



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

May 2018

WEBELOS RANK

A boy who is 10 years old or is in the fourth grade is a Webelos Scout, and his adventures are found in the Webelos Handbook. Like all other new Cub Scouts, a Webelos must first earn his Bobcat rank.



RESIDENT CAMP-JULY 2018

Resident camp is a three-night campout at [Bovay Scout Ranch](#) for Cub Scouts entering the first through fifth grade the following school year. From Cub Scout skills to rank advancements, these camps are full of fun and learning.

CELEBRATING CULTURES: NOVEMBER 8, 2018

The Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America recognizes that the diversity of Southeast Texas makes our community and our Scouting programs strong and special. The values, skills, and leadership learned in Scouting benefits all youth and all communities. The council wants all families of every culture to know that their children are welcome in Scouting. This community and business leader networking event will celebrate African-American, Asian and Hispanic cultures, and highlight the wonderful and unique food, beverages, dress and customs of these prominent cultures in Southeast Texas. The Boy Scouts of America serves approximately 50,000 youth in Southeast Texas with programs that build character, prepare youth for careers, teaches outdoor skills, and develops our future leaders. In 2017, Houston was named the most diverse city in America, and Scouting is reaching out towards both under-served and emerging communities all over our area. All proceeds will support the development of Scouting programs in Southeast Texas. Come out and taste the global cultures of our area and enjoy entertainment from around the world, all in one place. Participants will have a great time, and help us ensure that all youth are given a chance to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tickets are \$25. Registration opens in September.

2017 Award Recipients

- Ajey Chandra - Asian American Spirit of Scouting Service Award
- Raul Dominguez - iScouting!... Vale la Pena! Service Award (Posthumously)
- Deborah & Louis McKinney - Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award

HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING

Effective April 30, 2018, new direct contact leaders must complete Hazardous Weather Training to be considered position trained. Here is one story about why this is so important. Imagine as a leader with a group of excited Scouts you arrive at a council camp for a camporee on a rainy Friday afternoon. Saturday morning is filled with the sounds of Scouts participating in the scheduled activities, only to have the weather turn blustery with sustained winds of about 30 mph and gusts up to 48 mph. The trees of the heavily forested area start swaying madly back and forth. As a leader, what would you do? Would you continue with the camporee or evacuate the camp? This was exactly the situation experienced earlier this year at Pacific Harbors Council's Klondike Derby held at Camp Thunderbird. According to the National Weather Service, sustained winds of about 30 mph with gusts up to 48 mph were recorded near the camp between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday. It soon became apparent to leaders that conditions had become unsafe and, around midmorning, with input from the council representative and Camp Thunderbird's ranger, leaders decided to evacuate the camp. "We made sure that we followed the Boy Scout [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and our hazardous weather training to ensure that all Scouts and adults made it home safe," said Barb Dyer, Klondike committee chairwoman. "It was the right decision to cancel Klondike. While it's disappointing that the boys couldn't have the fun-filled weekend that was planned, I'm eternally grateful that safety is first with the BSA." A good decision it was, as several large trees and branches dropped on or near Scout campsites during the storm. No injuries were reported, but it could have turned out differently. Rebecca Ledford, an adult leader with Troop 4100, shared a photo of her son's tent, which had been impaled by a heavy fallen branch — right where his pillow was. On Sunday morning the "all clear" was given for Scouts and leaders to return to retrieve their belongings and break down their campsites.

This course is available around-the-clock in the BSA Learn Center by logging in to your account on [My.Scouting.org](#).

CALENDAR

- 5/1 Silver Beaver Nominations Due
- 5/6 New Eagle Scout Reception

UNIT STRONG

Strong units meet year round. Does your unit have some "fun" activities planned for the summer? Summer is a great time for outdoor activities, water activities, and Day Camp or summer camp. You could set up a Raingutter Regatta and have the Cubs invite a friend as a recruitment opportunity!

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email squareknotnotes@yahoo.com. We serve *you*!
Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!