

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



## End of Year Reflection

Hey all! It has been a great, busy year.

Objectively, our children have become Chipmunk and Otter Scouts, and they have received their Otter Safety and Helping badges. We had one service project to plant trees at City Park, a second service project to help out at an Old Folks Home (that was more fun than service in my book!), participated in the regional Rover Brownsea Training Camp, and we had a great spring camp-out for our Group. We met a total of fifteen times during the past school year.

Subjectively, we had immeasurable fun outside, gained plenty of nature appreciation, and matured a lot with new insights in how we and our world work.

This is our scout group and it went so well because of the great parent support from the rotating Den parents bringing snacks and helping whenever you all could. Thank you for allowing Kyle and me to plan and lead the meetings. It has been a pleasure to watch our children grow this year with their skills, character, cooperation, and friendships (height too from looking at all the photos!)

Your Otter Leaders,  
Kyle Radish & William Carter



AIEEEE! LES SCOUTS SONT DANS LE BAYOU!

April 20, 2015

The weather was so nice out that we went to Bayou Sauvage to explore what was happening. Had a great time collecting minnows and seeing bugs, birds, alligator gar, and even a real alligator. A nice local fisherman showed us his catch which included a spotted gar and a red eared slider turtle (new pet for his son). There are so many plants and animals that call the bayou home. Some of the children used their creativity to make their own cane fishing poles with what they found in the water. We also made and tooled some leather necker slides by using a hammer and stamps, and stitched them up to practice our knots.

## We are Growing!

Our Group size is healthy. We have one full Den of Otter Scouts. We would like to expand our group, maybe start a Timber Wolf Pack (8-10 year-olds), too. All we need are more dedicated parents who can co-lead with a partner and be present at outings and planning meetings.

If we can find adults who have resources and knowledge to organize monthly camp-outs we could have a Pathfinder Troop (11-18) as well.

Please share our information with your friends, school, summer day camps, and anyone else who might be interested. This is only the beginning of all the fun!



REPTILE FIELD TRIP  
May 2, 2015

Thanks to the Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts (LARE) for such a great nature hike. This was not a scout organized trip, but completely organized by Bones Gloriosio and his other engaging LARE volunteers with the help of Ranger Dave of Jean Lafitte National Park. They all did outstanding jobs. The children and I had a great time, and we learned a lot too.

## **REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS**

Most other groups are on summer break as well. Exception is for Rovers (adult sections) who are attending BPSA-US Wood Beads Training for the first time this year. Wood Beads is an advanced training camp for adult Rovers who have already attended a Brownsea Training Camp. This year will focus on training to lead the youth sections. It is being held this July in Oregon with the help of BPSA Canada's British Columbia region.



## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

School. Is. Out. Our meetings are on hold till the fall, but scouting never stops! During the summer break please email whenever your family goes outside so that we can join up (not everyone uses Facebook). Some things to do this summer:

Check out the [city](#), [state](#), [Woodlands Conservancy](#), [National Wildlife Refuge](#), and [national](#) park websites to see what activities they have.

There are many nature books out there that have activities; *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Cornell and *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv are popular. Websites such as the [National Wildlife Foundation](#) have fun outdoor activities too. Your family can plant a tree together or get into the habit of keeping an indoor or outdoor plant.

Collect, organize if possible, and know something about twenty-five items such as photos of a subject (like bugs) the young Scout took, shells, international money, rocks, feathers, or anything else that takes time to gather. Finding flowers and leaves to press is a good observational activity and a way to reflect on all those outdoor outings you have had.

Allow your child to become independent and comfortable with sleeping in new places overnight. Send them on sleepovers!

Adults please be on the lookout in late summer for our fall planning meeting and Adult Child Protection Class. We were unable to pass out end of year awards at our last meeting due to a thunderstorm so that likely will be one of the first meetings this fall.



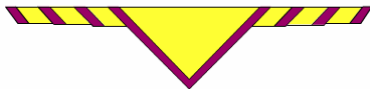
### SCOUTY EYES AND SCOUTY MEMORY

May 3, 2015

The Otters and the Chipmunks really got to try out some of their skills. We had a good Kim's Memory Game to help us to have good recall and observational skills. Then we went on a nature scavenger hunt to help out scout eyes. We then had another fun memory game using the Telephone Message Game. Having a good memory makes one a good helper too. Finally we had some free play to help rebuild a fort that one of the Otters had built earlier. Beautiful, enjoyable day!

### 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.



### HELPER SKILLS

Our current focus has been on Helping. 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 with your children:

- 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.



### HELPER AND PLAYFUL SCOUTS

May 19, 2015

We knew we would have fun but were surprised how much fun at our Old Folks' Home service visit. It was impressive how the young scouts did not mind the age difference and were happy to meet new people and have fun. The scouts quickly found new friends and made craft-flowers, played Candy Land, drew pictures, shared snack time, and finally sang a song with them. Everyone agreed this was something we should do more often. Thanks to the residents for letting us visit, play, help, and gain new friends.



#### Otter Helper 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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!*