

Newsletter of the Blue Ridge Council, BSA

The Scouter



vol. 2014

Greetings!

This is the September 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. Use the links below to navigate to our top articles.

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A True Story of Scouters in Action!

Georgia Scoutmaster Leans on Camp Old Indian Training In Heroic Rescue

"HELP!" The panicked cry shook Joseph Silva from a beautiful afternoon on a Destin, Florida beach. Looking around in shock, Silva identified the source - four girls flailing in the crystal Florida waters over fifty yards away. He scrambled to his feet and began to swim out to the floundering girls.

Less than a month before, Joseph Silva - a Scoutmaster in Georgia's Troop 702 - had attended Camp Old Indian and participated in the BSA Lifeguard Training, taught by Aquatics Director Richard Taylor. "The class was pretty challenging," Silva recalls, "but I hung with the other Scouts one-third my age!"

The Boy Scouts of America stresses training for all adult volunteers. Many never need to use the most critical life-saving skills, but on that torrid summer day Silva reached into his Scout experience and jumped into action.

While friends helped three of the girls, Silva identified a 15-year old struggling in deep, choppy water. The strong current pulled at the girl and made her heavy in his arms. "It took all I had to pull her," Silva remembers.

"I swallowed a ton of water, but held tight and remembered something Richard told me - 'Don't leave room for Jesus.' Sounds funny but kept her from pulling me under and becoming victim #2."

Moments later, Silva pulled the girl back to the pristine beach and fell exhausted on the sand as his son, Tyler, yelled "GO DAD!"

"The training I received at camp ended up being an incredible Godsend," Silva wrote in an email that thanked Richard Taylor and the Camp Old Indian staff.

"This is just one example," writes Scout Executive Mike Butler, "of the positive impact that Scouting has on our young people, our adult leaders and our families, and not just here in the Upstate!"

Photo Credit: Best-Beaches.com



Popcorn Sale Starts With A Pop

2,100 Cases of Gourmet Popcorn Already Distributed

Scouters began to line up before 6:30am on Saturday, September 6th for the distribution of this year's Show & Sell popcorn. When the gates opened, the line stretched up the road across from J.L. Mann High School. By the end of the morning, 2100 cases of popcorn had been loaded in cars, trucks, and even one horse trailer!

The 2014 Popcorn Sale is the primary fundraiser for Scout units. Over 70% of each sale stays locally and supports Scouting experiences for thousands of youth. A successful popcorn sale can fund an ideal year of Scouting for each unit, family, and Scout.

During the Show & Sell sale that kicked off September 6th, units pre-order popcorn and sell it in front of local business and door-to-door. The Take Order sale, during which Scouts collect orders from friends and neighbors, began August 20th. **The sale ends until November 7th, when all orders are due to the Blue Ridge Council.**

Prizes for participating Scouts include the annual Clemson and Carolina Sports Clinics, Council Fishing Derby, and more!

For more information, [visit the website!](#)

Haven't seen a Scout yet? Support a local Scout or the Blue Ridge Council by [purchasing popcorn online!](#) It's quick, easy, and the delicious popcorn will be shipped right to your door!

Photo Credit: Blue Ridge Council/Barclay



Enthusiastic Youth Greet Fall Membership Drive

From Tigerville Elementary School in the north to Little Mountain Elementary in the south, the Blue Ridge Council is three weeks into the Fall Membership Drive spreading the promise of Scouting: fun, adventure, and character. As of today, 1,169 new young people have joined Scouting through the Membership Drive and hundreds more join every week.

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.

Many families are joining Scouting through School Nights For Scouting at their local schools, but the promise of Scouting doesn't stop after a school night.

1. Packs and Troops should have a new parent orientation within a week of the school night. Invite parents to volunteer, every parent can help out in some way!

2. Fulfill the promises made to each boy - bows, BB guns, and campfires - at our **Cub-Parent Campouts** this fall.

3. Keep spreading the promise of Scouting!! Participate in local festivals and open houses to reach more youth; encourage boys to wear their t-shirts or uniforms to school on a certain day (e.g. "Scout Shirt Tuesdays") to raise awareness. Tell your friends, neighbors, and coworkers about your unit.

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

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America



Exceptional Items & High-Stakes Bidding

Annual Auction Supports Scouting

Save the Date! The 2014 Sports, Entertainment, & Travel Auction will take place Tuesday, October 28 at the Greenville Hyatt Regency. Available items include safaris, cruises, resort packages, and more! **[Click here](#)** to view all items!

Purchase tickets online by **[clicking here](#)**. Tickets to attend the auction are available for \$30 for one and \$50 for two! Tickets include heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar.

For more information, including sponsorship and item donation opportunities, **[view the promotional flyer!](#)**

Photo Credit: Hyatt Regency Greenville

PCSO Explorers Earn State Honors

Post Returns From SCALE With Awards



The Pickens County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post returned from a summer competition with hardware in hand, reports the [*Pickens County Courier in a recent article.*](#)

Exploring is a national career development program for youth. Law Enforcement Exploring provides career experiences and critical skills for youth 14-20 interested in a career in law enforcement.

The PCSO Explorer Post earned top honors at the SCALE conference, including the prestigious SCALE Post of the Year. The post won additional honors and several youth Explorers were recognized for their performance. Congratulations the Pickens County Sheriff's Office and its Explorers for an outstanding performance!

Interested in finding an Exploring Post around you? Contact (864) 233-8363 for more information!

Photo Credit: Pickens County Courier



The Promise Fulfilled

BB Guns and Bows at Cub Parent Campouts

The fulfillment of a promise made to every Cub Scout, this Fall's Cub-Parent Weekends bring fun and adventure to the entire family. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this year's host location - Camp Old Indian - is a scenic wonderland of mountains, cabins, trails, and lakes.

After a night spent at the Camp, parents and Cub Scouts will experience an exciting day. Boys will learn how to start campfires, hike around Old Indian Mountain, and shoot bows and BB guns. Guided by local leaders, this family

adventure is perfect as an introduction to Scouting or an annual reminder of what makes Scouting great, the experiences and memories that last a lifetime.

Don't miss out on this time with your son, register for the Cub-Parent Campout today! Sessions begin October 3rd and continue every weekend through November 14th. For more information and to register, [view the informational flyer.](#)

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America



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 2014 Friends of Scouting gift!

[**Invest in the future of our young people, our families, and our community.**](#)

Photo Credit: Boy Scouts of America

From The Program Desk

Updates on Upcoming Council Programs and Operations

The **World Scout Jamboree** is set for July 28 to August 8, 2015 in Kiara-hama, Japan. The Blue Ridge Council is sending a troop! Contact [Robbie Hill](#) for more information or visit the [national website](#). The International Division of the National BSA is offering need-based scholarships for attendees. The maximum award is \$1,500. For more information and to apply, 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](#).

Silver Beaver Nominations are due December 2nd. The Silver Beaver, the highest volunteer award given by BSA Councils, recognizes adult volunteers

whose service has made an impact on youth. Nominations must be made using [this form](#) and submitted to the Council.

Boy Scout Leader Specific Training will be held October 11th at the Council Service Center. This training equips Boy Scout leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve the boys and families in their troop. For more information and to register, view [this document](#).

Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders will be held Saturday, September 27th through Sunday, September 28th at Camp Old Indian. This training equips Webelos leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve the boys and families in their den. For more information and to register, [view this document](#).

BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) will be held Saturday, September 27th at Camp Old Indian. This essential training equips Cub Scout leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve the boys and families in the Pack through outdoor activities. For more information and to register, [view this document](#).

District Nominating Committees are meeting across the Upstate to identify and recruit new leaders for District Committees and Commissioner Staffs. These men and women serve our units and volunteers. Make nominations by contacting your District Executive today! District Annual Meetings will be held during the month of November. The Council Annual Meeting will be held December 2nd.

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