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# ORION DISTRICT

Sam Houston Area Council

## NEWSLETTER

[www.orion.shac.org](http://www.orion.shac.org)



### From the Desk of the District Chairman: Doug Strain

#### Welcome Greg Liberty, our new District Executive

I'm pleased to announce that as of April 16, Orion District has a new District Executive named Greg Liberty. Greg is new to Scouting and relatively new to the Houston area. He lives in the Creekside area (within Orion District!) with his wife and fourth grade son. He also has a daughter graduating this month from the University of Tennessee (the other "UT").



Greg grew up around Washington, DC, and left there to go Temple University and then the US Army. His last Army post was in Tennessee, and he ended up living in the Nashville area until recently. His wife's job brought them to the area last year. Before joining Sam Houston Area Council, Greg worked as a football coach at the high school, college (Sam Houston State University), and professional (Arizona Cardinals) level.

Greg brings an enthusiasm and good nature that I believe will make him an excellent DE. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Greg as he gets to know Orion District. You can also contact Greg by phone/text at 713-726-6246 or email at [gregory.liberty@scouting.org](mailto:gregory.liberty@scouting.org).

### From the Desk of the Vice-Chairman: Kagan Bosworth

Scouters – as part of an effort to improve district-wide communications, we are asking for volunteers for our communications team. To be effective as a district, our leaders need a reliable source of on-demand information as well as a way to provide time-sensitive updates. We are looking for help from Orion district Scouters to gather information for the monthly newsletter, update our official district website, update and maintain distribution lists, and assist in reaching out to our community. If you would like to volunteer, or have ideas on improvement opportunities, please call or email Kagan Bosworth at (713) 540-5653 or [kagan.bosworth@technipfmc.com](mailto:kagan.bosworth@technipfmc.com). Thank you.

#### From the Program Chair: Jim Woods

- We **need** chairs and committees for these events to spread the work (and learning from working on events).
- We also need to contact and advertise to our units to attend District events.
- Lastly, please be aware that next April's Council and Lodge calendars are in deep conflict due to Easter/Scout Fair/Arrowman Bash/Wood Badge/Powderhorn and we **WILL** be having calendar adjustment.

#### DISTRICT CONTACTS

*District Executive*  
Greg Liberty 713-726-6246  
[greg.liberty@scouting.org](mailto:greg.liberty@scouting.org)

*District Chairman*  
Doug Strain 832-.368-9511  
[chairman@oriondistrict.org](mailto:chairman@oriondistrict.org)

*District Commissioner*  
Robert Ausmus 979-373-1085  
[commissioner@oriondistrict.org](mailto:commissioner@oriondistrict.org)

*Programs Chairman*  
Jim Woods 713-397-9309  
[programs@oriondistrict.org](mailto:programs@oriondistrict.org)

*Membership Chairman*  
Lynda Worlow 832-492-4911  
[membership@oriondistrict.org](mailto:membership@oriondistrict.org)

*Finance Chairman*  
Darwin Juvinal 281-960-8620  
[finance@oriondistrict.org](mailto:finance@oriondistrict.org)

#### LOOKING AHEAD

<u>May</u>	
3	Roundtable
3	OA Chapter Meeting
6	New Eagle Scout Reception
10	District Committee Meeting & District Commissioner's Meeting
<u>June</u>	
7	Roundtable
7	OA Chapter Meeting
12-15	Cub Scout Twilight Camp
14	District Committee Meeting & District Commissioner's Meeting
Boy Scout Summer Camp	
National Youth Leadership Training	

## *To be prepared is to be informed*

### **BSA Changes and Dates**

Please be aware of changes coming up over the next year:

- **April 30, 2018** – New Weather Hazards online training will be required for leaders registering for direct contact leadership positions. If you are changing positions (e.g. from Cub Scout Den Leader to Webelos Den Leader) where a new registration form may be required, you will need this training.
- **June 1, 2018** – Any adult accompanying a unit activity for 72 hours or more must be a registered leader (with YPT, application, background check).
- **June, 2018** – Charter organizations with packs must determine how they will handle family scouting within their Cub Scout packs for Fall 2018 and let SHAC know.
- **Over the next 6 months** – Updated merchandise supporting the program changes arrives at Scout Shops. There will be new Wolf neckerchiefs (red to match Wolf rank patch instead of gold that will now be for Lion Cubs). The Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Cub handbooks will be updated to reflect recent requirement changes as well as being gender-neutral. Reportedly, they will only be available in spiral bound versions, but they will be a little more expensive than the current flat “perfect bound” versions.
- **August 1, 2018** – Family Cub Scout Packs and Girl Cub Scout Packs can start registering girls in Kindergarten through fifth grade (Family Cub Scout Packs will have girls and boys in separate dens). BeAScout will switch on for registering girls in packs based on charter organization decision.
- **October 1, 2018** – All leaders must have completed the new online Youth Protection Training that rolled out on February 1 (YPT with expiration dates before February 1, 2020, will no longer be valid). Note that even though Texas will still require in-person YPT for Day Camp and other in-state camps, the 2018 version will not fulfill the requirements of the new online YPT.
- **Fall, 2018** – District Executives will be meeting with charter organizations with Boy Scout Troops to determine whether they want to keep just their troop for boys, want to add a girl's troop, or want to have linked boy and girl troops (sharing a unit number and committee, but with different Scoutmaster and youth leadership).
- **February 1, 2019** – Girls age 11 (or 10 with Arrow of Light) through age 17 can join girl's troops.

### **FINANCE**

Hello Scouters!

Orion did an incredible job in 2017 selling popcorn and raising money for scouting, congrats! SHAC set our 2017 goal at



\$162,000 and we hit it out of the park and sold \$188,935! We sold \$161,550 in 2016, so as you can see we beat our 2016 sales too!

It's time to start thinking about 2018 sales. SHAC set our goal high - \$200,640 with 20 units participating! In 2017, we sold \$115,000 in Show and Sell - that's 60%! I would like each Unit that participated to consider adding a little more to your bundle this year! And if you didn't participate in Show and Sell in 2017, this is your year!! We are here to help, if you want to do show and sell this year but haven't before, or want to increase your traditional sales or online sales, let me know - we can do some work now so we can be ready when the summer rolls around. This year SHAC provided some awesome resources that gave me real time access to issues that came up. Judy and Tony were awesome!

What do I need from you? This will be the second year we are back with Trails End. What worked well, do you have any tips to share with me so I can share with the other Units in Orion? What frustrated you, or what questions did you have during sales last year? Hit me with anything, and please ask your parents too - I am sure they have lots to say! And then share with me. I will see if I can get someone from SHAC to come to a Round Table meeting to address our issues, or I will put together an Orion FAQ and Tip sheet. Your Unit doesn't have to commit to anything until this summer, right now I'm just looking for feedback so I can help each Unit earn the most they can for their Scouts.

Carol Bland  
Orion District Popcorn Kernel  
832-341-1744  
[cstatay@hotmail.com](mailto:cstatay@hotmail.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP** **Lynda Worlow**

Congratulations to Pack 1044 for outstanding membership growth for the month of March.

### **PROGRAM**

#### **CAMPING CORNER**

**Effective April 30, 2018 new direct contact leaders must complete Hazardous Weather Training to be considered position trained.** And here is one story about why this is so important.

Imagine as a leader with a group of excited Scouts you arrive at a council camp for a camporee on a rainy Friday afternoon. Saturday morning is filled with the sounds of Scouts participating in the scheduled activities, only to have the weather turn blustery with sustained winds of about 30 mph and gusts up to 48 mph. The trees of the heavily forested area start swaying madly back and forth. As a leader, what would you do? Would you continue with the camporee or evacuate the camp?

This was exactly the situation experienced earlier this year at Pacific Harbors Council's Klondike Derby held at Camp Thunderbird. According to the National Weather Service, sustained winds of about 30 mph with gusts up to 48 mph were recorded near the camp between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday. It soon became apparent to leaders that conditions had become unsafe and, around midmorning, with input from the council representative and Camp Thunderbird's ranger, leaders decided to evacuate the camp.

## To be prepared is to be informed

(Camping Corner continued)

"We made sure that we followed the Boy Scout Guide to Safe Scouting and our hazardous weather training to ensure that all scouts and adults made it home safe," said Barb Dyer, Klondike committee chairwoman. "It was the right decision to cancel Klondike. While it's disappointing that the boys couldn't have the fun-filled weekend that was planned, I'm eternally grateful that safety is first with the BSA."

A good decision it was, as several large trees and branches dropped on or near Scout campsites during the storm. No injuries were reported, but it could have turned out differently. Rebecca Ledford, an adult leader with Troop 4100, shared a photo of her son's tent, which had been impaled by a heavy fallen branch — right where his pillow was.

On Sunday morning the "all clear" was given for scouts and leaders to return to retrieve their belongings and break down their campsites.

**This course is available around-the-clock in the BSA Learn Center by logging in to your account on [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org).**

### Activities

We are actively looking for Scouters to assist to Chair or Co-Chair Webelos Woods 2018 and Camporee 2019. If you are interested in either of these activities and making them great for our Scouts, please contact Ray Duerer or Jim Woods. The programs are both organized and outlines established, so there is less planning needed and more just organizing staffs and running the events. We also have locations already confirmed for both events. Please step up so we don't lose these great Scout Activities.

Ray Duerer (281-703-0414 cell)  
Orion District Activities and Camping Chair

### RISK MANAGEMENT Patrick Martin

#### Hazardous Weather FAQ's April 10, 2018

**Q. Is this a membership requirement like Youth Protection training?**

A. No. This is a direct contact leader positioned trained requirement effective April 30, 2018.

**Q. Is this a new requirement?**

A. No. Since 2008, at least one person on any tour or activity has been required to have hazardous weather training. It is also a requirement for all camp staff as part of the [NCAP standards SQ-402](#).

**Q. Why is Weather Hazard Training important?**

A. Our program takes place in an outdoor classroom. This training discusses how to manage risks from the weather to our Scouting family. There are several [incident reviews](#) which are appropriate to share with leaders who may question why an appreciation of the risks in our outdoor classroom are important. The most impactful: [Lightning](#), [Heat and Hydration](#), [Hypothermia](#).

**Q. How can we remind our staff and volunteers about this requirement?**

A. Various tools like [safety moments](#), [campout checklists](#), and the [Sweet 16 of BSA Safety](#) reinforce this.

**Q. If I am trained in my current position, will I be required to take Hazardous Weather now to retain the trained designation?**

A. No, if you are currently trained in your position you will not be required to take the additional course now. We recommend if you have not taken the updated course (SCO\_800) that you do so to have the most current content.

**Q. What happens to my previous credit for Hazardous Weather (WS81)?**

A. Course code WS81 is being retired. To stay current, the new course (SCO\_800) will need to be taken after WS81 is two years old.

**Q. At what point in my training do I need to take Hazardous Weather (SCO\_800)?**

A. The course is available for you to take at any time but is a required course to achieve position trained status as a trained leader. It is recommended that you take the course before an outdoor activity.

**Q. What direct contact positions are now required to take Hazardous Weather to be considered position trained?**

CA – Assistant Cubmaster  
CM – Cubmaster  
DA – Assistant Den Leader  
DL – Den Leader  
MT – Mate  
NA – Crew Associate Advisor  
NL – Crew Advisor  
SA – Assistant Scoutmaster  
SK – Skipper  
SM – Scoutmaster  
WA – Assistant Webelos Den Leader  
WL – Webelos Den Leader  
10 – 11 Year old Scout Leader (LDS)  
EA – Explorer Post Advisor  
AA – Explorer Post Associate Advisor

NOTE – this includes all assistant leaders of these positions.

**Q. Is there a classroom course?**

A. No, the course is available only online. This is by design and not a new requirement.

**Q. How do we grant group credit when training staff for camp?**

A. Your registrar can grant credit in ScoutNET to SCO\_800.

### Order of the Arrow OA Advisor Jim Jolly



Don't forget that the last OA Ordeal of the spring will be held at Bovay on May 11- 12. This will be the last opportunity for 2018 candidates to go through their Ordeal before the fall. Registration is now open on the Colonneh Lodge website.

### ADVANCEMENT

The Advancement of the Scout, whether he be a Tiger or a Life Scout completing his journey on the path towards the rank of Eagle depends on the support, dedication, and guidance of each of you. Thank you for all that you do; Scouting is a year round activity. Plan your Unit's (Pack, Troop, Team, Crew) accordingly.

## To be prepared is to be informed

(Advancement continued)

### Merit Badge Counselors

The position of **Merit Badge Counselor** is a **District Position**, whether you choose to work only with your home unit or all units. **ALL MBC** must be registered with the District/ Council. Current YPT (Y01) certification is required, along with a completed Adult Leader Application, and a Merit Badge Counselor Information Sheet. Be sure that your YPT is current. **ALL MBC's and registered leaders are required to retake YPT online by Oct 1, 2018.**

### MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS, SCOUTS, PARENTS:

Merit Badges are a learning experience. Scouts **MUST** do exactly as stated in the merit badge handbook (Demonstrate, show, tell, etc.)

### ADVANCEMENT REPORTING:

It is important that **ALL units** report advancement. Regardless if you are a Pack, Troop, or Crew. Do this in a **timely** manner (monthly). A print out from the on-line report is required to receive the appropriate recognitions for ALL rank advancements and merit badges. **Internet Advancement** is a tool for units to report youth advancements, awards, and merit badges. Beginning the second quarter 2018, **Scoutbook** and **Scoutbook Lite** will **replace** Internet Advancement.

### Attention Scouts, Leaders, and Parents or Guardians: The Eagle Scout Service Project Fillable PDF 2015 Version is available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx> Please **use** this **workbook** when planning and submitting your project to District for approval. Be sure that you have provided **ALL** information (Names, addresses, BSA ID numbers and signatures). **Submit your project in a notebook, be neat and organized (NO LOOSE PAGES).** **ALL Eagle Service Projects require the official Project Workbook (512-927) Oct 2015 printing.** Consider and recognize the significance and importance of the **Eagle Leadership and Service Project**. It's **more** than just a Service Project. It requires Planning, Leadership, and Execution. You must use the current Project Workbook (**See above**). **Read it carefully.**

**Troop Advancement Chairman, Life to Eagle Coordinators** - When requesting an Eagle Board of Review (EBOR) District Representative please contact the District EBOR Coordinator at [doko1251@comcast.net](mailto:doko1251@comcast.net) Please do this after you have received Council approval and **two weeks** before the EBOR. If you desire a specific District Representative, please advise the District Coordinator with the name of the person.

The District Coordinator will verify that persons availability.

**Venturing: For a full link to information on the**

**Venturing program go to:**

<http://www.scouting.org/venturing>

### Cub Scouting:

[www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates)

**Committee Chairman ALL Units (Pack, Troop, Crew)**  
**Please provide the name and email address of your Advancement Chairman/Coordinator. Include your**

**Unit Number. Thank you to those units that have responded. Please send to: [doko1251@comcast.net](mailto:doko1251@comcast.net)**

Advancement Committee Chairman: Joe Okopinski –  
281-356-2628; [doko1251@comcast.net](mailto:doko1251@comcast.net)

### Orion District New Eagle Scouts



Samuel Johnson (T113)  
Mason Kimball (T84)  
Grant Bybee (T84)

### TRAINING Tony Harrison

#### Breaking News!!

The State of Texas has approved BSA YPT 2018 for Adult in Camp in Texas summer and day camps. This means that you will NOT have to take a classroom YPT in order to staff Orion Day Camp this summer.

Here are the particulars, though...

You must have taken the new YPT after March 13, 2018.  
You must keep your certificate of completion of the new YPT and have it available for camp records  
There will eventually be one other procedure to mark this with a State code to comply with State requirements.

Camp key staff and area leaders still need to take Camp Staff YPT, but that will be arranged at a later time.

All members must take the new YPT before Oct 1, 2018 and will not be re-registered without it.

This is the latest information released on Monday, April 30.

Remember ....every Scout deserves a Trained Leader

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### Volunteers needed for Orion District

Event Chairpersons  
Trainers  
Risk Management Team  
Merit Badge Counselors  
Advancement Team  
Day Camp Staff  
Communications



### BRAG WALL

William Hunter Lang, Eagle Scout Troop 471, submitted a joke that will appear in the May, 2018 issue of Boys Life