

TOP CLOUDS: 5-1-15

NEW Memorial Day

A picnic during Memorial Day weekend is always great family fun, but let us not forget the real reason we celebrate this day. Please remind your scouts and families that on this day, this weekend, we need to take a special moment to honor the departed men and women who served our nation.

NEW Membership Committee Update

We are here to help your Pack succeed! Recruiting & retention of Scouts is our constant focus.

Please support these 2 great upcoming recruiting events:

Packs, join in the fun at the FISHING DERBY at Freedom Park on May 9 10am-12pm. Bring a friend! Fishing, lunch & awards.

Troops, recruit teams of potential and existing Scouts to participate in the upcoming IRON SCOUT CHALLENGE. May 9th 8am-2pm at Belk Scout Camp.

Remember, in order to recruit adults and Scouts, a Unit must know what it will cost; know who will lead it; know what the schedule will be; and ASK people to join! This is the time of year to ensure you have the right adults in place to manage your Unit and begin preparing for the next school year.

Your Apache Membership contacts are Traci Scott at traciscott@me.com and Karl Johnson at kdjoneseven@yahoo.com

NEW Places to visit

We have some wonderful places to visit in North Carolina, but less than five hours away is the **National D Day Memorial** in Bedford, Virginia. <http://www.dday.org> There is an admission fee, but call in advance and ask about group rates and guided tours.

About 90 minutes east of the D Day Memorial is the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park <http://www.nps.gov/apco/index.htm> This is where General Lee surrendered to General Grant. During the 150th Anniversary activities, Smoke Signals recently met some scouts from Troop 375, Central Piedmont Council. They were having a great time and camped at nearby Holiday Lake State Park; a real paradise.

NEW The Origin of Taps

When was the last time you heard taps? Scout camp, a military funeral, or a Memorial Day Ceremony? There are several stories floating around about the

origin of taps, but *Smoke Signals* got the factual story from someone who really knows. Among his other duties, Major Louis DiLeo is the Regimental Bugler 11th NY Regiment of Cavalry USV-A; he is the Chief Bugler NY Military Forces Honor Guard, NY Army National Guard, and yes, he is a Music and Bugling Merit Badge Counselor, Theodore Roosevelt Council Boy Scouts of America.

We first met Lou when he sounded taps from Little Round Top, overlooking the Gettysburg Battlefield on July 3, 2013, (the 150th Anniversary of one of the most significant battles of the Civil War).

"Taps was written by Union Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield and his Brigade bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton. 2 July 1862, at camp in Harrison Landing VA after the seven days battle. (The battle for Richmond). Butterfield didn't like the lights out call that was currently being used and decided to replace it. Norton sounded the new call that night. It spread like wild fire through out the Army. Everyone started using it. Confederates heard it as well and started using it too. It was first used at a burial a week later when an artillery officer in charge of a burial detail thought they were too close to the enemy to fire the traditional three round volley. Thought they may shoot back, so he had the bugler sound that new call that they had nick named Butterfield's lullaby instead. The soldiers liked the effect and it stuck. The use of taps at a funeral did not become official for the US military until 1891. It was named Taps because the signal for lights out on the drum was called "the drum taps", the soldiers just called it taps.

By the way, Lou was the one of the buglers selected to sound Taps at Arlington National Cemetery, July 2, 2012, commemorating its 150th anniversary.

Be Weather Smart! Be Prepared! It's not too early to be weather smart and to train your scouts and families. Tornadoes, floods, severe afternoon thunderstorms, and the Atlantic Hurricane season, which begins June 1st. it is important that all of us scouts, scouters, and parents be mindful of changing weather patterns in our area. Does your family have a severe weather plan and/or evacuation plan in case of emergencies? History has taught us that we are not immune to these types of storms even if we are inland. BSA, the state of North Carolina, and FEMA all have excellent resources available to us on hazardous weather training. Please visit: www.scouting.org, www.readync.org, and www.fema.gov.

BSA NATIONAL NEWS:

Scouting Wire has arrived.

An official BSA one-stop spot for Scouting news and updates for employees and volunteers. This resource is designed to help you support the BSA as we work together to mold future leaders. And, true to Scouting's last century of programs and resources, this hub is focused on providing educational information in a fun and inviting format.

As March 4, 2015, <http://www.scoutingwire.org> is your home base for the tools and information you need to be successful in serving youth. Bookmark the site and explore the content tailored to your specialized role in the BSA. Find topics you're most interested in and filter your results by program or organizational level.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS:

NEW Iron Scout Challenge

Come for a day of competition and fun as the Mecklenburg County Council kicks off our inaugural Iron Scout Challenge! Race around the perimeter of Belk Scout Camp while navigating challenging obstacles along the way.

May 9, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Belk Scout Camp

Cost: \$15 per person (youth or adult) Sorry, no cub scouts.

REGISTER: www.mccbsa.kintera.org/ironscoutchallenge

Questions: Contact Jonathan Russel at jonathan.russel@scouting.org or call at 704-342-9342.

Eagle Scout Recognition in the Charlotte Observer

The Council Advancement Committee and the Council Marketing Committee are pleased to announce that a partnership was recently established with the Charlotte Observer.

Each and every one of our new Eagle Scouts can now be featured in the "Neighborhood" section of the Charlotte Observer. The process is very easy thanks to a new on-line form that the new Eagle Scout completes after his Eagle Board of Review – takes less than 5 minutes. The information will go directly to the Observer who will feature a picture of the Scout with details on his unit, chartering organization, etc. – as well as an overview of his project, and what has been the biggest impact of Scouting for him. Check out the Advancement page of the MCC web site for more details and the link to the form. Please encourage all new Eagle Scouts to complete the form so he can highlight all the great things that Scouting provides – for him, his fellow Scouts and our community!

The Eagle Scout Board of Review committee members are to look for this information in the Eagle Scout packet that is brought to Eagle Board of Review. The review committee is to encourage the Scout to use it to receive his proper recognition.

New Program for Summer Camp

The Mecklenburg County Council and Camp Grimes are pleased to make available in 2015, a program that has been exclusively designed for us -- The Summit Trek. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is the BSA's newest national Scout reserve located in Southern West Virginia. The Summit opened in 2013 by hosting over 40,000 participants and visitors at its inaugural National Scout Jamboree. Beginning in 2014, The Summit began operating summer seasonal programs that include high adventure, Scout Camp and training programs. This new program gives Camp Grimes Scouts and Venturers the opportunity to spend several days at the Bechtel Summit enjoying world class adventure venues. Your Summit Trek includes meals, roundtrip transportation to the Bechtel Summit, and Scott Summit Center programming (including required equipment). A tent and cot will be provided for you while at the Summit. Beginning Monday evening, you have full access to the Scott Summit Center activity venues. In the evenings, Summit Center becomes the hub of all Summit activities as all Summit program participants from the Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base, James C. Justice National Scout Camp and special programs, like the Camp Grimes Summit Trek, mingle and enjoy the Summit Center venues. On Friday morning, we will return to Camp Grimes and you will spend the rest of the day with your home troop. COST: \$500 per youth or adult (must be at least 13 years old to participate). For more details about the venues, see the flyer at www.mycampgrimes.org/Summit_Trek_2015.pdf . Contact Alan Keiger at alan.keiger@scouting.org with questions.

Master List of Upcoming Merit Badge classes within Mecklenburg Council:

Upcoming merit badge courses include:

Scouts Take Flight Aviation MB

May 23-24, 2015 Discovery Place Digital Technology, Programming,

Weather, Space Exploration MBs

November 13-15, 2015 North Carolina Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC,

Rail Camp Railroading MB

Please note that the Cyber Chip course on Sunday, March 22 is a prerequisite for Digital Technology MB and Programming MB planned for May 23-24, 2015 at Discovery Place.

Full information on registration, cost, and pre-course homework, please check listings at

<http://www.mccscouting.org/Districts/Apache.aspx>

The 2015 Merit Badge Course Master List document at

http://www.mccscouting.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=AoXLEsm6_6E%3d&tabid=83

Contains full details of all of the above courses as well as information on

other merit badge courses available to Troops or patrols. These courses include:

Astronomy, Aviation, and Oceanography at Patriots Point, Home of the USS Yorktown

Forestry at The Cradle of Forestry near Brevard

Canoeing, Environmental Science, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Kayaking, Mammal Study, Orienteering, Pioneering, Whitewater, Wilderness Survival at Nantahala Outdoor Center

Archery, BSA Stand Up Paddleboard Award, Climbing, Cycling (Mountain Bike Option), Geocaching, Kayaking, Kayaking BSA Award, Rifle Shooting, Search & Rescue, Shotgun Shooting, Sustainability, Whitewater, Wilderness Survival at Summit Bechtel Reserve James C. Justice National Scout Camp

Contact Stuart Tucker at stutucker@aol.com.

NC Transportation Museum Merit Badge Programs

The North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC has posted their Aviation and Railroad Merit Badge programs for 2015.

Boy Scout Rail Camp featuring an opportunity for Scouts to work on Railroad Merit Badge will be held Friday-Saturday-Sunday, November 13-14-15, 2015. For more information, see <http://www.nctrans.org/Special-Programs---Tours/Boy-Scout-Rail-Camp.aspx>

For both events, the following guidelines apply:

1. Scouts must pre-register.
2. Scouts must attend as part of a patrol or troop group, with 2 adult leaders present at all times.
3. The merit badge courses are supervised under the direction of an adult Scout leader registered with the Boy Scouts of America as a merit badge counselor and will be current on BSA Youth Protection at the time the courses are held.
4. Each patrol or troop attending will be responsible for verifying the Scouts participation and knowledge of the subject matter and signing off the blue cards indicating completion of the merit badge. Merit badge course staff will not be signing off on completed merit badges.

Urgent need for potential Eagle Projects

President James K. Polk Historic Site

With the renovation of the museum completed, now is a great opportunity to complete an Eagle Project at the birthplace of the 11th President of the United States. There are several projects that need to be done. For further details, please contact Robert Dreher (704) 889-7145. The site is located at

12031 Lancaster Hwy, Pineville, NC 28134.

Hemby Center-Siskey YMCA

The Siskey YMCA's Hemby Program Center, located off Kuykendahl Road in south Charlotte has an urgent need to have Eagle Projects completed. The Hemby Program Center is located at 9760 Happy Valley Drive in Charlotte. It is a 21-acre site housing a Preschool, Afterschool Program and Eagle Rock Day Camp.

Looking for potential Eagle Service Projects? Check out this brand new one to help senior citizens and persons with disabilities, read more at ["Around the Campfire"](#)

DISTRICT ITEMS:

NEW Two of Apache's own Awarded the Silver Beaver

Congratulations to District Advancement Chairman Craig Gross, and Council Vice President for Membership Ken May on being awarded the *Silver Beaver*. This award is well deserved by two of Apache's own very hard working, very dedicated Scouters.

NEW Apache District Day Camp 2015

The theme for Apache District Day Camp 2015 is Cub Scout Carnival! The dates for camp will be **June 22-26, 2015** and will be held at Belk Scout Camp.

Apache Day Camp Registration is now available! You can find information about camp - along with Day Camp Downloads such as the 2015 Apache District Day Camp flyer (pdf) and links to the required health forms - for your Packs on the Apache district day camp webpage here:

<http://www.mccscouting.org/Districts/Apache/DistrictActivities/DayCamp.aspx>

You can access the registration page on the website or directly through this link:

[Apache Day Camp Registration](#)

Please ask your Cubmaster or Pack Coordinator for Day Camp for your Pack's registration password.

The lead position is filled for the following program areas however, assistant positions (18-years old or older) are needed:

Climbing Tower

Nature

Sports/Games

Please contact Day Camp Director, Monica Zeleznik at apache.daycamp@gmail.com or indicate your interest when you register on-line for camp.

If you have any program related questions, you may contact Camp Program Director Michael Carey at daycamp.program@gmail.com

Attention: Apache District Day Camp Den Leaders, Staff, Jr. Staff, and Volunteers - Save the Date for our Meeting and Training on **Saturday, May 30, 2015** at Belk Scout Camp. More meeting and training details to come soon!

Cub Scout Fishing Derby

On Saturday, May 9th, we will have a great time at Freedom Park doing a fishing derby. This fishing derby is only for Cub Scouts and their non-scout friends. Also, that day we have an Iron Scout Challenge for Boy Scouts at Belk Scout Camp. The idea for both is to have fun and introduce a non-scout friend to the adventure of Scouting. If interested, please take a look at the attached sheets. Have a great weekend!

Unit Service Projects

Is your unit looking for a service project? Here are some ideas: (1) ask your **Charter Organization**. This is a great time for spring-cleaning and gardening; many organizations could use a little help. (2) **Belk Scout Camp** - Contact Ranger Mike Cook (704) 848-0958 bsc415@bellsouth.net Spend a day or spend a weekend, there are plenty of service projects for packs and troops at Belk. (3) **Mecklenburg Scout Reservation (Camp Grimes)** Contact Ranger Chris Williams (828) 652-8592 rangermsr@frontier.com. (4) **James K. Polk Historic Site**, located in Pineville. Contact Scott Warren or Robert Dreher at (704) 889-7145.

Membership Committee Update

We are here to help your Pack succeed! Recruiting & retention of Scouts is our constant focus.

To support year-round recruiting, make sure you have a spring recruiting event on your calendar! Bring-a-buddy to a fun event. Troops, recruit teams of potential and existing Scouts to participate in the upcoming IRON SCOUT CHALLENGE. May 9th 8am-2pm at Belk Scout Camp.

Packs, join in the fun at the Fishing Derby at Freedom Park on May 9 10am-12pm. Bring a friend! Fishing, lunch & awards.

As always, please share your recruiting & retention event success stories with

us so that we can pass them along & inspire other Units!
Your Apache Membership contacts are Traci Scott at traciscott@me.com and
Karl Johnson at kdjoneseven@yahoo.com

ADVANCEMENT

NEW Upcoming Advancement Training Opportunities

The following advancement training courses will be offered at the Scouter Spring Training Seminar on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at the CPCC Levine Campus. Information and on-line registration for these courses are available under the Training tab located on the council's website. Please plan to attend for these courses are essential in understanding Boy Scout advancement.

Trail To Eagle Training Course

Learn about Boards of Review where participants will be instructed on how to properly conduct Boards of Review with emphasis on subject areas common to the Tenderfoot through Eagle ranks.

Learn the "nuts and bolts" regarding the steps that occur after a Scout thinks he has completed all requirements for the Eagle Scout rank. Topics will include Scoutmaster Review, Eagle rank Application, Letters of Reference, differences in the Eagle Board of Review, final evaluation of the Eagle Service Project and the appeals process.

The target audience is all Scouters who support Scouts' advancement toward becoming Eagle Scouts. This includes Troop Committee members, troop leaders and District Eagle Review Representatives. The latter, if not up to date with this training, are especially urged to attend.

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook and Process Training Course

Learn about the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook and the process relating to it. The responsibility of the Scout and the role of supporting adults will be explained. The aim of the course is to provide all the necessary information required so that the Eagle Scout candidate may successfully complete his project. The Eagle Scout Project Workbook will be fully explained. Life Scouts are eligible to attend this session for personal information and understanding in preparing, planning and executing their Eagle Scout project.

Merit Badge Counselor Training Course

Why are merit badge counselors an essential part of the advancement process? Learn who is qualified to serve as a merit badge counselor, how to be an effective merit badge counselor, and how to obtain approval of merit badge counselors from your District Advancement Chairman. Learn about the twelve merit badges that require certification to be involved with them.

Major Changes Coming to the Cub Scout Program

Anyone in the Apache District can now access the new Cub Scout program

changes covered at the January 10, 2015, training session at Levine. It is located at

The National website URL www.scouting.org/programupdates.

This information is an excellent resource to get the word out as to the upcoming Cub Scout program changes that will take effect on June 1, 2015. The former Cub Scout program goes away after May 31, 2015, and will no longer be used or recognized after that date. (This website also has information about upcoming changes to the Boy Scout and Venturing programs to be rolled out at later dates.)

Good luck to the Cub Scout Packs in the Apache District as this transition takes place. Advancement is only one change. Rolling out the entire gambit in the new Cub Scout program rests with all on the Council Program Committee. District Committee, district professionals and Cub Scout leaders. For more information contact Joel Moser at joelmoser@earthlink.net

Where to Go Advancing

There is now a new webpage available to all Scouts and Scout leaders identifying opportunities where certain merit badges are offered. It is called "Where To Go Advancing". It is located on the council website under the Council Program tab, Advancement pull-down menu. It identifies where and how to contact organizations and merit badge counselors for certain merit badges identified there. [Check it out](#).

The webpage is sponsored by the Council Advancement Committee. Contact George "Jose" Meier at gmeier2@att.net for further information.

KEY APACHE DISTRICT DATES:

Adult Leader Roundtables

All adult leaders should attend Roundtable at Providence United Methodist Church starting at 7:30pm on the following dates: May 14, and June 11. Contact Al Nedrich, our District Roundtable Commissioner, if you have any questions or have an agenda item at al@nedrich.com.

Apache District Day Camp

The theme for Apache District Day Camp 2015 is Cub Scout Carnival! The dates for camp will be June 22-26, 2015 and will be held at Belk Scout Camp. Apache Day Camp Registration is now available! We will be doing registration on-line this year. You can find information about camp - along with Day Camp Downloads such as the 2015 Apache District Day Camp flyer (pdf) and links to the required health forms - for your Packs on the Apache district day camp webpage here:

<http://www.mccscouting.org/Districts/Apache/DistrictActivities/DayCamp.aspx>

You can access the registration page on the website or directly through this link: [Apache Day Camp Registration](#)

Please ask your Cubmaster or Pack Coordinator for Day Camp for your Pack's registration password. It is set up so that four scouts can be registered for every one adult that volunteers. I suggest that you encourage adults to register quickly so that it opens up spots for youth.

We are currently trying to fill some of the key positions out at camp. Some of the positions we are currently looking to fill are:

Program Specialist (Climbing Tower) - 18-years old, lead position filled, assistant positions needed
Program Specialist (Crafts) - 18-years old, 1 position available
Program Specialist (Nature) - 18-years old, 2 positions available
Program Specialist (Sports/Games) - 18-years old, 2 positions available

Please contact Day Camp Director, Monica Zeleznik at apache.daycamp@gmail.com or indicate your interest when you register online for camp.

If you have any program related questions, you may contact Camp Program Director Michael Carey at daycamp.program@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Apache Web Site Helps:

[Click here to view more resources and news](#)

ORDER OF THE ARROW:

We had an awesome Dixie Weekend @ Belk Scout Camp. The following are a few highlights from the weekend:

- Catawba Lodge earned Section Honor Lodge Honor
- Planbook- 3rd Place
- Website- 3rd Place
- Lodge Display-2nd Place
- Where to Go Camping Guide- 2nd Place
- Totem Pole (hand tools)- 2nd Place
- Quest for Golden Arrow- 2nd Place
- Tent Pitching- 3rd Place
- Rope Throw- 1st Place
- Arrow/Softball Throw- 1st Place
- Egg Toss- 3rd Place
- Archery- 2nd Place
- Tomahawk Throw- 2nd Place
- Dance- Parade of Braves
 - o Traditional- Ryan Hagee- 3rd Place

- o Chicken- Christian Hammond- 3rd Place
- Dance- Individual
 - o Chicken- Christian Hammond- 3rd Place
- Brotherhood Ceremony Overall-1st Place
 - o Allowat Sakima- Ryan Sommers- 3rd Place
 - o Meteu- Anthony Nigo- 1st Place
 - o Nutikut- Caleb Whitlock- 1st Place
 - o Kichkinet- Chester Ayd- 1st Place
- Pre-Ordeal Ceremony Overall- 1st Place
 - o Allowat Sakima- Chalmers Middleton- 1st Place
 - o Meteu- Anthony Nigo- 2nd Place
 - o Nutikut- Caleb Whitlock- 1st Place
 - o Kichkinet- Will Armistead- 1st Place

Reminder – Ordeal Weekend begin in May. The following are Ordeal weekends for 2015 – Beaver Weekend / May 15-17 @ Camp Grimes; June Ordeal / June 5-7 @ Belk Scout Camp; and August Ordeal / August 21-23 @ Belk Scout Camp. Please refer to the Lodge website @ <http://www.catawba459.org> for more information.

Please join us for our next Chapter meeting @ the Apache District Roundtable meeting – May 14 @ 7:30 pm.

To Submit a Notice:

If you have any information you would like to share with the district, please send that information to e-newsletter@apachemcc.org and it will be forwarded to the team to be added. Please make sure you have your contact information included should there be any questions.

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