



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

December 2016

BRAVE

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Scouting for Food is a council-wide service project to care for people in our local communities who are hungry and those in need. In partnership with the Houston Food Bank and "Souper Bowl of Caring," the project begins Saturday, January 28, 2017, as Scouts distribute door hangers in their neighborhoods to announce the upcoming food drive. Scouts return the following Saturday, February 4, 2017, to pick up and deliver donations to their local food banks and pantries. A Cub Scout and a Boy Scout promises "to help other people at all times." There is no better way to show our Scouting Spirit than by participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive! Now is the time to show our community the Scouting values of being loyal, helpful, kind and cheerful. Scouts will help make a difference to fight hunger. Scouting for Food is the leading service program for Boy Scouts of America and is a part of the national BSA program - Good Turn for America. The unit representative should register the unit for Scouting for Food. Unit Scouting For Food chair should attend the [January district roundtable](#) to pick up your unit's supply of door hangers. If you are unable to attend roundtable, please contact your [district professional](#) or [district Scouting for Food chair](#). All participating Scouts will receive a Scouting for Food patch. The unit Scouting for Food coordinator can pick up the patches at the [March district roundtable](#). Units are encouraged to report their Scouting for Food collection projects on the [Journey to Excellence](#) website. This helps provide the community an accurate report on the great service and dedication our Scouts are showing throughout the Sam Houston Area Council.

CALENDAR

- 12/3 College of Commissioner Science
- 12/10 Top Leader Training Day
- 12/15 Recharter deadline
- 12/26-12/30 Winter Camp
- 1/14 Key Leader's Conference
- 1/28 & 2/4 Scouting for Food



ADULT RECOGNITION

Most BSA scouter awards are designed to model "best practices" techniques and outcomes to provide a superior program to Scouts. By celebrating and endorsing Scouter recognition, parents can be sure of a "best practices" unit.

TOP LEADER TRAINING DAY: December 10

Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Varsity Team Coaches, Venturing Crew Advisors, and Skippers are the "top leaders" of Packs, Troops, Teams, Crews, and Ships. These leaders must be trained to serve in these positions. This includes position specific training for each as well as Youth Protection Training. Scoutmasters and Varsity Team Coaches are also required to attend IOLS. Top Leader Basic Training Day is an opportunity to train the top unit leaders before recharter. All top leaders must be trained before December recharter. There is \$5 charge for the training if registering online or \$10 at the door; however, registration online is highly encouraged so room assignments and handouts can be made based on registration numbers. Lunch can be purchased for \$8, or you can bring your own lunch. The training will be held at the Council Service Center on December 10, 2106 from 8:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. (Cubmaster training is from 9:00 am to noon.)

WINTER CAMP: December 26-31

Winter Camp is a wonderful opportunity for troops to camp and Boy Scouts to earn merit badges. Merit badge classes are taught by Scouters with real-life experiences in the field. The 31st annual winter camp will be held at Bovay Scout Ranch. Over 50 merit badge classes are offered, including many merit badges that are not normally offered at summer camp. Units must provide one staff member for every six Scouts attending winter camp. Over 250 staff members are needed to provide the best possible program for the Scouts. Staff positions include serving as a merit badge counselor, service crew member or camp commissioner. Volunteers are also needed to help in the dining hall, trading post, quartermaster store, business office, and program areas.

UNIT STRONG

Strong units are prepared for the new year. Recharterers should be turned in or ready to turn in, activities should be planned for the winter and spring, spring recruitment events should be organized, and it's not too early to start thinking about summer.