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Greetings!

This is the November 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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Scouts Hike Historical Railroad Trail

Nine Scouts and five adult leaders from Troop 314 (Anderson, SC) spent Saturday, October 11th hiking and experiencing the Blue Ridge Rail Road Historical Trail. This trail follows an abandoned antebellum railroad project.

"This was a fantastic experience," remarked Assistant Scoutmaster Ivan Chirolla. "Our main service project involved clearing an almost impassable portion of the trail from Middle Tunnel to Saddle Tunnel." Scouts cleared trees and debris to earn the trail patch and metal. Learn more about how your troop can participate in this exciting opportunity by visiting the [leader's guide](#).

Photo Credit: Ivan Chirolla

Commissioner's Corner

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. Likewise every unit deserves a trained Unit Commissioner. The Commissioner staff of the Blue Ridge Council has the opportunity to go through a series of training sessions over several years to continue to learn how to best serve Packs, Troops and Crews. The pinnacle of training for Commissioners is when they earn the Doctor of Commissioner Degree at a Commissioner College.



The Blue Ridge Council is a member of the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science (PACCS) along with seven other councils in the Southern Region. The college is held at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, NC around the end of May and first of June. In 2015, the 32nd Annual PACCS will be held on June 5-7. At the college, courses are offered leading to "degrees" just as if you were attending a university. Over a period of four years, Commissioners can earn Bachelors, Masters and Doctor of Commissioner Science degrees. Commissioners can then attend Post-Graduate courses which are different each year. A Roundtable track of courses is also offered.

The first steps in training for a Unit Commissioner before attending a Commissioner College are to take the online Commissioner Fast Start training and Youth Protection Training. If new to Scouting, they should also watch the video "This is Scouting". The next step is to attend Commissioner Basic Training which is offered by the Commissioner staff of the Blue Ridge Council. Upon completion of basic training, Commissioners are then eligible to attend Commissioner College.

Want to learn more about Commissioner service or become a Unit Commissioner? Join us on February 2nd at 7:00 pm at the Blue Ridge 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 sessions should take about two hours and are free!

Dr. James H. Blake
Council Commissioner
jblake@clermson.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!**

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

Take Order popcorn pickup will be **November 22**. For more information, see your district below:

Foothills, Pickens, Reedy Falls, Learning for Life, or Southbounder
Smith Dray Line & Storage Company
320 Frontage Rd, Greenville, SC 29611 (I-85 & I-185 Junction)
8:00 AM - 11:00AM

Six & Twenty

Commerce Warehouse, 5301 Old Pearman Dairy Rd. Anderson 29625

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Long Cane

Stockman Oil Company, 1138 Reynolds Ave, Greenwood 29649

(warehouse after the first left just past the underpass)

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Saluda River

Willingham and Sons Building Supply, 6807 SC 219 Newberry, 29108

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Oconee

Ingles Supermarket, Highway 123, Seneca, SC

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Final Popcorn Payments are due **December 10**. Commissions will decrease thereafter if not paid in full.

Photo Credit: Blue Ridge Council/Black

**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, 2,248 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



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.

Register [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 theme of our aviation-focused activities. Long 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.

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.

From The Program Desk

Updates on Upcoming Council Programs and Operations

Don't miss the last Cub-Parent Campout of the year! The final session will be held Friday, November 14 to Saturday, November 15 at Camp Old Indian. Contact [Traci Bridwell](#) to register today.

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!

Camp Workdays will be held: November 22, December 13, January 3, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, and May 9 at Camp Old Indian. These are important service opportunities to support Camp Old Indian. All Scouters and Scouts are invited and the Order of the Arrow will be participating. Interested? Meet at 9:00am at COI; service will continue until 5:00pm. Bring lunch, a water bottle, snacks, and work gloves. For more information, contact [Vic Shelburne](#).

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!

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](#).

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](#).

Reminder: All adult leaders must complete **Youth Protection Training** every two years. New adult applications must include the youth protection certificate and the signed background check disclosure in the application.

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** are due **December 31st**. Recharter packets are being distributed and the online system will open November 1st.

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 will open December 1st.

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.*



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

The STEM Lab

STEM or "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" is a buzzword in the nation today and means exciting additions in the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA STEM/Nova program engages young people's natural curiosity and wonder with the spirit of innovation and learning.



Each Scouting program involves several levels of awards:

- The **Nova** is an entry level award that involves fun STEM activities.
- The **Supernova** is a higher level award that involves significant independent effort and STEM achievement.

Any Scout can earn these awards, and many merit badges and belt loops can be used towards these new awards!

Is STEM happening in the Blue Ridge Council?

Yes! In fact, our Council hosted some of the pilot programs in 2010. Pack 30 in Reedy Falls earned the first Nova awards in the nation!

How can your Scouts participate in STEM?

Pack 9 holds a Nova Fun Night for Cub Scouts with dens rotating through activities to satisfy most requirements for the Math STEM Nova Award, 1-2-3 Go! Meanwhile, Scouts in Troop 9 earned all four Nova awards during 2013 at STEM lock-ins at their church. Saluda River District has emphasized STEM achievement in camporees and day camps. Other districts with STEM events include Pickens and Reedy Falls.

STEM is happening across the Council and we want to hear about the events you have done or are planning to do! Investigate Nova and Supernova at www.scouting.org/stem and bring STEM to your unit today. There are resources in the BRC that can guide you to a successful program.

For more information, contact Paul Winston, the Blue Ridge Council's Nova Chairman, at winstonpb@charter.net.



Southbounder Webelos Meet & Greet Troops

On Thursday, November 6 the Southbounder District hosted a meet and greet for all fifth grade Webelos. Over 100 youth - Webelos and non-Scout friends - came out and spoke with thirteen Southbounder troops to find a troop they're interested in joining.

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.

Scouting Community Welcomes Mike Prachar

The Blue Ridge Council Scouting community welcomes Mike Prachar as the new District Director for Pickens and Oconee Districts.

Mike has served Scouting professionally across the nation, from Piedmont Council in California to the National Capital Area Council in Washington, DC. Mike comes to our community from the Indian Waters Council. He has served as

a camp director and on Wood Badge staff. He is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow. Mike's spouse Sherry is a school teacher. Mike has four children: two sons and two daughters.

Mike can be reached at Michael.Prachar@Scouting.org or on his cell at (803) 457-5940.



Greenville **Scout Shop**

Official Retail Store of the Blue Ridge Council



Offer valid 11/17-1/5

PLUS
25% off select backpacks and sleeping bags!

Executive Announcement
Blue Ridge Council Annual Meeting Set

Attention:

Executive Board Members
Advisory Board Members
Council Members at Large
Charter Organization Representatives

The Annual Business Meeting of the Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America will be Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 6:00 PM at the Scout Service Center, 1 Park Plaza, Greenville, 29607.

The Annual Meeting of the Blue Ridge Council shall be for the purpose of receiving annual reports of the executive board, officers and various committees; electing members at large, associate and honorary members of the local council, National Council members, regular members of the executive board and officers of the corporation; receiving and approving financial statements showing the financial position of the corporation from the most recent complete fiscal year; and transacting other business as may come before the meeting.

The Council President, with the approval of the Executive Board, has appointed Michael Thompson to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Committee members include Judge Michael Stokes, Mac McLean, and Nika White. Active members of the Blue Ridge Council may make recommendations of possible nominees to the committee for consideration. All recommendations shall be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the meeting and directed to the Nominating Committee at the Council's address.

Please RSVP your attendance to Linda Thompson at linda.thompson@scouting.org by Friday, November 21, 2014.

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Phillip Kilgore
Council President

James Blake
Council Commissioner

Mike Butler
Scout Executive

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