



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

May 2017

UNIT LEADER'S AWARD OF MERIT

Earned by Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Varsity Team Coaches, and Venturing Crew Advisors. This award replaces the Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, and Venturing Advisor's Awards of Merit, which have been discontinued.



NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Great news! Scouting families and prospective Scouting families have asked for it, and now it is here! Beginning this fall, the traditional paper registration method will not be the only way to join Scouting. This is a giant leap forward in allowing prospective members and leaders to register in a way that's convenient for them, and it creates a more efficient and user-friendly registration experience for units, districts, and councils. Beginning in April, a new online registration option launched. This option is convenient and safe and, because it offers greater efficiency, it will allow the ability to reach and serve more youth. All applications and payment of the registration fees can be completed online. This will eliminate the need for travel to the Cockrell Scout Center to turn in and pay for new applications.

To learn more, visit

<http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/new-online-membership-registration-2017-03-09>



CALENDAR

- 5/6 Scout Fair: Minute Maid Park
- 5/25 Orientation for District Popcorn Kernels
- 7/15 El Rancho Cima Decommissioning

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!

DOES SCOUTING WORK

A research team from Tufts University worked with the [Cradle of Liberty Council](#) to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts. 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 to better understand character development of Scouts. After a two-and-a-half-year period, the study proved Scouting builds positive character and prepares young people for life.

SCOUTS PAWS FOR A CAUSE

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Sam Houston Area Council [Scout Fair](#), we are excited to introduce "Scouts Paws for a Cause" – the first ever youth-led Scout Fair Service Project! This year, SHAC has teamed up with several local animal shelters to provide support for these organizations dedicated to caring for our furry friends. Open to all participants at Scout Fair, you can easily take part in this awesome event by bringing an item from the donation list and dropping it off at the designated booths during Scout Fair. Additionally, those who participate will receive a special prize based on this year's Scout Fair theme, "Scouts today. Legends tomorrow." As the old saying goes "everything's bigger in Texas," so join the 20,000 attendees expected this year and be sure you are a part of the biggest Scout Service Project that Houston has ever seen!

Donation List for Items to Bring to Scout Fair:

- Purina Pro Plan Puppy (canned food)
- Purina Pro Plan Adult (canned food)
- Fancy Feast Kitten – Tender Turkey Feast (can)
- Authority (PetSmart) - Beef/Poultry
- Fancy Feast Classic Adult (Petco): Beef/Poultry
- Authority (PetSmart) - Beef/Poultry

UNIT STRONG

May is Program Preview month. Strong Units will have at least one representative at Roundtable each month to learn and gather information for the unit!