



TIGER'S LAIR

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PACK 505 NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Registration is ongoing! We need the money now in order for our Pack to be re-chartered by the end of January. That's \$35 for Tiger's and \$45 for older boys.

DERBY DAY IS COMING!



The weigh in for the Pinewood Derby is Friday evening at the SVDP cafeteria from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Derby Day is Saturday, January 24! For those really fast cars, the District Race is February 22, 2004 (\$5 per entry). Last year fun was had by all (see below)!



Upcoming Church Stuff

Pack 505 will be serving Coffee and Donuts after the Masses on February 1. Have your boy help out

This year, Scout Sunday is celebrated at the 5:00 p.m. mass on Saturday, February 7.

Blue & Gold Banquet

February 12 is the Blue and Gold Banquet and will be catered by Skeeters once again. Den 3 will do decorations and the program, however, each den should plan on bringing a project they worked on, i.e. derby cars to decorate table. Also, each den bring deserts, such as cookies, for their consumption. The Friends of Scouting Recruiter (Steve Burkett) will be on hand to collect donations. We would like to achieve 100% participation. Any amount will help so you don't have to cancel your weekend appointment to have your BMW detailed.

As a word of caution after learning the hard way last year, we are charged for the Blue and Gold Dinner by Skeeters by the plate. Once you are given a plate, hold on to it. You may go back through the line for seconds, but if you take a second plate then Pack 505 is charged a second time. Last year we paid close to \$200 needlessly!

Scout Fair

SCOUT FAIR TICKET SALES: Your Pack's allotment of Scout Fair tickets will be available for pick-up in mid-February. Your Pack keeps \$2 from every \$5 ticket, if you also run a booth. Without a booth, you keep a little less. For questions, contact Cheryl Hodgeson cherylhodgeson@aol.com

Spring Campout



Pack 505 has 27 campsites reserved at Huntsville on March 27-28 for the spring campout. A few folks arriving early on the 27th would be appreciated so as to arrange for adjacent campsites. If any special accommodations are needed, please let someone know (i.e., Jim Porter).

This year Texas Parks and Wildlife is promoting fishing in state parks. Texas is not requiring a fishing license for adults and kids while fishing in state parks. To promote early arrivals, we could hold a contest at the park on Saturday morning/afternoon. Prizes could be awarded at the campfire. Think this over.

Odds & Ends

February 14, 2004 (Saturday) is the Ten Commandments Hike. This is a great den activity, and satisfies requirements for Wolf, Bear, Webelos (Cub Wolf requirements: #10b, 11a, 11b, Cub Bear requirements: #12b, d & e, Webelos requirements: #7, 4 & 5 for Arrow of Light.). The hike starts at 1601 Sunset and the cost is \$10 per person without lunch and \$14 per person with lunch.

Events and Activities

- 1) WEBELOS ENGINEERING PIN: Register, by den, very soon for this extremely popular free event, sponsored by volunteers at Bechtel, located just south of the Galleria: Email registration opened **Monday January 5**, and the event itself will be held on **Saturday February 28**.
<http://www.bechtelengineeringday.org/>
- 2) HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES: Located in Hermann Park, the spring schedule of Scout classes has now been posted:
http://www.hmns.org/files/education/Spring_2004_Scouts.pdf
- 3) AMERICAN RED CROSS: The Webelos "Readyman" pin can be earned at the American Red Cross headquarters, 2700 Southwest Freeway (near Kirby). The sign-up sheet is attached.
- 4) McGOVERN MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCE (Across from the Children's Museum): Admission is free on Thursday after 4 p.m. and also on weekends with a valid public library card.
www.mhms.org/scouts.htm For questions, email scouts@mhms.org. Registration for new spring 2004 classes began December 1, 2003.

Adult Training Events

- 1) BRAND NEW LEADERS: Our goal is 100% trained leaders. This consists of a "Fast Start" online training <http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts/faststart/>, then online Youth Protection Training <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Home/Events1/YouthProtectionTrainin/> followed by live training "New Leader Essentials" and "Cub Leader Specific". Please inform and support your new volunteers! Training is the first step to earning leaders' "knot" patches for your uniform.

- 2) BALOO: Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation is recommended for all Tiger and Wolf leaders. Also, BALOO is required to obtain a tour permit for Pack or Webelos den camping. The next session will be held **Saturday, January 10**, 2004 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Check-in begins at 8:00 am. Cost is \$12.00 and includes lunch. Location is the Blanton Building at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Preregistration is required, *bring your check to Roundtable and give to Cheryl Hodgeson*. Forms will be available there, and also can be downloaded from www.goldenarrow.org/training/baloo.html. Subjects covered: Planning a Pack Campout, Tour Permits, Camping Equipment, Health & Safety for Outdoor Activities, Cub Scout Outdoor Cooking, Fire Safety, Stoves & Lanterns, First Aid, Nature Hikes, and Games.
- 3) NEW LEADER ESSENTIALS: The first module of live training will be given on **March 6**, location TBA.
- 4) COMMITTEE TRAINING: Take New Leader Essentials in the a.m., followed by Committee training in the afternoon, to become a fully trained Pack Committee member. **Saturday March 6**, location TBA

ANNOUNCEMENT!

My tenure is all but over now. I have been the Pack Treasurer for the past three years (doesn't seem like a day over 50 years), and the Tiger's Lair editor for a couple. Some of our boys will be crossing over next month. One is mine. It is now time for someone (or two) to come out of the flock to assume the mantle of Pack Treasurer and/or Editor of the Tigers Lair. If someone doesn't claim these prime duties, then you will be stuck come next month. Give some thought to volunteering. I had this announcement in the April Tiger's Lair in 2003, and we had zero, nil, nada, goose egg, zilch response. There will be one (1) more T.L. next month, and then I'm taking my generous 401(k) retirement money provided by Pack 505 (yeah, right) and calling it quits. The ball is in your court now! It's been real...but I'm outta here!

Ed Siwak