

39th Cypress Newsletter



WELCOME BACK!

This fall we will organize outdoor activities and hikes similar to those we enjoyed in the spring. The children should have their Otter and Timberwolf badges by winter break. There will be camping and chances to do some volunteer work this year as well!

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).



May 4 Bayou Sauvage
How quietly can YOU move?

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. You can also 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.

Please ask the Group to see how you can help. 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:

Timber Wolf Leader

Paul Pitalo

Otter Leaders

Kyle Radish

Vinnette Morell

Treasurer

Scott Radish

Secretary

William Carter



April 14 Couterie Forest
Our first hike!



May 18 Barataria Preserve
That is one old cypress tree.

ENROLLMENT STEPS

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. Registration needs to be completed by November 9 for planning purposes.

1. **Group sign-up.** Complete our Parent Survey on our website. Group dues are twenty dollars to cover our Group Charter, badges, manuals, and neckers. There may be other activity costs during the year.
2. **National sign-up.** Register at <http://bpsa-us.org/individual-registration>. Adults sign up as Rovers for twenty dollars which includes a background check. Please email your receipt to 39thcypress@gmail.com.
3. **Complete Emergency Information,** Medical Release and Liability form. <http://bpsa-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/bpsa-liability-waiver-medical-release-form.pdf>. We follow an academic year so please use 2014-2015.
4. **Abide by the Ethics and Child Protection Guidelines.** <http://bpsa-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Code-of-Ethics-Youth-Protection-Guidelines.pdf>.
5. **Please return forms** to your child's Leader or email them to 39thcypress@gmail.com.

NECKERS & UNIFORMS

A unique way to identify our Group will be our neckers that WE DESIGN. Please look at the available patterns at http://www.scoutnecker.com/acatalog/Design_your_own.html.

We should agree on a necker design at our meeting on October 26. Think of colors that you see outside. So far grey, light blue and neutral colors have been suggested. Light colors are comfortable around the neck in the sun. Also, the simpler the design the cheaper they will be.

Uniforms are encouraged, but no one will be turned away if they do not wear one. Uniforms consist of a shirt (may be short sleeved), 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/>

Otters are red, Timberwolves are grey, and Rovers/Adults are forest green. Adults may either wear the official green BPSA logo t-shirt or the button-down Rover shirt.



June 1 City Park
Gathering flowers for our plant presses.



June 15 Couterie Forest
Can you see the trail signs?

FUTURE MEETINGS

We have tentative Group Meetings on the below Sundays at 2pm with locations to follow soon. If you are unable to attend, but 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.

- October 12 Round-up
- Interested parent and child meeting
- Healing Center on St. Claude
- October 26
- November 9
- November 23
- December 7

- Planning meeting TBD
- Adult Child Protection Class TBD
- Camp TBD
- Service TBD

TBD = to be decided

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

Our nearest neighbor, 21st Dancing Rabbit in Jackson, MS just attained forty members. Congrats to them! Hopefully we will be able to meet them while camping sometime soon.

Also growing is the national BPSA organization. Over the summer we just went over fifty chartered groups in nearly every state.

The Southwest Region Brownsea Training Camp (BTC) was held in Austin, Texas this year. William Carter was able to represent our Group there and learned basic Scout Craft, child safety, and organizational policies. He also was happy to go camping again.



September 20 Austin, Texas
New Scout friends



BTC Bear Patrol Site

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 year olds) and Rovers (18+). Unofficially we have Chipmunks (pre-schoolers), and in the future we will have 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!