

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.

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



FUN SCOUTY FIRST MEETING

September 2018

We had a great first meeting to welcome everyone back. The Otters played games to learn each others names and then went on a short nature walk to pick up trash.

The Timberwolves got into their Pack routine by performing their Jungle Opening and then played ball while taking turns to make leather necker slides. We even got to invest a new Timberwolf Cub into the Pack!

WINTER SCHEDULE

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

- January 13
- January 27
- February 10
- (?) February 16 Parade (?)
- March 10
- March 24
- April 5-7 Timberwolf Camp
- April 7 Otter-only meeting
- April 28
- May 5
- May 17-18 Group Camp
- Summer Planning TBD
- Summer adult Training TBD

TO DO'S:

1. **Otter Co-Leaders please sign-up for one or two meetings and a snack day**
2. **We need at least two Group Camp planners for May 17-18**
3. **We need a Scoutmaster for our rising Timberwolves this fall**

COMMITTEE NEWS

We are a 501 c3 non-profit corporation and even have a bank account. This will be a great help as we are getting bigger and will have a Pathfinder Troop next year which will also require insurance. 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 this fall which would benefit from 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 a President and other members who can assist with supporting the group's education and service functions. Descriptions of positions can [be found at this link](#)



SCOUTING AGAIN AT COUTURIE FOREST
September 2018

The Otters listened to a story about helping and then played some games to make them better helpers. During their hike they found some cool bugs too.

The Timberwolves made clock faces by posing. They also practiced their compass directions by standing near their homes on the large map of New Orleans atop Laborde Mountain. Afterwards, I learned that there were gnomes in the forest and we had to work on the Timberwolf lair fort.

SPRING GROUP CAMP

As a Group we will try to go to Grand Isle State Park May 18-19 pending reservation confirmation. A sign-up list will go out this month.



We need organizers for this trip or it will be bring your own food and camp gear. Please contact William if you are interested in helping organize.

The Timberwolves will also have their own separate camp likely at Homochitto National Forest in April.



SCOUTING AT DELERY PLAYSPOT
October 2018

We went to the play fort in Holy Cross. The Otters got to play some games to learn about real otters and they did an obstacle course. We were also happy to welcome some new Otters into our Group too. They also got to have a short hike along the levee to look at the Mississippi River.

The Timberwolves practiced their fitness to prepare themselves for possible gnome invasion (so they tell me) and to complete their Athlete badge

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 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.

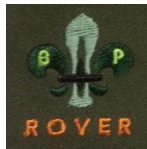
Group Scoutmasters (GSM):

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 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.



<<<< 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.



<<<< 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. The Sixers' Council has done great at suggesting Pack Meeting activities..

This spring we will continue to work on our Star badges and look forward to camping together as a Pack. We hope to camp again to Homochitto National Forest.

Timberwolf Co-Leaders:

William Carter
Ria McKnight
Ann Schwab



<<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

The Otters will work on Activity and Safety badge this Fall. About three Otters will Swim-up to the Pack at the end too.

Otter Co-Leaders:

We do not have any one leader this year so [all guardians who want their children to participate must sign up for a co-leader day](#). We will use the Snack Den Parent form.



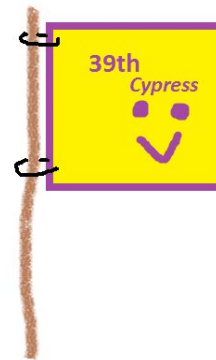
PARENT RESOURCES

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.



GREAT TIME AT COUTURIE FOREST
October 2018

The Otters and Timberwolves were back at City Park for their last meeting. The Otters worked on their Helper skills by playing a Laundry Folding Relay game to help their families in addition to Kim's Game to improve their memories. They then worked on building their own fort/lean-to with palmetto fronds. The Timberwolves worked on their fitness (just to keep in shape for the gnomes) with some throwing and balance skills. They also prepared for their upcoming camp by making Jelly Balls and discussing fire safety.



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.



WONDERFUL FALL CAMP
November 2018

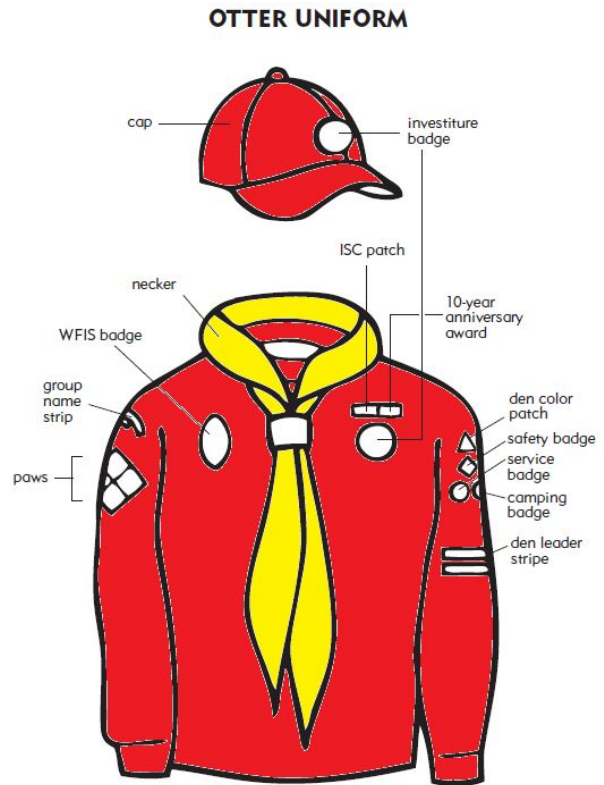
We had a wonderful time with gorgeous weather over two nights. More friends make more fun so it was great to camp with the 3rd Tchefuncte BPSA Pack as well. We had both day and night hikes, spotted a lot of critters, water fun at the beach (don't you love LA Fall), many impromptu games, and an unforgettable campfire ceremony too. My belly really enjoyed the breakfast and lunch that was cooked (some over the fire which they themselves made) by the Timberwolves.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

There are a lot of BPSA camping activities. Look at the BPSA Trailhead discussion board ([Events](#)) or talk to William. The Below are for Rovers (adults):

- [Rover Ramble](#)
February 1, 2019 at 3pm to February 3, 2019 - Dinosaur Valley State Park Texas
- [WFIS Woodbeads I, Step 3](#)
July 27, 2019 to August 3, 2019 - near Copenhagen, Denmark

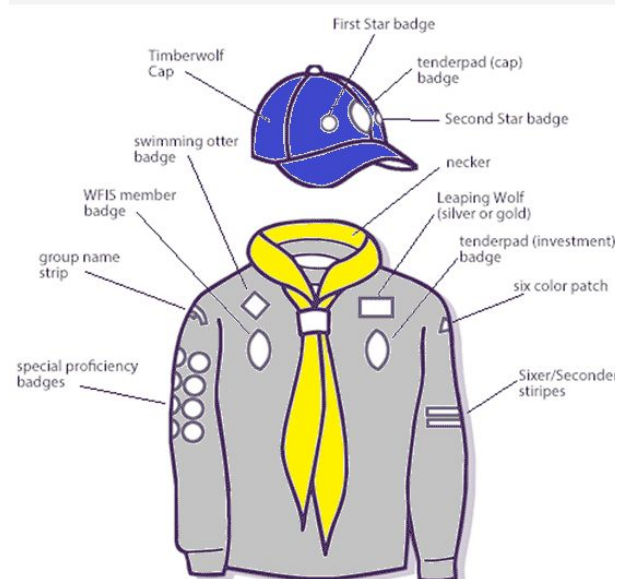
In our region, the BPSA does not have any day or resident camps. Campfire's Camp Fletcher near Birmingham, Alabama may be a good local summer option.



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.



Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide



aMAZEing TIME AT WOODLANDS TRAIL
December 2018

We had a great trip out to Woodlands Trail last weekend.

The Otters went for a short hike and practiced how to be a good helper.

The Timberwolves sketched what they saw to practice their art and observer skills and then used their knot tying skills to make a laser maze for the Otters. It was pretty fun.



COOL COUTURIE COMRADARIE
December 2018

We had our last meeting before our winter break.

The Otters played the atom game and did a reverse scavenger hunt while taking a walk through the forest. They then drew some of the objects we collected on the scavenger hunt and used those images to make printed holiday and thank you cards. Some of the Otters finished their Helper Paw badges too!

The Timberwolves learned about bicycle safety and then practiced knife safety. They then got to use their new safe skills to whittle sticks or carve soap bars.

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!