

Bigfoot District Newsletter

January 2008 Commissioner Newsletter

Scouting Committees – the Backbone of your Unit Success

By Kevin Nelson

A number of years ago I read an alarming statistic: The average tenure of a Scouting leader in the United States is 2 months! 2 Months!? In order for this statistic to hold true, that means there are a lot of budding Scout leaders who accepted the challenge to become involved, went to their first meeting, then changed their minds.

Another part of the problem of why Scouting leaders don't stay is "Unit Leader Burn Out". The reality that the unit leader, after trying to plan meetings, follow through with boy assignments, provide advancement opportunities, tracking that advancement, completing tour permits, accounting for unit budgets, organizing fund raising projects and handling Recharter finally throws up his or her hands and says "I can't do it all!"

The solution to both of these problems, and a myriad of other problems, is an actively functioning Scouting Committee. Of the previous list of responsibilities that can cause Burn-Out, only the first two – planning meetings and following through with by assignments – are the job of the unit leader. That rest can and should be done by the Scouting Committee.

So how can and should a Scouting Committee work? Well, this coming Round-table session (Thursday, January 3rd) we will conduct a special Round-table session just for Committee Members and Chartered Organization Representatives. Please contact each and every unit you work with and bring them (don't just tell them) to our January 3rd Round-table at 7:30 at South Middle School for this special training session.

I can't think of a single unit in the Bigfoot District that couldn't see improvement in the operation of their units and the Scouting experience to their boys that would come from an active, functioning Scouting Committee. Please call each of your units personally, invite all committee members and the Chartered Organization Representative (in LDS units this is the bishopric counselor over the young men), and offer them a ride if needed to our January Round-table. See you there.

Recharter – Is your unit complete?

This year's first ever Ore-Ida Council on-line Recharter should be about done. Please contact each of your units to make sure they have completed their on-line Recharter. If they haven't, please offer to help. If you have questions, please contact your Zone Assistant District Commissioner for assistance.

Quality Unit Awards

Have your units qualified for the Quality Unit Award for 2007? Your Quality Unit interviews with your unit leaders is a wonderful opportunity to build bridges, celebrate the successes your units have experienced and encourage them to reach for the Quality Unit achievement for 2008 by setting unit goals with you.

Please remember to submit a copy of the goal sheet to Kevin Nelson at our District Commissioner meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 3rd at South Middle School.

Remember, look for a reason to celebrate success with your units. Then let's recognize them when they earn their Quality Unit Awards. If you haven't held your interviews yet, you've still got a week..

Pow Wow and University of Scouting

The 2008 Ore-Ida Council Pow Wow and University of Scouting is finally here. On Saturday, January 25th, at the Meridian High School, you and every adult leader in your units will have the opportunity of receiving just the training you want. With 70 separate classes to choose from on every area of Scouting everyone will come away with fresh ideas, renewed enthusiasm and a book full of resources, not to mention a CD of additional resources, to add fun and substance to their Scouting experience.

We have attached to this email a flyer on the Pow Wow plus the Calls Reservation form. Contact each of your unit leaders right away. And remember, in addition to the huge Pow Wow Resource book, plus the CD stuffed full of more resources, your \$20 fee includes lunch. So get the information to your leaders and plan to attend this year's annual Pow Wow and University of Scouting.

Looking for Outing Adventures for your Venturing Crew?

Two special Venturing events are coming up in January and February that your Venturing Crews ought to plan on attending.

First up, is the Venturing Winter Outing sponsored by Crew 57 from Boise. This Saturday event, Saturday, January 12th, will be held at the Little Camas Reservoir. You can come for the day or come out Friday night and make an overnigher out of it.

Then, on February 22 - 24th don't miss out on the Venturing Winter White Out at the Idaho City Airport. Meet Venturing Crews from across the Council with fun winter activities all day Saturday. Plus, this event is FREE. Contact information is on the attached flyer or go to our Ore-Ida website at www.oreida-bsa.org.

There are no excuses for not getting our older Scouts out and having fun in the winter.