



Find Pinewood Derby Information; on page 2

March/April 2013



Cub Scout Day Camp & Adventure Camp News on pages 7 & 8

Prairielands Post



Camp Drake Summer News on pages 9 & 10

Serving over 3,000 families in nine counties of east central Illinois and western Indiana

DRAKE-A-PALOOZA APRIL 6

Four great events in one spring spectacular day! Enjoy the festivities on the banks of the Salt Fork with your pack, troop, or crew. Fabulous prizes, advancement opportunities, and the friendly fellowship of Scouting all at Camp Drake on one day!

TRAIL TROMP...Not just a walk in the woods, but an exhilarating hike along the perimeter ridges and valleys

BIKE RODEO...Bring your bike or use a camp cycle around a special course & gear up for safe biking adventures

COMPASS DAY...A fun-filled afternoon for fifth grade Scouts to get an entertaining preview of summer camp thrills.

SHOOTING COMPETITION...Various age levels of marksmanship challenges and an assortment of targets

Camp Day for 5th Grade Scouts



A free fun-filled day of Boy Scout Camp Drake programs is called COMPASS Day for any 5th grade troop members and their parents from throughout the council. All newer Boy Scouts are invited to attend this special orientation, as well as their troop junior leaders and Scoutmasters. April 6th is set for a fun filled orientation for current fifth grade Scouts. There is no fee for this event, but participants must use the registration form to reserve their attendance. The purpose of COMPASS DAY is to provide an opportunity for younger Scouts to participate in camp activities and become familiar with the Camp Drake facilities. COMPASS DAY Scouts will be introduced to outdoor merit badges, such as Archery, Fishing, and Orienteering, and will work on requirements. All new Boy Scouts will receive a COMPASS as recognition of participation in COMPASS DAY. When a COMPASS DAY participant attends Camp Drake in 2013, he will receive an official "Camp Drake souvenir."

Trail Tromp

Enjoy a beautiful morning along the banks of the Salt Fork River, hiking the Onaquispasippi Trail with all your Scouting buddies. From 9:00 until 12:00 noon all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers, and their special guests are invited to Get On the hiking boots and Get On the Onaquispasippi Trail! See the spectacular views around camp. Prizes for all sizes include a fabulous grand prize GPS device. No fees are necessary for the big hike, but commemorative trail patches, medals and pins will be available for purchase. Collect your 2013 commemorative Trail Tromp map at the hiking headquarters at Camp Drake.

Bike Rodeo



Join the outdoor fun on two wheels for a series of skills events, cycling competitions, safety instruction, and bicycling advancement opportunities at the 2013 Prairielands Council BIKE RODEO. All age levels of Scouting are invited to test their cycling talents on the trails and turns of Camp Robert Drake on the afternoon of April 6th, 2013. As a part of the Drake-a-palooza event, the Bike Rodeo is an open registration event that participants can enjoy anytime between 12:30 and 3:00 pm at the Stiverson Family Shelter. The Prairielands Council has several bikes that can be loaned out for the trail riding and cycling contests, but participants are encouraged to bring their own bikes. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers that bring their own vehicles will not have to wait for one of the shared cycles. Rodeo bikers can reserve a time frame for one of the loaner bikes at the Stiverson HQ beginning at 12:30 pm.

Shooting Competition on next page.....

More DRAKE-A-PALOOZA!!!

Council Shooting Competition

The Drake Spring Marksmanship Challenge is open to all Cub Scouts, Webelos, Boy Scout, and Venturing youth interested in testing their marksmanship skill in a specific shooting discipline. See who has the eagle eye on Saturday, April 6th 2013 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Nogle Shooting Sports Facility at Camp Robert Drake, near Oakwood, IL at the Drake Spring Marksmanship Challenge. Participants must register in their program to compete for awards. To register, please use the Drake Spring Marksmanship Challenge registration form found on the council website. Extra Fun Events will be Archery, Tomahawks & Bowie Knives. The fee includes use of Camp equipment, ammunition, snacks and awards. Please do not bring personal shooting sports equipment.



Ready to Rumble.....

Hundreds of Cub Scouts, parent and leaders took advantage of the Pinewood Derby 101 Workshop held at Worden Martin on January 27th. Volunteers were on hand with power tools and special tips and techniques to help Cub Scouts make the Pinewood Derby of their dreams. Thanks to Curt Ware and his crew of dedicated volunteers for putting together this massive event.

The Track Heats Up for the Council Pinewood Derby Championships on Saturday, April 13

Gentlemen, start your engines! The race is on for the fastest and coolest Pinewood Derby Car in all of Prairielands Council. The Prairielands Council Pinewood Derby Championships will be held on Saturday, April 13 at Judah Christian School in Champaign. Packs are allowed to send up to 12 Cub Scouts to the finals; six to race and six to compete for Show Car. A Cub Scout cannot compete in both divisions however. Packs should send in a registration form for all the Cub Scouts attending from the Pack. There is a registration fee of \$6.00 per entry that includes the event and a patch. The registration form is available on the council website and is due, with fees, to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center by Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Bring the whole family to watch and cheer on your Cub Scout. There is no fee for spectators. Concessions are open for those wanting to purchase lunch or a snack.

A special race of vintage Pinewood Derby cars will kick things off and an open race for anyone. There is \$6.00 entry fee per car for the vintage race.

Closing off the end will be ScoutReach Race open to anyone including Moms, Dads, boys, girls, friends and neighbors. A \$6.00 entry fee for this goes to support the Council's ScoutReach emphasis.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

10:00 am—11:45 am:	Registration
11:30 am:	Vintage Car Race
12 Noon:	Group Photo
12:15 pm:	Championship Races Begin
12:30 pm—2:00 pm:	Show Car Voting
2:30 pm :	Trophy Presentation



Is Your Troop Ready to Light the Lantern for New Scouts?

During the month of March Troops around Prairielands Council will be inviting boys to become Scouts during the "Light the Lantern" Campaign. This unique and exciting recruitment opportunity helps current Boy Scouts personally invite their friends to a special Troop meeting to learn more about Scouting. Prairielands Council has special post cards designed and ready for you to distribute to your Scouts. All they have to do is fill in the blanks and hand the post card to their friends. A full packet of information on this campaign is available from your Senior District Executive or at the Scout Service Center. To order post cards call the Service Center today to have them sent to you immediately.



Cub Scout Packs.... Free Pinewood Derby Cars!!!

Pack leaders, don't forget that your Pack can earn free Pinewood Derby cars for the Cub Scouts in your Pack!

1. Submit your Pack charter in on time
2. Participate in the FOS campaign with a Family Presentation
3. Conduct a spring recruitment rally for new Tiger Cubs
4. Have a fall recruitment for new Cub Scouts

Recognition: A) Free Pinewood Derby Car for each new Cub Scout recruited between April 1 & Oct 31

- B) If the Pack has more Cub Scouts on Oct 31 than the end of 2012; free cars for the whole Pack!

Check with your Senior District Executive for more details!

Get Your Free Advancements, Free Advancements here!

Troops have an opportunity to earn free cloth rank advancement for their efforts to bring more boys into Scouting. A Troop can earn this through the end of the year by having more Scouts than last June on June 30, 2013. The Troop can expand that to July 2014 by having more registered Boy Scouts of December 31, 2013. The Troop must also recharter on time and participate in the Family Friends of Scouting Campaign to qualify.

Check with your Senior District Executive for more details on this great opportunity.



Crossover Benefits for the New Boy Scouts

From February through summer camp, 5th grade Webelos Scouts crossing over into Boy Scouting will be recognized on many levels. This stage in their Scouting career can be a critical time for the future enjoyment of Scouting. In most cases, the young men will be honored with the highest award of Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light, and will experience a positive crossover ceremony through their pack and troop. If you are involved with this level of Scouting, please take the time to conduct meaningful recognition programs for these important boys and their parents.

>>>Arrow of Light Plaques and Shooting Sports Coupon

Illini Lodge of the Order of the Arrow has created an impressive framed certificate for all Arrow of Light recipients in the Prairielands Council to be presented at the time of the award ceremony. As an incentive to continue their Scouting path, the Brotherhood of Honor Campers (OA) is providing a shooting sports coupon to be used the Nogle Shooting Sports area this summer. The coupon will be good for a free arrow kit.

>>>Free Compass for New Boy Scouts at Camp Orientation

Encourage their participation in COMPASS Day on Saturday, April 6th, where they will receive special recognition from the Council Camping Committee and Illini Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. Inform your fifth grade Webelos Scouts and parents about this special opportunity to experience a day of camp activities, take a tour of program options, start working of Boy Scout level advancement, and receive a compass.

>>>Arrowhead Award Ceremony Recognition at First Campfire

All of the Arrow of Light recipients who attend Camp Drake this summer will be recognized at the opening campfire for this achievement. During the festive atmosphere of the welcoming camp skits, each new Boy Scout that has earned the Arrow of Light will be called on stage by members of the Illini Lodge Ceremonies Team to receive a special Arrowhead Award for their achievement.



Venturers from several area Crews participated in Leadership Development Training at Prairielands Training College.

Hey, Eagle Scouts!

Congratulations on earning one of the most important achievements of your life. But now that you've got your "eagle wings," what are you going to do with them?

That's right—join a Venturing Crew! Venturing is a great way for eagles to spread their wings and fly. It is a coed program for young men and women ages 14-21. Venturers do all sorts of high adventure activities from going to Philmont to sea kayaking to caving, skiing, whitewater rafting, and so much more! Take your scouting experience to the next level with Venturing. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

Have questions about joining a Crew? Want to find a Crew near you?

Contact Maddy Kangas, Prairielands Council Venturing President:

Maddy.k.716@gmail.com

217.722.4856



Venturing Crews.....Plan Now for Summerblast '13

Are you getting tired of sitting at home watching TV all day? Looking for something to liven up your summer? Well, have no fear because this summer, the VOA is hosting SummerBlast, a weekend full of fun in the sun! Come out to Camp Drake June 14-16 for a weekend full of activities that are not only way more fun than sitting at home, but will also help you meet requirements for your Bronze, Gold and Silver awards. It is a weekend full of fun activities, like shooting, Dutch oven cooking, geocaching, boating and getting certified in First Aid. If this sounds like fun to you, come join us! SummerBlast is also a great opportunity to run for an office in VOA and meet new friends. SummerBlast is open to any registered Venturer.

Please contact Lauren Murray for details on registering:

dolphins1601@yahoo.com

217.418.6996

Prairielands Training College Helps Leaders Be Prepared

Over 100 leaders from around central Illinois and western Indiana took advantage of Prairielands Council's premiere training opportunity, Prairielands Training College. The all day training event was held on February 9 at the High School of St. Thomas More in Champaign.



The cafeteria was packed with Leaders all wanting to provide the best Scouting experience possible for their Scouts back home.



Sam Trusner, right, was the Chair of the 2013 PTC, but got lots of help from past Chairs Flint Pellett and Jim Dieker,



Council Shooting Sport Chair, Tony Martin, teaches an NRA certification course during Prairielands Training College

Council Training Committee Works to Meet All Your Training Needs



The Council Training Committee, under the direction of Council Training Chair, Troye Kauffman, has a variety of training opportunities for you this spring. It is proven that Scout retention is directly affected by the quality of the program he received *and* that a trained leader offers a considerably better program.

- **Prairielands One Stop Training:** Saturday, March 9, 2013, 10:00 am—2:30 pm, LDS Church at 604 Windsor Road, Champaign
Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing Specific Training
Special Unit Commissioner Training
\$15.00 fee covers lunch and all materials; \$12.00 Early Bird fee if paid by March 2, 2013
- **SALT (Scouting Advanced Leader Training):** March 22 –24, 2013, Camp Robert Drake
Knots for Stave & Knots for Bell Ropes
\$55.00 fee covers meals, materials, camping fees and patch
Registration now open and limited; register at the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center
- **NRA Basic Pistol Course:** Saturday, March 23, 2013, 9:00 am—5:00 pm, Camp Robert Drake
Official NRA Basic Pistol Safety Class
Open to all Prairielands Council Adult Scouters; limited to eight participants
\$40.00 fee includes lunch, materials and shooting supplies
Registration due to Raymond Lee Scout Service Center by Friday, March 15, 2013
Note: Participants are not allowed to bring their own personal firearms
- **Outdoor Leader Skills Training and Webelos Leader Outdoor Training:** April 19—April 21, 2013, Camp Robert Drake
Outdoor Leader Skills Training for Webelos and Boy Scout Leaders (participants earn both certifications)
Check in 6:30 pm Friday night; dismissed at 2:00 pm on Sunday
\$35.00 due to Service Center by April 12, 2013 and includes all materials and meals. After April 12, fee is \$40.00
- **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation:** Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:00 am—5:00 pm, Camp Robert Drake
Basic outdoor leadership training for Cub Scout leaders
\$15.00 due to Service Center by April 12, 2013 and includes materials and lunch. After April 12, fee is \$20.00

Connecting Scouting Alumni and Helping Scouts Today

Under the leadership of Stan Herrin, Vice-President/Alumni Relations, the new Prairielands Council Alumni Association is beginning to take off. “We started with local Eagle Scouts but now we are expanding our search to anyone who was involved in Scouting; we like to reconnect.” says Herrin. The Alumni Association is made up of people who have been involved in Scouting in the past, whether as members, leaders or even parents. It is open to any alumni living in the council service area, whether they were active in Prairielands Council or somewhere else.



The goal of the Alumni Association is 1) Service to the Community; 2) Mentorship and Professional networking; 3) Service to Scouting; and 4) Fellowship and Fun.

The Alumni Association already has its first Service Project, the Sleeping Bag Collection Project.

The Association is collecting used sleeping bags for new Scouts who may not have one. “We have a large population of young people who want to be in Scouting and go camping, but don’t have the equipment necessary,” says Herrin. “By being able to give them a sleeping bag we’ve helped them over a major hurdle.” Herrin says the Association will also accept used camping equipment such as backpacks, tents, stoves, ponchos, etc.

To donate or find out more about the Alumni Association, contact Stan at prairielandsesa.com



Robeson Scout Shop

Scout Shop Super Saturdays

Beginning on March 9 we will be celebrating **Super Saturdays** at our Scout Shop with a variety of promotions. Here are our March and April special deals!



March 9: **NOVA Saturday** – The NOVA and Supernova awards are a new BSA program exploring the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NOVA is for all Scouting levels, Tiger Cub through Venturing. Grab a free NOVA book (your choice, Cub Scout, Boy Scout, or Venturing) with any purchase of \$25 or more on March 9! (Limit 1 per customer.)



March 23: **Make Us an Offer Day** – This is a new kind of clearance sale. Come in to the store and check out our big batch of clearance merchandise, then make Glenn an offer for any of it. Or all of it. We're ready to deal. In fact, if you see something not on clearance and want to try to talk him down on the price, go ahead! It might work . . .

April 13: **Knives and Knots** – As we get ready for the camping season, take 15% off all pocket knives, knot kits, and books about knives and knots like the Little Book of Whittling and the Deck of Knots.



April 27: **NOVA Saturday** – Same great deal as March 9.

Robeson Scout Shop

(Located in the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center)

3301 Farber Drive, Champaign

Open: Monday, Wednesday & Friday; 9:00 am—6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday; 12 noon—6:00 pm
2nd & 4th Saturdays; 9:00 am—1:00 pm

The Robeson Scout Shop also ships via US Mail and UPS

Call before 3:00 pm on Monday & Wednesday and we will deliver to the Danville Scout Office the next day! Call

Glenn at 217-531-3010 or 1-800-464-7291;

Fax 217-356-7785; E-mail: glenn.overby@scouting.org



Annual Campaign Underway

The annual Prairielands Council Friends of Scouting Campaign is underway and moving forward. As of this publication the campaign has raised \$59,868 or 27% of the \$218,400 goal. According to Council President John Frauenhoffer, the campaign is off to a good start but needs to “move at a quicker pace if we’re going to be done by June 30. It was nice to be done a mid-year in 2012, we didn’t have to keep working at fund-raising all year long.”

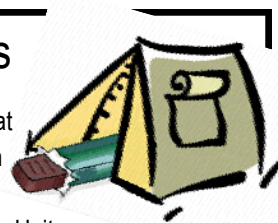
The Family Division of the campaign is especially important. The Family Division is expected to raise \$47,250 and as of this date has raised \$10,660 or 22.5% of the goal. Prairie Fire District Chairman Mike Hirschi expresses how crucial the Family Division is to the campaign.

“The Family Division is the opportunity for our families to show their support for Prairielands Council just like they would for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign or for the United Way during their company solicitation,” says Hirschi. “This is their chance to support their council. It’s important that our Cubmasters, Scoutmasters and Crew Leaders emphasize this with their Scout parents and encourage them to support the campaign.”

If your Pack, Troop or Crew has not scheduled a family presentation yet, please contact your Senior District Executive immediately

Thank you for your support.

Camp Candy Bar News



The Camp Candy Bar Sale is off to a great start with over 500 cases of candy bars in the hands of campers. This is great way for Scouts to earn their own way to camp. Units can still sign up to sell until the conclusion of the sale. Some important dates coming up:

Friday, March 1st; first weekly drawing—money due for entry by Noon on Thursday. Weekly drawings continue through the sale.

Friday, April 5; Candy Bar Sale ends

Monday, April 8; All Candy Bar money due to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center.

Questions? Contact Product Sales Manager, Elliot Smith at (217) 531-3011 or at Elliot.smith@scouting.org



Prairielands Council Cub Scout Day Camp

Cub Scouts in Shining Armor

Champaign County Fairgrounds, Urbana; June 10 -14

Camp Robert Drake; June 10 -14

Ervin Park, Tuscola; June 17 - 21

Cub Scouts won't want to miss out on their chance to travel back to medieval times and become a "Cub in Shining Armor" at the 2013 Prairielands Council Cub Scout Camp. Lots of fun and adventure awaits a three Day Camp locations throughout the council area. In addition to the traditional Day Camp activities of archery, BB guns, slingshots, swimming, fishing and sports, our program areas will be filled with hands-on activities associated with the theme.

Champaign/Urbana: The Champaign/Urbana Day Camp will be held June 10—14 at the Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana. The camp will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday. Friday is Family Day; lunch will be provided and the entire family is welcome to participate.



Camp Drake: The Camp Drake Day Camp will held June 1- - 14 at Camp Robert Drake south of Oakwood. The camp will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday. Friday is Family Day; lunch will be provided and the entire family is welcome to participate.

Tuscola: The Tuscola Day Camp will be held June 17—21 at Ervin Park in Tuscola. The camp will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday. Friday is Family Day; lunch will be provided and the entire family is welcome to participate.

Friday Family Day: The final day of each Day Camp is Family Day. Parents and siblings are invited to join in on the fun with their Cub Scout. Shooting sports and some other program areas will be open, and additional special events are planned. Lunch is provided.

Camp Fees: The registration for all Day Camps is \$60.00 per Scout. Registration fees and forms are due to the Raymond Lee Scout service Center by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 31st. All camps have a \$10.00 discount that applies if 1) the registration fee is paid before May 4th; 2) the Scout has a brother who is paying the full fee or; c) the Scout has just joined in 2013. (Only one discount applies)



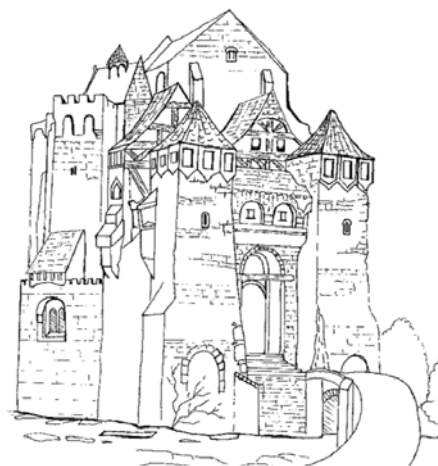
Special Note from Camp Drake Day Camp

HEY CAMP CANDY BAR SALESMEN——

Help us build a giant castle at Day Camp. We would like for you to save your candy bar boxes (both variety and one of a kind) to be used as our "building blocks." Go ahead and break them down flat. But we don't want torn boxes.

If you sell an entire case of candy, bring those boxes back too. You can drop off your boxes to Mike Graham at the Scout office. We want just the candy boxes so it stays uniform. So please don't toss in other boxes you have laying around. Take those to the recycle center or reuse them! Our theme is Cubs In Shining Armor and our plan is to have the boys build a big castle with the boxes, then finish off camp by "laying siege" to the castle with giant water balloon launchers.

So your help with the boxes will enable us to have a ton of fun at camp and allow for plenty of building potential. Thank you in advance!





Camp Robert Drake
 Cub Scout Adventure Camp
Across the U.S.A.

BLUE SESSION: JUNE 30-JULY 3

GOLD SESSION: JULY 21-24

What is the state capital of Maine? What is the Gem State? What is the smallest state in the union? What are the 4 corner states? All these exciting questions and more will be answered as Cub Scout Adventure Camp travels "Across the USA" during its two sessions in early and late July 2013. Cub Scouts and leaders experience all kinds of Americana through a series of "stately" programs.

Cub Scout Adventure camp is set for two sessions; the Blue Session is June 30-July 3 and the Gold Session is July 21-24. The fee for the entire camp including all meals and program is just \$130.00; a \$5.00 discount is available for those who pay in full before April 30, 2013.



An important element of Cub Scout Adventure Camp is rank advancement. Cub Scouts that attend the Cub Scout Adventure Camp earn a wide range of advancement awards through their activities at the four day camp. One of the most difficult honor is the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity award. Another common recognition is the pin for the Summertime Pack Award. In addition to rank requirements for Wolf, Bear, and Webelos ranks, there are a plethora of academic and sports program belt loops and pins that are scheduled into the camp events. This is a fabulous opportunity for current Bear Scouts to crossover to a special head start on their Webelos activity badges.

Campers can bring their own camping gear, but tents and cots will be provided, as needed. See the Cub Scout Adventure Camp Leader Guide, also known as "The Lantern", for added details at www.campdrake.com. Dress up as your favorite president or highlight an entertaining aspect of our country---celebrate America!



Camp Drake Tool Time

Spring cleaning begins on Saturday, March 16 at 9:00 am at the north end of the Tin Shed at Camp Robert Drake near Oakwood, IL. All Scouts, Scouters, and parents are welcome to help prepare camp for all the fabulous activities in 2013. Primary projects will focus on clearing campsites and removing brush, brambles, and leaves from program areas. Basic cleaning will be needed in the cabins and buildings. If you have construction talents, additional projects will be available by contacting Mike Graham at mike.graham@scouting.org. All Tool Time participants should bring their own equipment if possible, but some rakes, brooms, and loppers are available. A lunch will be served at 12:15 and a recognition distribution will be conducted at the end of the day at 3:00 pm. Please encourage your pack, troop, or crew to help with this Tool Time date, or another Saturday on April 13th or May 11th.

Camperships Requests due April 1, 2013

As always Prairielands Council has a limited number of Camperships available for the 2013 camping season. We realize that camp can be a financial challenge for some families and we want to do everything we can to help every Scout get to summer camp.

In order to be considered for a campership a parent must complete the Campership Request form and submit it to the Raymond Lee Scout Service Center no later than April 1, 2013. Applications after this date will not be accepted.

The application must be filled out completely to demonstrate: 1) a genuine need; 2) that the Scout has worked to earn some of his own way through Candy Bar Sales, Popcorn Sales or other unit fund raisers and 3) that the family and/or unit are providing some financial support.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Parents needing to apply for a Campership are encouraged to review the application form early to be have the information necessary to complete it.

Please note that a new form for 2013 is available. Forms from previous years will not be accepted. Thank you.



Boy Scout Summer Camp at Camp Drake

Camp Drake Fee Deadline Reminder

Please be reminded of the April 15 payment deadline for Scouts attending Camp Drake this summer. A \$10.00 per Scout deposit was due by December 9, 2012. For Scouts who paid the deposit, the balance due (\$215) is due by April 15, 2013. For Scouts who did not pay the deposit, a balance of \$235 is due by April 15, 2013. After April 15, camp registration fees increase to \$250 for all Scouts in Prairielands Council. Plan and pay ahead for savings in 2013!

Camp Drake 2013 Online Program Registration Underway

Summer is just around the corner and online program registration is up and running at www.CampDrake.com! Unit leaders for Troops that are signed up for Boy Scout Resident Camp at Camp Drake in 2013 are eligible to register their Troop's Scouts for merit badges, training programs, Vermilion TreX older Scout adventures, and other program opportunities. For registration log-in information for your Troop, please contact Susan Collier at susan.collier@scouting.org. Please note that several classes have limited capacity, so register your Scouts today for best program availability! Merit badge fees and pre-requisite information is posted at www.CampDrake.com. Plan ahead now for a fun Camp Drake experience this summer!



Camp Drake Health & Safety Update

In order to expedite the check-in process on Sunday, we're asking that the entire unit's medical forms be sent to the council office by 15 April 2013. This will allow the medical staff to note allergies and medical needs and conduct most of the medical screening prior to your unit's arrival, avoiding the difficult situation that arises when the wrong form is used, or when the physical exam is incomplete, incorrect, or absent.

Remember that the ONLY acceptable form for attending Camp Drake is the current form from national. All persons attending camp, regardless of duration, must have parts A, B, and C on file with the camp, and the physical must be valid for the entire stay at camp. Persons that do not use the proper form may not be admitted to camp, and this pre-screening is aimed at reducing any potential problems by having the forms checked in advance. Please don't submit forms to the council office within two weeks of your unit's arrival date at camp, and remember to only submit a COPY of the form. Also remember that any and all medications must be in their original containers with legible labels.

New this year will be an expanded option to store medications in your troop trailer in the campsite. The medications must be in a locked, weather tight container, and the leader will attend a brief orientation to the process during the first night at camp. While the Camp Drake Health and Safety Officer can administer medications for your youth, we're offering the option to allow units to manage this responsibility individually. Remember that according to the Guide to Safe Scouting the responsibility for a Scout to take their medication rests with the Scout and his parents.

Vermilion TreX Offers Older Scout Excitement in 2013

Do you have older scouts that are not sure if they should come to Camp Drake this summer? Camp Drake has an answer for them. The CAMP DRAKE OLDER SCOUT PROGRAM, Vermilion TreX!

A balance of activities based on outdoor trek excitement is available exclusively for older Scouts at Camp Drake. Since this exciting new program's inception in 2010, older scouts have enjoyed the thrills it offers of SCUBA, zip-line, river trips, outpost campouts, horseback riding, and so much more!

Please visit www.campdrake.com/VermilionTreX for more information!

Reminder of Special Dietary Needs Procedures at Camp Drake



Also remember to let us know about any special dietary needs for your Scouts and leaders. We're working to improve the non-standard menus, and notifying us about special diets or requests will aid us in being prepared. Please send an email to the below address no later than two weeks before your unit's arrival date in camp so that we can make adjustments as we're able to. Please contact Assistant Camp Director Brian Brauer at campdrakekitchen@gmail.com with any questions or dietary concerns as soon as possible.



Changes to Plan for at 2013 Summer Camp

In order to expedite the check-in process on Sunday, we're asking that the entire unit's medical forms be sent to the council office by 15 April 2013. This will allow the medical staff to note allergies and medical needs and conduct most of the medical screening prior to your unit's arrival, avoiding the difficult situation that arises when the wrong form is used, or when the physical exam is incomplete, incorrect, or absent.

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Please contact Assistant Camp Director Brian Brauer, at campdrakekitchen@gmail.com with any questions. See you at camp this summer!"

ATV 's Planned For Camp Drake; Vehicle Donations, Equipment Donations and Cash Donor Prospects Sought

The Boy Scouts of America has recently approved the use of All Terrain Vehicles (4-wheelers) for program purposes but **ONLY** at nationally approved council camps. Camp Drake would like to be **ONE OF THE FIRST** to offer this high-octane experience to scouts! **If equipment can be acquired**, this experience would be offered exclusively through the Vermilion TreX Older Scout program and would be executed according to the strict safety, legal and environmental standards outlined by the BSA. Adding this option to the program will help to retain older boys in scouting.



It is required that the vehicles for this program be owned or leased by the local council. Do you have an ATV that can provide an exciting opportunity for a Boy Scout at camp? Do you know someone else that does? What about ATV equipment like a helmet? Would you have any interest in buying an ATV for camp? **Do your part today!** Acceptable donations would qualify as tax-deductible charitable gifts. E-mail Camp Director Mike Graham (mike.graham@scouting.org) or call the scout office for more information on how you can help to keep older scouts in the program!



Shooting Sports Director Wayne Frankie is one of the top notch camp staff members returning for summer 2013.

Log-On and Connect with Camp Drake Year-Round!



Never miss out on Camp Drake breaking news and program information again! Connect with Camp Drake on Facebook (Camp Robert Drake) and follow Camp Drake on Twitter (@campdrakebsa) today! As always, www.CampDrake.com remains the premiere location for all critical Camp Drake leader updates, program information and registration, games, news bulletins, training opportunities, and more!



Important OA Lodge Dates Coming up.....

There are several important dates coming up for the Lodge and hope that all of the Arrowmen in your Troop can attend:

- * The next Lodge Meeting will be held on Sunday March 3rd starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Illinois Fire Service Institute located at 11 Gerty Dr. Champaign, IL.
 - * On March 16th there will be a Day of Service out at Camp Robert Drake. We will spend the day working to get camp ready for the summer. The event is free and lunch is provided; registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and we expect to be finishing around 3:00 p.m. Please dress according to the weather and in work appropriate clothing.
 - * On April 6th the annual Trail Tromp at Camp Drake will be held. Come out at 9:00 a.m. and spend the morning hiking the beautiful reaches of Drake! Also! Don't miss your chance to win this years GPS prize!
 - * May 3rd-5th will be Illini Lodge's Spring Fellowship at Camp Drake! More information to follow.
 - * If you still need to sign up for a Troop Visit for Camp Promotions and Order of the Arrow elections; contact Dakota Craft at dakotacraft365@gmail.com <<mailto:dakotacraft365@gmail.com>>
- If you or another Arrowman in your Troop is interested in joining a committee then please contact Lodge Chief Owen Myers at owenmyers113@gmail.com <<mailto:owenmyers113@gmail.com>>.

Thanks for your Cheerful Service

Illini Lodge would like to thank you for the success it has experienced so far this year. As some of you may know (and hopefully attended), the past several events that the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service has been a part of have brought many new faces and have been very successful. The year started with the Order of the Arrow Winter Banquet over in Covington, Indiana and despite the rare showing of snow, the Lodge was able to beat both the 2012 and 2011 attendance numbers. Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago and the Lodge found itself having a great time tending the warming fires of Klondike Derby and running the sled race (congratulations to all who participated!) The very next day many sashed volunteers were present to help with the Pinewood Derby Workshop. The day started nice and early at 7:00 a.m. and there were volunteers there for another eight. Since then the stage is being set for a great year in the Lodge as committees meet and are translating the goals into action.

Cookie Reward to Set up your Unit Election/Camp Promo Training for the Spring

Please set up your troop to have a successful unit election/camp promotion effort. Pick a good date on the troop calendar and announce to all members the significance of this meeting. Give 2nd Class Scouts time to finish their final requirements for the required First Class rank for Order of the Arrow eligibility. Inform new cross-over Webelos Scouts and their parents about the Camp Promotion session that will answer all their summer camp questions. Your help is needed to provide a quality unit election/camp promotion effort this year. But wait...there's more>>>

If your Camp Drake-bound troop is signed up for unit election and camp promotion by March 15th, 2013, then your hungry troop will be visited at summer camp by Craft's Crunchy Cookie Crew. Dakota and his elfish bakers will provide your Boy Scouts with the best cookies in all of Camp Drake... served right in your campsite! Start planning now.



Arrowmen Jim Kirkpatrick and Tim Carter at the 2013 Winter Banquet held in January.

Prairie Fire District

Serving families in Champaign, Douglas and Piatt counties

District Calendar

March

13 District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign

April

10 Prairie Fire District Roundtable, 7:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign

10 District Commissioner Meeting, 6:00 pm, LDS Church on Windsor, Champaign

Roundtable for all Leaders.....

Calling all scout leaders and volunteers mark your calendar, lpads, notebooks for our district next **Roundtable April 10, 2013, 7:00 pm at LDS Church on Windsor Road in Champaign.** Come out and meet new leaders, season leaders and hear about what is going on in scouting locally and nationally. We have some awesome Roundtable leaders; **Susi Boastick and Rebecca Gatewood lead the Cub Scout Program and Scout leaders Rex Phipps and Eric Chaney have taken on the Boy Scout program** with new and exciting topics of discussions. Remember that Roundtable is for "ALL" leaders and interested parents, it is a valuable tool to help keep your pack/troop/crew in the loop on what is going on. For more information or questions contact Roundtable Commissioner **Dan Strole** at dstrole@yahoo.com

Spring Camporee for Boy Scouts & Venturers

Times a Ticking..... Be prepared for the **2013 Prairie Fire Spring Camporee with this year theme being "Environmental Earth Weekend"**. It will be held at Camp Drake the weekend of **April 26-28, the cost is \$12.00 a person for early bird registration and after 4-13-2013 the cost goes up to \$15.00 a person.** Activities will include: Service Projects, Leave No Trace, Search & Rescue, and many more fun activities! Look for the flier on the Council website: www.prairielandbsa.org. Questions or want to help? Contact Camporee Chairman: Wayne Frankie 217 840-1068 or rockdocfrankie@gmail.com

Prairie Fire District Friends of Scouting Campaign

Prairie Fire Friends of Scouting Family and Community campaigns have both kicked off with a bang!! Last year we collectively as a district made "ALL" our Friends of Scouting goals which made a huge **IMPACT** on our Council financial stability and stewardship. Please allow us gain this year to come do a 5-8 minute presentation at your pack Blue & Gold banquets or Troop Court of Honor. The funds raised from this campaign stay right here in our Council to help with providing programming activities like Day Camp, Summer Camp, Klondike Derby, Pinewood Derby, etc. Cubmaster and Scoutmaster it is very important that we give every family the opportunity to participate in the FOS Campaign. Please contact **Lovetta Ash-Simpson 531-0217** today to schedule your unit presentation. Thank you.

Journey to Excellence Information

"Scouting's Journey to Excellence" is BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA new council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, district and council. This new performance system is tied heavily to computer tracking and the internet, so that it can be followed all year via the web.

Service has always been an important part of Scouting and thus is an important part of the Journey to Excellence. Service hours need to be recorded at www.scouting.org/journytosexcellence. You will need your unit ID# which can be obtained at the Council Service Center.

Commissioners Corner

Thank you to all the units that have gotten their recharter into the Council office on time it is greatly appreciated! Big shout out to Pack 122 that was the winner of our district random drawing a large engraved scout memorabilia box donated by our district Commissioner Linda Atherton just for turning in their recharter "on time by January 15th, 2013. There are a few charters still hanging out there, please contact Lovetta Ash-Simpson Senior District Executive 531-0217 or Flora Filler 531-0220 if you are having problems or need assistance. Your charter has officially lapsed as of Feb. 1, 2013 and is in jeopardy of dropping!

Rechartering Reminder- remember that the Unit Service Fee has increased to \$40.00 to help cover the cost of liability insurance. Thank You.

Many Trails District

Serving families in Edgar, Ford, Iroquois & Vermilion Counties in IL
and Fountain & Vermillion counties in IN

Family Friends of Scouting Nights

The annual Friends of Scouting family fund-raising campaign will begin in the new year with unit presentations throughout the new district. The ten minute program highlights important mission of the Boy Scouts of America and reviews the need for financial support. Each unit is encouraged to schedule a presentation for their Scouting families this winter/spring.

Many Trails Scout Skills Camporee

Many Trails District volunteers will host a Scout Skills Camporee on May 17-19 for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers at Timbered Meadows campgrounds, near Goodwine, IL. The weekend event will focus on knot tying and lashing, woods tools, and fire building, compass knowledge and hiking techniques for all age levels. Scouts are encouraged to bring their handbooks to assist in the advancement process. This will be a tremendous opportunity to enhance each Scout's basic camping talents at a fabulous location. To get more details on the location, visit <http://www.timberedmeadowscampground.com/>. The Scout Skills Camporee is open to any Scouting units, although Cub Scouts (from current Bear and Webelos levels only) must be hosted by an attending troop.

The interactive event stations throughout the campgrounds will highlight important camping techniques with instructions such as the Totin' Chip card and Whittlin' Chit. Rope skills will include basic rope making to advanced knot tying to make a rope ladder. Lashing skills will display the fundamentals projects and challenge the hearty pioneering Scouts. A wonderful fishing pond will provide recreational angling opportunities, as well as host a competition for survival fishing. Fire building sessions will share elementary requirements for cooking preparations, plus options for discovering "matchless" methods for fire starting. Plus basic emergency skills will be reviewed through a First Aid instruction demonstration. Each Scouting unit should plan to provide their own food and shelter for the Scout Skills Camporee on May 17-19. There are restroom accommodations and drinking water is available on site. No ground fires will be allowed, so bring your own self-contained campfire apparatus, as well as your own firewood. As with all good camping routines, please plan to pack out any garbage brought into the site. The camporee fee has been set at \$10.00 per person. Payments can be made upon arrival at the event. If your troop members would like to participate in the GIANT CROQUET TOURNAMENT, then it is suggested that they bring a sledge hammer for the game.

Look to Set Up a Troop Rally Night in March

Share the light of Scouting throughout your community and offer the opportunity for families to join the BSA. The Prairielands Council is encouraging troops to conduct a special recruiting program in March to invite new families to become involved with Scouting. Ask for a "Light the Lantern" packet at one of the council service centers and get all the details for your troop.

Prizes for Better Recruiting

The Prairielands Council will provide membership incentives for packs and troops to concentrate on recruiting new members. As a reward for good performance, the council will provide added benefits for units growing their youth participation in the spring and fall. Look for the detailed Unit Growth Recognition Plan guide sheets with all the details.

CUB SCOUT PACKS...EARN FREE PINEWOOD DERBY CARS

BOY SCOUT TROOPS...EARN FREE RANK ADVANCEMENT EMBLEMS

Journey to Excellence Assistance

District Commissioner Kent McMahan is willing to assist any unit needing support regarding the Journey to Excellence goal setting process. The Boy Scouts of America has set a dozen benchmarks for each unit to target in developing a better program for the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers in their community. Please contact Kent at born2bascout@gmail.com if you need help in this project.

District Pinewood Derby in March

The fastest wood on the flattest land will be racing at the **District Pinewood Derby Championships** on Saturday, March 16th. Beginning with registration and weigh-in at 9:00 am, the District Pinewood Derby Championships will be hosted by Cub Scout Pack 118 in Hoopeston, IL. The race will be limited to the first 100 entries. There will be just one competition at the District Pinewood Derby Championships: a race division for the downhill speedsters to show their precision and engineering techniques. Each Cub Scout pack of the Many Trails District is allowed to send any Cub Scout interested in racing. Please register with Pack 118 in Hoopeston by Monday, March 11th. Be sure to follow the guidelines for the Race Car Specifications.

Funshine Day Camp News

The Many Trails Day Camp has found a new Chairman in the fabulous Cub Leader Tony Goss of Danville. See council article for camp details.



Scouts Earn Religious Awards

From Pack 121 Hunter Fazio earned his Parvuli Dei medal. It was presented at a Scout Sunday Mass at St. Matthew on Feb. 3

From Pack 9 Calum Beckett and Jimmy Sobeski earned their Parvuli Dei medals and Nathaniel Spila and Aidan Beckett earned their Light of Christ medals. They were presented at a Scout Sunday Mass at Holy Cross on Feb. 3.

Also several adult Scouters have been recognized for their volunteer efforts for Scouts. Cathy Koerner and her husband Gregory Koerner were presented with Bronze Pelican awards from the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting at the Holy Cross Scout Mass.

Finally Lawrence Atherton was presented with the St. George medal by Bishop Jenky at the Cathedral Scout Mass Feb. 10.

2013 Scout Council Challenge

The Great American Can Roundup Scout Council Challenge, sponsored by the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), is an annual contest open to all registered Boy and Girl Scouts of all ages (Cubs, Tigers, Venturers, Explorers, Daisies, Brownies, Cadets, Ambassadors, etc.) and their area Councils. Boy and Girl Scout Troops/Units compete to recycle the most aluminum beverage cans per capita between Jan.15, and April 30. Councils vie for top recycling awards based on the cumulative total pounds of beverage cans recycled through their scouts and scout activities. Go to www.cancentral.com/roundup to register and find virtually everything needed to create a successful Roundup.

Last year Prairielands Council took second place nationally and Troop 157 captured third place among participating Boy and Girl Scout troops. Their efforts brought a total of \$500 in prize money to scouts in our council.

All units that currently recycle cans are urged to go to www.cancentral.com/roundup and complete the simple registration process to enter the contest to win individual prizes for scouts and potentially cash for the unit and council.

Live Crash Drill; An Unusual Community Service Project

The Crash, Fire and Rescue Department at Willard Airport is having a live crash drill here on Monday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m. They need at least 50 volunteers to serve as victims. Victims will act as live, injured, dead, or wandering around confused people. They are looking for Boy Scout/Venturer age kids as well as adults.

Interested leaders, units, and individuals can contact Ralph Kuchenbord at Flightstar at Ralph@Flightstar.com or 217-351-7700.

Council Tribute Fund

The Council Tribute Fund is a way for acknowledge someone with a gift to Scouting. A tribute can be made in memory of someone, in recognition of a life milestone, in honor of achieving the Eagle Scout Award or to say "thank you" to someone in a special way. Gifts to the Tribute Fund are acknowledged by letter to both the honoree and the person making the gift. In addition, each edition of the Prairielands Post features a list of those giving to the Tribute Fund. There is no minimum gift. Gifts to the Tribute Fund should be sent to Tribute Fund, P.O. Box 6267, Champaign, IL 61826-6267.

In honor of Richard Wolf

Douglas Reeve

In memory of John A. Quinn

Actagro, LLC

In memory of Art Wolfinbarger

The Fleming Family

In Memory of Ronald D. Balsley

Dr. Robert Ewbank

Janet Hetherington

Virginia Harris

Bill & Gloria Sempstrott

Betsey Strader

Dorothy Rouse



Congratulations New Eagle Scouts

Thomas Atchley, Troop 9, Champaign

Jordon Carter, Troop 157, Cissa Park

Edmond Kim, Troop 17, Champaign

Pengyu Li, Troop 101, Champaign

Joel Ping, Troop 66, Pesotum

Adrian Rochelle, Troop 402, Urbana

Du Su, Troop 40, St. Joseph

Jackson Thurman, Troop 314, Champaign

Scouts Attend University of Illinois Wheelchair Basketball Tourney

On Saturday, February 23rd the inaugural Prairielands Council Day at the University of Illinois Wheelchair Basketball International Invitational Tournament took place. Approximately 70 scouts and family members participated in the event which included watching the Illinois Men's Team defeat Team Canada 71-29 in an action packed game. This was the second of three games against these two teams this weekend. Illinois squeaked out a win last night with 6 seconds left going up by 2pts. Besides watching the game and learning about wheelchair basketball, attendees also worked on the disabilities awareness belt loop or merit badge. They had the opportunity to talk to Paralympic athletes who competed in the 2012 London Games, the Illini Service Animal Club to understand why individuals with disabilities use service animals, etiquette if you come across an individual with a service animal, and the type of training the animals/individuals complete. Finally, they learned about having a visual impairment, disability etiquette in general and testing the accuracy of their senses. Many thanks to those that attended this event!



Joshua Breen, Troop 101, is awarded the first ever Adams Service Project Award by A.J. Martin at the Council Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner held February 16. The Adams Service Project Award is presented to one Eagle Scout by a local council; his project will now go to Regional competition. Congratulation and good luck Joshua.



Keep up with Prairielands Council on Facebook and Twitter!

Council Calendar

March

- 3 Order of the Arrow Lodge Meeting
Presence Covenant Hospital, Urbana
- 9 Scout Shop Open, 9:00 am—1:00 pm
- 16 Camp Drake Tool Time, Camp Drake
- 18 Council Program Committee, 7:00 pm, RLSSC
- 22-24 SALT (Scouting Advanced Leader Training)
Camp Robert Drake
- 21 Council Training Committee, 7:00 pm
Flightstar, Savoy
- 23 Scout Shop Open, 9:00 am—1:00 pm
- 25 Council Executive Board Meeting, 5:45 pm
New Horizon UMC, Champaign
- 28 Council ScoutReach Committee, Noon, RLSSC
- 29-31 Easter; All Council Facilities Closed

April

- 1 Campership Request Forms due to RLSSC
- 5 Candy Bar Sales End; all money due to RLSSC
- 8 Drake-A-Palooza, Camp Robert Drake
- 13 Scout Shop Open, 9:00 am—1:00 pm
- 15 Council Properties Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
Raymond Lee Scout Service Center
- 15 Summer Camp Fees due to RLSSC
- 18 Council Training Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
Flightstar, Savoy
- 19-20 Outdoor Leader Training, Camp Drake
- 25 Council ScoutReach Committee, Noon, RLSSC
- 27 Scout Shop Open, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Prairielands Council, Boy Scouts of America
3301 Farber Drive
P.O. Box 6267
Champaign, IL 61826-6267

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**Prairielands Council
Boy Scouts of America**

*Serving families in nine counties of east central Illinois
and western Indiana*

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: prairielandsbsa.org