

# 39<sup>th</sup> Cypress Newsletter



## Happy New Year!!

An outdoorsy family who was thinking of joining had some questions for me contrasting family nature activities versus scouting activities. They asked me one question which I commonly come across, "we already go outside so why go through the trouble of participating in a Scout program when our schedule is already so busy?" Baden-Powell wrote that Scouting is good for the following reasons:

- 1) Providing structure for good Character. Families teach their children right/wrong, but having a Scout Law and Promise helps provide language that youth can understand and use as simple life rules.
- 2) Future Goodwill & Service. Even though it may be easier to go camping with your close friends, going camping with other Scout families whom you do not know is a very important part of the Scouting Method. One of the Scouting goals is to create better leaders for tomorrow. It is by working with DIVERSE families in an exciting environment such as camp, that the youth (and hopefully the adults too) can learn how to work with others so in the future they will be able to help others to promote peace and prosperity.
- 3) Skills. Having a badge system and being outside creates a flexible structure to ensure we are exposed to all sorts of new things to learn.
- 4) Fitness. The meeting and camping schedule motivates us to make sure we go outside, really outside, often.

~For Service! Scouter Will

## TO DO's

- [Snack/Helper sign-up](#)
- **Please volunteer to help plan the May Group Camp**
- **We need Leaders for the Fall for all age sections; please volunteer!**



## WELCOME BACK!

September 2019

It was great to see everyone again (and some for the first time!) and get scouting at our first meeting. The Otters started their seed project and the Timberwolf Pack discussed what it means to be Scouting. We all really appreciate the splash pad on such a warm day as we had to keep the meeting short due to the heat.

## Winter/Spring SCHEDULE

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

- January 19
- February 2
- *No meetings before Mardi Gras*
- March 1
- March 15
- March 29
- April 3-5 Timberwolf/Pathfinder Camp
- April 19
- May 3
- May 22-24 Group Family Camp

## 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.



**BACK IN THE FOREST**  
October 2019

It was great to have our first full meeting at Couturie Forest. The Pathfinder Patrol was very helpful to assist with creating trail signs for the Otter Raft and Timberwolf Pack to use. The Chipmunks made leaf people, the Otters got to practice their knots and read a good book about house building, and the Pack learned about Cubbing and played games.

**SCOUT KNOTTY BUG TIME**  
October 2019

Otters read the first chapter of Friends of the Forest. Then they looked at their house pictures. Some scouts drew the outside of their house, some scouts drew the inside, and some scouts drew a view from above.

Otters walked a bit in the woods and then read the book Du Iz Tak. The Otters then made a bug hotel out of a recycled water bottle, some string, and dead twigs and leaves found on the forest ground. The Otters sang the Bug Song to learn the bug body parts. Everyone then made a model of an insect.

The Timberwolves practiced their knots and then played games with them. The Yellow Sixer (one of our senior Cubs) ran a scavenger game so they could learn about the 10 Essentials and camping.

## CAMPING

As a Group we will try Fontainebleau State Park in May and the Pack/Troop to Homochitto National Forest in April both pending reservation confirmation. A sign-up list will go out soon.



At the Troop/Pack campout any Swimming Otters (those that will be in the Timberwolf Pack this fall) are welcome to join!

## 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 season 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



## 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.



**FINE SCOUT CAMP AT FAIRVIEW SP**  
November 2019

We had a fine time at Fairview State Park on the North Shore last weekend. The weather was great during the day and our campfire did its job keeping us warm at night along with our chili dinner made from scratch. The

Otters made trail mix, tooled leather bracelets, and made maps. The Timberwolves practiced fire safety, made a rope swing, and made sure we had our Scout Group flag up. Everyone enjoyed the hike to the river.

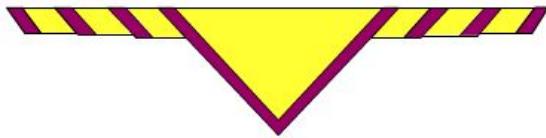
**SCOUTING IN ALGIERS**  
November 2019

We moved our meeting to an Algiers playground. Otters played soccer to show off their team skills, made bird feeders to help our feathered friends in the upcoming months, and donated canned food at a collection site. Timberwolves worked on their fitness requirements by playing various games and relays in the beautiful weather.

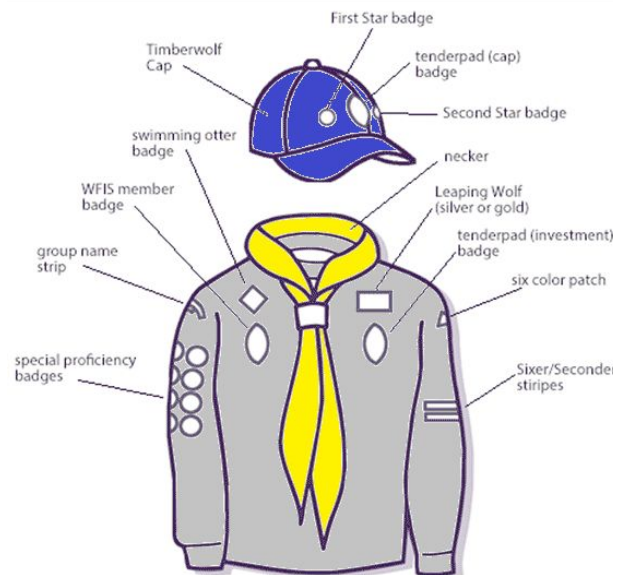
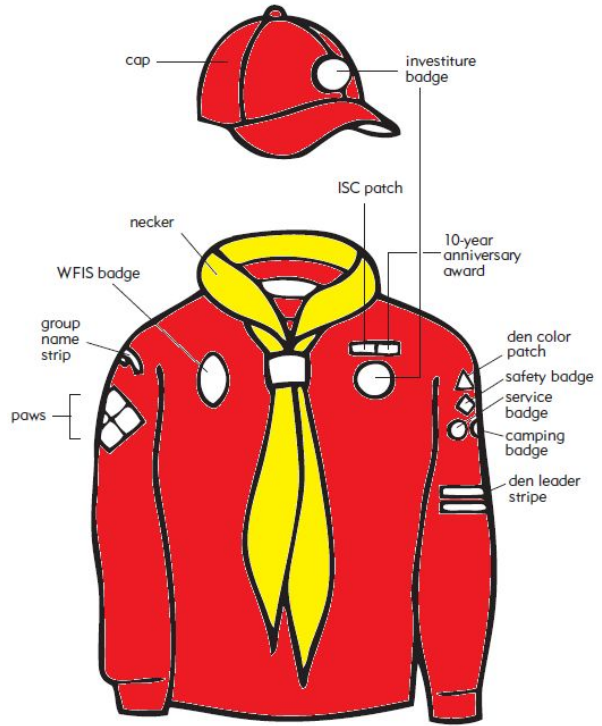
## NECKERS & UNIFORMS

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 high adventure camps, 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 volunteering functions. Descriptions of positions can [be found at this link](#).

## ENROLLMENT STEPS

Please invite your friends to come visit us for a meeting! Our website has more details under [Program](#).

Our sections are 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.



### GREAT FALL WEATHER

December 2019

The Scouts had a wonderful time in the warm fall weather. Otters got to share their collections and make a thank you letter. Timberwolves got to inspect a bike for safety and practice inflating tires. They also played a clock game to learn to read time and finally had an energetic game of Grab the Otter Tail. One of the Pathfinders instructed/examined a Cub to make sure they were ready to receive their Camper badge; Congrats to them!

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## **WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?**

We are the 39<sup>th</sup> 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!*