

Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Council, BSA

The Scouter



Vol. 2014

Greetings!

This is the December 2014 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.

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Thank you!
A Message From
Phillip Kilgore



Dear Fellow Scouters

This will be my last message as President of the Blue Ridge Council. What a privilege it has been to be asked to lead the Council the past two years!

I have had the good fortune of experiencing Scouting at the Unit level, with the District and the Council, on the National stage, and even on the World stage. As your President, I have been blessed to meet a lot of you for the first time and to get to know others of you a lot better. I can say - without hesitation - Blue Ridge is one of the finest Councils in the Boy Scouts of America.

Does this mean that we Blue Ridge Council volunteers should rest on our laurels? Not at all. What it does mean is that we are blessed with a unique opportunity to improve and evolve so that we can become even better.

We know that we face a changing world and we must adapt. Should we then try to be all things to all people? Of course not. We should celebrate what makes Scouting unique among all other youth programs - leadership, character, learning, outdoor experiences and, of course, fun!

My vision of our future is that we become more effective than ever in delivering the promise of Scouting to as many youth as possible. We are on a great journey and I look forward to continuing that journey with you, under the leadership of our new President, Michael Thompson.

Sincerely

Phillip Kilgore

Commissioner's Corner

Finish the Job!

When I became Council Commissioner for the Blue Ridge Council just over a year ago, one area that I wanted to focus on was Commissioner reporting to the Unit Visit Tracking System (UVTS). When a Commissioner visits a unit they then make a very quick report into a national reporting system. One of the District and Council Journey to Excellence requirements is related to making visits and then reporting them. It is time to finish the job for 2014 and for all Unit Commissioners to enter reports on the visits they've made. All 2014 visit reports must be entered into UVTS by December 31, 2014. Changes are coming in 2015 when a new reporting system will be implemented under



the new Commissioner Tools section in MyScouting. Not only will there be a new system but contacts with units and unit leaders will have to be entered into the reporting system within 60 days of the date of contact. More to come on Commissioner Tools after the first of the year.

Recharterers!!

It's nearing time for recharterers to be completed. It is very important that recharterers be turned in on time so that members of your unit are covered under the BSA insurance policy. Units should not be conducting meetings or outings if they have not rechartered by their due date. The due date for recharterers for Foothills, Southbounder, Reedy Falls and Saluda River Districts is December 31, 2014. Recharterers for Six & Twenty, Pickens, Oconee and Long Cane Districts are due January 31, 2015. Please contact your Unit or District Commissioner if you need assistance with completing your recharter paperwork.

I hope all Scouts, Scouters and Scouting families have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dr. James H. Blake
Council Commissioner
jblake@clemson.edu



Will you support me? 2014 Popcorn Sale Wraps Up

It began more than two months ago in the heat of summer and concludes today, one week after the season's first snows. For two months, Scouts and families have knocked on doors and stood in front of stores asking one thing:

"Will you support me in Scouting?"

The 2014 Popcorn Sale is the primary fundraiser for local Scout units. Over 70% of each sale stays locally and supports Scouting experiences for thousands of youth. **Our Scouts asked, and our community responded!**

\$487,000 Raised For Local Scouting

Congratulations to all Scouts, families, and volunteers who participated and helped pay for their ideal Scouting year!

How did your unit celebrate reaching your goal? Gary Dean, the Cubmaster of Pack 227 fulfilled a promise made to his Cub Scouts at the beginning of the popcorn sale: reach our unit popcorn goal and I'll take a pie to the face!



Check out the results! Gary's reaction? ***"I have to set our popcorn goal a lot higher next year!"***

Photo Credits: Blue Ridge Council/Black, Gary Dean



Enthusiastic Youth Greet Fall Membership Drive

From Tigerville Elementary School to Little Mountain Elementary, the Fall Membership Drive is spreading the promise of Scouting: fun, adventure, and character. As of today, 2,448 new young people have joined Scouting!

Know someone interested in Cub Scouts? Send them to BeAScout.org, a new website where parents can easily locate Scout units around them and learn how to join.

There are thousands of boys who want to become a Scout - empower them with the promise of Scouting!

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America

Recharter

Each year, every Scouting unit recharter 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** are due **December 31st**. Recharter packets are being distributed and the online system is open.

Recharterers for units in **Long Cane, Pickens, Oconee, and Six & Twenty Districts** are due **January 31st**. Recharter packets will be distributed during November 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 December 16 for \$25 or 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.

For more information, view the December edition of the [leader's guide!](#)

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.

Phillip Kilgore Named Eagle Scout Class Honoree

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



Mr. Kilgore, other council honorees, and the Eagle Scout Class of 2014 will be honored at the 2015 Blue Ridge Council Annual Banquet. More information on this wonderful event will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars for February 5, 2015 at 6:00pm at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church.

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. Registration will begin online on November 29 for Council units and December 6 for out-of-Council units at meritbadge.info. Check brcmbu.org for more information!

December 13 Old Indian Work Day will be held tomorrow, December 13 (9:00am to 5:00pm or whenever you must leave). Scouters are invited to assist the Facilities Committee begin the construction of the new pole barn behind the ranger's house. Report to the COI parking lot at 9:00am for either project and bring lunch, water bottle, work gloves and dress appropriate for the weather. Contact [Vic Shelburne](#) if planning to attend or just come out!

The **2015 Camp Card Sale** will kickoff the first week of March. Last year, 146 units sold over \$123,000 of cards to send their Scouts to Boy Scout camp and Cub Scout day camp! Mark your calendar, recruit your chairman, and look forward to 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.

BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL
FRIENDS OF



SCOUTING



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

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.



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Official Retail Store of the Blue Ridge Council

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864-288-1560

Store Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am -7pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm
CLOSED Dec 24th and 25th



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Executive Announcement The 2015 Blue Ridge Council Executive Board

The Blue Ridge Council is very pleased to announce that the following community leaders have been elected to the 2015 Council Executive Board.

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.

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.](#)

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Michael Thompson

Council President

James Blake

Council Commissioner

Mike Butler

Scout Executive

BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL

www.blueridgecouncil.org

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