

39th Cypress Newsletter



SUMMER BREAK!!

We had a great 2017-2018 Scout year. We went on two family campouts and had our first Timberwolf-only camp with the 21st Dancing Rabbit. For service projects we helped collect donations for ARC of GNO and did countless trail clean-ups.

While our Scouts are having fun they are also becoming very proficient. We had six new Otters earn their Investiture badge and six Timberwolves earned a Star badge. We also completed loads and loads of fun outside too!

We also had two more Otters graduate to Timberwolves! This fall we should have 9 Otters, 8 Timberwolves, and a few more interested families.

Highlights for this summer:

- 1) **Get outside (in the water is best)**
- 2) **Timberwolves work on your Special Proficiency Badges**
- 3) **Otter families please volunteer to be a leader this fall - the more the better. We currently do not have anyone to lead that section. Contact William who has oodles of stuff to help you prepare.**

SUMMER SCHEDULE

We do not have regular meetings during the summer.

- June 23 family outing to Deer Island
- July 14 or 21 weekend Southern Rover Ramble - contact William
- Planning Meeting August TBA
- Brownsea Training Camp, September 1-3, Texas



HAVE A SCOUTY AND SAFE CARNIVAL!

January 2018

We were getting prepared for Carnival at our last meeting. The Otters reviewed how to be safe when lost or in crowds. In order to practice their phone numbers they even spelled them out by creating bead bracelets. That is so much better than the permanent marker on the forearm method I have been using for my child!



EARLY SPRING SCOUTING

February 2018

We had a great meeting last weekend. Timberwolves practiced sending coded messages with semaphore flags and worked on their fort. The Otters helped our feathered friends by making recycled bird houses. They then went on a nature hike to practice their trail signs.

Thanks to everyone who brought Mardi Gras throw donations to give to charity!

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 12 months which will 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](#).



ROVER VOLUNTEERING
March 2018

The LPBF and LA Wildlife and Fisheries hosted a Crabtrap Rodeo. Leftover crab traps become death traps by continuously killing animals which leaves an environmental impact so bad that even the fishing industry notices it.



SCOUTS DOWN BY THE RIVER
March 2018

To avoid the thunderstorm in the forest the group went down by the river. The Timberwolf Pack worked on their knots and packed a practice camping bag for their upcoming trip. The Otters made paddle boats and as I understand raced a real one going upstream. Otters can move pretty fast.

ENROLLMENT STEPS

We will start accepting new applications and renewals when we resume this fall for Otters (~5-7) and Timberwolves (~8-10). How many can join depends on how many involved families we have as we are an all volunteer group. We can also have Chipmunks (preschool) and Pathfinders (11-18) if anyone wishes to lead those sections.

Our website has more details about how to join under [Program](#). Leaders and children need to sign up annually at the start of the academic year. Volunteers and leaders pay a \$20 one time payment for a criminal record check and then renewal will be free. Expect a Dues increase this fall for the 2018-2019 year.

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.



<<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

Fun program that uses outside play with Paw badges to help these young Scouts be introduced to the life of Scouting.

Special thanks to Pandora Davis and Kyle Radish for their help this last year! They are going into retirement so we need new Otter Leaders for this fall.



<<<< 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.

All the Star Cubs received a second handbook to help them with on their Special Proficiency badges this summer. The Pack Leaders do not have to sign them off. It is better for coaches or other experienced adults such as a grandparent to sign instead. The only badge a family can sign-off themselves is the House Orderly.



<<<< 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.



TIMBERWOLF HULABALOO
March 2018!

The 21st Dancing Rabbit from Jackson, MS and the 39th Cypress from New Orleans united to have a great Pack weekend. Timberwolf Cubs pitched their tents, explored the ravines, did First Star badge work, chopped veggies, washed their mess kits, went on a night hike, roasted marshmallows, played Mad Libs, helped start the fire, raised, lowered, & folded the flag, went for a day hike, found a waterfall and a couple of water snakes, played in a creek, and had an awesome time exploring and making new friends! We also had a couple of Cubs sleep in their own tent for the first time.

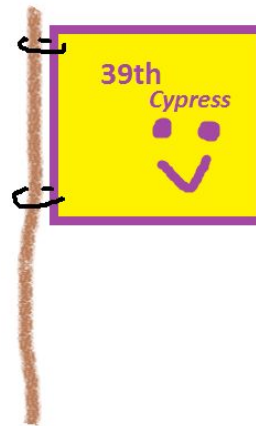


The Timberwolves also need a Pack totem. If you are good at carving or crafting then please contact Ria or William.



WE NEED A FLAG!!

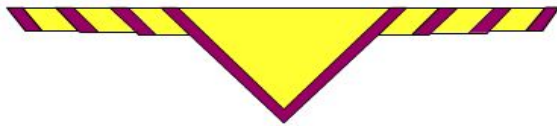
Flags in scouting are important for group spirit and so that we can find each other in a crowded park. We made a makeshift flag once for a campout and it worked great. We are looking for a family to help with creating a flag or a plan for the Group to make one. Please call William or Kyle with ideas.



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).

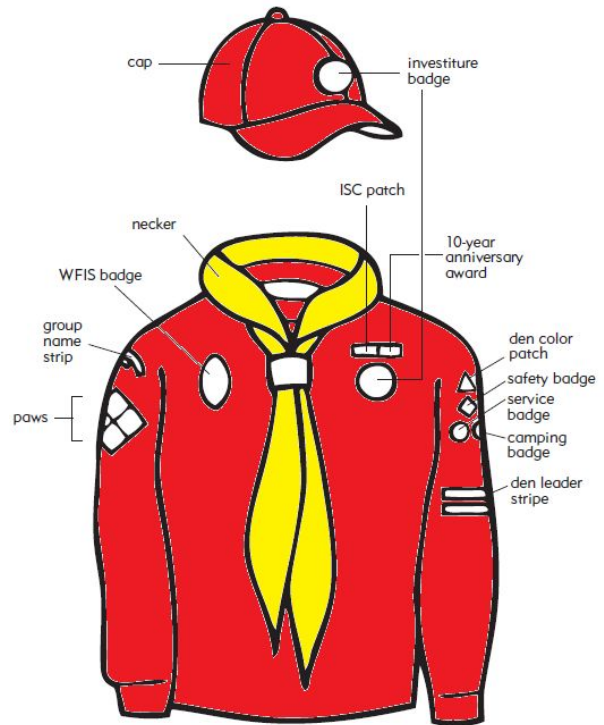
The Scouts are proud of the badges they have earned, and all the uniforms make us feel like a team. We have heard that super glue works better than fabric glue, but still do not be afraid of hand sewing needles as that works best.



GREAT CAMP WITH NORD IN NOLA!
April 2018

We had a great time camping at Joe Brown Park last weekend thanks to NORD and their Outdoor staff (especially Mr. Justin!). Great compfire and evening fun. They next morning we got to go fishing, canoeing, and even explore the Audubon Nature Center. And all this fun while camping within the city limits of New Orleans, what a great resource!

OTTER UNIFORM



Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide

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.

- WFIS Wolferee. (Timberwolves) July 4 to July 8, 2018 at British Columbia, Canada.
- 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.



FOREST FROLICKING
April 2018

At our last meeting the Timberwolves practiced Search and Rescue. Silly adults kept hurting themselves but the Cubs were able to save them with their First Aid skills. They also got to review their signaling skills too. Otters did a bunch of activities: discussed what to do in an emergency, how to take care of their basic hygiene, read a couple of stories, drew a favorite scene from a story, and did a great job tying square knots.



LAST SCOUT MEETING OF the YEAR
May 2018

Great times at our last meeting. Since we now have plenty of First Star Cubs with a little hunting skills, the Timberwolves had their first knife safety class. If anyone needs a tent peg I know a Cub who can help!

The Otters had plenty of fun games to celebrate their last meeting. Two Otters got to "Swim Up" to the Pack. Some of the Cubs wanted to eat them, but in the end we decided that more friends made for better hunting. We all ended with a good feast of watermelon instead.

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!