



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...



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In the Next 30 Days

- Sep 16, 2017
Popcorn Sales Begin!
- Sep 16, 2017 (8:30 – Noon)
BALOO Training
- Sep 21, 2017 (6:30 – 7:30 PM)
Pack Committee Training
- Sep 21, 2017 (7:30 – 8:30 PM)
Den Leader Specific Training
- Sep 21, 2017
Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Sep 22-24, 2017
United Methodist Scouting Retreat
- Sep 29-Oct 1, 2017
Fall Wood Badge #2
- Sep 29-Oct 1, 2017
NYLT Session #2
- Sep 30, 2017
[Silver Beaver Nomination Due](#)
- Sep 30, 2017
[Eagle to Eagle Nomination](#)

Silver Beaver, Eagle to Eagle, and Friend of Eagle Nominations Due

Dwayne Wade, noted basketball player formerly with the Miami Heat and now with the Chicago Bulls probably captured the feelings of adult volunteers regarding their commitment to Scouting when he said *"The thing is, I don't do these things for recognition...I do them because those things make me whole and complete"*. That said, we have a number of nomination deadlines approaching quickly (**September 30, 2017**) where we have the opportunity to recognize adult volunteers for their outstanding service. So what Scouting Awards are we talking about?



Silver Beaver Award – The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. It is given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it.

To nominate a deserving Scouter for the Silver Beaver Award, the [nomination form](#) should be completed online and submitted by the **September 30, 2017** deadline. Please follow the directions on the application form. This application will be reviewed by a selection committee; the committee will not know the name of the nominee or the name of the nominator. Selections will be based only on the information provided on the application.

The CAC also awards a pair of unique Council-wide recognitions for adults who have provided assistance to Scouts on their journey to the rank of Eagle. The first is the **Eagle to Eagle Award** presented annually to an Eagle Scout, who, as an adult, is now serving our youth as an active adult volunteer in a Scout troop or Venturing Crew. The **Friend of Eagle Award** honor a non-Eagle adult volunteer who activity assists Scouts on the trail to Eagle.

To nominate a Scouter for either award, please download the [Eagle to Eagle](#) and/or the [Friend of Eagle](#) nomination form, complete and submit them to CAC by **September 30, 2017**. For more information on any of these nominations, please contact Karrie Schlegel at (317) 813-7068 or by [email](#).

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Council-Level Scout Recognition Deadline Also Approaching

Do you have a Scout in your unit that has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities? If so, you will have an opportunity before **September 30, 2017** to nominate them for the **Walter J. Schuchmann Leadership Award**. Read on to see if you have a Scout who should be nominated.

Each Scout being nominated must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Currently serving in a position of leadership in his troop;
2. At least First Class in rank;
3. Have served in a leadership role for at least six months;
4. Have not reached his 18th birthday prior to November 11 of the year that the Scout applies for the award.

If selected, the Scout will be presented this award at the Veterans Day Banquet, typically held on November 11 of each year. Nominations for this award must be submitted to the

Due

- Sep 30, 2017
[Friend of Eagle Nomination Due](#)
- Sep 30, 2017
[Walter J. Schuchmann Youth Leadership Award Nomination Due](#)
- Oct 1, 2017
Online Re-Charter Begins
- Oct 1, 2017 (4:00 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Oct 4, 2017
Wood Badge Dinner
- Oct 4, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Committee Mtg
- Oct 11, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Roundtables
- Oct 11, 2017 (7:00 PM)
Den Chief Training
- Oct 11, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Re-Charter Help
- Oct 11, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Oct 14, 2017 (1-7 PM)
WD9BSA Open House

In the Next 60 Days

- Oct 19, 2017
Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Oct 20-22, 2017
Civil War Days @ Belzer
- Oct 20-22, 2017
WD9BSA JOTA
- Oct 22, 2017
Popcorn Sales End
- Oct 23, 2017
Re-Charter Turn in #1
- October 24, 2017
Re-Charter Turn-in #2
- October 27-29, 2017
[NED Fall Camporee](#)
- Oct 28, 2016
[Outdoor Leader Skills](#)
- Nov 1, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Committee Mtg

Crossroads of America Council, BSA (CAC) office by **September 30, 2017** to be considered. Download the nomination form [here](#). Nominations may be sent via [e-mail](#) with the subject line: "Schuchmann Award Nomination for (Scout's Name)".

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Preparing for Your Unit Re-Charter – Part 3 of 3

Just a little over four-weeks until your unit re-charter turn-in date (either October 23 or 24, 2017 – to be assigned). 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 four-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], 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
- ✓ 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 sign-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. 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 our District Executive, [Laura Clay](#) for help.

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BREAKING NEWS! Adult/Scout 2018 Re-Charter Fees Increasing

At the most recent Northeast District Committee meeting we learned that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has decided that national BSA membership fees will increase by \$9.00 effective December 1, 2017. This will bring the national membership fees to \$33.00 per year for both youth and adult



- Nov 4, 2017
Den Chief Training
- Nov 5, 2017 (4:00 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Nov 8, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Round Tables
- Nov 8, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Nov 10-12, 2017
OA Leadership Dev
- Nov 11, 2017 (1-7 PM)
WD9BSA Open House

In the Next 90 Days

- Nov 16, 2017
Firecrafter/OA Chapter Mtg
- Dec 3, 2017 (4:00 PM)
NED Eagle BoRs
- Dec 6, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Elections/Pot Luck Dinner
- Dec 9, 2017 (1-7 PM)
WD9BSA Open House
- Dec 13, 2017 (7:00 PM)
NED Round Tables

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](#)

members. Adding the \$1.00 per member insurance premium collected by Crossroads of America Council (CAC) will bring the total fees that must be collected during your upcoming re-charter activity to \$34.00 per individual for 2018.

You may wonder what the national BSA membership fees are used for. The \$33.00 per participant membership fee will support all of the services offered by the BSA including maintaining the four national high adventure bases (Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base and The Summit), as well as offsetting the cost of program development, membership services and liability insurance costs, while allowing the BSA maintaining a strong financial position for our organization.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact [Steve Creason](#), [Kim Wiggins](#), or [Laura Clay](#).

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Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader, So What Do I Have To Do?

OK...so you just got up the nerve to step-up into an adult leadership role within your pack, troop, crew or ship. Now what do you need to do?

First, don't panic! The Boy Scouts of America provides tons of resources and both on-line and face-to-face training to help you pull off your new leadership role like a seasoned veteran. The second step is to take the time to review these resources, complete some basic training, and make what you have learned "come to life" on a daily basis in your pack, troop, crew or ship. So let's get started!



First, some background. All on-line scouting-related training is available 24/7/365 via a website, www.MyScouting.org. Once on this site, you will need to set-up an account using your BSA registration number. This will allow all completed on-line training to automatically be added to your training records. Many face-to-face training opportunities are offered by the Crossroads of America Council, BSA. All of these face-to-face training offerings are secured on-line as well; click on the identified training opportunity in our council's calendar of events, register on-line, and attend to complete the selected training.

There are three core on-line courses on www.MyScouting.org that all new leaders are required to complete. The first is Fast Start Training (specific offerings for Cub Scout leader, Boy Scout leader, or Venturing crew leader). The next course is This Is Scouting, which provides an overview of the Scouting organization, including history, values, programs, Youth Protection, community involvement and training. Both of these offerings need only be taken once. The last core on-line course that is required for all adult leadership positions, regardless of whether you are in a pack, troop, crew or ship, is Youth Protection Training. Every registered adult leader must be successfully re-take this course once every two-years. Once you have completed these core training courses, you are ready to move into unit/role specific basic training.

CUB SCOUTING LEADER SPECIFIC TRAINING

If you are new Cub Scout Leader, the leader specific training needed is depending on your role, with specialized courses covering the knowledge a leader needs to assume a Den Leader/Assistant Den Leader, Cubmaster/Assistant Cubmaster, Pack Trainer, Committee Chair, or any Committee Member roles. The Boy Scouts of America also offers a series of brochures designed to provide an at-a-glance orientation for new Cub Scout leaders.

- [So You're a New Tiger Cub Den Leader](#)  (No. 510-233) [PDF]
- [So You're a New Cub Scout Den Leader](#)  (No. 510-239) [PDF]
- [So You're a New Webelos Den Leader](#)  (No. 510-247) [PDF]
- [So You're a New Cubmaster](#)  (No. 510-237) [PDF]
- [So You're a New Pack Committee Member](#)  (No. 510-240) [PDF]
- [So You're a New Den Leader \(English/Spanish\)](#)  (No. 510-240) [PDF]

In addition, for a pack to overnight camp, at least one adult leader must successfully complete Intro to Outdoor Leader/BALOO training. This course covers everything you need to know to make your pack overnighter a fun, success and BSA-approved event.

BOY SCOUTING LEADER SPECIFIC TRAINING

The basic training required to be a Boy Scout leader also depends on the leadership position held. For Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster positions, the face-to-face Intro to Outdoor Leader/BALOO training is required. For Troop Committee members, completion of the on-line Troop Committee Challenge course is required. In this course, committee members learn about their roles and responsibilities and how to work together. This is offered on-line at www.My.Scouting.org.

VENTURING & SEA SCOUTS LEADER SPECIFIC TRAINING

The basic training required to be a Venturing/Sea Scout leader also depends on the leader position held. For Advisor/Assistant Advisor or Sea Scout Adult Leaders/Assistant Leaders, the face-to-face Intro to Outdoor Leader/BALOO training is required. For Venture/Ship Crew Committee members, completion of the on-line Crew Committee Challenge course is required. In this course, committee members learn about their roles and responsibilities and how to work together. This is offered on-line at www.My.Scouting.org.

The Northeast District Training team has plans to offer some of the most needed training in person in the near future. This includes:

- **Den Leader Specific Training** at the **October 11** Northeast District Round Table beginning at **7:00 PM** at the **Camp Belzer Activity Center**
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)** at the Northeast District Camporee to be held at **Camp Kikthawenund** over the **Oct 27-29** week-end. Participants for IOLS must register separately at <https://goo.gl/X6QgQ7>. The course will run from 8:30am-5:30pm on Saturday. There is an additional fee of \$5.00, payable in cash on site which covers lunch and training materials. Participants must camp at least one night to get credit for the course.
- Additionally, Del-Mi and Northstar Districts are combining efforts to offer the **IOLS** training at **Camp Belzer** over the same **October 27-29** week-end as our Northeast District Camporee. Northeast District leaders needing this training are also welcome to complete this course at Camp Belzer (if not attending the Northeast District Camporee).

For more information on training checkout the Crossroads of America [Training Hub](#) and the Northeast District Training [web page](#).

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Details About Northeast District Fall Camporee Now Available

The **Northeast District Fall Camporee** will be held at **Camp Kikthawenund** over the **Oct 27-29** week-end. The theme for this event is Scouting Fun for Webelos. During the camporee, each troop will have space to set up a demonstration or activity for the Webelos that will attend our camporee. This is a great opportunity for troop to attract potential new scouts to your troop. So, each troop much think of the coolest and most fun display possible. Remember to reference the Guide to Safe Scouting in the activities that you will do.



All units are asked to submit their exhibit ideas to the district for review. This is not so that we can negate any plans; instead it is to assure that appropriate safety precautions have been built into the activity. It will allow units that may have selected the same activity as another unit to be advised so that change can be made, if desired. Please register your exhibit <https://goo.gl/forms/tukC8001P9rZg5Z73>.

During the camporee, units will participate for the following awards:

- **Best Presentation** - This is an overall award for the best presentation. This award takes into account the activity or demonstration, how it is presented by the scouts, how the interaction with the Webelos goes and what the overall reaction of the Webelos is for the presentation.
- **Most Exciting Presentation/Demo** - This award is determined by just how much you can get the adrenaline going. Did you leave the boys totally excited about the activity?
- **Most Intricate Presentation** - Some presentations take a lot of work amongst the scouts to bring about a good presentation. This is an award that recognizes the outstanding efforts of the boys to bring together the presentation and keep it going.

The awards are presented based not only on review by district staff, but also the input of the Webelos attending. Each Webelos will receive tokens that represent the three awards. Before leaving for the day, they will be able to turn in their tokens for the presentation that they liked the most for each of the categories identified above. Half the score for the award will come from the district and the other half will be from the Webelos.

Cost to attend this camporee is \$10.00 per participant (with first two adult leaders free). For more details, download the [NED Camporee Booklet](#). To register your unit, please sign-up [online](#).

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Recapping A Northeast District Father-Son Philmont Experience

During the summer of 2017, Wally and Robbie Bruner from Troop 276 from the Northeast District joined Troop 92 out of Beechgrove on their scheduled Philmont trek (Crew 709-7C). This marked the second trip in as many years for the father-son duo to Scouting's Holy Land and their third trip overall. The Bruner's story follows:



Philmont 2017: Expect the Unexpected

Wally and Robbie teamed up with Troop 92 out of Beechgrove as the Troop needed two more hikers in order meet the minimum crew requirement of seven persons. Crew 709-7C (four scouts, three adults) was created and a 7 day tour of the north country with Mt. Baldy (Trek 7-11) was assigned for this year's joint troop backpacking adventure. The following is a summary of the trek written by Wally Bruner.

With a trek start date of July 9th, the members of crew 709-7C began training in the spring and clocked in several miles on the Knobstone Trail and Shades State Park. The training hikes helped everyone shake their gear down, get to know each other and learn how to perform as a newly created team. Robbie was crew leader for T276's 12 day trek last year and was able to advise the new crew leader and the scouts as what it is like to be on the trail and how to be ready for unexpected challenges. Little did we know the many challenges that Philmont would throw our way, both before and during the trek.

The spring days and weeks flew by and before we knew it, it was time to pack our bags and begin the first part of adventure. The crew decided to travel in two groups. The scouts and adults from Troop 92 decided to take the train from Chicago to Raton, NW, a 23 hour adventure/ordeal, depending on how you look at it. Wally and Robbie flew to Denver a few days early to visit a couple of colleges in Boulder and Colorado Springs. The travel for both groups was uneventful. However, the day before Troop 92's departure on the train in Chicago, one of their scouts decided not to go on the trek. This change reduced the crew size to six, which put us under the minimum for Philmont and it was unclear what would happen

at Philmont Base Camp upon the crew's arrival. However, in true scouting fashion, the crew was not going to let this get in their way of hitting the trail, with t-minus two days and counting. Wally and Robbie lit up their cell phones and called Troop 276 to send out an all-points bulletin entitled "Free Philmont Trip, All Expenses Paid, Get on a Train in 24 hours!" After four hours of phone calls and countless emails, a scout could not be found due to the "somewhat" late nature of the request. A message was sent to Philmont with the crew's situation and the registration team said not to worry as they are prepared for these types of last minute changes. However, the registration team did say that our trek would change and that further details would evolve once we arrived on site a base camp.

We arrived a base camp and Sunday, met our crewmates and went through the familiar process of checking in, getting food, equipment and the pilgrimage to the Tooth of Time Traders. During the meeting with Philmont logistics, it was determined that we would be assigned to a different trek because we were under the minimal crew number of seven. Thus, we were assigned a south county trek and to be teamed up with another crew from South Carolina that had a 12 person crew. We all accepted the change in stride and spent the rest of the day getting ready for hitting the trail on Monday.

First thing Monday morning, we loaded on the Philmont styled school bus and hit the road for our trailhead at the Lover's Leap Turnaround. Our trek, 7-11, covered 37 miles and included Lovers Leap, Fish Camp, Black Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Beaubien, North Fork Urraca and ending on the last day with Tooth Ridge and the Tooth of Time, referred to as the 11 mile trail of tears. The elevation ranged from 7000 to just under 10,000 feet over the course of the six days.

During the first three days of the trek, the crew settled into the routine of the trail and campsites. Our ranger, Colin, helped the boys learn the ways of Philmont and hiked off after being with us for two days. The major difference from our trek in 2016 was the rain. We learned that Philmont's rainy season starts after the first of July and some call it the Monsoon season. It rained every day for at least 2-3 hours, typically from 1 PM to 4 PM and often included hail and cold temperatures. Rain gear was absolutely essential for protection against the wetness and the cold. People talk about getting hypothermia at Philmont and I realized how quickly this could happen as I did not bring rain pants and fashioned a rain skirt from some extra Tyvek that we had on hand. In addition to the rain, the lightning was frequent, which forced us into lighten position three times during the trek. The dampness was every present and the campfires at the end of the day brought warm and happiness to our crew. However, our clothes never seemed to completely dry out and we became accustomed to the fact that something was always going to be wet.

As for the wild life, we do not see any bears or mountain lions However, we did encounter a brown and emerald green rattlesnake one morning and luckily, it made itself known immediately and we were able to watch it slink off into the undergrowth. Chipmunks, or mini-bears, were plentiful and quite determined to get in our gear for scrap of food.

On day three, as we were descending from Lookout Mountain into Fish Camp, one of our scouts, Jacob, stumbled and twisted his ankle. First aid was administered and his gear was transferred to the other members of the crew. We slowly made our way down the mountain and into Fish Camp. Once at Fish Camp, it was decided that Jake needed to be transported to Base Camp for further medical treatment. Jacob and his Dad boarded one of the Philmont Chevy Silverado trucks and next thing we knew, we were down to crew of four. We shared this info with our sister crew from South Carolina and from that point, we hiked together for the rest of the trek.



During the last few days, the rain was heavy and flooded many of the stream crossings to the point where guide ropes were used to help crew members navigate over the rocks and rushing water. During one point in the trek, we had over 45 stream crossings in the pouring rain. Our two crews worked well together, and the boys learned how to work together and the adults formed friendships while on the trail. Robbie coached and advised the crew on the trail as a former crew leader from 2016.



Our last day entailed the infamous trail of tears hike, over Tooth Ridge, to the top of the Tooth of Time and down into base camp. This is about an 11 mile hike, with seemingly endless switchbacks and requires the crew to be on the trail at 6:30 am in order to make it into base camp by midafternoon. We hit the trail at 7 AM and scrambled across Tooth Ridge and made it to the base of the Tooth of Time at 11:30. The crew climbed to the top of the Tooth by noon, took pictures and listened to a Philmont Staff member playing the cello. Yes, someone packed a cello and took it to the top of the Tooth and was playing the Shire song from Lord of the Rings.

After the pictures were taken at 9,000 feet, we headed back to our gear, ate our last trail lunch and began, what seemed like an endless series of switchbacks to base camp. It took about three hours to make it back into base camp and luckily, the rain was light and everyone made it to the "You Made It" gateway successfully. After arriving at basecamp, our Indy based crew hit the showers, laundry mat and connected with Jacob and his dad. We all decided to forgo the cafeteria for dinner and headed to the St. James Hotel for dinner. After an amazing meal, we headed back to base camp for the closing campfire and then collapsed in our beds. Sunday morning arrived and we departed home via both train and airplane.

Every crew that travels to Philmont experiences something new and different. Each scout and adult is challenged, both mentally and physically in the back country trails. And it is these challenges that make Philmont so special and the memories timeless. They say that if you look back at the Tooth of Time when leaving, you will come back. Robbie and I made sure to look back and stare at the Tooth, sealing our future – we will be back to the Holy Land of Scouting.

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The Northeast District Committee Needs You!

OK...you know that every chartered Pack/Troop/Crew/Team/Ship/Post needs a Committee of adult volunteers to oversee the operation of the respective unit. Did you know that your Northeast District has a similar committee structure that performs many of the same functions as you unit's committee, but at the district level?



While we are blessed with many dedicated volunteers, your Northeast District Committee currently has a **NUMBER OF KEY POSITIONS** that need to be filled. The time commitment varies by role, ranging from team members to help deliver a special event (such as the Northeast District Pinewood Derby), to roles which involve an ongoing commitment (such as serving as the Northeast District Advancement Chair). There is even a need to identify our next District Committee Chair, who would begin serving when Steve Creason's term ends. If you want to find out more about open roles, please contact your District Committee Chair, [Steve Creason](#) or our District Executive, [Laura Clay](#). Please consider stepping up and help your District Committee "leave the world better than we found it!"

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The NED Recipe Exchange – Spicy Tortilla Soup

With fall temperatures soon to arrive, thoughts of meals may turn to nice warm soups. This month's recipe is brought to you by Scouting Magazine. Back in 2009, a national recipe contest was held. The **Spicy Tortilla Soup** recipe won first place in the entrée category.



INGREDIENTS:

- 8 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and halved
- 1 green bell pepper, seeded and halved
- 2 15-ounce cans whole tomatoes, drained and chopped
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 10-ounce cans enchilada sauce
- 2 4-ounce cans chopped mild green chiles, drained
- 2 cups water
- 1 15-ounce can chicken broth
- 1 15-ounce can beef broth
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese blend
- 1 medium-size (about 14 ounces) bag tortilla chips
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 medium avocado, peeled and diced (optional)
- 1 16-ounce container sour cream (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Grill chicken, preferably over an open fire, browning each piece on both sides. (Note: Meat does not require thorough heating during this step because it will finish cooking in the Dutch oven.)
2. Roast red and green bell pepper halves on the grill until lightly charred.
3. Cube the grilled chicken breasts into bite-size pieces and chop the grilled peppers, placing each, along with the tomatoes, onions, and garlic, in a Dutch oven with a capacity of at least six quarts.
4. Add enchilada sauce and green chilies.
5. Pour water, chicken broth, and beef broth into the Dutch oven. Stir and add cumin, chili powder, black pepper, cayenne pepper, salt, and bay leaf. Stir thoroughly.
6. Cover and cook for two hours using 20 charcoal briquettes under the oven and 10 briquettes on the lid. Refresh the coals as they expire.
7. Remove from heat, remove the bay leaf, and stir shredded cheese into soup.
8. Serve in bowls, topping with a handful of crushed tortilla chips and a sprinkling of Parmesan cheese.
9. If desired, garnish with diced avocado and dollop of sour cream..

Serves 8-10. Enjoy!

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*.

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