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Prairie Fire District News

Can You “Survive” the Joint District Fall Camporee?

 September 20-22, 2013 Forrest Glen Reserve

Get ready to have some super “Survival Fun” all Boy Scout Troops, Ventures and 2nd year Webelos Scouts (who are invited with a troop) with Many Trail & Prairie Fire district fall camporee at Forrest Glen Reserve!!  Yes that right fall camporee is just around the corner and this year theme is “Survival “based on the T.V. show.  We want to see how your Scouts and Ventures will put their scouting knowledge, teamwork and skills to the test of who can “SURVIVE”!  Bob Bantz is the event chairman his contact information is [r-bantz@illinois.edu](https://webmail.netbsa.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=RhwrXqUlcEGXXBkAJzKQ2UAHzy0zWdBIVNy3H1Ta_pxjcBIWtnw6qx5UJiCXcxqItlM0ek8aB5s.&URL=mailto%3ar-bantz%40illinois.edu) or 217 377-7554.  The early bird sign up cost is $13.00 per person on or before September 11, 2013 or $18.00 per person after September 12, 2013.  BSA medical forms are REQUIRED at check-in (just part A & B) Camporee flier will be on Council website starting August 1.

**Summertime Pack Award- Keep it Simple…make It Fun**

Catch the sun and keep your Cub Scouts active in the summer. **Be sure to schedule** three **summer activities, one per month, to qualify for the Summertime Pack Award.** **Each Cub Scout who attends all three programs will earn the special SUN button for their uniform**. The events can be pack oriented like a picnic, parade, or swim party or use the Council camps as your planned events. The goal is to provide a Scouting connection over the school vacation period. This helps to stay in contact with parents and leaders in getting ready for the programs for the fall. Don’t forget to bring the sun screen!

**Commissioner Corner**

Commissioners meeting will start back up on August 14th, 6:00pm at LDS Church in Champaign. I sure hope all you Commissioners are enjoying your summer but taking a little time out to visit with your Units at Day Camp, Adventure Camp, Summer camp or a planning meeting so that when we come back to school and recruiting in September we are ready to go!! Please take the time to log in your visits into the JTE system, it is vitally important for you as a Commissioner to see how healthy or weak your units may be. Contact District Commissioner Linda Atherton: latherton@mac.com

**Prairie Fire District Friends of Scouting Campaign**

By now all of you should have received our summer FOS mailing from the Council with a personal message from our very own Scout Shop Manager Glenn Overby asking you to donate to our 2013 FOS Campaign if you have not done so already! Our district is at 72% of it goal or just about $50,000 dollars away from making goal. Lets all pull together and finish this campaign up, we started this back in January 2013, and WE CAN MAKE OUR GOAL!! I am very confident that we can have a repeat of making our goal this year, just like the MIAMI HEAT did this year in the NBA!!! Come on and do your part, big or small it ALL STAYS HERE IN OUR COUNCIL!!!

**Prairie Fire August Roundtable**

ATTENTION LEADERS!!!!! Be on the look out in your mailbox for Prairie Fire District August Roundtable post card reminder! Yes that ‘s right our very own Roundtable Commissioner Dan Strole has put together a very informative postcard reminder so you can set your IPAD, CELL PHONES, WATCHES, KINDLES, COMPUTERS, and any other devices to let You know to be there on August 14, 6:30pm, @ LDS Church 604 Windsor Road, Champaign. Snacks, drinks and lots of information will be provided, so come and get informed. Contact Dan Strole for more information at dstrole@yahoo.com

**Fall Kickoff in August**

All Many Trails Scouters will kickoff the fall Scouting season with an entertaining informational session on the events of the back-to-school timeframe. This upcoming season is the best recruiting time of the year with students moving on to new activities….let’s make Scouting a program to join! All unit leaders are encouraged to attend the Fall Kickoff held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 in the meeting room at the DeCoral Buffet Restaurant , 3355 N. Vermillion in Danville. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm, but Scouters are encouraged to enjoy the buffet.

**District Calendar**

**August 2013** Thurs. 15th Fall Kickoff Program at 6:30 pm

**September 2013** Thurs. 12th District Committee/Commissioners Mtg. at 6:30 pmSun. 29th Cub Scout Fun Day from 1:00pm until 4:00 pm Hoopeston

**Membership Rally**

Membership recruiting is the lifeblood of the Scouting program and all units should take advantage of the fall sign-up period to publicize their Scouting efforts in the schools and communities. Use all of your unit leadership to conduct several opportunities for new members to find your program this fall. Here are a few methods to promote the benefits of Scouting in your area.

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1. Provide a colorful display of past Scouting activities at a school Open House evening
2. Hang BSA posters and handbills in public areas such as libraries, gas stations, and churches.
3. Conduct a boy-talk at your school to invite all eligible students to attend a Scout meeting
4. Encourage current Scouts to bring their friends to a special event and recognize the youth recruiters
5. Designate a Join Scouting night in your community and publicize through local media outlets
6. Plan a Scouting activity in a very public location to show off the highlights of our program

Plan now to publicize the efforts of your Scouting adventures and always be prepared to have new Scouts join your den, pack, patrol, troop, or crew. The benefits of Scouting show off the life-changing programs that are developing the leaders of tomorrow.

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Council Calendar

August

10 Robeson Scout Shop Open; 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

22 Council Training Committee Meeting; 7:00 pm, Flightstar, Savoy

24 Sporting Clays for Scouting; 7:00 am, Olde Barn Sporting Clays, Oakland, IL

24 Robeson Scout Shop Open, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

30 District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Nominations due to Raymond Lee Scout Service Center

30 Camp Drake Open for Holiday Weekend Family Camping

**Fun Day in September** This fall, Many Trails Cub Scout Fun Day Campers will enjoy crafts, sports, water games, archery, bb guns, and slingshots. All parents and siblings are encouraged to participate in the events of the Fun Day. The Many Trails District Fun Day Camp will be held on Sunday, August 29, 2013. The Day Camp will begin at 1:00 pm and continue through 4:00 pm. The cost of the Day Camp will be $5.00 per Cub Scout. Fun Day Camper will receive craft materials, snacks, program opportunities, Cub Scout advancement achievements, beverage refreshments, and a patch.

**Best Foot Forward** All packs, troops, and crews should show off their talents early this fall to provide a great opportunity for new members to be welcomed into your program. As students transition into the new school year, their families review the choices to join programs inside and outside of the school building. Every unit has special talents for fun Scouting events and by sharing your excitement, possible new members are attracted into the program. Plan now to start the fall with a positive experience not just for new members, but also spark the returning Scouting families with a unique celebration for fun.

**Leader Training 201** Prairielands Council needs trained leaders at all levels to conduct high quality programs for the youth that will become the leaders of tomorrow. Many new training opportunities have become available through online courses in a wide variety of subjects. The ability to take Scouting training courses online creates a much easier learning opportunities. Please encourage all adult volunteers in your Scouting unit to take advantage of the training resources and complete these online courses. Remember to communicate your training accomplishments to the council office to update your training file.

**Prairielands Council Calendar** All the upcoming Scouting events are set in one great location to help volunteers plan their fall schedule. Get your copy of the Prairielands Council Calendar at upcoming roundtables, in your fall kickoff packet, at the council office, or one of the training programs. The 2013-14 council calendar has descriptive highlights of monthly Scouting opportunities, plus the dates of upcoming events.

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**Council Information**

Raymond Lee Scout Service Center & Robeson Scout Shop 3301 Farber Dr., P.O. Box 6267 Champaign, IL 61826-6267 General Phone Number: 217-356-7291

Service Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Robeson Scout Shop Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday: 12 Noon – 6:00 pm 2nd and 4th Saturdays: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Danville Scout Office 305 Woodbury, Danville, IL 61834-1413 Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

Website: prairielandbsa.org

**Prairielands Council Boy Scouts of America** *Serving families in nine counties of east central Illinois and western Indiana*

Prairielands Council, Boy Scouts of America

3301 Farber Drive P.O. Box 6267 Champaign, IL 61826-6267

