



The Cook's Fork



Proudly serving Scouting in the northern Fairfield County communities of Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Georgetown, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Sandy Hook and Sherman

Wow, Spring is here. With the arrival of Spring comes the flurry of activity for our district. So here's a listing of "**What's Happening**" for us:

- Peter Johanssen Units of the Year awards – forms due by 5/1/11
- District Award of Merit – forms due 5/1/11.
- District Pinewood Derby – 5/7/11, Danbury Fair Mall
- Council Kick-Off – 5/18/11, Harbor Yard, Bridgeport
- Deer Lake Cub Resident Camp Grand Opening – 5/22/11
- District Recognition Dinner – 6/9/11, ST. Thomas Church, Bethel
- Me and My Shadow
- Scatacook Program/ Membership Kick-Off – 8/17/11, Hoyt Training Cabin

And don't forget to download the district calendar through 2012! Its on our website!!

Peter Johanssen Units of the Year Award

The clock is ticking for your nominations for our Unit of the Year Award and the District Award of Merit. Nominations are due by May 1st. These awards will be announced prior to our District Dinner in June.

Units of the Year Award can submit your forms to Michael Carpenter, our District Commissioner. Each unit completes the form. Please remember, we recognize a Pack, a Troop and a Crew every year. So do not hesitate. Get your forms in on time.

District Award of Merit

The District Award of Merit recognizes an outstanding Scouter who has given service above the norm to our district or outstanding service to a unit or units. All nominees must be registered leaders/ Scouters. This nomination is submitted to Bob O'Neil our district advancement chair. These are due by May 1st. Again, we will announce the recipient(s) prior to the District Dinner.

Take the time to nominate an outstanding Scouter. We know they are out there! Our website also has a list of past recipients that you can reference if you are not sure someone has been recognized.

District Pinewood Derby

Scouts – ***Start Your Engines*** - the District Pinewood is back this year! This event is now scheduled for May 7th at the Danbury Fair Mall. This is a change from the originally published date. The date change was due to securing the facilities for the event. If you have questions or need more information, contact Dave Shuford at Dave@reddingscouts.org. The flyer is also posted on the district website www.scatacook.org.

Council Kick-Off Program

Leaders, this is a must attend event for you. A great deal of program information will be assembled for you to give to your units. We are strongly encouraging every unit in the district to send their Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor and at least one other leader. Cubmasters, I can't suggest strongly enough the importance of your attendance at this event. Membership & program helps will be available for you.

Journey to Excellence

As you should know, the new Journey to Excellence Award has replaced the Centennial Quality Unit Award. If you do not have the information, please go to our district website, www.scatacook.org, and download the PDF files that pertain to your unit. There are FAQ files that will answer many, if not all of your questions. Your unit commissioners will assist you. You can also download this information from the national website.

I think as you read through and digest the material, you will find this is a major upgrade from Quality unit. Journey to Excellence gives you the base standard for unit performance (Bronze level) and you have the option of moving up to either Silver or Gold levels.

Grand Opening of Deer Lake Cub Scout Resident Camp

You don't want to miss this one, especially all you Cub leaders! Sunday, May 22, 2011 is the date. The time is 2 PM to 5 PM. Come down and see the new dining hall, the new lean tos and other great improvements to the camp. Contact Karen Caiati at kcaiati@bsamail.org or call Karen at 203-876-6868 ext. 223 for your reservation.

Directions to Deer Lake can be found on the council website www.ctyankee.org.

District Recognition Dinner

Mark your calendars with the date June 8, 2011. This is the date of our annual Recognition Dinner. The dinner and recognition ceremonies will be held at St. Thomas Church, Bethel. Yes, the same venue as our Roundtables. A buffet dinner will be served.

Recognition will follow with the highlights being the District Award of Merit and Peter Johanssen Units of the Year Awards.

This is a great time for your unit to honor a special leader/ volunteer who has gone above and beyond the call of service. Let us know and we will gladly put you on the agenda.

Registration flyer is available on the district website.

Scatacook Program Kick-Off

Don't miss out on our annual district program kick-off on August 17th at the Hoyt Training Cabin. For units requesting material for their fall recruitment, this is when you can pick it up. There will be other program material available for you. Each unit will have their own packet ready to go.

And bring you appetite!! The Scata – Cooks will be supplying a cook out meal for you!

So come and join us for a great night of Scouting fellowship!

Me and My Shadow

We are still looking for a Pack to step forward for this event. There is plenty of help available from the District Committee to assist you in the planning and execution of this event. Please contact Dave Shuford at Dave@reddingscouts.org. Let's make sure this event continues.

Deer Lake Lean Tos

As the opening of the Deer Lake Cub Resident Camp draws closer, we need your help in finishing off some projects – the lean tos! All districts are being asked to put work parties together to put up the lean tos. The work party dates are:

Friday, April 29th

Saturday, May 14th

Saturday, May 21st,

Saturday, June 4th.

Each day is 8 AM to 5 PM. For Scatacook, I am suggesting Friday, April 29th. We will combine with the Wood Badge staff to build two to four lean tos. The lean tos have been pre-cut, delivered and at the campsites ready for assembly. Tools will be needed, especially compressors with 100" hose and framing/ roofing nailer.

Please contact me at Scatacookchair@gmail.com if you can help. Even if the 29th does not work, we have other dates available to put a work party together.

You Are Scatacook!