

# 39<sup>th</sup> Cypress Newsletter



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

This fall our focus will be on the **Nature Paw badge**. Expect a lot of time digging in the dirt and looking for plants and critters. We will also review Safety and go visit our friends at the Nursing Home. Yep, there will be camping again.

Any Otters who will be Timberwolves this fall may try to complete their last paw badges (Handicraft or Helper Paw) on their own so that they may earn the **Swimming Otter badge**. Parents can sign-off for their otter children. We will waive the Swimming Otter Requirement to visit a wolf pack since there is not one close.

This is our Scouting Group. If you ever have any questions or comments, please contact us in person, by email, web site, or via Facebook.



## STRANGER SAFE AND AGILE SCOUTS.

Couterie Forest, September 13

We got to learn about stranger safety from a puppet show followed by some jump rope games to be more quick footed. We also had a nice short hike and saw a beautiful blue heron.



## WELCOME BACK SCOUTERS! St. Bernard State Park, August 30

We read a great scouting story together before taking a short hike to look for critters and any trash to pick up. Saw a lubber grasshopper, a couple beautiful golden orb weavers, and a lot of tracks.

We had a good picnic where we all shared food and then washed our dishes to be helpful. Finally we handed out some overdue badges and had fun at the splash pad.

## NATURE PAW

Parents, please start on your own the following:

- Create an Otter (or Chipmunk or Wolf) Scrapbook (where does it live?, what to eat?, what to do?, etc.)
- Press (or sketch) flowers and leaves
- Plant a tree (if unable please pot a plant and care for it)
- Trail (or your neighborhood) Clean-up





### BEACH SWEEP!

Seabrook Beach, September 19  
As part of the LPBF's Beach Sweep, the scouts found a beach and fishing area on Lake Pontchartrain that needed cleaning so that animals and other kids could play safely. They collected twenty bags of trash in three hours! At our break we played a game called Trash Timeline to learn how long it takes for trash to degrade. A lot of scouts were surprised with the results. Our photo even made it into the newspaper!

### WINTER & SPRING SCHEDULE

We have tentative Group meetings on most alternating Sundays at 2pm with locations to follow soon.

If your child has turned in their Emergency Forms and paid their dues then they may be dropped off at meetings. Exceptions are for anyone who may require medications or is a Chipmunk.

Please volunteer for the rotating "Den Parents" to provide snack and be an extra pair of hands at each meeting.

- 1/16
- 2/21
- 3/6
- 3/20
- 4/2-3: Campout
- 4/24
- 5/14, 1pm Saturday Ranger Walk
- 5/22
- 6/4-5: BTC Adult training camp
- 6/23-26: Adult hike & camp

### WE NEED MORE LEADERS!

Our group is growing rapidly. By this fall we could have perhaps two Otter dens and a Timberwolf den. We will try to keep the young scouts together as much as possible, but some activities will require us to split them apart. Not having enough leaders (two per den is best) means we will have to turn scouts away or have un-fun chaos or an even worse unsafe situation. We especially need males to keep our group co-ed. Please contact Kyle or William when you can help.



### URBAN SAFETY HIKE

French Quarter, October 11

Otters prefer to be in the woods, but it is hard to practice road safety there. So they hiked into the Quarter from a nearby park for practice. A good

Otter likes to help others so when the Otter Leaders asked how to get to an ice cream store, those little Otters used their maps to lead them.

The Scouts did a great job checking their map progress, discussing stranger safety if lost, and crossing safely at every intersection. We even listened to a band before having our ice cream.



**FALL CAMP-OUT WAS AWESOME**  
 Fontainebleau State Park, October 24,25  
 We had a great time camping at the park. Upon arrival the scouts had great fun with rebuilding a tepee they found. We all enjoyed eating our dinner which the scouts assembled and cooked over coals. For our night hike we discussed how animals move at night and we played Guess the Smell and Night Eyes/Day Eyes. Our hot breakfast in the morning made us not mind the wet weather.

### **Committee and Leaders**

Thanks to the below for their Service:

Otter Leaders

Kyle Radish

William Carter

Chipmunk Leader

Sandra Saavedra

Treasurer

Mike Schleifstein

Secretary

William Carter

### **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BPSA NEWS**

There are a lot of BPSA camping activities. Look at the BPSA Basecamp discussion board website or talk to William.

- Winter Camp skill building weekend class in southern Vermont February 5-7.
- Southern Rover BTC June 4
- Southern Rover Ramble June 25
- Jamboree 2016. British Columbia, Canada during July 2016.
- Eurocamp18. July 28th to August 4th, 2018 in the United Kingdom.

In our region, the BPSA does not have any day or resident camps. Jean Lafitte Park has winter and summer day camps. The US Fish and Wildlife service has a spring and summer day camp. For resident summer camp, consider Camp Fletcher in Alabama.



**FALL HIKE AND ART FUN**  
 Jean Lafitte National Park, November 15  
 It was a pretty fall day to go to Jean Lafitte National Park for our day hike. To help with our observation and thinking skills we also collected supplies for an Andy Goldsworthy Earthworks inspired art project. Do not worry, we put it all back in the forest where it belongs! The ground was still a bit muddy from last month's flood, but that made it easier to point out racoon, hog, and deer tracks.



**VERY ACTIVE OTTERS**  
Couterie Forest, December 6

Our last meeting of the year was a fun one. While hiking through Couterie Forest we took some breaks to perform an entertaining B-P action story and play a ball game. The scouts did very well with their sportsmanship. We then ended with some fun songs and passed out some of the proficiency badges from this fall.

**ENROLLMENT STEPS**

The website has more details: [nolascout.weebly.com/instructions.html](http://nolascout.weebly.com/instructions.html).  
Leaders and children need to sign up annually following the academic year. Any adult volunteer who will have contact with children needs to complete all steps except paying Group dues. Adult leaders also get reimbursed for their background check and necker.

We do have rolling admissions but please come by first to ensure we have space.

**CHIPMUNK SCURRY**

Chipmunks are not actually part of the BPSA system. Free play and exploring is a good activity for a Chipmunk, and we welcome any parent to add activities.

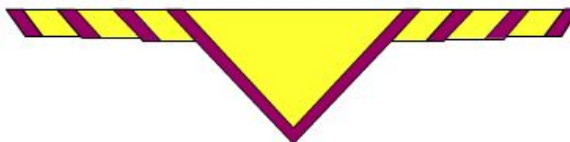


**NECKERS & UNIFORMS**

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. Badge placement can be found on our website.

We have heard that super glue works better than fabric glue, but still do not be afraid of sewing needles as that works best.



**JR. RANGER WINTER CAMP**  
Jean Lafitte National Park, December 21, 22, 23  
Two of our scouts were able to attend Winter Camp. Thanks Ranger Stacy for all the fun!

**ROVER CREW**

William is organizing an adult scouting section. Think Mardi Gras social aid and pleasure club, but outside and without the booze. Brownsea training camp is June 4th with a twenty mile multi-day hike planned the week of June 25th.

## **WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?**

We are the 39<sup>th</sup> 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!*