



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

November 2017

## DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT

Available to registered Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level. Presented to registered adult volunteers by districts in the same manner that the Silver Beaver is presented by councils.



## TOP LEADER TRAINING DAY, DECEMBER 9

Top Leader Basic Training Day is an opportunity to train the top unit leaders (Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Crew Advisors) before recharter. All top leaders must be trained before December recharter. The online registration fee is \$5 or \$10 at the door. Registration online is highly encouraged so room assignments and handouts can be made. Lunch can be purchased for \$8, or you can bring your own lunch. Training will be held at Cockrell Scout Center from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on December 9.

## FAMILY SCOUTING UPDATE

Recently, the BSA's Board of Directors unanimously approved welcoming girls into our iconic Cub Scout program and delivering a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. This decision comes after years of receiving requests from families and girls. The BSA evaluated the results of numerous research efforts, gaining input from members, leaders, and non-members to understand how to offer families a choice in meeting their children's character development needs. Starting in the 2018 program year, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts. Existing packs may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, the organization will also deliver a program for older girls, projected to be available in 2019, that will enable them to earn the Eagle Scout rank. This unique approach allows us to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families. Although known for our iconic programs for boys, the BSA has offered co-ed programs since 1971 through Exploring and Venturing along with the STEM Scout pilot program. The Sam Houston Area Council will now begin to develop plans on how to implement these decisions as they become effective. As we develop these plans to better serve families, we acknowledge the value of the programs of Girl Scouts of the USA respecting their importance in meeting the needs of girls and that our programs can be complementary in meeting the needs of families with girls. We are proud of the healthy relationship our Sam Houston Area Council has with our sister organization, the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. We have had ongoing discussions with the executive leadership of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. The leadership of our two organizations is in dialogue on how we can direct each of our resources and proven programs to meet the needs of youth and families in the communities we serve.

## SCOUTBOOK

Beginning in 2018, Sam Houston Area Council will pay for Scoutbook for all volunteer-run packs and troop. If your unit already uses Scoutbook, don't pay for 2018. If your unit doesn't use Scoutbook, instructions for how to sign up will be provided. Troops in the Sam Houston Area Council should have already received an email regarding syncing Scoutbook and Internet Advancement. Scoutbook is currently conducting quality assurance testing for the sync with ScoutNet to packs. When your pack is approved by the system to activate the sync, the Unit Admins for your unit will be notified and given instructions. It may be a few weeks before all packs receive notification. After following a few simple steps, units will no longer need to use Internet Advancement and can just use Scoutbook! The sync must be activated for your unit by a currently registered Key 3 member who is also set up in Scoutbook as a unit administrator. If the Key 3 member is not familiar with Scoutbook, it may be advisable for another Scoutbook unit admin to work closely with the Key 3 member who is activating the sync. Once the unit is activated in the sync, any unit administrator can conduct Scoutbook administrative tasks going forward. Some things you can do to prepare your unit to be ready for the sync:

1. Make sure all Scouts on the roster are registered in the unit, names match those in the council's system, and have their current BSA Member ID in their profile. A unit key 3 member can go to Member Manager at <http://my.scouting.org> and download a unit roster which has the member ID and registered name for each Scout. Make sure there are no duplicate Scouts on your roster in Scoutbook.
2. The person who will be setting your unit up for the sync should check that they can log in at <http://my.scouting.org> and they are listed as a key 3 member.
3. Make sure there are at least 3 Scoutbook unit admins in your unit, and that they have logged into Scoutbook at least once.

## CALENDAR

- 11/2 Celebrating Cultures Event
- 11/3 OA Fall Pow Wow
- 11/28 Council Recognition Reception
- 12/2 Recharter Turn In
- 12/2 College of Commissioner Science
- 12/9 Top Leader Training Day



## UNIT STRONG

Strong units have started the recharter process. All members should be contacted, especially those that you haven't seen lately. Dues should be collected from all members and rosters should be up to date. Youth Protection and other adult training needs to be current for all leaders. Every youth deserves a trained leader!

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