



Greetings!

This is the January 2015 issue of *The Scouter*. In it you will find information about upcoming events and issues of importance to Scouting in the Upstate of South Carolina. Learn more about the Blue Ridge Council by visiting our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

In this Scouter

:

Click on a title to navigate directly to the article

- [Fifteen Amazing Things Happening in 2015](#)
- [Share Your Scouting Story](#)
- [Council Annual Banquet: Eagle Scouts and Silver Beavers](#)
- [The 2015 Council Exporee](#)

- [Leaders Old and New: Don't Miss Pow Wow!](#)
- [Scout Night at the Road Warriors](#)

- [Cub Scout Program Updates - Jan 17 Webinar](#)
- [From the Program Desk](#)

- [A Message From the 2015 Council President](#)
- And More!



Fifteen Amazing Things In 2015

Each year, 10,000 youth experience the life-changing opportunities of Scouting across the eight counties of the Blue Ridge Council. Each year is an amazing Scouting year in the Upstate, but 2015 is going to be an even bigger!

Here are 15 Amazing Things Happening in 2015 in the Blue Ridge Council Scouting Community! Since January 1 we've been previewing these on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/BlueRidgeCouncilBSA](https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeCouncilBSA)), which you can view even if you don't have a Facebook profile.

15. Release of Boy Scout Program Updates

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

14. Order of the Arrow Anniversaries

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

13. National Youth Leadership Training

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

12. Venturing Age Update

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

11. Council Professional Service

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

10. Friends of Scouting

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

9. Fall Popcorn Sale

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

8. Spring Camp Card Sale

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

7. Share Your Scouting Story!

Visit this post on our Facebook Page by [clicking here!](#)

6. Council Exporee

This May, thousands of Scouts will gather at SCTAC for a weekend of camping and adventures at the Council Exporee - "Onward and Upward!"

5. Cub Scout Connection

This February, tune into BlueRidgeCouncil.org for the Cub Scout Connection, an online hub for all Cub Scout related information. Don't miss this one-stop for everything Cub in the Blue Ridge Council - trainings, program, and more!

4. Spring & Fall Membership Drives

This year, we're excited to reach thousands of youth with the promise of Scouting! Join us during the Spring (May) and Fall (August - October) Membership Drives. Want to join Scouting? Visit BeAScout.org!

3. Cub Scout Day Camp

This June, hundreds of Cub Scouts will gather across the Upstate for week-long Day Camps! Day Camp is **the** Scouting experience for Cub Scouts, who will shoot BB Guns, Bows & Arrows, and more! Join us for [#DayCamp](#)!

2. Boy Scout Summer Camp

Don't miss out on another great year of Boy Scout Resident Camp at Camp Old Indian! Deposits are due in February and camp kicks off June 14! For more information, [view the leader's guide](#)!

1. Cub Scout Program Updates

This June, updates to the Cub Scout program will simplify advancements and make it even more exciting for youth and families. Learn more by checking out the [BSA program update page](#), tune into webinars on [January 17](#), and look out for local seminars and information.

From the entire Blue Ridge Council Scouting community, welcome to 2015. We are excited for this amazing year. These fifteen amazing things are just the beginning. Join us for the life-changing experiences of Scouting!

2015 Blue Ridge Council Annual Banquet

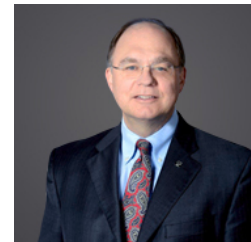
Celebrate the Phillip A. Kilgore Eagle Scout Class & Silver Beavers

The 2015 Council Banquet will be held Thursday, February 5 at 6:00pm at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville. Join us as we celebrate our Scouting community's accomplishments in 2014. Of particular note are our Council's highest honorees: the Phillip A. Kilgore Eagle Scout Class of 2014 and the 2015 Silver Beaver Honorees. Cost is \$25 and dinner will be included.

The Phillip A. Kilgore Eagle Scout Class of 2014

The Blue Ridge Council is pleased to announce that Phillip A. Kilgore (*right*) will be the Eagle Scout Class of 2014 Honoree. Mr. Kilgore's many years of dedicated service to Scouting include the previous two years as council president.

We are pleased to present the Eagle Scout Class of 2014. This class includes 161 Eagle Scouts whose projects devoted 23,349 service hours to their communities.



The Silver Beaver Class of 2015

The Silver Beaver is the highest award given by a Boy Scouts of America council to a volunteer. The individuals of this year's class have contributed years of service to Scouting on a unit, district, and council basis. We are pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Blue Ridge Council Silver Beaver.

Kay Borkowski
Bubba Fennell
Stan Lew
Dan Atkinson
Richard Barker
Art Taylor
Cindy Carter
Patti Buchanan

Stay tuned in the February Scouter for bios on each Silver Beaver recipient!



Previewing the 2015 Camp Cards

From a Card, The Adventure of Camp

The 2015 Camp Card Sale is just around the corner! Last year, 146 Scouting units raised \$123,000, paying for summer camp, day camp, and more! The camp card is the premier Spring fundraising method for local Scouting units.

Camp cards are discount cards for local vendors that sell for \$5.00. Scouts earn 50% from each sale. Cards will be distributed in March and the sale will run through May.

Stay tuned for more information about the sale, including details on discounts, vendors, and dates! **Contact your district executive if your unit wants to**

participate!



Share Your Scouting Story

Each week, nearly 10,000 Scouts meet, camp, and serve across the Upstate of South Carolina. Their stories are told across dinner tables, in church pews, and through newspapers. Now, we want to hear them from you.

Whether you're a current or alumni Scout, family member, or community member, you have a Scouting story. Please visit the [website](#) to upload text, documents, or images that share the impact Scouting has had on you, another person, or our community.

Share Your Scouting Story, and weave it into the fabric of our Blue Ridge Council Scouting community. Share your story [via this online form](#), tag [BlueRidgeCouncilBSA](#) on Facebook, or use #ShareYourScoutingStory!

Recharter

Each year, every Scouting unit recharterers to renew the relationship between the chartering organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

Recharterers for units in **Saluda River, Foothills, Reedy Falls, and Southbounder Districts** were due December 31st. [Units that have not submitted their recharter should contact their district executive immediately.](#)



Recharterers for units in **Long Cane, Pickens, Oconee, and Six & Twenty Districts** are due **January 31st**. Recharter packets have been distributed and the online system is open.

Recharterers should be submitted prior to the due date to your local commissioner or district executive. *Units that do not recharter on time are not official BSA units, their activities are not covered under insurance, and their youth may not receive advancements.*



Scout Night at the Road Warriors

Thousands of Scouts will gather at the ice of the Bon Secours Wellness Arena on Saturday, February 7 for the annual Greenville Road Warriors Scout Night.



Discount tickets and special commemorative patches are available for Scout families and friends! Discounted tickets must be purchased by contacting Stacey Wise at (864) 250-4804 or stacey.wise@greenvilleroadwarriors.com.

For more information [view this document](#). To purchase tickets, [use this registration form](#),

Photo Credit: Greenville Road Warriors Facebook Page

BUILD AN ADVENTURE



Leaders and Old and New

Don't Miss Pow Wow!

Pow Wow is a one-day training for new and old Cub Scout leaders. Experts will train on new ideas and resources, varying from outdoor skills to pack committee development! If you're a new leader or if you have new leaders in your pack, you do not want to miss this.

Pow Wow will be held Saturday, January 17th at [Mauldin First Baptist Church](#). Check-in at 8:00am and classes begin sharply at 8:30am and last through the afternoon. Lunch will be included.

To register, complete [this online form](#). Pay [online](#) by January 10 for \$35. Late registration will be accepted at check-in for \$45.

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America



2015 Council Exporee

"Onward and Upward"

The 2015 Exporee will be held May 1st -3rd at SCTAC - Donaldson Air Field off Hwy 25 in Greenville. Our theme - Onward and Upward - reflects the direction that Scouting is headed and the of our aviation-focused activities. Along with aviation, we will pay homage to the US Armed Services and community first responders that make us all proud and safe to be Americans and Scouters.

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers will all be able to fully participate in this weekend. Naval, Air Force, and Army Reserve units stationed at SCTAC will lend their support and supplies! Other participating groups include the Greenville County Police, County EMS, and the Greenville County SWAT Team.

We are looking forward to over 1500 Scouts, leaders and families camping the whole weekend with an additional 500-1000 day pass visitors joining us on Saturday.

Registration will open in February.

The goal of the 2015 Exporee committee is to lead by example with both fun and innovation. We look forward to seeing you all at SCTAC for a great time in the name of Scouting.

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America

From The Program Desk

Updates on Upcoming Council Programs and Operations

Merit Badge University will be held January 24, 2015 across the Upstate. Over fifty merit badges taught by experts in their field will be available to earn. Check brcmbu.org for more information!

Boy Scout Leader Specific Training will be held Saturday, January 24 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at Buncombe Street United Methodist. For more information and to register, [view this document.](#)

National Youth Leadership Training is an action-packed program that equips youth with the leadership skills and experience to use in their troops and own lives. The 2015 NYLT will be held February 27-March 1 and March 13-15 at Camp Old Indian. For more information and to register, [view this document.](#)

The **World Scout Jamboree** is set for July 28 to August 8, 2015 in Kiara-hama, Japan. Contact [Robbie Hill](#) for more information. To apply for a \$1,500 need-based scholarship, visit the [website](#).

Local Scouts will be trekking to **Philmont Scout Ranch** this summer and you can be a part! For more information and to register, [view this document.](#)

The Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia needs medical professionals to volunteer during summer 2015 high adventure weeks. Room and board will be provided for volunteers. For more information, contact Dr. Dan Miller at 386-690-1973.

One Scout at a Time, Your Gift Makes the Difference
Friends of Scouting Makes Life-Changing Experiences Possible

Your investment in Scouting is more important now than ever! 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 2015 Friends of Scouting gift!



Invest in the future of our young people, our families, and our community.

Don't miss the **2015 Family Friends of Scouting brochure**. Stay tuned for more information from your Council Friends of Scouting team about this year's campaign.

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America

Cub Scout Program Updates Webinar Saturday, January 17th

Improved activities, easier-to-understand advancement and some sweet-looking handbooks - yes, Cub Scouting is about to get even better than before.



By the 2015-2016 Scouting year (which, for most packs, begins in August or September 2015), all packs will use the new requirements.

Important webinars from the Boy Scouts of America will be offered on Saturday, January 17th. Whether you're a parent, Cubmaster, Den Leader, or interested community member, **tune in online!**

Text Used From Bryan on Scouting



Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge of the OA

2015 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Atta Kulla Kulla lodge and the one hundredth anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. Visit our lodge at **akk185.org** for up-to-date information!

Don't miss out on an OA event this year. Register for all 2015 AKK events and receive a discount with the [Annual Pass!](#)

Professional Staff On The Move

New Field Directors Will Serve DEs

To improve service to our Scouting community, the Blue Ridge Council has established two field director positions. Field Directors Eric Black (*right*) and Mike Prachar will provide direct service to district executives in their service to district volunteers, families, and communities.



Eric previously served as a field director over the Council West Service Area. Mike previously served as a district director in Pickens and Oconee Districts. Congratulations to Eric on his new assignment and Mike on his promotion!

Eric will serve the district executives in Long Cane, Saluda River, Six & Twenty, and Southbounder Districts. Mike will serve the district executives in Foothills, Oconee, Pickens, and Reedy Falls Districts.

Eric can be reached at Eric.Black@Scouting.org or (864)214-5405. Mike can be reached at Michael.Prachar@Scouting.org or (803)457-5940.

Field Director Andrew Reale has accepted a Field Development Director position with his native Atlanta Area Council. Since joining the Blue Ridge Council six years ago, Andrew has been a stalwart member of the professional staff and Council Scouting community. We wish Andrew the best in his new assignment.

Receptionist Kay Borkowski has accepted another position in Greenville County. Kay has served as the face and voice of the Blue Ridge Council for many years and we bid her a fond farewell in her professional capacity. Kay will continue to be a vital part of the Scouting community as a volunteer!

Photo Credit: Blue Ridge Council

The Venturing Corner

The inaugural **Area Five NYLT for Venturers** will be held at Camp Old Indian the week of July 4-9, 2015 NYLT is a high level youth leadership training.



Journey to the Summit Bechtel Reserve this summer for the **2015 Venturing Summit Adventure**. Further details will be forthcoming. For more information, contact Charlie Garwood at CAGarwood@prodigy.net.



Greenville **Scout Shop**

Official Retail Store of the Blue Ridge Council

- There will be a traveling trading post at POW WOW, Saturday January 17th
- The Greenville Scout Shop will be open regular store hours on Monday January 19th (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Pinewood Derby Champ Camp, will be on Saturday January 24th Drop-in 10am-2pm
- Blue and Gold Event, will be Saturday February 7th Drop in 10am-2pm

Executive Announcement

The 2015 Blue Ridge Council Executive Board

The Blue Ridge Council is pleased to announce the 2015 Blue Ridge Council Executive Board and Michael Thompson, 2015 Council President.

Michael Thompson (*right*) has been active with the Blue Ridge Council for 36 years, from youth participation (Cub Scout to Eagle Scout) to volunteer service.



As an adult, Michael has served as Council Vice President, Council Nominating Committee Chairman, OA Lodge Adviser, Chairman of the Council's National Jamboree Contingent, Council Commissioner, and as a Wood Badge Course Director (SR-992).

Michael's dedication to Scouting also extends beyond the Council. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the National Order of the Arrow Committee, as a member of the Southern Region Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, as Chairman of the Southern Region Membership Standards Committee, and as Area President for 10 councils located in SC, NC, and GA.

Professionally, he has served as an Assistant to South Carolina Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., Director of Legislative Affairs for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, and as an Administrator for the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Michael brings exceptional experience with, insight about, and dedication for the Scouting movement. The Blue Ridge Council Scouting community is excited for his leadership and vision in bringing the promise of Scouting to every eligible young person. We eagerly look forward to his leadership as Council President.

The Executive Board governs the Blue Ridge Council and ensures that its operations fulfill the promise of Scouting for every eligible young person in the Council service area.

The following community leaders have been elected to serve:

Michael Thompson	President
Mac McLean	President-Elect
Phillip Kilgore	Past President
Dr. James Blake	Council Commissioner
Harry Bolick	Vice President of Administration
Mikey Stokes	Vice President of District Operations

Fred Hyslop	Vice President of Cub Scouting
Dannie Newwell	Vice President of Finance
Dr. Eric Baker	Vice President of Membership
Carl Muller	Vice President of Program
Lt. Howie Thompson	Vice President of Exploring
Bruce White	Vice President of Endowment
Everett Baker	Vice President of Facilities
Robin Foster	Vice President of Risk Management
Dave Brenner	Vice President of Development
Fred Grant	Treasurer
Lindsay Smith	Legal Counsel
Dr. Bill Dukes	National Council Representative
King Dixon, II	National Council Representative
Tom Moran	Flour High Adventure Base
Russell Smart	Audit Chair
Lee Dixon	Assistant Treasurer
Bubba Fennell	Assistant Treasurer

For more information on the Blue Ridge Council Executive Board, contact [Robert Johnson.](#)

Like us on Facebook 



Michael Thompson
Council President

James Blake
Council Commissioner

Mike Butler
Scout Executive

BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL

www.blueridgecouncil.org
P. (864) 233-8363
F. (864) 233-2424

