



The Northeast District Monthly Gazette

A Publication of the Crossroads of America Council, BSA – Northeast District

"All the News...That Is News...for Pack, Troop & Crew Leadership in the Northeast District"

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In the Next 30 Days

- Oct 16-18
NED Fall Camporee
- Oct 21 (6:00 PM)
Re-Charter Help Session
- Oct 21 (7:00 PM)
NED Committee Mtg
- Oct 28 (By Appt.)
Unit Re-Charter Turn-in
- Oct 31 (By Appt.)
Unit Re-Charter Turn-in
- Nov 4 (4:00 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Nov 4 (7:00 PM)
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Nov 5 (7:00 PM)
[MB Counselor Trng](#)
- Nov 11 (7:00 PM)
NED Roundtables
- Nov 14 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)
[WD9BSA On-the-Air](#)

In the Next 60 Days

- Nov 18 (7:00 PM)
NED Committee Mtg
- Nov 18 (7:00 PM)
[MB Counselor Trng](#)
- Nov 19 (6:30 PM)
NED OA/Firecrafter Mtgs
- Dec 2 (7:00 PM)
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Dec 3 (7:00 PM)
[MB Counselor Trng](#)
- Dec 6 (4:00 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Dec 9 (7:00 PM)
NED Roundtables
- Dec 12 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)
[WD9BSA On-the-Air](#)
- Dec 14
FOS Governor's Luncheon

In the Next 90 Days

- Dec 16 (7:00 MP)
NED Committee Mtg
- Dec 17 (6:30 PM)
NED OA/Firecrafter Mtgs
- Dec 31
2015 Unit Charters Expire

Best Practices for a Successful Re-Charter- Part 3 of 3

Just a little over two-weeks until your unit re-charter turn-in date. If you haven't started the re-charter process within your unit yet, **NOW IS THE TIME TO PANIC...** just kidding! There is still time, but it will require great focus. The final two-weeks prior to turning in your re-charter paperwork will require the same approach as General Colin Powell used when he led Operation Desert Storm in 1991...“Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted, the leader must be doubly vigilant.” Let's review a checklist of details that you will need to keep in the front of your mind to successfully complete your unit re-charter...[read more](#)

Popcorn Wrap-Up

As the popcorn sale winds down and we approach the end, we hope that everyone had a safe, enjoyable experience. And we hope your unit earned the funds needed to fuel your upcoming Scouting Adventures! In addition to the dates highlighted at the bottom of this story, here are some things that we think you should be thinking of and/or consider over the next few weeks....[read more](#)

ScoutStrong 5K at Camp Belzer Scheduled for November 14

We all have recited the Scout Oath so many times that we probably say it without thinking about how we can make these words come to life in our daily lives. The Crossroads of America Council, BSA is sponsoring a **SCOUTStrong Event** on **Saturday, November 14, 2015** which will give all Scouting families in the Northeast District the opportunity to live “physically strong”[read more](#)

Voice of Scouting – BSA Wants to Hear From You!

“I really wish they would...” we've probably all thought this at one time or another, but very rarely do you have the opportunity to easily provide your perspective. Well, now is your chance. The opportunity to participate in the Voice of Scouting was e-mailed to adults and scouts over the age of 14, and will remain available for your input until **Tuesday, October 20, 2015**.[read more](#)

Calling All Merit Badge Counselors (and Those That Want To Be)

As a Scout begins their final difficult climb through the Scouting ranks of Star, Life and ultimately Eagle, the advancement requirements depend more and more on the Scout successfully completing merit badges (21 in total, 13 Eagle-required). Currently, the Boy Scouts of America offers 136 different merit badges from America Business to Woodworking, all focused on sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. The one common factor shared by all merit badges is that each merit badge needs **knowledgeable, well-trained** Merit Badge Counselors. So what does it take to become and/or maintain your status as a BSA-approved Merit Badge Counselor?....[read more](#)

The NED Outdoor Experience Exchange – Charles Deem Wilderness

While the Knobstone Trail is the pinnacle of Indiana hiking, it is definitely **NOT** the place to introduce young scouts to the joys of backpacking. If you are looking for the perfect first backpacking experience for your Troop or Crew, you are in luck. Indiana's only Wilderness Area...The Charles Deem Wilderness offers over 13,000 acres of forested land and over 37 miles of less strenuous trails!....[read more](#)

- Jan 8-10
OA Winter Gathering
- Jan 9, 2016 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)
[WD9BSA On-the-Air](#)
- Jan 10, 2016 (3:30 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Jan 13, 2016
NED Award Nominations Due
- Jan 13, 2016 (7:00 PM)
NED Roundtables
- Jan 16, 2016
CAC University of Scouting

Who Can I Contact

Do you have feedback on the current issue?

Do you have ideas for news items in a future issue of

The Northeast District Monthly Gazette?

Contact: [Mike Chambers](#)

Best Practices for a Successful Re-Charter- Part 3 of 3

Just a little over two-weeks until your unit re-charter turn-in date. If you haven't started the re-charter process within your unit yet, **NOW IS THE TIME TO PANIC...** just kidding! There is still time, but it will require great focus. The final two-weeks prior to turning in your re-charter paperwork will require the same approach as General Colin Powell used when he led Operation Desert Storm in 1991...“Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted, the leader must be doubly vigilant.” Let's review a checklist of details that you will need to keep in the front of your mind to successfully complete your unit re-charter.

- ✓ Reconcile re-charter commitments, fees collected, and training records for all current/pending new members to your unit. Red flag any issues (i.e., missing fees, Youth Protection Training [YPT] expiring through March 1, 2016, etc.) for immediate follow-up
- ✓ If you are adding any new scouts or adults during unit re-charter, double check all applications for appropriate signatures; don't forget to confirm that all adult applications have provided their social security/driver's license numbers and provided permission for BSA to conduct a background check. Failure to have a completely filled out application will result in those application being “kicked-back” until it is correctly filled out, only the newest for BSA Adult Application for with the three questions at the bottom left that need initialed can be used, 524-501 on the bottom left of front page.
- ✓ If current YPT is missing for either a re-chartering or new adult member, communicate one final “drop dead” date prior to re-charter turn-in date to members still needing to successfully complete and submit documentation of this on-line training. **If the deadline comes and goes without YPT completion, remove them from the re-charter list.**
- ✓ You will need to schedule a “signing party” for the re-charter documents. All new scout applications will need to be signed by the unit lead (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Venture/Ship Crew Advisor); all new adult applications will need to be signed by the Troop Committee Chair AND the Chartered Organization Rep. The actual re-charter documents will need to be signed by the Unit Leader, and the Unit Executive Officer (the designated member of the chartering organization) prior to turn-in and signed-off by our Northeast District Executive.
- ✓ On unit re-charter turn-in day, bring your signed copy of the unit re-charter paperwork and all new member applications. It is a good idea to attach a paper copy of the confirmation of valid YPT to all new adult member applications; also bring paper copies of the confirmation of successfully completed YPT for all existing members who need to have re-taken YPT prior to re-charter, a copy of the YPT Aging Report in Training Manager from “My.Scouting.Org” will work fine, that any of the Key Three can get. One final item to bring is a **signed blank check** to pay your unit re-charter fees (the correct amount will be calculated and communicated to your re-charter lead at the time your unit documents are submitted).

If you have any re-charter questions during this last two weeks before your turn-in date, please don't hesitate to contact your unit commissioner or your District Executive, [Adam Walden](#) for help.

[<Return to Top of Page>](#)

Popcorn Wrap-Up

As the popcorn sale winds down and we approach the end, we hope that everyone had a safe, enjoyable experience. And we hope your unit earned the funds needed to fuel your upcoming Scouting Adventures! In addition to the dates highlighted at the bottom of this story, here are some things that we think you should be thinking of and/or consider over the next few weeks.

Do you have a plan to collect all popcorn orders and unsold inventory from your families... especially those who you have not heard from and/or missed your unit turn-in date? Do you have a plan to collect all payments? What is your plan if you are having a difficult time reaching a few of your families? Now is the time to make sure you have plans in place to close out your

sale as smoothly as possible so you don't miss deadlines. Let us know how we can help!

Make sure you celebrate the end of the sale with your families. Hopefully, the boys who participated had fun and enjoyed their time out selling. So have some fun afterwards (especially if you hit your goal) and get everyone together for an ice cream party, have the top seller(s) put a pie in the leader's face of their choosing, hand out the prize vouchers, have a silly string party, etc. Party time!!!

Important Popcorn Dates

- Oct 18 – Popcorn Sale Ends!
- Oct 20 – 20% of Initial Order Payment Due
- Oct 27 by 11:59 PM – Final Unit Popcorn Orders Due
- Oct 27 – Final Popcorn Return Day
- Oct 27 – Unsold Popcorn Return Deadline
- Oct 27 – Unit Prize Orders Due
- Nov 12 – Final Popcorn Distribution (@ Merchandise Warehouse – 1414 S. West Street)
- Nov 17 – Cash 'n Carry at Camp Belzer
- Nov 24 – Cash 'n Carry at Camp Belzer
- Dec 1 – Cash 'n Carry at Camp Belzer
- Dec 4 – Final Popcorn Payment Due
- Dec 8 – Cash 'n Carry at Camp Belzer

Last but certainly not least, we would like to hear from you. If you have feedback, success stories, best practices, suggestions for next year, etc., please send them to Jenny at jennymondy@sbcglobal.net. If you can, send your feedback now for next year before it's too late and you forget. Let us know how we can help!

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District Popcorn Co-Kernel
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District Unit-Serving Executive
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[<Return to Top of Page>](#)

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We all have recited the Scout Oath so many times that we probably say it without thinking about how we can make these words come to life in our daily lives. The Crossroads of America Council, BSA is sponsoring a **SCOUTStrong event** on **Saturday, November 14, 2015** which will give all Scouting families in the Northeast District the opportunity to live "physically strong".

This year's Wilderness 5K Run/Walk will be held at **Camp Belzer** from **7:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. You can either choose to run this 5K, or you can walk it at more leisurely pace. All you have to do is [register on-line](#), attend, and travel the 5K distance around Camp Belzer. Post-race refreshments provided. Awards for age division winners! New for 2015 is the **unit participation trophy**, the unit with the most participants will receive an awesome race trophy sponsored by the Indiana National Guard! Let's have a great turnout from the Northeast District!

[<Return to Top of Page>](#)

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Please take the 5-10 minutes that it will take to provide your feedback. The next to last question in the survey is specifically designed to allow you to tell the Boy Scouts of America what you

“really wish they would” ...



[<Return to Top of Page>](#)

Calling All Merit Badge Counselors (and Those That Want To Be)

As a Scout begins their final difficult climb through the Scouting ranks of Star, Life and ultimately Eagle, the advancement requirements depend more and more on the Scout successfully completing merit badges (21 in total, 13 Eagle-required). Currently, the Boy Scouts of America offers 136 different merit badges from America Business to Woodworking, all focused on sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. The one common factor shared by all merit badges is that each merit badge needs **knowledgeable, well-trained** Merit Badge Counselors. So what does it take to become and/or maintain your status as a BSA-approved Merit Badge Counselor?

The first thing you need is **KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE** and/or **INTEREST** in one or more of the merit badges...it could be a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications), and a willingness to offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

The next step to becoming and/or maintaining your status as a merit badge counselor is to **REGISTER** with the Boy Scouts of America, through your BSA local council. This entails contacting the local council, then obtaining, completing, and turning in the "Adult Application." The council will then process the application. (Every applicant is screened.)

The next step is to complete the required **TRAINING**. First, every adult associated with the Boy Scouts of America are required to successfully complete **YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING** a minimum of once every two years. This training is available [on line](#) and can easily be completed in a single 30-minute on-line session. In addition, the Merit Badge Counselor needs to complete a one-time Council-offered **MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR ORIENTATION** session. If you need this, you are in luck, as the Crossroads of America Council, BSA is offering three more face-to-face 1-hour [MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR ORIENTATION Sessions](#): at the Golden-Burke Scout Center during the remainder of 2015:

- Thursday November 5, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 18, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

In addition, **MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR ORIENTATION** may also be completed [on-line](#). At the conclusion of this training, you will be directed to a Google document to complete the online quiz. Once the quiz is complete, your records will be updated within two weeks.

Now the fun can begin! As requested, you will get to **WORK WITH SCOUTS** on your selected merit badge(s). Your role is to assess the Scout's knowledge of the topic to ensure he has completed all the required work—no more, and no less. You may not add to, delete from, or

modify the merit badge requirements in any way. As soon as the Scout has demonstrated the required knowledge, you should sign-off on the merit badge "blue card".

[<Return to Top of Page>](#)

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WHERE: The Charles Deam Wilderness Area is located in the Hoosier National Forest and is only a stone's throw from our own Ransburg Scout Reservation. From Bloomington, take State Route 446 and continue south past the turn off to Ransburg Scout Reservation. Turn left (east) on Tower Ridge Road at the Wilderness sign to access the three designated parking areas (Blackwell Horse Camp, Grubb Ridge Trailhead, and the Hickory Ridge Fire Tower). While the majority of the 37 miles of trails are shared with horseback riders, the 6-mile **SYCAMORE LOOP TRAIL** (accessed from the Hickory Ridge Fire Tower parking lot), is the only **HIKING ONLY** trail in the Charles Deam and is perfect for that first backpacking experience. While leave-no-trace camping is generally allowed anywhere in the Charles Deam Wilderness, there are approximately four designated camping spots along the Sycamore Loop Trail.

WARNING/SAFETY: Please note that throughout the Charles Deam Wilderness water is generally not available. As such, Troops/Crews will either have to carry water for use along the trail.

WHEN: The Charles Deam Wilderness area is open year-round.

COST: This is a relatively low cost outing for a Troop /Crew.

MORE INFORMATION: There are a couple of websites where you can obtain additional information on the Charles Deam Wilderness Area:

http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/Destinations/Hoosier_National/wilderness_west_and_sycamore.htm

<http://www.mobilemaplets.com/showplace/1260>

https://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.aspx?trailid=XFA263-031

You can also refer to the detailed write-up of the various trails associated with the Charles Deam Wilderness in the following book:

Hiking Indiana, 2nd: A Guide to the State's Greatest Hiking Adventures written by Phil Bloom

Tell us about your outing to the Charles Deam Wilderness by posting on the [Northeast District Facebook](#) page!

[<Return to Top of Page>](#)