

THE THUNDERBIRDS

Serving Scouting For Over 45 Years

January/February, 2016

www.scouttroop599.org

Volume XXXVI, Issue 4

47th Annual King Ranch Outing

Despite the WINDY and COLD weather, the 47th Annual King Ranch Outing/Mountain Man Rendezvous was a great success and so much fun. Thunderbird Scouts and visiting Webelos from several local packs enjoyed the shooting, archery, tomahawk and pioneering events of the day.



The large crowd of Webelos, Scouts, Leaders and Parents were warmed by a wonderful dinner cooked by Mr. Handy and crew, a HUGE bonfire, flag retirements and skits, but mostly by the warmth of our happy and welcoming Troop, and the enjoyment of the King Ranch tradition.

Many, many thanks to the King Family for allowing us to have so much fun on their ranch each year!



See more pictures and stories inside. Check the pictures on the troop website!

Thoughts from the Scoutmaster

Thunderbird Family,

I hope all of you had a safe Holiday break. Happy New Year!

Wow time flies - Spring semester is here and we are already getting ready for some very cool outings. First up is Enchanted Rock. This is considered by many Scouts to be the best outing of the year. Typically, the weather is colder but we really have a great time with climbing and rappelling. Last year we took over the entire Turkey Peak and still managed to get in some time doing the E-Rock caves. Be sure to mark your calendars for January 22-24th. Later in the Spring we will be doing a Stealth Outing in Flatonia, TX, Mustang District Camporee at Camp Bovay in Navasota, TX, and an Aquatics outing on Lake Livingston. We have a LOT of variety in store. Be sure to ask your Patrol leader about all these great outings.

Summer camp is confirmed. We are going to Skymont Scout reservation in Tennessee. Get ready for some elevation change, cooler temps, and a bunch of merit badges. At that time we will have a new group of Troop Guides to lead our incoming FCEs and a new Sr Patrol Leader and Staff to lead the Troop. Be sure to watch the e-blasts about Summer Camp info and presentation coming up in the next few weeks.

Speaking of new FCEs, I want to **welcome all the new Scouts and Scout parents to the Troop.** We are excited to have you as a part of the Troop. Be sure to ask any uniformed leader of you have questions about FCE program, regular meetings, monthly outings or Summer Camp. New FCE parent meeting will be later in the Spring to help with any open items you may have.

Calendar events: you will not want to miss the January Court of Honor on the 26th, Scout Sunday on February 7th, and Eagle Court of Honor on February 28th. All of these events are posted on the Troop calendar.

Welcome back! I am looking forward to a great Spring and a wonderful 2016.

Yours in Scouting,

Adam White





**University of Scouting
Saturday February 13
Benjamin O. Davis High
School**

University of Scouting is an annual training event for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing, Sea Scouts, Order of the Arrow, district and council leaders and parents. It is an action-packed, fun-filled single day of supplemental training where participants choose from over 100 courses. Sessions are led by experienced volunteers who will help you enhance your ability to deliver a fun and exciting program to the Scouts.

This unique day of seminars provides information, techniques, and best practices on how to improve your Scout program. Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University of Scouting has something for you.

Registration forms and further information can be found in the Sam Houston Area Council website by visiting www.shac.org (Training-Council Training Events – UOS - should be available soon).

**CPR Training
Saturday, January 30th
– Scouts and Adults**



Troop 599 is sponsoring American Red Cross Community CPR/AED - adult and child training at MDUMC in the Scout Hut on **Saturday January 30th** 8:30-1 p.m., with instructors, Captain Matt Heatley and Yash Sbar.

Certification is valid for 2-years. There is no cost for T-599 registered Scouts and Adults. There are openings for the first 20 Scouts and Adults with non-troop attendees welcome at \$25.00 each if there are extra spots. The training is being organized by Walt Bozeman and to register for this class please contact Walt at walt.bozeman@outlook.com or 713-870-2065 to make a reservation.

Questions?
Contact Walt Bozeman

**Support our Troop's Upcoming
Enchanted Rock Outing by
Attending
'Climb on Safely' Training**



Wednesday, January 13 -- Climb On Safely 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Hut. This course is for all adults **and Scouts** who plan to work at the January Enchanted Rock campout. Climb On Safely is the BSA's recommended procedure for conducting all BSA climbing/rappelling activities.

The eight points— qualified supervision, discipline, physical fitness, safe area, equipment, planning, environmental conditions, and qualified instruction—help ensure the safety and well-being of participants. We will also review the Enchanted Rock training and site assignments.

Questions?
Contact Walt Bozeman

**SCOUT SUNDAY
Save the Date...February
7th**

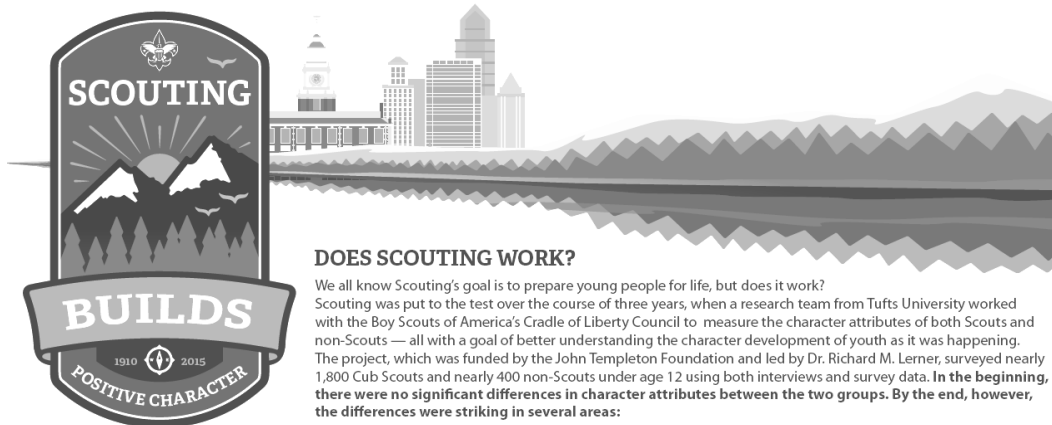


A Scout is Reverent....

In Troop 599, we formally recognize a Scout's commitment to reverence, in part, by supporting our Chartered Organization, Memorial Drive United Methodist Church (MDUMC), and actively participating in a special Sunday worship service at the Church. This annual opportunity is called "Scout Sunday".

This year, MDUMC's Scout Sunday will fall on **Sunday morning, February 7, 2015**. Please mark your calendar and attend this important event for MDUMC and Troop 599.

Watch for further details in upcoming Monday Email Blasts and listen for details at future Tuesday evening Troop Meetings.



DOES SCOUTING WORK?

We all know Scouting's goal is to prepare young people for life, but does it work? Scouting was put to the test over the course of three years, when a research team from Tufts University worked with the Boy Scouts of America's Cradle of Liberty Council to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts — all with a goal of better understanding the character development of youth as it was happening. The project, which was funded by the John Templeton Foundation and led by Dr. Richard M. Lerner, surveyed nearly 1,800 Cub Scouts and nearly 400 non-Scouts under age 12 using both interviews and survey data. **In the beginning, there were no significant differences in character attributes between the two groups. By the end, however, the differences were striking in several areas:**

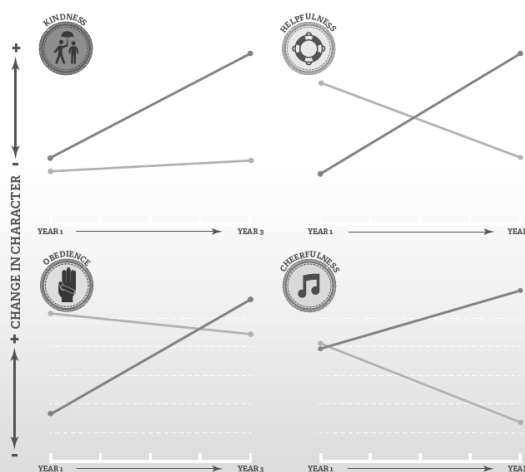
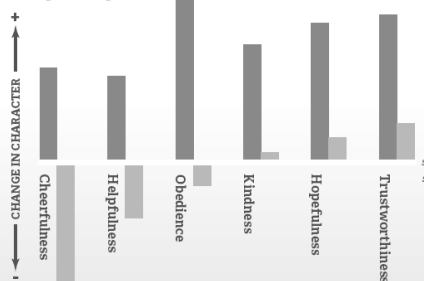
2,000+
Scouts and non-Scouts
aged 6-12 from across the
Philadelphia area were
measured in 6 key areas:



*Hopeful Future Expectations

CHANGE IN CHARACTER

during the course of
the 3-year study:



KEY FINDINGS:

- The more time kids spend in Scouting, the better the outcomes in character development
- Those who attend meetings regularly report higher outcomes virtually across the board when compared to Scouts with lower attendance
- Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts
- Scouts who are more engaged in the program report higher outcomes in nearly every category

With fun and discovery at every turn, Scouting makes the most of right now. But what's more, it builds positive character and provides young people a foundation they can stand on to embrace opportunity, overcome obstacles, and make new discoveries.

SCOUTING WORKS.

2016 “We the Students” Essay Contest – Win a \$2,500 Scholarship!

Boy Scouts analyze and discuss the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights as part of the Eagle-required Citizenship in the Nation merit badge. Now one Scout's interpretation of the role of the Bill of Rights in modern society could result in some free cash for college — and for his troop.



One Boy Scout will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for himself and \$500 for his troop by winning the 2016 “We the Students” Essay Contest, sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute.

The essay competition challenges students age 14 to 19 to write a 500- to 800-word essay about the Bill of Rights. It's open to anyone — young men and young women, Scouts and non-Scouts. But there's a special prize that's only available to Boy Scouts.

Deadlines: The deadline to submit essay is **Feb. 7, 2016**. Winners will be announced April 12, 2016. Essays should be between 500 and 800 words.

The prompt: “The Founders believed in the sanctity/vital importance of the individual liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. To what extent (or in what ways) has our government compromised on these liberties in the name of security or the general welfare? In your answer, incorporate the principles and specific examples (including current events) that support your conclusion. Find more details, along with official rules and procedures for entry here <https://www.billofrights.org/engage/students-programs-events/scholarship/>

Merit Badge Schedule Eagle Required Badges

Room F223/224

Merit Badge	Counselors	Tentative Dates 2015-2016
Cit in the World	Mrs Christiansen, Mrs Phillips	Dec 15, Jan 5, 12
Personal Fitness	Dr. Eubanks, Mr. Bozeman	Jan 19, Feb 2, 9
Communications	Mr. Tittle	Feb 16, 23, Mar 1
Cit in the Community	Mr. Linderman	Mar 8, Mar 22, 29
Cit in the Nation	Mr. Welborn	Apr 5, 12, 19
E Prep	Mr. Balke, Mr. Peachee, Mr. Bozeman	Apr 26, May 3, 10
Camping	Mr. Beebe & One Parent	Summer Camp or possibly May 17



PERSONAL FITNESS MERIT BADGE

The first physical fitness test of 2016 will be Sunday, January 17th at 4:30 at Westchester to kick-off the upcoming merit badge classes that start on Tuesday, January 19th. Please wear appropriate clothing to do push-ups, sit-ups, and run a mile. Please be on time. Additional tests are planned at 4:30 on Jan 31 and at 5:00 on Feb 14 and 28.

Personal Fitness Merit Badge classes will be held on **Tuesday, January 19th and February 2nd and 9th at 6:30** in the room by FCE. Please bring paper, pen, and the merit badge book to the Merit Badge classes. A complete schedule for the merit badge will be available from the counselors at class.

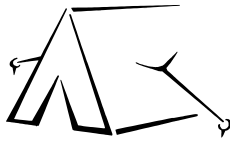
Questions?

Contact one of the counselors, Walt Bozeman or Dr. Leigh Ellen Eubanks

Upcoming Area Merit Badge Opportunities

Merit Badges	Event/Location	Date/Fees	Comments, additional information
Nuclear Science, Chemistry, Computers, Drafting, Electricity, and Engineering.	Bechtel Engineering Day Bechtel Corporation, 3000 Post Oak Blvd, Houston	Saturday, February 20 Free	Bechtel Engineering Day is for Boy Scouts who have an interest in science and engineering. Badges are completed in a hands-on and fun way, in hopes of sparking interest for a future career. Pre-work is required, responsible adult must remain on premises. http://www.bechtel.com/engineering-day/boy-scouts/
Over 30 merit badges offered, including some Eagle Required badges	Texas A&M Merit Badge University, College Station TX	Saturday, February 27 \$40	Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity is hosting a Merit Badge University for Boy Scouts at Texas A&M in College Station. Over 30 merit badge classes are typically offered, including some Eagle Scout required badges. The purpose of the MBU is to allow Scouts the opportunity to visit a college town, and to give Scouts the opportunity to earn merit badges in a college academic environment. Scouts also get access to resources that they would normally not have available to them at the local troop level. It is an opportunity for Scouts to work with university faculty and students. http://tamumbu.org/
Exact classes to be determined, 2015 session included over 18 badge choices	Merit Badge Day Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX	Saturday, April 30 \$35	Breakfast and lunch included with registration, troops can also camp at the park. http://www.shsu.edu/dept/scouts/boyscoutprograms.html
Archeology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Energy, Indian Lore, Insect Study, Geology, and Reptiles & Amphibians Study	Houston Museum of Natural Science	Ongoing Fees vary \$15-\$40	HMNS.org for details
Rifle/Shotgun – finish requirements	Shooting Merit Badge Fulfillment Day – Bovay Scout Ranch, Navasota	April 23, 2016	Shooting Merit Badge Fulfillment Class is an opportunity for Scouts who have a partial merit badge in rifle or shotgun to complete the badge. Scouts typically receive a partial merit badge because they did not meet the minimum shooting score requirement, or did not clean a firearm. The Scout must bring documentation indicating the requirements already completed http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/shooting-merit-badge-fulfillment-day-2016-01-16
Your choice of 136 different merit badges	Anywhere	Any time Free	Did you know? You can work on a merit badge at any time on your own! Get the merit badge book (the troop has many to loan), get a blue card, find a counselor and do the work!

Camping News



From the Webelos:

High Adventure Happenings

33rd Annual Spring Break Ski Trip

- Keystone Colorado, Spring Break 2016. Signup is available online.

Sea Base 2016

- Sign-up is full for this trip. Check with Mr. Beebe for questions.

Summer 2016 Canoeing – Canada

- Boundary Waters Canoe Trip, Quetico Provincial Park, Canada. Signup is available online.



Thank you Troop 599 for inviting us to such a fun campout! We had a blast and hope to see you soon when we join the troop!



**Mountain Man Award...
Hank Harrington!**

Next Up...

Enchanted Rock! January 22-25



This is one of the favorite outings of the year. Don't miss it!

Sign-up is now available online

King Ranch Award

Mrs. Jody King, matriarch of the King Family, asked that we start an annual **King Ranch Award** for outstanding scouts which was kicked off in 2007 and is to be presented at the King Ranch Bonfire each year. This will be given to a scout in Troop 599 that has excelled over the past year in scouting within the troop and the community.



The Award consists of an engraved Plaque and a \$400 stipend to be used towards a Scouting/Troop event such as: Summer Camp, High Adventure Trip, Ski Trip, Jamboree, etc.



Congratulations to **Daniel Canas** for the 2015 King Ranch Award!!



January 2016
Troop 599 - Thunderbirds

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day SBISD Holiday	2
3	4 SBISD Holiday	5 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting	6	7 7:00 PM Boards of Review (last day for Jan. Court of Honor)	8 District Awards Nominations Deadline	9 9:00 AM Leadership
10 6:30 PM - Managing Committee Meeting	11 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	12 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting	13 6:30 PM Leadership Climb on Safety	14	15	16
17 Houston Marathon	18 Martin Luther King Day SBISD Holiday	19 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting	20 7:30 PM Patrol Advisors Meeting	21 7:30 PM OA Chapter Meeting	22 News Articles Due	23 News Articles Due
24 Rappelling - Enchant	25	26 No FCE! 7:00 PM Court of Honor	27	28	29	30 CPR Training
31	December 15 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		February 16 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29			

February 2016
Troop 599 - Thunderbirds

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting Summer Camp Deposit Due Groundhog Day	3	4 7:00 PM Boards of Review	5 Mustang District Appreciation Dinner	6
7 Scout Sunday 6:30 PM - Managing Committee Meeting	8 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting BSA Founded in 1910	9 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting 6:30 PM Leadership	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Ten Commandments Hike
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting	17	18 7:30 PM OA Chapter Meeting	19 February Outing - Mystery Location?	20 February Outing - Mystery Location?
21 February Outing - My	22 Washington's Birthday Baden Powell's Birthday	23 6:30 PM FCE 7:30 PM Troop Meeting News Articles Due	24 7:30 PM Patrol Advisors Meeting	25	26	27 ELMNS - Clean up
28 2:00 PM Winter Eagle Ceremony	29	January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Find the full calendar on the troop website scouttroop599.org



Thunderbirds Newsletter
11714 Cobblestone Dr
Houston, TX 77024

The Thunderbirds Newsletter is a monthly update of BSA Troop 599's past and upcoming events written (mostly) by scouts.