

39th Cypress Newsletter



Welcome Back!!

Hope you all had a great summer break. Our Otter Raft and Timberwolf Pack had a great Spring with many skills learned, and I am sure they are ready to start having fun outside again too. We even had our first Timberwolves graduate into Pathfinders!

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 adults and children have busy schedules, but if we communicate well and share the tasks we will all have fun.



SCOUTY WINTER MEETING
January 2019

The Otters learned to tie shoelaces, played a bunch of games, learned about good sportsmanship, and drew postcards for our pen pals in Pennsylvania.

The Timberwolves kept warm by doing some balance and fitness games. The Pack then went into the forest to work on their fort. They even made their own picnic!

FALL SCHEDULE

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

- September 8
- *September 15, Adult Training (Mini-BTC), Time TBA*
- September 29
- October 20
- November 2 weekend, Group Camp
- November 17
- December 8

TO DO'S:

1. Make sure those uniform shirts still fit!
2. **Renewal & Registration** -- Look for an email early September.
3. Look for a Snack/Co-Leader email sign-up also early September

FALL GROUP CAMP

As a Group we will try to go to Fairview State Park November 1-3 pending reservation confirmation. A sign-up list will go out late September.

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.



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.



HAPPY MARDI GRAS!

February 2019

The Scout Group marched in the Confetti Kids Parade again this year. Please remember to practice your road crossing safety and know your family name, phone number, and address. Catch some throws and have fun!



GETTING READY FOR MARDI GRAS

January 2019

Otters fingerprinted themselves for the safety ID kits, made owls out of acorns for a Mardi Gras throw craft project, did some hiking, and some free play.

Timberwolf Cubs made colorful accessories with which to march in the Confetti Kids Parade!

ENROLLMENT STEPS

We are again accepting new applications and renewals for the 2019-2020 year for Otters (~5-7), Timberwolves (~8-10), and Pathfinders (~11-18). How many can join depends on how many involved families who can lead meetings as we are an all volunteer group.

Renewal and Registration will be emailed to you and questions answered at our first meeting on September 8. Our website has more details under [Program](#).

Leaders and children need to sign up annually at the start of the academic year. Dues are \$50 for Otters and \$60 for Timberwolves. Returning adult leaders (Scouters) get reimbursed for their necker and Criminal Record Check.

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.

Guardians 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 guardian 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. If you think your child would be interested in being a rotating Sixer please talk to us.

This fall we will continue to work on our Star badges and look forward to camping together as a Pack in the spring.

Timberwolf Co-Leaders:

William Carter
Ria McKnight



<<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

The Otters will work on a Paw Badge and start their Safety this fall. Angela and Carmine will be organizing the Raft program this year. However, like last year we still need all guardians who want their children to participate must sign up for an assistant co-leader day. We will use the Snack Den Parent form.

Otter Co-Leaders:

Angela Discoll
Carmine Rau



<<<< Pathfinder Troop >>>>

"Be Prepared"

Pathfinders conduct their own activities with adult supervision. We do need new leaders once the Troop grows at the end of the year.



Troop Scoutmaster: Kyle Radish



COUNTRY COMMUNICATING!

March 2019

The Otters wrote letters for our pen pals and then took a hike and drew interesting nature on the letters. They also saw some turtles, apple snail shells, and a ribbon snake that another hiker picked. He knew a lot about snakes and let our kids take a good look before releasing back into nature. The Timberwolves explored different ways to send code messages using ideas from Semaphore and Morse. They then practiced some whittling, and worked on their fort in the wood.

REGIONAL & NATIONAL BPSA NEWS

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

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



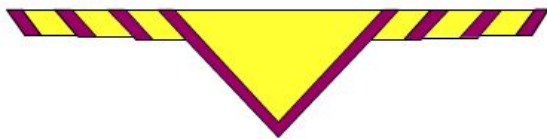
BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY AT WOODLANDS March 2019

The Timberwolves had a great First Aid practice at Woodlands Conservancy. After one of the Sixers taught the other Cubs about First Aid with self made picture injury cards (earning himself his First Aider badge), they all played an faux-injury game of Duck, Duck, Goose! to practice. The weather was perfect for looking at nature and investigating a rope swing. The Otters learned about germs and how they spread, took a hike, and practiced cleaning and bandaging cuts.

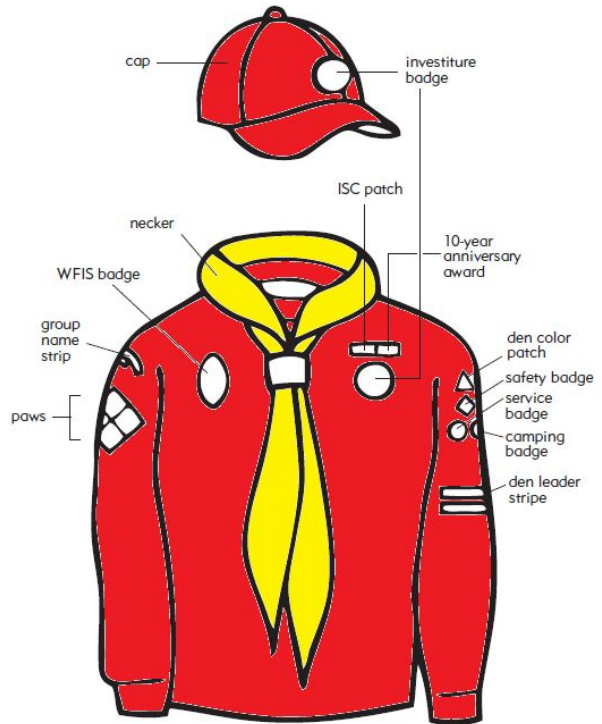
NECKERS & UNIFORMS

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.



OTTER UNIFORM



Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide

COMMITTEE NEWS

We are a 501 c3 non-profit corporation. This helped us set up a bank account that allows us to handle all our payments electronically, allows us some limited liability protection for volunteers by law, and may help us get cheaper insurance.

Being a non-profit will be a great help as we are getting bigger and have a Pathfinder Troop 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](#).



OTTER SENIOR VISIT & TIMBERWOLF CAMP

April 2019

We had an Otter Meeting and a Timberwolf camp the same weekend.

The Otters went to play with seniors at their living center. They played games and had a snack together. I understand memory cards was a big hit and the competition got intense!

The Timberwolves camped with our sibling Pack from Jackson, MS at Homochitto National Forest. The Cubs are really getting good at cooking and starting a fire. We went kayaking, exploring, and had a great camp fire. Many kuddos to all the Cubs who performed skits and jokes.



AUDUBON NATURE TRAIL

May 2019

We had a great day out at the Audubon Nature Center boardwalk. We got to see many woolly caterpillars, red eared slider turtles, and even a snake. One of the trail markers was an otter which we liked. The Timberwolves also got to practice sketching the animals and trees we saw.



SCOUTS ALL TIED UP

May 2019

Our last meeting was full of games at Brechtel Park. The Timberwolves ran around in a chariot race after tying together their horse, did an elephant walk again with knots, and lastly practiced lassoing the scout leader. Otters played some fun nature and fitness games. This was our last meeting of the year and we were happy to congratulate our Otters and Timberwolves who will be moving up into their Pack and new Troop.



GRAND SCOUTY TIME AT GRAND ISLE

May 2019

We had a great weekend camp on Grand Isle's beach. An offshore fresh breeze made it comfortably warm with great waves to dive into and boat on. The sand was great for digging up crabs or burying scouts. We saw a lot of pelicans and terns. I am happy to say that our cooks did great as I did not eat a single grain of sand. The waves at night were the best 'white noise' a person could wish to sleep with, and there was no need for flashlights with the full moon shining off the Gulf.

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 four sections: Otters (5-7 year olds), Timberwolves (8-10 years old), Pathfinders (11-18 years old) and Rovers (18+). Unofficially we have Chipmunks (pre-schoolers).

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 create better citizens by promoting character, fitness, useful skills, and service.

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!