

TOP CLOUDS: 9-20-13

BSA NATIONAL NEWS:

New Membership Fee Announcement! Wayne Brock, Chief Scout Executive, recently announced that the Boy Scouts of America will be increasing their annual membership fees from \$15.00 to \$24.00 effective January 1, 2014. BSA last increased fees in 2010; however, it is necessary to periodically increase fees to maintain the overall quality of our program.

Please keep this change in mind during our Fall Recruitment process and how you communicate current and future fees to our new parents.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS:

Spread the Word! With many of our units embracing several new families during our current Membership Campaign, please encourage both your old and new parents to sign up for the weekly editions of Smoke Signals to receive the latest Apache District news via E-newsletter. It is easy. Just ask them to send a blank email to: smokesignals-subscribe@apachemcc.org. The rest is automatic.

We would also recommend that you also share the Mecklenburg County Council and the Apache District web sites which are: www.mccscouting.org and www.mccapache.org respectively. There are lots of great information that is posted on both sites that are extremely beneficial for both old and new parents.

Trailblazer Adventure Day 2013 is set for Saturday, October 5th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Belk Scout Camp. This will help introduce families to various Scouting activities with a variety of crafts, rock climbing, zip line, fishing, BB guns, living history, archery, boating, BMX track, Scouting games and much more. The cost is \$10.00 per person if purchased prior to October 2nd and \$12.00 after that. Space will be limited to the first 800 people that sign up.

Each paid admission will also receive a 2013 Camp Card that entitles folks to receive discounts at Harris Teeter, Coca-Cola, Walgreens, Jiffy Lube, Carowinds, Shane's Rib Shack, Hawthorne's Pizza, Loco Line and Kickstand Burgers.

Trail's End Popcorn Sales will be starting soon. New Products, New Prizes and New Incentives are only part of the 2013 MCC Popcorn Sales Program. Trail's End has added several new flavors to their product offerings including Bacon Ranch, Buffalo Cheddar Cheese, Jalapeno Cheddar Cheese, Dark and White Chocolate Drizzle, and Sour Cream and Onion in addition to many of our regular favorites.

Key dates for this event are:

September 28th Sale Begins

November 28th Prize Request Deadline for units

Please get your unit "Popcorn Kernel" identified and your team organized and ready to go. You can contact Terrie Baily at terrie.bailey@scouting.org for more information.

DISTRICT NEWS:

The Spirit of Apache will be our theme for this year's Apache District Fall Camporee

that will be held at Belk Scout Camp on November 15th – 17th. The cost will be \$10.00 per person and is due prior to October 7th deadline. Please contact Lois Layer at 704-756-3209 or llayerowl@gmail.com for any questions.

Highland Games is the theme for this year's Apache District Fall Cuboree that will take place on October 11th – 13th at Belk Scout Camp. This is the largest Scouting event of the year and will provide families the opportunity to camp with a variety of archery, caber toss, tug-of-war, sack races for Cub Scouts. Webelos Scouts will also have an opportunity to participate in the outdoor climbing wall as well as the Readyman and Outdoorsman belt loops. The cost is \$12.00 per person and that includes all activities, Saturday lunch, a cup and commemorative patch. Kilts optional!

For all new parents, we would highly recommend that you also visit our Apache District web site: www.mccapache.org and go to the **Around the Campfire** section to review the suggested gear guide for this event.

Key Apache District Dates:

Trailblazer Adventure Day Camp	October 5 th – Belk Scout
Apache Cuboree Scout Camp	October 11 th – 13 th , Belk
Apache Camporee Scout Camp	November 15 th – 16 th , Belk
Apache District Recognition Banquet	December 12 th , MP Pres. Oxford Hall

Apache Web Site Helps: Please go to our district web site at www.mccapache.org for two segments that we believe will be beneficial to both units and adult leaders. The first segment is aptly named **Around the Campfire** where unit leaders, parents and friends can see potential options for a weekend or day trip, suggestions where Eagle projects are needed, and just good old discussion topics. There is also an excellent resource guide for new parents to learn more about the BSA terminology as well as suggested gear guides for your families.

There is also a **Fundraising Section** where units can post specific information about an upcoming fund raising event so folks outside their immediate unit may have the option to participate and help out.

Carolina Raptor Center has indicated that they have plenty of service projects available that range from just a few hours to the complete scope of Eagle projects. Have fun, learn and give back to the community all in one location. Please contact Mr. Jim Warren at: 704-857-6521 x 112 or at jwarren@carolinaraptorcenter.org.

Pack 80 Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, September 21st, from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM located at Pleasant Hill Church, 15000 York Road, Charlotte, NC 28278. The cost is \$5.00 per person for ages 3 and up. The proceeds will be going to help purchase a new Pinewood Derby Track. For any questions, please contact Angela White at: angie@scarycrow.com.

TRAINING:

Please check out our web site: www.mcctraining.org for the latest and greatest training opportunities and course descriptions. Here are some of the upcoming

events:

Scouter Success Seminar CPCC	September 28, 7:00AM - 5:00PM
Wilderness First Aid Training	October 11 th – 13 th , Belk Scout Camp
SEALS Training Camp	November 8 th – 10 th , Belk Scout
Outdoor Leadership Skills Camp	November 8 th – 10 th , Belk Scout

ORDER OF THE ARROW:

OA Fall Fellowship: October 4th – 6th, Belk Scout Camp

To Submit a Notice:

If you have any information you would like to share with the district, please send that information to e-newsletter@apachemcc.org and it will be forwarded to the team to be added. Please make sure you have your contact information included should there be any questions.

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