

39th Cypress Newsletter



Happy New Year!!

Hope you all had a great winter break. Our Otter Raft and Timberwolf Pack had a great fall with many skills learned, and I am sure they are ready to start having fun outside again too.

Our next Group camp will be with NORD at Joe Brown Park on Friday April 27. Expect plenty of marshmallow roasting, canoeing, fishing, and swimming fun! We also may have a separate March Timberwolf camp TBD.

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



FUN FIRST FOREST FROLIC
September 2017

It was a wonderful first meeting and a pleasure to see both new and old friends. The Otters with Scouters Kyle and Pandora made gorgeous sun catchers that will look great next to their seeds that they are sprouting. The Timberwolf Pack with Scouters Ria, Will, and Ann had some fun games and made their Six flags. Everyone had a great time at the splash pad afterwards.



SCOUTING FUN AT COUTURIE
September 2017

The Otters went on a hike, learned how to tie shoe laces, and even made some dream catchers. The Timberwolves had a voracious game of Bat versus Moth (aka Marco Polo), learned their compass points, and then used their new direction knowledge to tell time by using the sun with some neat sundials they made. Ask them what Never Eat Soggy Waffles means. The biggest event though was probably the Otters and Timberwolves rebuilding their fortress that fell down over the summer.

Winter/Spring SCHEDULE

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

- January 28
- February 18
- March 11
- March 25 (? Timberwolf camp weekend as well TBD)
- April 8
- April 22
- 4/27 **Friday** camp at Joe Brown Park
- May 6
- May 20

COMMITTEE NEWS

We need help with focused tasks to help provide more opportunities for the children and our community..

Our 501c3 non-profit corporation has a bank account and we accept email payments with Square. If anyone knows an accountant who can verify our paperwork that would be helpful.

Being a non-profit will be a great help as we are getting bigger and will have a Pathfinder Troop in 18 months which will also require insurance. To pay for insurance, spare tents, and equipment for all to share we also need someone to help organize fundraising.

The committee is always looking for more members who can assist with supporting the group's education and service functions. Descriptions of positions can [be found at this link](#).

We need a snack sign-up coordinator! Please talk to William or Kyle.



CAMPOUT CANCELLED :(
 October 2017

The 39th only cancels outdoor activities for weather alerts. Hurricanes count as such. Luckily a Scout that can prepare for camp can prepare for a hurricane too. Enjoy all those s/mores you planned to bring to camp at home and be safe!



ROVER SEA SCOUTING
 October 2017

We had a great sail today with fresh breeze and clear skies. Saw the Coast Guard practice their rescues for a bit. Then we got to see some professionals racing their J/30s a couple miles out. With a bit more practice I bet we could beat them in a race. ;)

ENROLLMENT STEPS

The Otter Raft (~5-7 age) is currently closed till fall with the exception of some younger siblings who are joining mid-year.

The Timberwolf Pack can still accept a few more Cubs (~8-10 age).

Our website has more details under [Program](#). Leaders and children need to sign up annually at the start of the academic year. Dues are \$45 for Otters and \$50 for Timberwolves for 2017-2018. Volunteers and leaders pay a \$20 one time payment for a criminal record check and then renewal will be free.

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 and place as much as possible. Hopefully there will be some activities that we can all do together.

Parents please consider dropping off your Scouts (except Chipmunks) at meetings to foster independence. Timberwolves may camp with their Pack without family members if given the Pack Leader's approval. We still need a family member for Otter 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 and get more sail time in too.



<<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

The Otters will work on their Handicraft Paw badges and Safety badge this winter/spring.



Otter Co-Leaders:

Kyle Radish
Pandora Davis

<<<< 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. We will complete most of the general proficiency Star Badges at meetings, but the special proficiency badges (Swimming, Gardening, etc) need to be completed at home.

We will start a Sixers' Council this year, think controlled democracy, to assist.

In addition to the Group camp on April 27 we might have a Timberwolf Camp or at least a day hike on March 25 weekend as well TBD.

Our service project for this season will be donating Mardi Gras throws to the ArcGNO so that they can use them for charity.

This winter the Timberwolves will be working on their **1st and 2nd Star badges**. The sixers (with input from their sixes) will also choose any of the twenty proficiency badges to begin.



Timberwolf Co-Leaders:

William Carter
Ria McKnight
Ann Schwab

<<<< Chipmunk Scurry >>>>

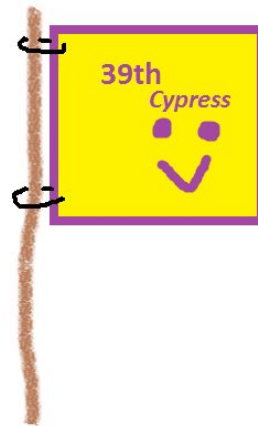
"Share and Prepare"

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.



FAMILY 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. Email 39thcypress@gmail.com if you need it



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.



GOOD SCOUTY TIMES BY THE RIVER
October 2017

we headed to Crescent Park and really enjoyed some nice weather outside this last weekend. The Timberwolves and Otters each made chalk murals of the river and boats. Then to get the wiggles out we had some fun ball games to include Four Square. The best part was that we got to formally accept new friends into our Scout Group by passing out their scout neckers.

Lastly I want to congratulate all our new Timberwolf Tenderpads as well.



The Timberwolves also need a Pack totem. If you are good at carving or crafting then please contact Ria or William.



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 interesting WFIS activities.

- Texas Rover Ramble. (adults) February 23 – February 25 at Colorado Bend State Park, TX
- WFIS Wolferee. (Timberwolves) July 4 to July 8, 2018 at British Columbia, Canada.
- Woodbeads I: (adults after completion of BTC) July 20-22, 2018 in Connecticut
- Eurocamp18. (All) July 28th to August 4th, 2018 in the United Kingdom.

In our region, the BPSA does not have any day or resident camps. Campfire's Camp Fletcher near Birmingham Alabama may be a good local summer option.

We also may be able to host a Brownsea Training Camp (BTC) this summer as well if there is enough interest. BTC is required for all new leaders and encouraged for interested adult family members.

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 hand sewing needles as that works best.



OTTERS AND TIMBERWOLVES AT THE ZOO
November 2018

The Otters and Timberwolves had a great time at the zoo during our last meeting. They got to pet cute reptiles and have a lot of exploring. The Otters even got to meet the otters. The Timberwolves did a good bit of research and sketching of endangered animals they met in the zoo.

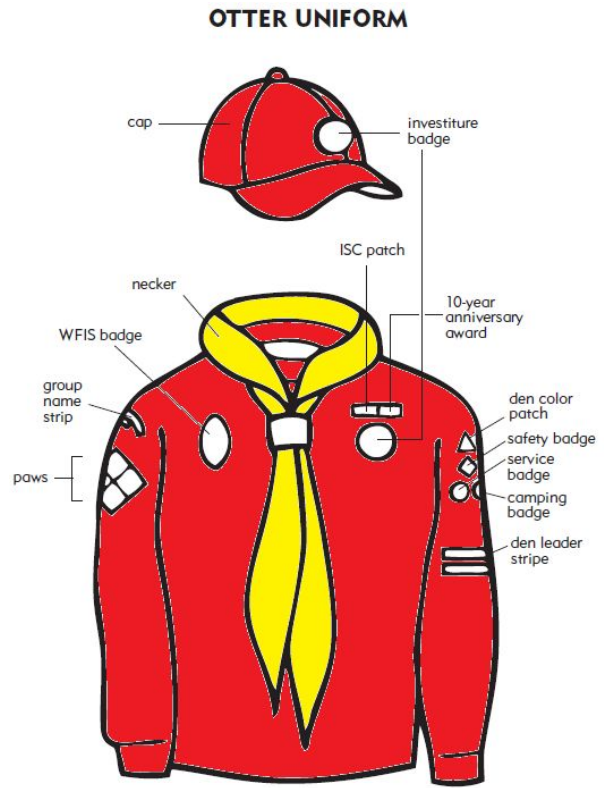




FOREST FUN!
December 2017

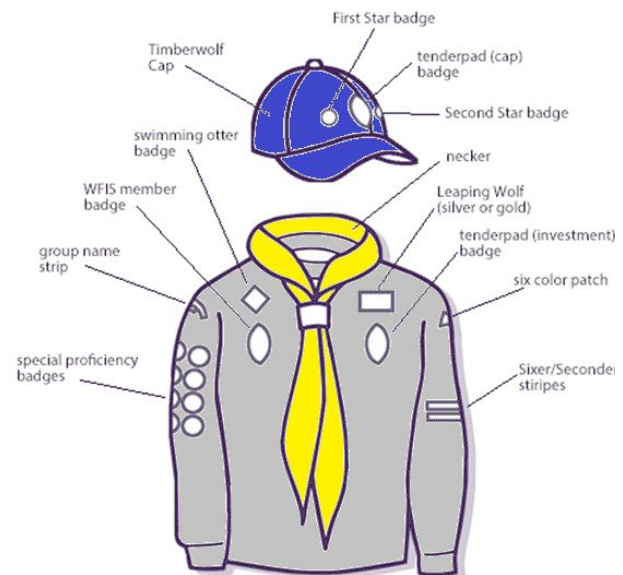
The Otter Raft had some fun games, a nice walk through the woods, and got to show off their nature Scrapbooks. Many were also invested as official Otter Scouts and some even got their Nature Paw badge. A big Watermelon cheer to them!

The Timberwolf Pack had some fun fitness games and then practiced their knots to get them ready for their knot project (hmm, working rope gate or spider web to capture adults...). As we were in a forest we could not keep them from rebuilding their timberwolf lair as well.



TIMBERWOLF NATURE HUNT
December 2017

We had a wonderful hike in perfect weather last weekend. The second year Timberwolves got to practice their tree and bird identification. We all got a thrill out of playing Baratara Bingo again as well too. We even watched a river otter for a while.



Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide

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 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!