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The Scouter - January 2014  
The official e-newsletter of the Blue Ridge Council

**Greetings!**

This is the January issue of the Blue Ridge Council e-newsletter, "The Scouter." In it you will find information about upcoming events and other things relating to Scouting in the Upstate of South Carolina.

If you do not wish to receive further emails regarding Scouting in the Blue Ridge Council, please use the safe unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email.

**A Message from the Council President**

Dear Scouts, Fellow Scouters, Parents and Friends of Scouting,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

This year had many successes - things we can all be proud of. Here are some examples:

- At least 169 of our Scouts reached the rank of Eagle.
- Dozens of Scouts and Leaders from the Blue Ridge Council attended the first ever 2013 National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.
- Hundreds of Scouts achieved one or more rank advancement.
- Hundreds of Cubs and Parents participated in Pine Wood Derbies and attended fun and exciting overnights at Camp Old Indian.
- Hundreds of volunteers received excellent training so that they can deliver a quality Scouting Program to Upstate youth.
- The Fluor Golf for Greenville Charity pledged \$315,000 for Phase One of our White Pines Leadership Development and High Adventure Center at the Camp Old Indian Scout Reservation
- Due to the generosity of a long time scouter, we completed construction of the Three Forks Lodge, the new Campmaster/Conservation Center at Camp Old Indian.



These are just a few great accomplishments to name for 2013.

We are very blessed in the Blue Ridge Council to have strong volunteer leadership, dedicated professional and staff support and generous financial supporters.

As we begin 2014, I want to thank all who are contributing, in their own way, to delivering the promise of Scouting to as many youth as we can reach.

Sincerely,

Phillip Kilgore  
2013-2014 Council President  
Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America

**Scout Night with the Greenville Road Warriors**

**Calendar**

Download the 2013-2014 Blue Ridge Council Calendar by [clicking here.](#)

**January**

- 1 - Service Center & Camp Closed
- 4 - Board Orientation
- 6 - Commissioner Meeting
- 11 - Cub Scout POW WOW
- 18-20 - Service Center & Camps Closed in recognition of MLK Day
- 25 - Boy Scout Specific Training
- 15 - Merit Badge University

**District News**

Did you know that your district has it's own new page? Click your district link below to see news and events specific to you.

- [Foothills](#)
- [Long Cane](#)
- [Oconee](#)
- [Pickens](#)
- [Reedy Falls](#)
- [Saluda River](#)
- [Six & Twenty](#)
- [Southboulder](#)

**Quick Links**

- [Blue Ridge Council](#)
- [Scouting.org](#)
- [Scout Parents](#)
- [Boys Life Magazine](#)
- [Sea Scouts](#)
- [Scouting Magazine](#)
- [BSA Field Book](#)
- [Philmont](#)
- [Northern Tier](#)
- [Sea Base](#)
- [Good Turn For America](#)

The 2014 Scout Night with the Greenville Road Warriors will be here before we know it! We are looking forward to another fun night of fellowship and hockey among the Blue Ridge Council Scouts and volunteers. We hope that you will make plans to attend and help us beat last year's attendance record!



**Mark your calendars for Scout Night with the Greenville Road Warriors for February 15, 2014!**

### One Scout at a time, Your gift will make a difference

Your investment in scouting is more important now than ever! We have continued to see a significant reduction in funding from the Greenville United Way to the extent that United Way funding now accounts for only 6% of our annual operating budget.

The youth of the Blue Ridge Council are counting on and need your continued support! **Please call the Council Service Center at 864-233-8363 today to make your 2014 Friends of Scouting gift!**



[BSA Museum](#)  
[Scouting Friends](#)  
[Hispanic Initiatives](#)  
[Be A Scout](#)



If you would like to advertise your company on the Blue Ridge Council Newsletter or Website, please contact Grayson Kelly at (864) 233-8363 or [grayson.kelly@scouting.org](mailto:grayson.kelly@scouting.org)

### Merit Badge University



The 2014 Merit Badge University will be held Saturday, January 25, 2014. This year there are 55 merit badges offered with 14 of those being Eagle Required. Make sure to get signed up early as space is limited!!!

You can find more information about the 2014 Merit Badge University by clicking [here](#). You may also visit the Merit Badge University Website by clicking [here](#).

Greenville Scout Shop

Phone: 288-1560  
Fax: 288-1614

Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 6:00pm

Saturday  
10:00am - 2:00pm

### 2014 Patron Dinner - March 6, 2014



THE BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL and BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA are pleased to announce that FRED FESTA, Chairman and CEO of W.R. Grace & Company and owner of the Greenville Road Warriors will be our honoree and key note speaker of the 2014 Patron Dinner.

Make plans to honor Mr. Festa by attending this event and supporting the Boy Scouts of America! Proceeds from this event will benefit nearly 11,500 scouts and 4,000 volunteers in the Blue Ridge Council.

TITLE SPONSOR:

**Kathryn Williams, Attorney at Law**  
**Attorney Kathryn Williams & Attorney Tom Ervin**

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



GREENVILLE  
**Journal**

RECEPTION SPONSOR:

### Round Table

All Leaders are invited to attend their Districts monthly Round Table





## The Palmetto Bank

For sponsorship information and to reserve your seat please click [here](#).

### Popcorn News



**- Clemson Day has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014!**

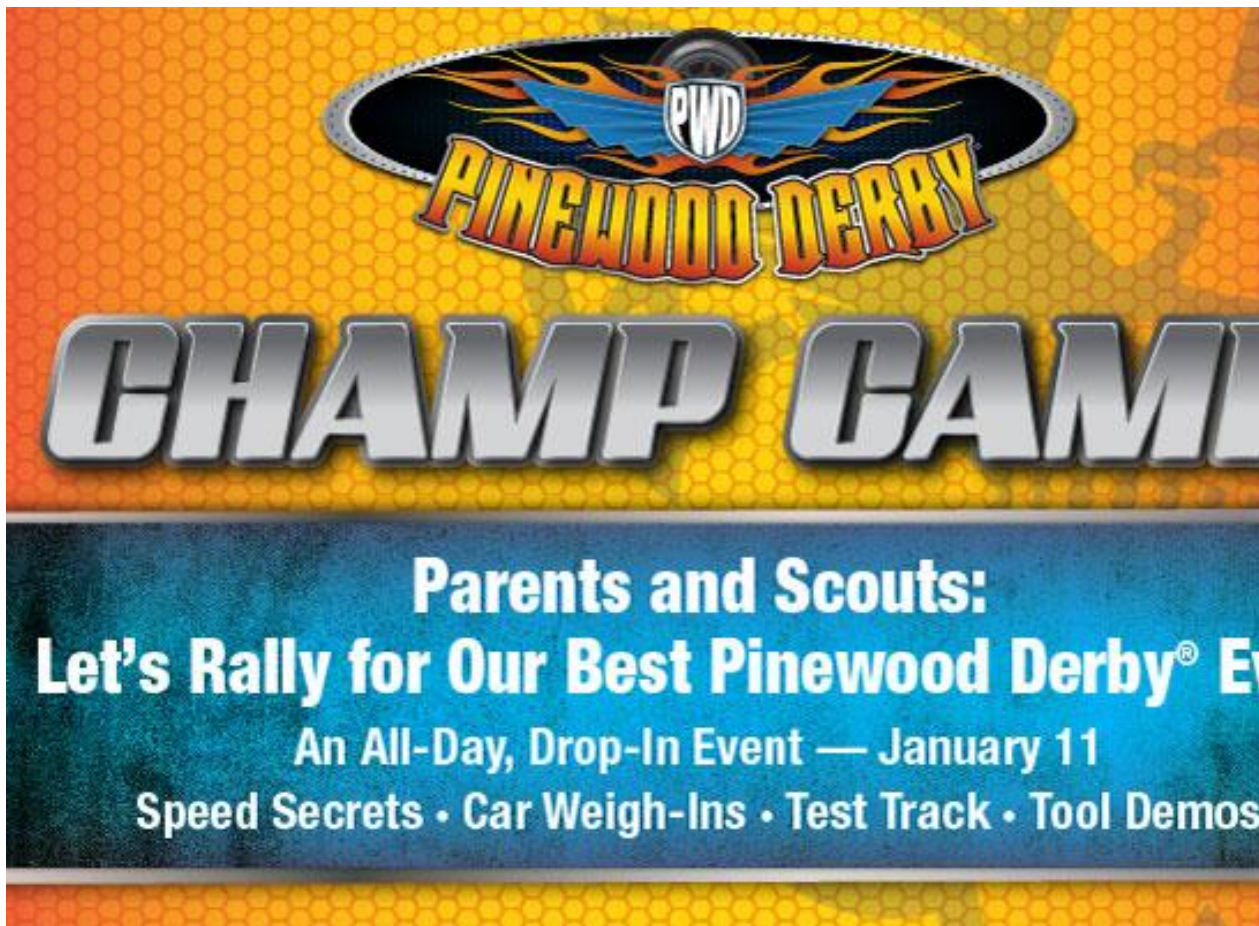
\*All youth who qualify and have registered with the Blue Ridge Council to participate in Clemson Day will receive a letter with all details during the month of January. If you have any questions regarding Clemson Day, please contact Robin Mullinax with the Blue Ridge Council at [robin.mullinax@scouting.org](mailto:robin.mullinax@scouting.org)

**- Carolina Day has also been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014!**

\*All youth who qualify and have registered with the Blue Ridge Council to participate in Carolina Day will receive a letter in the mail with all details during the month of January. If you have any questions regarding Carolina Day, please contact Grace Thompson with the Indian Waters Council at [gthompson@bsamail.org](mailto:gthompson@bsamail.org)



### Scout Shop News



**PINEWOOD DERBY**

# CHAMP GAME

**Parents and Scouts:  
Let's Rally for Our Best Pinewood Derby® Event**

An All-Day, Drop-In Event — January 11

Speed Secrets • Car Weigh-Ins • Test Track • Tool Demos

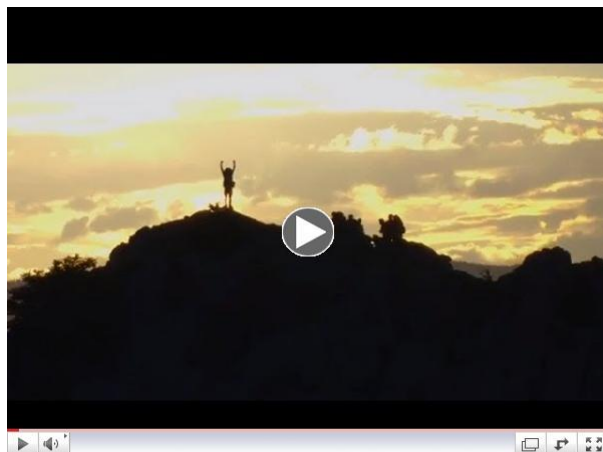
## Three Forks Lodge Dedication - December 15th, 3:00PM



On Sunday, December 15th, the Blue Ridge Council Facilities Committee and Executive Board hosted an open house and dedication ceremony for the newly constructed Three Forks Lodge. Over 50 gathered at Camp Old Indidan to view the new facility and to celebrate this wonderful achievement.

This new addition to Camp was made possible by a very generous gift from Vic Shelburne. We are grateful to Vic for his passionate commitment to Scouting and his desire to make such a significant investment in our camping programs. **Three Forks Lodge** will serve as the headquarters for our year-round Camp Master program and conservation programs, and as the summer camp directors' residence.

## Experience Philmont 2014



Philmont Scout Ranch Promo

Registration is now open for the Blue Ridge Council 2014 Philmont Trek!

This is the Scouting experience of a lifetime! Philmont is one of the National High Adventure bases of the Boy Scout's of America located in Cimarron, New Mexico. For more information on this trek taking place between June 14-28, 2014, please click [here](#).

## Commissioner's Corner



When the Boy Scouts of America began in 1910 it was understaffed. There were no paid Scouting professionals outside of the national office. Volunteers, known as Commissioners, helped start, register, and service units as they were formed around the country. While originally a volunteer position, some communities were able to raise enough funds for the Scout Commissioner to become a salaried position. These paid leaders eventually became Scout Executives.

Commissioners and Scouting professionals share the "wreath of service" on their position patches that symbolizes the continued partnership of the professional and the Commissioner and our commitment to program and unit service. The jobs that Unit Commissioners perform are all about supporting units in the successful delivery of the Scouting program to our youth.

Want to learn more about Commissioner service or become a Unit Commissioner? Join us on February 3rd at 6:30 pm at the council office and attend Commissioner Basic Training. There will be three concurrent sessions - Unit Commissioner Basic Training, Roundtable Commissioner Basic Training, and District Commissioner/Assistant District Commissioner Basic Training. The training should take about two hours and it's free!

Dr. James H. Blake  
Council Commissioner

[jblake@clemson.edu](mailto:jblake@clemson.edu)

## Philmont 2015 Unit Registration

If your unit would like to travel to Philmont Scout Ranch in 2015 outside of the Blue Ridge Council contingent in 2014, you can find more information by following this link: <http://philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/TrekPlanning/HowToReserve.aspx>



## 2014 South Carolina Trade-o-ree

24th Annual South Carolina Winter Boy Scout Trade-O-Ree & Auction

DATE: January 24-25, 2014

TIME: Friday 4PM - Midnight; Saturday 8AM - 3PM

LOCATION: J.B. "Red" Owens Recreation Complex, 111 Walkers Way, Easley, SC 29642

\$25 for Inside Tables

\$30 for Wall Tables

\$3 for Adults

(17 & Under Free)

FREE PIZZA PARTY @ 6PM FRIDAY FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS PREREGISTERED

750+ Silent Auction Items. Auctions Start at 7PM Friday.

GOT QUESTIONS?

Phone us at: 864-859-2915

## National Jamboree Duffle Bags for Sale!

The Blue Ridge Council has a limited number of 2013 National Jamboree Duffle Bags for sale at \$50 a piece! Limited to while supplies last! If you're interested in purchasing one of these bags please stop by the Council Service Center or contact our receptionist at 864-233-8363 or [kay.borkowski@scouting.org](mailto:kay.borkowski@scouting.org)



## 2014 Camp Old Indian



If you have not made plans for Scout Camp in 2014 we would like to invite you to attend Camp Old Indian.

Camp Old Indian is located 25 miles north of Greenville, South Carolina in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

We are excited about the upcoming camping season at Camp Old Indian and we would like for you to make plans to be with us. We camped over 2,800 youth and adults during the 2013 season, and with the reservations that are already booked, we know that 2014 will be bigger and better.

Camp sites are filling up fast, don't be left out, get registered today! If you have questions or need help getting signed up, email [Traci Bridwell](mailto:Traci.Bridwell) or call at 864-233-8363.

## BSA Membership Fee

Scouting, through its various programs, provides year-round positive experiences, activities, and fellowship for youth ages 7 to 21. From education to high adventure, the Boy Scouts of America provides unique growth opportunities at a great value.

In order to support the delivery of the nation's foremost youth development program, occasionally it is necessary for the organization to increase its membership fees to offset rising costs and prepare for the future. For this reason, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America is increasing its membership fee from \$15 to \$24 per year for all registered youth and adult leaders effective January 1, 2014. This is effective for all units rechartering in December of 2013. In addition to the National registration fee the Blue Ridge Council has implemented a \$1.00 insurance recovery fee per registered youth and adult. This fee covers year round accident and sickness insurance for all registered members.

Membership fees support the services that are necessary to provide Scouting to youth. Services include primary liability coverage for all volunteer leaders and chartered organizations, ongoing advances in technology, fundraising support, new program development and membership recruiting strategies, and support materials. In 2012 alone, the Boy Scouts of America served 2.6 million youth members through 280 local councils across the United States and its territories. With the help of all of our volunteers and Scouting parents, we will continue accomplishing incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

For more information regarding the increase in the membership fee please click [here](#) and [here](#).

## Journey To Excellence

Journey to Excellence is the Boy Scouts Council Recognition program. It is designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts and councils. We are proud to announce that the Blue Ridge Council achieved Gold Level JTE Status again for 2013!

Please visit the [National JTE website](#) to see what you are already doing, and what you need to be doing to qualify as a Gold level Unit.

To log your service hours [Click Here](#)

## Climbing and Rappelling

Blue Ridge Council  
Climbing and Rappelling Program

TROOP & CREW  
CLIMBING & RAPPELLING  
OPPORTUNITIES

Help your scouts learn self-confidence & communication while having a "wow" time. Get your scouts on **real** rock.

BSA Certified Instructors and Council-owned gear is available for your use.

Cost per day is \$20 per climber/rappeller (Scout and leader)

For more information and available dates contact the Council climbing chair - Paul Herr - [pdherr@gmail.com](mailto:pdherr@gmail.com) or 864-907-9356.

The Blue Ridge Council, BSA serves 8 counties in the Upstate of South Carolina: Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee and Pickens.

Visit our Website:  
[www.blueridgecouncil.org](http://www.blueridgecouncil.org)

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