

39th Cypress Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This winter we will organize outdoor activities and hikes similar to those we have enjoyed since starting last spring. We are happy to announce that our new Otter scouts will have more opportunities to learn important safety skills, as well as develop a greater appreciation for being outdoors. There will be camping and chances to do some volunteer work this season 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).



One of the many beautiful animals the Scouts have observed on our outings

REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

Our nearest neighbor, 21st Dancing Rabbit in Jackson, MS, invited us to go camping with them. If our schedules align up, we should hopefully do this about May.

The Traditional Scouting movement is growing so fast that the national online registration software has been changed to a program that is more secure and allows better local Group management services. Log on to <https://www.dashboard.bpsa-us.org/> to pay your annual national dues if you have not already done so for this school year.

The Brownsea Training Camp (BTC) is where adults learn basic Scout Craft, child safety, and organizational policies. The Jackson, MS group will be hosting one this year. This is a great program to not only learn how to led a Scout Group, but also a great first step to help you to be better prepared for whatever happens in life.



October 26, Barataria Preserve
Learning about being a Junior Park Ranger



November 9, Couterie Forest
Preparing for our Otter "Search and Rescue" game:
learning why hygiene is important and how to apply
Band-Aids

FUTURE MEETINGS

We live in a great city with many indoor after-school program options. Isn't nice to have an outdoor program that we can organize? We will continue to have Group Meetings on every other weekend afternoon with dates and locations to follow soon. If you have a schedule conflict, but do not want to get behind on your Scouting skills please email us.

We would like to visit a Nursing Home. If you know somebody at one please tell us. We are also looking for any outdoor activities you want to do too.

If your child has turned in their Emergency, Medical, and Liability Form and paid their national and Group 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.

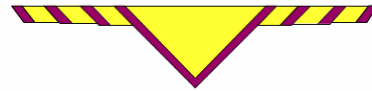
January First Meeting	TBA
Spring and Summer Campouts	TBA
Adult Child Protection Class	TBA
Service Project	TBA

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.

The young Scouts designed their own necker. There were many good ideas, and they needed two rounds of votes to agree on one. Yellow represents the sun and the purple border represents a swamp flower. They did a great job!



Otters' shirts 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. Purchase your hat and t-shirt either at a local store such as Wal-Mart, Michaels's, or JoAnn's. The BPSA Quartermaster store has them as well but long-sleeve is hot and their hats run small: <http://baden-powell-service-assoc-quartermasters.myshopify.com/>.



November 22, Couterie Forest
Learning how to tie shoelaces.



November 22, Couterie Forest
Playing Tug-of-War with pieces of rope tied together
with square knots

ENROLLMENT STEPS

Our scouting program is structured so that one can join at anytime. 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.

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.** Log on to <https://www.dashboard.bpsa-us.org/> to pay your annual national dues.
3. **Complete Emergency Information, Medical Release and Liability Form** and return it to your child's Leader or email the form to 39thcypress@gmail.com.
<http://bpsa-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/bpsa-liability-waiver-medical-release-form.pdf>.
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>.

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, playing a game, 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:

Otter Leaders

Kyle Radish

Vinnette Morell

Treasurer

Scott Radish

Secretary

William Carter



December 7, St. Bernard State Park
Discussing "What is a Scout?" before our Investiture
Ceremony



Welcome new Otters and Chipmunk!

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 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!