

39th Cypress Newsletter



WHAT A FALL SEASON!

We had a great time this last fall. We got to participate in the International Coastal Clean-up and go camping with our neighbors, the 21st Dancing Rabbit, in Mississippi.

Our scouting skills have improved. The Otters got a lot of projects done while working on their Handicraft badge. We are also happy to invest our first two Timberwolves.

This is our Scouting Group. It is led, planned, and supported by us. A traditional Scout Group does not have paid staff. We know that parents and children have busy schedules, but if we communicate well and share the tasks we will all have fun.

Newsletter Highlights:

1. Otters make thank you cards for any presents you receive
2. Timberwolves review your handbook regarding 1st Star activities
3. All please look for families to join that have dads who can be leaders.
4. Planning meeting January 5



FIRST MEETING BACK
September 2016

The Scouts had a great first meeting of the year. We made some new necker slides by tooling our names in leather. We also did some drawing and played a memory/action card game with scout themes to get us back into the groove. Lastly we had some fun free play in the park.



WOODBeads 2016 TRAINED!
September 2016

The 39th Cypress was at the national training camp in Oregon. Woodbeads I is the first of the advanced leader courses. There was great camaraderie, fun, and great insights learned in order to better implement the game of scouting to help our youth become better citizens. In addition to meeting Scouters from across the US, we also got to train alongside Scouters from Canada as well since we are all members of the World Federation of Independent Scouts.

ENROLLMENT DONE, OR IS IT?

We are currently full till next fall unless there are new leaders who wish to join first.

Leaders and children need to sign up annually at the start of the academic year. Dues are \$20 nationally and \$25 for our local group. Adult leaders get reimbursed for their local group dues.

Our website has more details:
<http://nolascout.weebly.com/sign-up-instructions.html>.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We need a permanent CHAIRPERSON for the Auxiliary Committee. Responsibilities for the chairperson include organizing the Auxiliary, delegating projects, and networking. We also need more general members for the Auxiliary Committee to help with fundraising, identifying volunteer projects, and locating resources. We can even take non-parents who have board experience, lawyers, and accountants.

We are officially a non-profit corporation in the state of Louisiana. Next step is waiting on the national BPSA to extend their 501c3 status to us. This will be a great help as we are getting bigger and will have a Pathfinder Troop in a couple years which will also require insurance. If anyone knows an accountant who can verify our paperwork that would be helpful.

Thanks to the below for volunteering!

Secretary: William Carter

Treasurer: Sandra Saavedra



BEACH SWEEP ACCOMPLISHED!

September 2016

As part of the International Coastal Clean-up, the scouts found a beach on Lake Pontchartrain that needed cleaning so that animals and other kids could play safely. The scouts gathered up so much trash that they needed to create a large math problem at the end to tally it all. Many thanks to the Scouts and their Leaders for doing this great outdoor service project.



FALL CAMP WITH FRIENDS

October 2016, Homochitto National Forest
We had a great hullabaloo with the 21st Dancing Rabbit and a Lone Scout both from Mississippi. Fall made the weather perfect and the Scouts' cheerfulness made for some fun adventures. By land there was exploration of a creek and crossing log bridges. By water we practiced how to safely wear a PFD, move in a boat, and to self-rescue. There was a new moon and we were deep in the forest making our night campfire extra impressive.

WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE

Most times are Sunday at 2-4:30pm unless mentioned otherwise.

- January 5th Planning Meeting, 8pm
- **DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED**
 - January B
 - February A
 - Break for Mardi Gras Feb. 28
 - March A
 - March B
 - April A
 - April B
 - May A
 - May B

GROUP SECTIONS' NEWS

A Scout Group is divided into sections for different ages, but we will try to keep the youth sections meeting at the same time as much as possible. Hopefully there will be some activities that we can all do together.

We need another male co-leader in order to have both a co-ed led Otter section and a co-ed led Timberwolf section next year. If you know a family with a dad that is interested please contact William.

Parents please consider dropping off your Scouts (except Chipmunks) at meetings to foster independence. We may still need a parent for campouts and certain 'active' meetings.

Group Scoutmasters (GSM):

William Carter
Kyle Radish

<<<< Rover Crew >>>>

"Service"

Scouting is for all ages. For adults, **we need a Rover Crew Leader** to help organize adult camp outs and adult only volunteer projects. Please contact William or Pandora if you are interested. Think Mardi Gras social aid and pleasure club, but outside and without the booze. Hopefully we can have more Rover trips like we did last summer in Texas.



<<<< Chipmunk Scurry >>>>

"Share and Prepare"

Chipmunks are unofficial pre-school scouts. Free play and exploring is a good activity for a Chipmunk. A parent must always supervise their own child. Chipmunks are invited to play with the Otters if they are able to do the activity.



<<<< Timberwolf Pack >>>>

"Do your best"

The Timberwolf program is a lot of fun as it has loads of variety and independence. Timberwolves will be responsible for using their manuals as it tells them how to complete and record their proficiency tasks.



This winter the Timberwolves will be working on their **First Star badge**. Then they can start their Second Star and earn any of the twenty special proficiency badges.

Timberwolf TO DO:

1. First Star is Next! Please read and practice pages 21-31 in your manual over the holidays.
2. Please look at the Special Proficiency badges and think about what you want to finish after your First Star. You already started Conservationist and Collector.

Timberwolf Co-Leaders:

Ann Schwab
Kyle Radish

<<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

The Otters will work on their Activity Paw and Safety badge this Winter. Some of our Otter Scouts might be receiving their Swimming Otter as well as they graduate or "swim up" to the Timberwolf Pack.

Otter TO DO:

Make thank you cards for any presents you get over the holidays.



Otter Co-Leaders:

Ria McKnight
William Carter

PARENT RESOURCES

Our [website](#) has prior newsletters, how to register, and links to all our forms. We also have a [google drive](#) that has safety information, your Scout's badge chart, and the snack sign-up list.



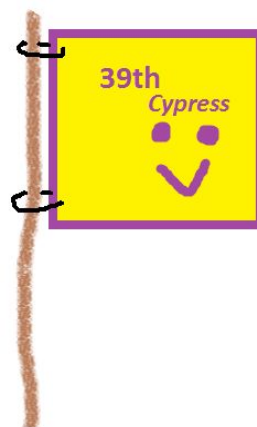
SCOUTS BEING CRAFTY IN THE FOREST
October 2016

The weather seemed like summer but we still got ready for fall at our last meeting by making bird feeders to help the birds later. We also got to learn about Otters by listening to a book and then drawing what we remembered from it. You cannot keep scouts out of the forest so we went on a short hike to check out our fort that was built last year. It of course had fallen down so the Scouts had fun putting it back up again!

REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

There are a lot of BPSA camping activities. Look at the BPSA Trailhead discussion board ([Events](#)) or talk to William. Below are some international WFIS activities.

- Harry Potter Wolferee. (Timberwolves) July 5, 2017 – July 8, 2017 in British Columbia, Canada.
- Eurocamp18. (All) July 28th to August 4th, 2018 in the United Kingdom.



WE NEED A FLAG!!

Flags in scouting are important for group spirit and so that we can find each other in a crowded park. We made a makeshift flag once for a campout and it worked great. We are looking for a family to help with creating a flag or a plan for the Group to make one. Please call William or Kyle with ideas.



ARRGH! SCOUT PIRATE TREASURE BOXES
November 2016

The scouts keep finding all sorts of neat things in the forest but needed somewhere to stash them. So we fixed that problem with making some scout treasure boxes. We went hiking for some nature stuff to decorate them with first. We had some good adventures along the way including some tree climbing and playing fetch in the water with a friendly dog.



WILD SCOUTY TIMES AT THE ZOO!
November 2016

The Scouts had a great time at the zoo. They got to pet the animals, see a sea lion show, and have a lot of free play on Monkey Hill. Many thanks to our Audubon Zoo tour guide for showing us around and allowing us a chance to feed the otters. We got to learn so much about how different and exciting animals can be.

NECKERS & UNIFORMS

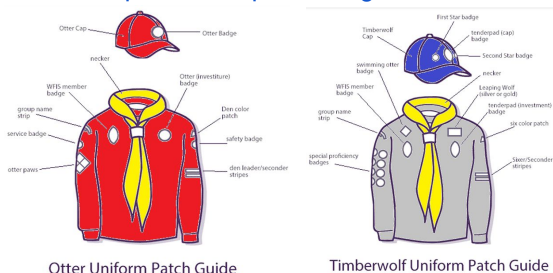
We want every Scout to be a self-reliant and independent individual, but as we play as a team and help one another, uniforms are encouraged (no one will be turned away if they do not wear one though).

The Scouts are proud of the badges they have earned, and all the uniforms make us feel like a team. We have heard that super glue works better than fabric glue, but still do not be afraid of sewing needles as that works best.



UNIFORM PLACEMENT LINK

<https://www.bpsa-us.org/uniforms>



Otter Uniform Patch Guide

Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide



SCOUTS BEING CRAFTY BY THE RIVER
December 2016

The Otters and Timberwolves went to the Crescent Park to have some fun despite the cold rain for our last meeting before winter break. After singing a song about bugs to learn their anatomy, they made some great insect models. Next we practiced our square knots in order to play a tug boat game. Lastly we looked at our collections and our house drawings we both did at home.

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), Timberwolves (8-10 years old), and Rovers (18+). Unofficially we have Chipmunks (pre-schoolers), and once we gain more leaders we will have Pathfinders (11-18 years old) in order to be complete.

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!