



# Black Warrior Council, BSA Newsletter

## December 2023

### Important Dates & Events

December 15 - Jan 1

December 24

**December 25**

December 25 - Jan 1

December 29-31

December 31

**January 1**

January 5-7

January 11

January 27

January 31

**Scout Shop CLOSED for Year-End Inventory**

Christmas Eve

**Merry Christmas!**

**Scout Service Center CLOSED for the Holidays**

Winter Camp, Camp Horne

New Year's Eve

**Happy New Year!**

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

### MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*What a wonderful time of the year! Yes, it is busy, it is hectic, and it is tiring...but it is a joyous time for all. As we celebrate this season, it is our heartfelt wish that all of our wonderful scouts and scouters have very special holidays full of family, friends, and cherished memories.*



### Professional Staff Change



We are happy to announce that **Mr. Greg Whitis** has officially joined our staff as of December 1st as the Prairie District Program Support Professional.

Greg has a bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Iowa State and a master's degree in Aquaculture from Auburn University. He has an extensive background in Scouting. As a Boy Scout, Greg served as den chief, visited multiple BSA high adventure bases, including the Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base, and visited Philmont Scout Ranch multiple times.

Greg is Wood Badge trained and served on Wood

Badge staff for two courses. He has served as Summer Camp Ecology Director from 2018 – 2023. He is the current District Commissioner for Prairie District and is a Merit Badge College instructor.

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## OA Recognition Banquet Date Change

The annual recognition banquet for the OA Aracoma Lodge has been moved from December 9th to **Saturday, February 24th**. The banquet will be held in the Camp Horne dining hall. The exact time of the banquet will be announced soon. Please visit the Aracoma Lodge's [website](#) for updated details and registration information.



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## Aracoma Lodge, #481 of the Order of the Arrow Inducts Brotherhood Members

At its fall fellowship November 10-12 at Camp Horne, twenty-nine (29) new Brotherhood members were inducted. The event hosted 75 participants who enjoyed a great weekend of fellowship, games, and learning. We are proud of these new Brotherhood members who are continuing thier journey!



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## River District Webelos Woods a Great Success!

Forty-five (45) Webelos Scouts took to the outdoors December 1-3 supported by several local Scout troops to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to take their next step into Scouts BSA. Event Chair Bill Yeager welcomes and leads the opening session at Camp Horne. The weather cooperated really well and it was a weekend of happy, excited, and motivated Scouts. They left on Sunday excited and much better prepared for Scouting!

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## Restroom Construction at Camp Horne Contrinues

Construction on new restrooms at Camp Horne is making great progress. This new facility will be a welcome addition as it addresses a great need for those participating in programs at camp. The facility will have five restrooms, a hand washing station, and laundry room. The facility should be completed by the end of the year.



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## 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

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## NEW PROGRAM FEE POLICY

### 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.



**Prepared. For Life.®**

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.**

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## December 2023 Events

**WINTER CAMP**



## December 29-31 Camp Horne

Winter Camp is right around the corner but there is still time to register for this engaging event!

We look forward to another successful year where your Scouts can continue to grow in their life journey through Scouting. Winter Camp is a great place to discover new friends, enjoy good food, and build lifelong skills through both Scouting and Venturing program opportunities.

Winter Camp is different from Summer Camp, although we offer merit badge programming similar to that of summer camp where Scouts can work on up to 2 merit badges. Winter Camp stresses fun through the open program activities. For complete details and to register, visit the Winter Camp [webpage](#).

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## Upcoming Events



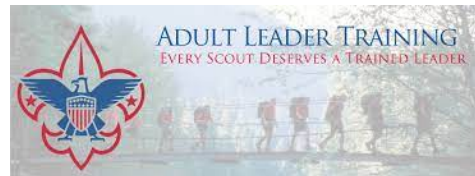
### Merit Badge College January 27, 2024 Shelton State Community College

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 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](#).



### 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 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!*

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### 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

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## **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.

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## **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](#)

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# 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

**[Holiday Closures]**

**Scout Shop CLOSED** December 15 - January 1 for Year-End inventory.

**Scout Service Center CLOSED** December 25 - January 1 for the holidays.

Both will reopen Tuesday, January 2, 2024.



*Visit our Scout Shop for all of your Scouting needs!*

Visit our Website



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