



# 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 & Ship Leadership in the Northeast District"

Follow Us On...



## IN THIS ISSUE

1. [Northeast District 2017 Planning Sessions Approaching](#)
2. [Great CPC Chili Cook-Off /Fund Raiser Details Now Available](#)
3. [You Won't Want to Miss This Year's Governor's Luncheon](#)
4. [Ethan's Giving Tree Available Again This Year](#)
5. [Northeast District 2016 Popcorn Sales Recap – GREAT JOB!](#)
6. [Don't Forget to Nominate Deserving NED Volunteers/Units](#)
7. [Make Plans NOW to attend This Year's University of Scouting](#)
8. [The Merit Badge Counselor Role](#)
9. [The NED Recipe Exchange – Mom's No-Stir Fruit Cobbler](#)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### In the Next 30 Days

- Nov 16, 2016 (7:00-8:00 PM) [MB Counselor Training](#)
- Nov 16, 2016 (7:00 PM) NED Committee Mtg
- Nov 17, 2016 Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Nov 19, 2016 [Baloo Training – Camp Cullom](#)
- Dec 1, 2016 (7:00-8:00 PM) [MB Counselor Training](#)
- Dec 2, 2016 Final Popcorn Payment Due
- Dec 4, 2016 (3:30 PM) NED Eagle BoRs
- Dec 7, 2016 (7:00 PM) NED Planning – Part 1
- Dec 10, 2016 (1-7 PM) WD9BSA Open House
- Dec 12, 2016 (12:00 PM) FOS Governor's Luncheon
- Dec 14, 2016 (6:30 PM) NED Elections/Pot Luck Dinner

## Calling All Units - NED 2017 Planning Sessions Approaching

Your Northeast District Committee worked hard in 2016 to implement plans made at the tail-end of 2015 to help units in the district deliver quality programs this year. Highlights included another outstanding Cub Scout Sign-Up Night and Rocket Launch, successful popcorn and camp card sales, unit participation in Scouting for Food and Soles4Souls council-wide service projects and two fun Northeast District Camporees, to name a few.

### Ideas to Action Planning



So where did our 2016 plans come from? The answer is pretty simple. They were developed by the Northeast District Committee, with **DIRECT INPUT** from Northeast District unit leadership. Your input is again needed, as your district committee will be establishing goals for 2017 using a two meeting format.

- **Part One - 2017 Northeast District Planning** will be held on **Wednesday, December 7, 2016** beginning at **7:00 PM**.
- **Part Two - 2017 Northeast District Planning** will be held on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017** beginning at **7:00 PM**.

Both of these sessions will be convened at the **Camp Belzer Activity Center**. Please mark **your calendars** now and make a special effort to have your unit represented. If you have any questions, please contact [Steve Creason](#), [Terry Fulner](#) or [Laura Clay](#).

## Great CPC Chili Cook-Off / Fund Raiser Details Now Available

As mentioned in the October issue of The Northeast District Gazette, the **Great CPC Chili Cook-Off** (and Scout Fund Raiser) is scheduled for **Saturday, January 28, 2017** at **Christ Presbyterian Church** (CPC) in **McCordsville, IN** (charter organization for Northeast District's Pack and Troop 88). This Chili Cook-Off is unique in that Scouting units in the Northeast District are being offered the opportunity to both compete in the cook-off AND, based on the profit-sharing approach set-up by the Church, also earn money for the units that compete.



There are three ways that scouting units may participate in the unit fund raising part of the **Great CPC Chili Cook-Off**:

- Units will benefit by having individuals and families **PRE-REGISTER** to ATTEND THE EVENT. This pre-registration (on the CPC website) will include their contact information, **which unit they are from**, and their pre-payment to attend using the CPC secure website. This will result in the unit receiving \$1.00 back per pre-registrant, up to \$25.00 (basically covering the unit entry fee).
- A **PRE-REGISTRATION Contest** will also be held. The unit with the largest number of **PRE-REGISTRATIONS** will win an additional \$75.00; the unit with the second largest attendance will win \$50.00; the unit with the third largest attendance will win \$25.00.
- The third way that scout units may earn funds is by selling **SPONSORSHIPS** for the **Official Great CPC Chili Cook-Off Program**. There are five different levels of sponsorship, ranging from \$25.00 to \$150.00. Scout units will receive 60% of the funds resulting from all sponsorships sold.

It is important to note that this opportunity to compete and raise funds for your unit is a limited one. There is only room for 10 units to enter the contest. Sign-up will begin on **Thursday, December 1, 2016** and the first 10 units that sign-up and pay the \$25.00 entry

### In the Next 60 Days

- Dec 15, 2016  
Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Dec 21, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Jan 7, 2017  
Firecrafter Dinner
- Jan 11, 2017 (7:00 PM)  
NED Round Tables
- Jan 14, 2017 (8 AM – 5 PM)  
[University of Scouting](#)
- Jan 14, 2017 (1-7 PM)  
WD9BSA Open House

### In the Next 90 Days

- Jan 18, 2017 (7:00 PM)  
NED 2016 Planning – Part 2
- Jan 19, 2017  
Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Jan 20-22, 2017  
OA Winter Gathering
- Jan 21, 2017  
[Eagle Award Nomination Due](#)
- Jan 28, 2017  
Great CPC Chili Cook-Off
- Feb 1, 2017 (7:00 PM)  
NED Committee Mtg
- Feb 3-4, 2017  
Crossroads Trade-O-Ree
- Feb 8, 2017  
NED Awards Banquet
- Feb 11, 2017 (1-7 PM)  
WD9BSA Open House
- Feb 12, 2017  
Scout Sunday
- Feb 12, 2017  
NED Eagle BoRs (4:00 PM)
- Feb 15, 2017  
NED Commissioners Mtg

### 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](#)

fee are in (*if you snooze you lose*)!

So let's review the key information:

- Unit sign-up to compete in the **Great CPC Chili Cook-Off** begins on **Thursday, December 1, 2016**. A link will be forwarded to all Northeast District unit key 3's as soon as it is available
- After unit chili cook-off registration is complete, Scouts and parents from the competing unit should begin selling sponsorships for the **Official Great CPC Chili Cook-Off Program**. The deadline for sponsors to commit and pay their sponsorship fees is **Friday, January 20, 2017**.
- Each competing unit should encourage families to pre-register to attend this event, paying their attendance fees in total before 12:00 PM on **Thursday, July 26, 2016**. The costs to attend (and eat chili) are \$7.00 per adult, \$5.00 per Scout, children 4 and under are free.
- For units registered to compete, bring your best chili to CPC in McCordsville on **Saturday, January 28, 2017**.

May the best chili win...and may all units entered in the **Great CPC Chili Cook-Off** earn funds to help support their units. Questions about this event can be directed to [Roger Howard](#).

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

## You Won't Want to Miss This Year's Governor's Luncheon

The twenty-first **Annual Governor's Luncheon** is just around the corner. It will be held at the **JW Marriott** in downtown Indianapolis on **Monday, December 12, 2016** from **12:00 PM to 1:30 PM**. As in past years, this will serve as the kick-off of the annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign. If you are available please join other Friends of Scouting and help kick-off this critical fund raising campaign. Without the FOS campaign, the character development programs, camps and training we enjoy would not be available for the more than 31,000 youth and 7,600 adult volunteers we serve.



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

## Ethan's Giving Tree Available Again This Year – Your Help Needed

The Crossroads of America Council Scout Shops are providing an opportunity for the Scouting community to help local Scouts who may be in need of uniforms and uniform items through the **Ethan Giving Tree** program beginning **November 17 through December 20, 2016**.



Ethan Trees (similar to an Angel Tree) will be set up at each council Scout Shop with donation cards on them. Each card will have the first name of the Scout along with the uniform items he or she needs. There will also be a space for other items they may want

such as books, crafts, camping items, etc. Customers and Scout supporters can purchase the item(s) at the Scout Shops and give the items to the store staff to collect for each Scout.

Your assistance is needed in two ways:

- If you have a Scout(s) in need of uniform items, please register them [on-line](#) by **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**. Scout full names and unit numbers will be kept confidential. The Scout Shop staff will contact you to pick up donated items if your Scout's card is selected by a donor. There is no guarantee of card selection or all requested items will be purchased.
- During your next visit the Scout Shop (prior to December 20, 2016), please consider "paying it forward" by selecting a card from the tree and purchasing the item as an early Christmas present from one Scouting family to another.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. With leaders like you, this program will greatly benefit our Scouting community!

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

## Northeast District 2016 Popcorn Sales Recap – GREAT JOB!

Well, this year's Popcorn sales period has ended and the results are in the books. So, how did units in the Northeast District fair? Overall, the Northeast District had 26 units that sold \$264,795 in popcorn! This eclipsed our popcorn sales goal of \$256,500 by 3.2% and our 2015 district sales of \$250,526 by 5.7%. Everyone did a great job, but we wanted to give a special shout out to Pack 335, who sold the most popcorn in the district (\$25,267) and Pack 427 who had the highest average sale per participating Scout at \$2,018.75. Congratulations to those units for a **GREAT JOB!**



While the Scouts certainly worked hard selling popcorn, a group of individuals at the district and unit level deserve **SPECIAL THANKS**. First, every unit Popcorn Kernel deserves a big round of applause for their efforts to facilitate unit sales. We would also like to thank our district popcorn team of Jenny Mondy and Michael Welling. Without their tireless effort, popcorn sales across the district would not have gone as smoothly as it did. Another GREAT JOB delivered by Popcorn Kernels at all levels!

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

## Don't Forget to Nominate Deserving NED Volunteers/Units

Yes, the year is closing fast...Thanksgiving dinner, Black Friday, Christmas morning and New Year's eve will be here in a blink of an eye. While the deadline to complete nomination forms for deserving Northeast District volunteers and units is still the January 2017 Round Tables, now would be a perfect time to sit down and complete those nomination forms.

[SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

The line-up of potential recognitions include:

- Cubmaster of the Year
- Scoutmaster of the Year
- Crew/Ship Advisor of the Year
- Pack of the Year
- Troop of the Year
- Crew/Ship of the Year
- Golden Spike Awards (one nomination per unit)
- District Award of Merit

Please take time now to download the [NED Adult Recognition \(PDF\) packet](#), and

**NOMINATE YOUR UNIT/LEADERS** for doing the splendid job for which they are famous? Nominations will be due no later than **January 11, 2017** at the Northeast District Round Tables, with presentations of these recognitions during the February 2017 District Dinner. Contact [Laura Clay](#) if you have any questions.

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

## Make Plans NOW to attend This Year's University of Scouting

Have you always wanted to complete that required BSA training, but you can never find that it has been scheduled? Well look no further; the **2017 University of Scouting** will offer many of those seemingly hard-to-find required courses, as well as hundreds of additional learning sessions based on the BSA's nationally recognized Four-Function plan, which includes:



- **Program:** training, camping/outdoor, advancement, and activities/civic service
- **Unit service:** commissioner service
- **Finance:** including marketing
- **Membership and Relationships**

More details will be forthcoming. For now, mark your calendar for **Saturday, January 14, 2017** and make plans to join many of your fellow Scouters at **Warren Central High School** for a day of learning.

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

## The Role of Merit Badge Counselor in Scouting

As a Scout progresses on his trail toward the rank of Eagle Scout, merit badges become increasingly more important. Boy Scouts of America offers over 130 merit badges ranging from American Business to Woodworking, allowing the Scout to learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers while completing merit badge requirements. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 13 of which are Eagle required.



For a Scout to complete a merit badge, they must first talk with their Scoutmaster, who will sign a merit badge blue card indicating his support of the Scout's pursuit of the selected merit badge. The blue card is the nationally recognized merit badge record. This tool makes the recordkeeping easier for the Scout, the merit badge counselor, and the unit leader. Next the Scout (and a buddy) must identify and work with a merit badge counselor, demonstrating to the counselor that the Scout has met all the requirements for the merit badge (no more, no less). As soon as this is accomplished, the merit badge counselor will sign the blue card; the Scout will turn it in to the unit advancement chair; and the merit badge will be presented to the Scout at the next unit Court of Honor.

So how does a Scout find a merit badge counselor? There are two approaches a Scout may use to find a needed merit badge counselor. First, the unit may have a unit-specific list of approved merit badge counselors waiting to work with Scouts in the unit. If, however, the Scout wishes to pursue a merit badge that the unit does not have a merit badge counselor identified, the Scout may contact the Crossroads of America Council; the council has a list of approved merit badge counselors for every merit badge that are willing to serve any Scout in the council.

If you are not currently an approved merit badge counselor, you probably should volunteer for this role by selecting a merit badge(s) in one or more areas of expertise or interest — whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation, engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal

management, communications) there is likely a merit badge that you can be a counselor for! You may check out the requirements for every merit badge offered by the Boy Scouts of America at [www.meritbadge.org](http://www.meritbadge.org). Alternatively, there are merit badge books available for purchase at your local Scout Shop.

The process to become a merit badge counselor is simple:

1. Obtain, complete and turn-in a Boy Scouts of America Adult Application specifying that you wish to be a merit badge counselor
2. Your application will receive the required background check.
3. Complete Youth Protection Training. This required training is available on-line and takes about 30-minutes to complete. It must be refreshed once every three years.
4. Complete a Merit Badge Counselor Training Session. Crossroads of America Council offers face-to-face 60-minute sessions, or this may be completed on-line.

If you are not already an approved merit badge counselor, please consider becoming one. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest. If you have any questions about becoming a merit badge counselor, please contact our District Executive, [Laura Clay](#).

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

## The NED Recipe Exchange – Mom’s No Stir Fruit Cobbler

With fall season upon us, a visit to the grocery store will display the bounty of local fruit harvests (apples, cherries, blueberries and strawberries, to name a few). One of the best ways to enjoy these fruits on a camping trip (or in the comfort of your own home) is by baking a fruit cobbler. Today’s recipe exchange will share a simple set of directions for creating **Mom’s No-Stir Fruit Cobbler** courtesy of Mike Chambers.



### INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup Pillsbury Flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1-2 cups diced fresh fruit (or one can of fruit pie filling)
- ½ stick of butter or margarine
- ½ cup milk

Melt butter in a 9” round baking pan (or other pan that can fit inside a Dutch Oven). Add flour, sugar, baking powder and salt to a small bowl; stir well. Add milk to dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Pour mixture over the melted butter in the 9” baking pan. Add fresh fruit (or can of pie filling) over the top of the mixture. DO NOT STIR. Bake in Dutch oven (or oven at home) for approximately 30 minutes at 350°F until done. Serves: 8

Do you have a favorite recipe that you are known for and are willing to share? Please send your recipes to Mike Chambers for sharing via future issues of ***The Northeast District Monthly Gazette***.

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