

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



## ENROLLMENT STEPS

We are again accepting new applications and renewals for the 2022-2023 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 11 or by email. Our website has more details under [Sign-Up!](#)

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

## 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. Please note our [COVID-19 policy](#) on our website.

## Welcome Back!!

Hope you all had a great summer break. Our Otter Raft, Timberwolf Pack, and Pathfinder Troop had a great 2021-2022 year 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 adults and children have busy schedules, but if we communicate well and share the tasks we will all have fun.

## FALL SCHEDULE

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

- Sept. 11
- Sept. 25
- October 2
- October 16
- Nov. 4-6 Group Camp weekend
- Nov. 13
- Dec. 4
- TBD Dec. 11 Make-up day.

## TO DO'S:

1. Make sure those uniform shirts still fit!
2. **Renewal & Registration** -- Look for an email mid-September.
3. We need extra co-leaders for all sections; please volunteer!



## GOOD TO BE SCOUTING AGAIN!

October 2021

Otters will be reviewing the Safety Badge and Nature badge this season. They hiked through Couterie with a few climbing breaks to discuss hiking safety. Then, they used forest finds to make trail guides/markers. During snack they learned about the planet Earth's relationship with the sun and moon. A great way to start to understand the solar system and our energy sources!

For us, we had a flashlight, a beach ball, and a mini volleyball as stand ins. After running up the hill several times, mostly successfully, they broke into teams and played Otter Search and Rescue to reiterate many of the Safety Badge elements. Finally we played in the lean-to shelter and talked about root systems in trees. Everyone got to take home a carrot top to try and grow (although some Otters preferred to nibble their carrots!).

Timberwolves practiced their square knots to play a game of Wild Horses and then Tug of War. They then tested their strength and agility by building different bridges with downed tree limbs to cross a mud hole.

Pathfinders went for a short hike and planned their upcoming meetings.

## FUN TIME AT THE FORT

October 2021

Otter and Timberwolves went to the Delery Playspot last meeting.

Otters read "And then the Seed Grew" by Marianne Dubuc and "Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move" by Joann Early Macken to learn about seeds and seed dispersal. They started seed germination in jars. The Otters created an obstacle course that we ran through many many times. They ended by making a book and started writing and drawing about our favorite animals.

The Timberwolves learned how to send secret messages using Semaphore and Morse. They then made up a game on a ship that had to send messages. Timberwolves also perfected their "parkour" skills by doing an obstacle course.

Pathfinders went to a Boulder Lounge to climb and then practice First Aid especially for the treatment of sprains.



### ROPE TOOLS

November 2021

Otters, Timberwolves, and Pathfinders were outside at Couturie Forest. Timberwolves practiced their knots and then used them for various activities. Everyone enjoyed looking at the water snakes sunbathing.



### THREE C's: COMPASS, CLOCK, COOKING

November 2021

Otters, Timberwolves, and Pathfinders were busy again. Timberwolves played games involving time and direction. They even made sundials. Pathfinders were cooking up some eggs and boiling water for hot chocolate in Billy cans.



### BE PREPARED FOR FUN

December 2021

We got ready for camp last week. The Timberwolves practiced putting up a tent, discussing tent rules, and reviewed how to pack our camping bags. Everyone had fun taking turns playing in the tent or playing at the water edge. Each Six even got to practice their skit for the campfire.



### DELIGHTFUL DECEMBER CAMP

December 2021

We had surprisingly good weather for camp. Due to weather or COVID the Timberwolves only got one camp last year and the Otters none. Their energy showed how happy they were to get outside again!



### PATHFINDER ROPE COURSE

December 2021

Pathfinders did the LOOP NOLA rope course. They harnessed up and did many of the sky-high obstacles.



### HAPPY MARDI GRAS!

February 2022

Due to COVID and the Mardi Gras parades we have not gotten together much this winter. Last weekend we did get some sun on a cool, windy day.

Timberwolves went to a field to practice some relays and games. Otters planted some seeds.

Pathfinders stayed warm at a coffee shop with some hot cocoa to discuss books and their Interpreter badge.



### OTTERS AND BIRDS

March 2021

It was a beautiful day for the Otter Raft in Couturie Forest. We read two books about birds. A rooster joined our story time. We made bird feeders out of Pinecones. Then we went for a hike and looked and listened for birds. We mostly saw egrets and another rooster, but could hear many songbirds. We then made stick weavings out of yarn and pieces of nature.

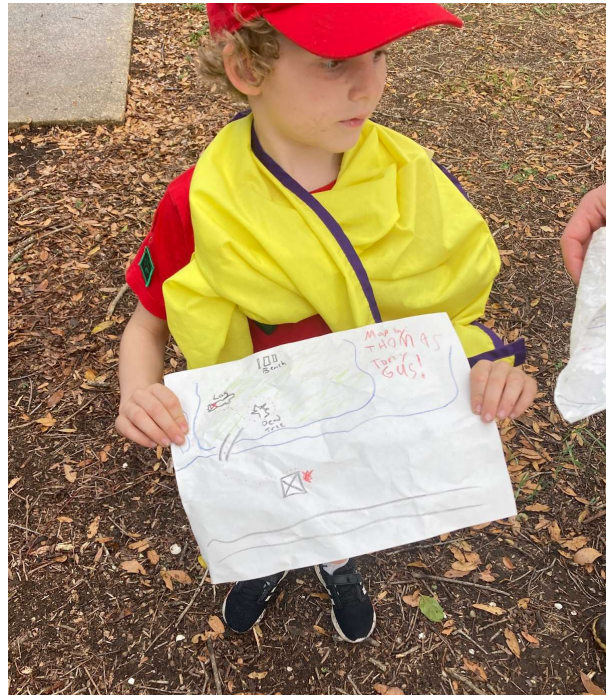


### FUN IN THE RAIN

March 2022

Went to Brechtel Park during some intermittent showers. Timberwolves learned about fire safety, made fire starters, and learned about walk/bike safety. Otters made maps of the park and read a story.

Pathfinders were dry at the bookstore/cafe again finishing their Reader Badge.



### CAMPING CONQUESTS

April 2022

Timberwolves went to Homochitto National Forest to camp. Great dry, sunny weather. Did some trails and paddled on the lake. Timberwolf Cubs practiced their fire starting and cooking skills. Went on a night hike to look for spiders. Even had some good skits and songs before having s'mores around the campfire. Many thanks to our guest Lone Rover Scout for helping provide the fun.





### HAPPY SPRING

April 2022

Otters and Timberwolves went to the Barataria Preserve for a nature hike. Saw two alligators and about 15 snakes. It is so nice to get so close to the critters on the boardwalk without bothering them. Great way to practice our Observation and learn about Conservation.



### SCOUTING IN THE RAIN

April 2022

We had a half meeting before a solid rain shower hit us (20% chance of rain turned into 100%). Timberwolves practiced some first aid and did a Search and Rescue game with it. Otters took a hike to the top of the hill and tried to figure out where they live on the map of New Orleans. Almost all the scouts know their street name and number of their house. They also reviewed what to do if you get lost and who to talk to. They listened to two books and drew pictures of an imaginary dream home.



### FUN SKILLS AT LAST MEETING!

May 2022

Timberwolves got to practice Knife Safety and do some more First Aid games.

Otters made airplanes and did some cool art stuff. Thank you all for such a great Scouting Year! See you in the fall.





### LAST CAMP TILL FALL

May 2022

Our last campout was fun and wet; both in the lake and out! We had a good campfire Friday night. On Saturday the Pathfinders cooked breakfast. Then the whole group went on a nature walk on our way to the lake. We knew heavy rain was coming so we packed the tents to be safe. When the rain came after lunch it did not stop the Pathfinders who played a great game of water football. Otters completed their Handicraft Badge and we had one Timberwolf earn their Leaping Wolf. See you all again this Fall!



## 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  
Heather

### <<<< 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  
Heather



### <<<< Otter Raft >>>>

"Busy and Bright"

The Otters will work on a Paw Badge and start their Safety this fall. There still needs to be discussion on who will lead.

### Otter Co-Leaders:

Thomas Miller  
Breegan



### <<<< 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:

Ria McKnight  
??

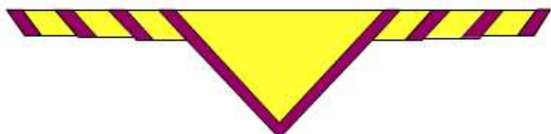
## REGIONAL & NATIONAL OSG NEWS

Pathfinders have about a hundred new badges to earn.

## 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.

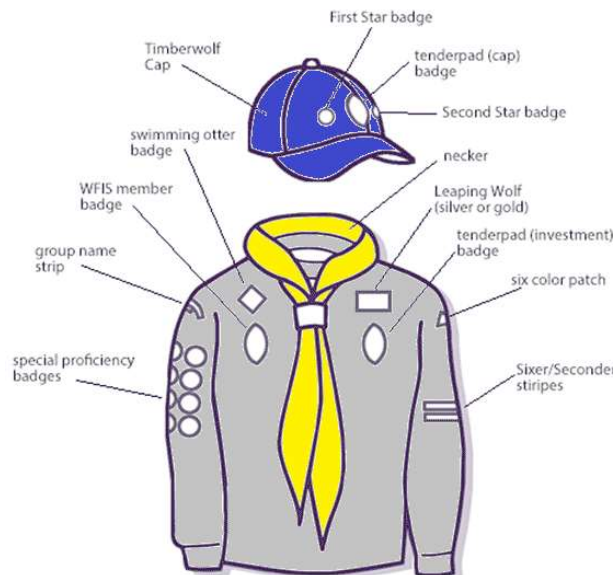
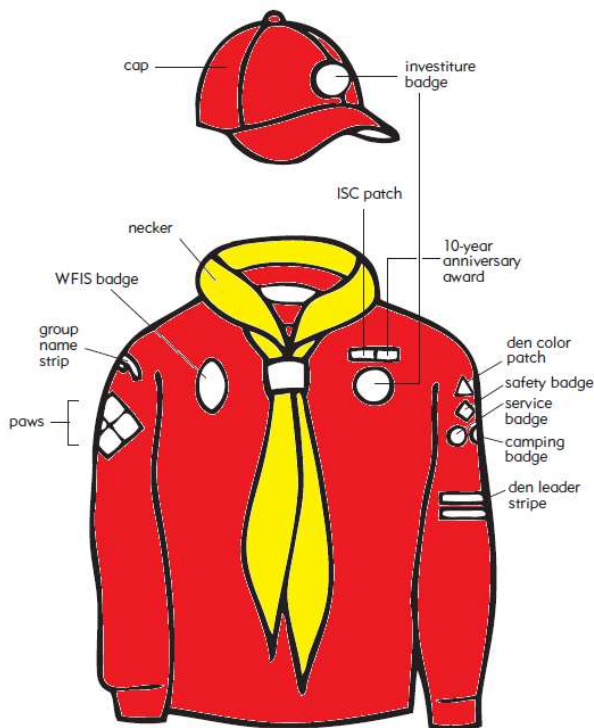


## COMMITTEE NEWS

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.

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 UNIFORM



Timberwolf Uniform Patch Guide

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

We are the 39<sup>th</sup> Cypress Group of the Outdoor Service Guides (OSG) 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 (BPSA) 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 OSG 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, and Everyone**

Scouting is one of the best programs for developing character, improving resourcefulness, and learning responsibility and skills in public service; and OSG 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!*