



Black Warrior Council, BSA Newsletter

January 2024

Important Dates & Events

January 1

January 2
January 5-7
January 11

January 27
January 31
February 2-4
February 8

February 23-25
February 24

Happy New Year! Scout Service Center CLOSED

Scout Service Center & Scout Shop Re-Opens
Indian Winter, OA (Camp Bert Adams in Covington, GA)
River District Committee Mtg. - District Roundtable
Mountain District Committee Mtg. - District Roundtable
Merit Badge College - Shelton State Community College
Mountain District FOS Luncheon
Leadership Development Weekend, Camp Horne
River District Committee Mtg - District Roundtable
Mountain District Committee Mtg - District Roundtable
OA Winter Fellowship, Camp Horne
OA Recognition Banquet, Camp Horne
Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Day, Tuscaloosa Police Firing Range

Thank You Holle Family Foundation for the New Restroom at Camp Horne!

The new restroom facility at Camp Horne is completed and will be used the first time at 2023 Winter Camp. This project became a reality due to the generosity and support from the **Holle Family Foundation**. We are so thankful for their support of our youth and adults in the Black Warrior Council.



Upcoming Events



Merit Badge College

January 27, 2024
Shelton State
Community College

Merit Badge College is a one day event for Scouts to earn a much needed merit badge taught by experts in the subject field. The program will run from 9:00 am



Leadership Development Week-End

February 2-4, 2024
Camp Horne

The Leadership Development Weekend provides a wonderful opportunity of training for Scouts (age 15 and older) and adult leaders to gain valuable

until 2:00 pm.

Cost: \$15.00 per Scout; 10.00 per adult who want to eat lunch. (Includes Merit Badge College patch, program materials and lunch.)

Deadline to Register: Friday, January 19th at 4:00pm. All late registrations will be charged an additional \$5.00.

For complete details, visit the Merit Badge College [webpage](#).

training. Complete details and registration will be available on the Council website soon.

Training Opportunities Include:

- Wilderness First Aid
- BALOO
- Cub Scout Shooting Sports Training
- Climbing
- IOLS
- Campmaster Corps

For registration & more details, visit the Leadership Development [webpage](#).



Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Day

February 24, 2024 Tuscaloosa Police Firing Range

More information to come! SAVE THE DATE!

Busy Times for Aracoma Lodge

Kicking off the year January 5-7, Arrowmen will engage in a great weekend of fellowship and training at an event known as **Indian Winter**. This year, **Indian Winter** will be held at Camp Bert Adams in Covington, GA.

February 23-25, the Aracoma Lodge will hold its **Winter Fellowship** at Camp Horne. The culmination of this fellowship will be the **OA Annual Banquet** Saturday evening in the Camp Horne dining hall. There is always great food, special recognitions, and reports from the Lodge leadership.

For full information on either of these events (and events to come), visit the Aracoma [web page](#)!



District Meetings and Roundtables - Don't Miss Out!

Informed leaders simply make better leaders. Each unit is encouraged to participate in your district's meetings and Roundtables. At district meetings, a review of activities is presented and discussions about future events are held. We need you to have a part in those discussions so we have the best information possible to guide our decision-making on how best to support your local unit.

Roundtables are essential for ongoing training and the best part....we learn from each other. In addition to the content covered, we gain valuable insights and ideas from our fellow Scouters.

January Dates & Times

River District

District Meeting January 11, 5:30pm, Scout Service Center

Scout Roundtable January 11, 6:30pm, Scout Service Center

Cub Roundtable January 27, during Merit Badge College (Shelton State Community College)

Mountain District

District Meeting January 11, 6:00pm, Drummond Bldg., Jasper

Roundtable January 11, 7:00pm, Drummond Bldg., Jasper

A Scout is Reverent

The 12th point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent", is a daily part of each Scout's life. We place a special emphasis on this ideal of Scouting on Scout Sunday and during Scout Week. In 2024, Scout Sunday will be February 4th. Scout Week will be celebrated February 4 - 10.

We encourage all Scout units to make this time meaningful for your Scouts. Many units attend a local religious ceremony as a group, hold annual banquets, or develop a special recognition ceremony. There are many great ideas for ways to make this week very special and to celebrate Scouting. Click [here](#) for Scouting Anniversary ideas. Units who wish to order religious program covers for Scout Sunday are encouraged to do so early to allow for plenty of time for shipping.



NEW Cub Scout Program RollOut

Major changes are in the works for the Cub Scouting program. Changes and improvements are based upon feedback from Cub leaders across the country. A series of informational videos and webinars will be announced soon. Visit the [Aaron on Scouting web page](#) to learn more and keep up with the changes to come.



CUB SCOUT PROGRAM UPDATES ROLLOUT

NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Cub Chat Live! 11-10-23 General Announcement	Cub Chat Live! 12-1-23 Rank Advancements and Bobcat	Cub Chat Live! 1-12-24 New and Improved Adventures	Cub Chat Live! 2-2-24 Webelos and Arrow of Light	Cub Chat Live! 3-1-24 Handbooks and Leader Resources	Cub Chat Live! 4-5-24 Den and Pack Meetings	Cub Chat Live! 5-10-24 Top 10 Most Common Questions	Cub Chat Live! 6-7-24 Safety Integration
Council Programs Resources for councils and districts to plan for programs for the summer of 2024	Presenters Trained December 18 Team of experts trained and available to present to local councils and districts. Commissioners Resources for Commissioners	Prime Time Episodes of Cub Chat Live! January 16 th @ 7 p.m. Central January 23 rd @ 7 p.m. Central January 30 th @ 7 p.m. Central	Scouts BSA Resources for Scouts BSA Leaders	Scout Shops Spring of 2024 New Cub Scout Handbooks New Cub Scout Adventures Loops and Pins	Training Position Specific Training Updated Updated Cub Scout Roundtable Videos	On-line Tools Scoutbook Updated Online Reports Updated	June 1 New Program Takes Effect



Important Reminder: Safety Guidelines for Scout Events

As a reminder, when planning a day camp, short-term camp, long-term camp or unit activity, all programs must comply with the current [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). This serves as our guide in organizing events and ensures that all activities align with age-appropriate guidelines and do not fall under the prohibited list. The Guide to Safe Scouting is updated from time to time, so it is important to refer to it prior to and during the planning process of any event. Over the last several years, there have been updates to the prohibited list, including the prohibition of caber tosses and other "Highland game" type activities. The prohibited list states:

7. Shooting or throwing sports outside of BSA program literature and guidance. Examples of prohibited activities (with exceptions in italics) include:

- a. Anvil shooting, flintlocks, exploding targets, and devices regulated by the National Firearms Act
- b. Blow guns, boomerangs, and ballistae
- c. Homemade firearms and air cannons, potato cannons, and tennis ball cannons
- d. Throwing of shovels, torpedoes, spikes, stars, shotput, logs, hammers, and cabers
- e. Inappropriate ammunition such as pumpkins, hard slingshot ammo, and tracers
- f. Cannons
- g. Crossbows (*except at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve*)
- h. Reloading ammunition, and using reloaded ammunition (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
- i. Spears, including atlatls, pole spears, and spear guns (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)

As outlined above, any shooting or throwing sport that is not part of the BSA program literature or guidance is prohibited.

Rechartering Process Should Be Completed Now

Units are encouraged to not delay in completing the very important task of rechartering. Should you need help in doing so, don't hesitate to reach out to your Unit Commissioner or District Executive. The online process and user guide may be accessed through the Council website (Resources tab) or by using one of the buttons below.

Online Recharter
Tool

Recharter User's Guide

New Program Fee Policy Reminder

Strengthening Scouting Beyond Your Unit – Black Warrior Council Program Fee

As a reminder, 100% of all BSA membership fees go to support the national BSA organization, none of the money stays with the local council.

The Black Warrior Council is one of only a few councils nationwide that has not implemented a “Program Fee” that is added to all membership fees. We have been able to avoid this additional fee because of the financial support of our community and units. Units that participate in Friends of Scouting (FOS) and Popcorn sale are doing their part to support Scouting council-wide.

Money raised through FOS and Popcorn sales are used to support youth and units that may be struggling financially. The funds also support the maintenance of three of our camps. In recent years the Black Warrior Council has faced increasingly challenging financial burdens due to the increased cost of insurance. Because of these increases the council has decided to implement a Program Fee.

The new Program Fee will be assessed to all units that choose not to participate in FOS and/or Popcorn sales. The fee will be \$7.00 per registered youth and adult. This fee will not be charged to units that participate in one or both of the fundraisers.

Here is how it will work:

-Units that **do not** participate in FOS or Popcorn will be charged an additional \$7.00 per registered Scout and adult. This fee will be applied at the time the unit renews their annual charter. The fee will be calculated based on the number of active youth and adults. Units will receive a separate Program Fee invoice during recharter.

- Minimum amounts that are needed for units not to pay the Program Fee:

o FOS – units must contribute a minimum of \$200 annually

o Popcorn – Units must sell a minimum of \$500 annually

-We encourage all units to participate in in both FOS and Popcorn sales

-Units that participate in at least one of the fundraisers and achieve the minimum requirements will be excluded from the Program Fee.



Tuscaloosa Area Units - Need Service Project Ideas???

Two area agencies have reached out to the Scout Service Center asking for help. Some of the assistance they need may be appropriate for Scouts working on Star or Life and there are larger needs that might even be appropriate for an Eagle Scout service project. If your Scouts need ideas or want to assist these very worthwhile agencies, have them reach out to the contacts listed below.

West Alabama Food Bank

www.westalabamafoodbank.org
Beth Meredith, Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer@westalabamafoodbank.org
(205) 333-5353

Schoolyard Roots

Sandie Chapman, Program Director
sandie@schoolyardroots.org
(205) 523-5450

Camp Horne/O'Rear

And, as always for Star & Life Scouts, there are multiple projects that can be completed at one of our Council properties. Eagle Scout projects may not be completed on Council properties. For information for these properties, contact [Mr. Tim Patrick](#) (Camp Horne) or [Mr. Darren Hix](#) (Camp O'Rear).

Leaders! When planning your outings, whether for a day or week-end, remember our Council offers three beautiful camping properties to enjoy.



Camp Horne is located in Cottondale, AL! That's where summer camp, day camp, and Packs, Troops, and Crews can rent out camp for unit activities.



Camp O'Rear is located in Jasper, AL! We have day camps and other district events. Please reserve this beautiful camp for all your primitive camping needs. Packs, Troops, and Crews can rent out camp for unit activities.



White Bluff is located just outside of Demopolis, AL! The Prairie District utilizes this beautiful property on the Black Warrior River. Packs, Troops, and Crews can rent out camp for unit activities.

Please remember, a Camp Use Permit must be submitted online at least two weeks prior to going to camp.

[Camp Availability Calendar](#) [Camp Use Permit](#)

Needs For Our Camping Properties!

Here are a few things that we need for our Camping Facilities:

Camp O'Rear Needs:

- Metal Roof Tin
- Any Lumber/Any Size



- Extension Ladder
- Wheel Barrow
- Large Canvas with Grommets

Camp Horne Needs:

- Any Treated Lumber 2x4s, 2x6s, Deck Boards
- Any Building Materials
- Log Splitter
- 5hp boat motor

Please let us know if you can donate any of these items to our Camping Properties. Please email the rangers if you have any questions.

[Click Here to Email the Camp Horne Ranger](#)

[Click Here to email the Camp O'Rear Caretaker](#)

Black Warrior Council Resources

[Advancement Resources](#)

[Cub Scout Resources](#)

[Scoutbook Resources](#)

[Scouts BSA Resources](#)

[Video Resources](#)

[Venturing Resources](#)

[Visit our Facebook Page](#)

[Visit our Youtube Channel](#)

Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

P.O. Drawer 3088 Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Office: (205) 554-1680

Fax: (205) 554-7830

Service Center Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 5:00


Friday 8:30 - 4:00

Visit our Scout Shop for all of your Scouting needs!

Visit our Website



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