Scout leader positions.

Some courses require registration and/or a current version of the Flash browser plug-in, both of which are free. When training is completed, the participant fills out a form (including name, unit, and council), and can print a "training card." The BSA Online Learning Center also keeps track of training sessions completed, allows the user to



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pause and continue at a later time, and charts which elements have been done and which are yet to be done. These courses are not meant to replace traditional training, but to complement them. If you have any leaders who need to get trained and cannot find the time, this is a good place to start. It can help to get new leaders acclimated and give them a desire to learn more.

Quote of the Month

In a recent phone call to Ellsworth about Powder Horn. Ellsworth picked up the phone and said. "Bob, I'm glad you called" That's one for Bob

Advancement

Thanks to Jon Slaton, Bruce Horton and Jim Daley our Eagle Application is now a word file that is user friendly for our Scouts.

Thanks to Council webmaster Matt Porter for setting it up on the website as of Sunday, July 23.

Go to the council web site – "Resources" and "Council Forms" – It is on the bottom left hand side – when it comes up – "Enable Macros" and you are in business.

Have asked Matt to take my name off the information as it was Jon, Bruce and Jim who did all the work to make this happen.

My Scouting friends – thanks for a great job

We may have something in the Minsi this month about the application being on line and user friendly – if not it certainly will be out there in the next issue.

Try it yourselves – know that it works – then spread the word at roundtables, etc.

Chas.

Hawaii Superactivity

To get your Application for the 2007 PA Dutch Hawaii Superactivity. Please contact Josuha below. The trip is open to any Venturer who is interested. They do not have to be from the PA Dutch Council. We will be flying out of Phili or Harrisburg, but arrangements can be made for those wanting to leave from other airports.

Joshua Glacken

Harvest District Executive

PA Dutch Venturing Staff Advisor

Area 4 Venturing Cabinet Staff Advisor

717 394-9344

jglacken@bsamail.org

Duty to God Promotion Patch Segment 2

The Duty to God Promotion Patch has been a huge success!! And now, for those looking for the 2nd segment, it's finally here!! Released for sale today, August 1st, the second piece featuring the mountain and sunset scene is available for purchase on our website at www.praypub.org or you can call 1-800-933-7729 to place your order. For more information about the Duty to God Promotion Patch, FAQs, Quantity Price Discounts and other promotional resources, please visit

www.praypub.org/dutytogod.htm.



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SMD Website http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/online_training.htm

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