

39th Cypress Newsletter



WELCOME BACK!

This fall we will organize outdoor activities and hikes similar to those we enjoyed in the spring. We will have a campout this fall, and should be able to join in an international coastal volunteer day. The scouts who nearly completed their Otter Investiture and Helping activities last spring will finish those early. Afterwards our main themes will be the Activity Badge, Safety, and Otter Investiture for the new scouts.

This is our Scouting Group. It is led, supported, and staffed by volunteers. We know that parents and children have busy schedules, but if we communicate well and share the tasks we will all have fun. If you ever have any questions or comments, please contact us in person, by email, web site, or via Facebook (see addresses at the bottom of the page).



ACTIVITY BADGE

Please note the longer day hikes!

1. Be able to throw and catch a ball.
2. Take part in a night hike.
3. Take part in two day hikes.
4. Be able to sing 3 songs.
5. Have an awareness of disabilities.
6. Know how to Skip Rope.
7. Take part in team and solo games.
8. Know how to be a good loser and a good winner.

SERVICE

Good with kids? We are still looking for Leaders and Parent Assistants. Only have limited time? An Auxiliary Committee member helps with planning and finding resources.

Please ask the Group to see how you can help. We are always looking for more adult leaders (the more leaders we have the more youth we can accept) and committee members. We especially need someone to help with the Chipmunks (pre-schoolers).

We will need rotating "Den Parents" to provide snack and be an extra pair of hands at each meeting. You help one project at a time such as sharing a particular skill you have, bringing snacks to a meeting, or organizing an event such as a service project.

There is a Parent/Volunteer Survey to assist you on our website. Your contributions will go a long way in helping to develop a unique and rewarding program for our kids and you. Thanks to the below for their Service:

Otter Leaders
 Kyle Radish
 William Carter
 Treasurer
 Mike Schleifstein
 Secretary
 William Carter

Thanks also to Scott Radish for being our Treasurer last year!

ENROLLMENT STEPS

The website has more details:
nolascout.weebly.com/instructions.html.

Leaders and children need to sign up annually. Any adult volunteer who will have contact with children needs to complete all steps except paying Group dues. We have rolling admissions but please try to complete as much as possible by SEPTEMBER 13TH.

- 1. Group sign-up.** Complete our Parent Survey on our website. Group dues are twenty-five dollars. There may be other activity costs during the year.
- 2. National sign-up.** There is a link with the website instructions. Adult leaders sign up as Rovers for twenty dollars which includes a background check.
- 3. Complete Emergency and Liability Form.** There is a link with the website instructions.
- 4. Get your hat and t-shirt.** We provide the necker and badges.
- 5. Read and Abide by the Ethics and Child Protection Guidelines.** There is a link with the website instructions.
- 6. HAVE FUN!!**

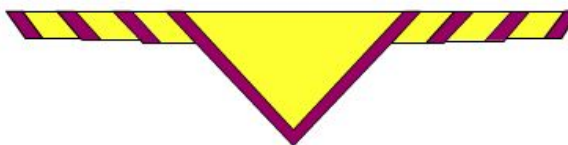
FALL ROUND UP

Our main recruiting efforts this year will be word of mouth and spreading announcements. We have sent announcements to the Times Picayune and Advocate. PLEASE SEND IT TO YOUR CHILD SCHOOL'S EMAIL LIST OR FACEBOOK PAGE AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTERS OR NETWORKING SITES IF POSSIBLE. PLEASE INVITE YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS. If you would like it on a flyer please contact Kyle or me; we can print some out for you.

NECKERS & UNIFORMS

We want every Scout to be a self-reliant, independent individual, but as we play as a team and help one another, uniforms are encouraged (no one will be turned away if they do not wear one though).

Our uniform consists of a shirt, hat, necker and badges. The Group will provide the necker and badges.



Purchase your hat and t-shirt either at a local store or at the BPSA Quartermaster:
<http://baden-powell-service-assoc-quartermasters.myshopify.com/>

Red for Otters, grey for Timberwolves, and light blue/teal for Chipmunks (t-shirt may be short sleeved). Adults may either wear the official green BPSA logo t-shirt or the button-down Rover shirt.

CAMPER BADGE

Please tell us if your child has gone camping without us. If your child has camped five times outdoors with you as a family while an enrolled scout then that counts towards their Camper Badge.



FUTURE MEETINGS

We have tentative Group Meetings on most alternating Sundays at 2pm with locations to follow soon. If you are unable to attend, and do not want to get behind on your Scouting skills please email us.

If your child has turned in their Emergency, Medical, and Liability Form and paid their national and Group dues they may be dropped off at meetings. Exceptions are for anyone who may require medications or is a Chipmunk.

We will need rotating "Den Parents" to provide snack and be an extra pair of hands at each meeting. Please contact us to sign-up.

Family is integral to Scouting so expect to do some fun activities together at home as well.

Most days are Sunday 2pm unless noted otherwise:

Aug 30

Sep 13

Sep 19 -Saturday. 9am-noon Volunteer Day

Oct 11

Oct 24, 25 -Saturday/Sunday Camp

Nov 1 - Hour TBD for hike

Nov 15

Dec 6

Dec 13 is a back-up date

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

Our nearest neighbor, 21st Dancing Rabbit in Jackson, MS is still inviting us to go camping with them. Hopefully sometime later in the year we can meet at Homochitto National Forest.

The national BPSA-US Rover's had their Woodbeads Training this summer. None of us locally were able to attend (it was in Oregon!), but here is the press release:

"The historic Woodbeads I, held July 16-21, 2016, was a huge success, with BPSA-US rovers from all corners of the country converging on the Pacific Northwest for a weekend of training, friendship, and memories. It was an international event, with our trainers hailing from British Columbia, Canada."



CHIPMUNK SCURRY

Chipmunks are not actually part of the BPSA system. They were informally started by many units to be: 1) a way to really be all age inclusive, 2) a convenient thing for parents of younger siblings. Chipmunks only pay group dues once and not annually. They do not pay national dues.

Parents must supervise their own children and realize the Otter activities may not be appropriate. Free play and exploring is a good activity for a Chipmunk, and we welcome any parent to add activities.



WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

We are the 39th Cypress Group of the Baden-Powell Service Association which has more than fifty Groups in the United States. Our Group currently has three sections: Otters (5-7 year olds) and Rovers (18+). Unofficially we have Chipmunks (pre-schoolers), and once we gain more leaders we will have Timberwolves (8-10 years old) and Pathfinders (11-18 years old).

The 39th represents our city's longitude and latitude; roughly 30 degrees north and 90 degrees west.

We chose the Cypress as our name because of its importance to our vulnerable coastline and our unique home/habitat.

We are members of the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS); and as such are not in competition with other American Scouting Associations, we are their brothers and sisters in Scouting. We work closely with the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association of England and the Baden-Powell Service Association in British Columbia, Canada.

Scouting Is an Outdoor Movement

Scouting is an outdoor movement and that is part of its character. The appeal of true Scouting has always been to that element of the vagabond, pioneer and explorer, which is part of our nature, and most evident in youth. The BPSA focuses on this aspect of the program and encourages our Scouts, parents and volunteers to plan programs that take advantage of being out of doors, whenever and wherever possible!

Scouting as it Was Meant to Be Played

Traditional Scouting is not historical re-enactment, but for the most part an attempt to present Scouting as the game that was played prior to the 1970s; and following principles and practices laid down by Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell. Our aim is to promote good citizenship, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful skills.

Putting Service before Self

Scouting is a community-oriented experience, in that Scouts provide a function of public and community service. Scouting's aims and methods train the youth to put service before self, whether by participating in community service projects with the group, organizing a public service project with their patrol, or even helping out around their school and home. BPSA's program encourages leaders and volunteers to motivate the Scouts, no matter what section, to give back to the wider community in which they live. Service isn't something done as a requirement for a badge; it's something we do because we're Scouts!

Scouting for Youth and Adults, Boys and Girls

Scouting is one of the best programs for developing character, improving resourcefulness, and learning responsibility and skills in public service; and BPSA believes this program should be available to everyone, youth and adult, regardless of religious beliefs, gender, or sexual orientation.

Make scouting a tradition for your whole family!