

39th Cypress Newsletter



HAPPY SPRING!

Our Scouts have come a long way this year from being invested Scouts, to becoming proficient in Safety, and even having a campout. Our next focus will be on Helping (see later section on this), and we will continue to learn outside. We will take a summer break, but please send an email out to all whenever you go visit nature so we can join up together.

This is our Scouting Group. It is led, supported, and staffed by us. 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 each other in person, by email, web site, or via Facebook (see addresses at the bottom).



April 10-12, Lefleur's Bluff State Park,
Jackson, MS

First Deep South Brownsea Training Camp



Isaac Radish, 6, Felix Radish, 4, and Lukas Carter-Kiel, 5, of the Baden-Powell Service Association's 39th Cypress Scout Group, help plant cypress trees during New Orleans City Park's Super Saturday volunteer day on Jan. 17.

January 17, City Park

The Scouts were in the Times Picayune news paper after volunteering to plant trees at City Park. Notice that the 39th Cypress were planting cypress trees. How fitting!

REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

Unfortunately our joint camp out with the 21st Dancing Rabbit in Jackson, MS is delayed till next year due to scheduling problems. The good news is that the Austin, TX BPSA Groups want to join when this happens. It will be one big, fun multi-state camping extravaganza!

The Brownsea Training Camp (BTC) is where Rover Scouts (adults section) learn basic Scout Craft, organizational policies, and get to learn from other Scout Groups. The Jackson, MS group hosted this year's BTC for our area. Our William Carter was the assistant instructor and said that all had a great time and stayed up late at night by the campfire having productive conversations.



January 18, Faubourg Marigny
 Otter Scouts prefer to play outdoors, but this time we met indoors to learn about sewing and how to share and help at the dinner table. The camp pillows they made were very useful when camping. At snack time, they learned to appreciate how useful it is to help and share by setting the table together, deciding how to divvy up the food, clearing the table, and even cleaning their own dishes. When meal time tasks are shared there is more family time at home and more play time at camp!

FUTURE MEETINGS

We live in a great city with many indoor after-school program options. Isn't it nice to have an outdoor program that we can organize? If you have a schedule conflict, 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 dues, then 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.

April 19

May 3

May 17

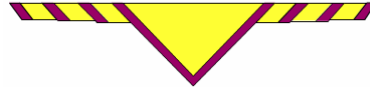
Old Folks Home Trip TBA

Adult Child Protection Class TBA

TBA = to be announced.

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



February 2, Couterie Forest

The Scouts got ready for Mardi Gras by performing skits on what to do if one gets lost at a parade or is approached by a stranger. We have some great actors here in

Hollywood South! We then practiced our observation skills by naming bottle/can sized animals, and picked up trash along the trail to keep our eyes keen. Finally we discussed how bats hunt mosquitoes and played a blindfolded hearing game (think Marco Polo meets Man Bat). It was a bit funny towards the end when everyone wanted to be the bat and all were bumbling around learning how to use their non-visual senses!



February 28, French Quarter Urban Hike

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 and crossing safely at every intersection. Before hiking back they had a lively game of Otter Tag.



March 15, Couterie Forest

The Otters and Chipmunks got back outside to explore spring. Bees, black berry flowers, butterflies, and even an alligator were all enjoying the great weather. To get ready for our upcoming camp out, we played Otter Search and Rescue to hone our Safety skills. We had a fun time playing with some new friends too.

HELPER SKILLS

Our next focus will be on Helping. We would like to visit a Nursing Home to help out at snack time and say hello. At home, explain to your children why a family (and community) helps each other is good. When tasks are shared, there is more family time at home and more play time at camp! Please try the following:

- Know about helping and sharing with others.
- Know about cleanliness and caring for your clothes.
- Be helpful around the house.
- Do a good turn for a relative or a neighbor.
- Know how to wash dishes and clean up a table.



April 3-4, Bayou Segnette State Park

The 39th Cypress Scout's had their first campout and it was awesome! We had some activities up our sleeves but only found time to do one of them (camp lanterns) as the Scouts kept themselves entertained with exploring the camp site and taking forays into the forest. We were able to review some Helper activities during mealtime and Nature was all around us. Full moon with clear night made for a great Night Hike. We were also happy to pass out Safety badges and welcome some new scout friends to our group. Huge thanks to all the parents who were truly Prepared with extra food, personal camping gear, and their enthusiasm for exploring nature with their children.



Otter Safety Badge

Badges are not just awards; they are reminders to continually practice what we have learned.

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

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