

**SCOUTS-L**

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**BSA MONTHLY RPT**

Date: Fri, 14 Oct 1994 23:02:24 -0400  
From: "Michael A. McDonald" <MCDONALD23@DELPHI.COM>  
Subject: BSA National Update (Week of / ending 10/14)

As a Scout Professional and a fan of Scouts-L I feel I have a unique obligation to keep you all as well informed as possible.

This begins what I hope to be a once a week posting that will detail all the information of interest that has crossed my desk.

I hope that by publishing this information on the list I'm not circumventing the authority of my fellow professionals, some of whom like to control the information flow in their jurisdictions.

**ITEMS IN ALL CAPS SHOULD BE OF MAJOR INTEREST TO UNIT LEVEL SCOUTERS.**

**P.S.: Please Send Private E-Mail telling me what types of information is of greatest interest and what is worthless, I hope to make these postings shorter in the future based on what you REALLY want to read.**

>From the Council Packet: September 30, 1994

- \* Bulletin #4, World Jamboree. 5th payment due. Reminder to get passport now. Interesting info on manners of other cultures. Info on what equipment to bring.
- \* Boy's Life Circulation report. National average: 44.9% of youth are subscribing, +.2% from 1993. 1,027,816 subscriptions.

>From News&Notes (Newsletter for Council Registrars) October 1994

- \* Important clarifications on what BSA positions non-US citizens may hold. Summary: Non-US citizens may not register as unit leaders or den leaders or Charter Organization reps. They may register as assistants in most unit positions well as committee chairs and members.

>From ProSpeak (Monthly professional newsletter) September 1994

- \* Article about the new Troop Development and retention kit (new tools for recruitment of youth and retention)
- \* New letters of endorsement from the Elks
- \* National Scout Council Endowment Seminar set for New Orleans, Nov 6-10.
- \* 1995 National Meeting set for Chicago, May 17-19.
- \* Scouting growth continues in Russia, +7,000 youth to 25,000.
- \* Clarification on placement of World crest "It should be centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket."
- \* New Items from financial support division to support SME/FOS and endowment development. Brochures and video.
- \* New National Explorer President: Geoffrey J. Smarte of Medical

Explorer Post 520 of Old Baldy Council, Ontario, California.

- \* Highlights of European Camp Staff Program
- \* Resources available for starting Explorer posts on churches
- \* Complete Philmont training schedule - too long to type sorry :(
- \* Councils with highest % of cub leaders trained (fast start and basic) Chief Cornplanter - Warren, PA 58.8%, with the next 19 highest also listed. #20 is Pioneer Valley - Chicopee, MA with 38.2%
- \* National Membership as of August 21, 1994

| Program            | Members          | Change from last year |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tiger Cubs         | 13,023           | +10.6                 |
| Cubs               | 682,986          | - 4.5                 |
| Webelos            | 745,906          | - 0.6                 |
| Boy Scout          | 816,454          | - 0.2                 |
| Varsity Scout      | 59,641           | + 6.0                 |
| Explorers          | 274,361          | + 5.6                 |
| LFL                |                  |                       |
| Elementary         | 119,402          | +16.1                 |
| Middle/Jr          | 66,377           | +10.9                 |
| High School        | 474,910          | + 2.0                 |
| Special Needs      | 41,550           | + 6.4                 |
| <b>TOTAL YOUTH</b> | <b>3,294,610</b> | <b>+ .9</b>           |

>From the Northeast Region Newsletter (October 1994)

- \* 1995 Wood Badge director's conference, Camp Alpine, NJ Oct 21-23
- \* Jersey Shore Council and Six Flags/Great Adventure will work with Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to earn achievements and merit badges as they visit the Great Adventure Safari theme park. (they will stay at Citta Scout reservation) Fee is \$25.00 per person. Contact Jersey Shore Council at (908) 349-1037. The Council HQ is in Tom's River NJ
- \* Cub Trainer Woodbadge
  - June 11-17 - Camp Freedom, Germany, Transatlantic Council
  - July 30-August 5, Pine Tree Education & Environmental Center, Tabernacle, NJ - Burlington County Council
  - August 27 - September 2 - Camp Alpine, Alpine NJ, Greater New York Councils
- \* OA sectional officers training: Camp Alpine, NJ Nov 11-13
- \* Cub Camp School - Nov 18-Nov 20,. Camp Alpine, NJ
- \* New Safety rules on Farm Class Tractors (seat belts etc.)
- \* MERIT BADGE PARTIALS. FROM TIME TO TIME CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSE A SCOUT TO CONTINUE WORKING ON A MERIT BADGE WITH A

**MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR OTHER THAN THE ONE HE STARTED. THE ORIGINAL MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION ON THE WORK COMPLETED AND THE SCOUT IS PROVIDED WITH A "PARTIAL." THE QUESTION ARISES: HOW LONG IS A "PARTIAL" VALID? THE ANSWER: AS LONG AS THE SCOUT IS NOT YET 18 YEARS OLD AND CAN SATISFY THE COUNSELOR THAT HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE SUBJECT. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE NEW COUNSELOR MAY DECIDE TO ACCEPT THE PARTIAL OR NOT. THE COUNSELOR SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE SCOUT ABOUT PAST WORK DONE TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT THE SCOUT DID THE WORK OR NOT.**

- \* Philmont youth camperships (for Philmont and Philmont Junior Leader Instructor Training Course). Material in councils in December.**
- \* Scouting for Food in 93/94 = 10,162 units collected 15,038,446 cans of food with 243,351 youth taking part.**
- \* Sea Badge - March 24-25, 1995 at Norwalk Inn and Conference center in Norwalk, Ct.**

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**Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are just that, my opinions. Statements about Scouting policy are based on the most current information I have available, and I document my sources if asked nicely.**

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**Date:** Tue, 15 Nov 1994 21:53:20 -0500  
**From:** "Michael A. McDonald" <MCDONALD23@delphi.com>  
**Subject:** National Update

To all the people who responded positively to my first "National Update" I thank you. It appears to be the unanimous opinion of the list readers that I should put as much information as possible into these updates, so that is what I will try to do.

It appears at this time that this posting will be monthly rather than weekly; for two reasons: 1) I just don't have the time to do it more often and 2) some weeks I just don't get anything interesting to tell you about.

My apology to anyone who sent me e-mail with specific questions about my posting. As a rule I will not be able to answer specific questions. In most cases you must approach your local council; only they can give you a FINAL answer on anything.

Final Note: It was interesting to see the fury of posting over an item from my last posting (the issue of citizenship for certain volunteer jobs in the BSA). I must say again that anything that I post here is from current official sources (most of them national sources) BUT it is a fact of life that local councils do not always follow national rules. Please, please, please, do not assume that anything printed by me is valid in your local council. Always ask, and if they say that they don't follow a policy then ask why; you may find the answer valid (or not).

**Council Packet (October 28, 1994)**

\* Fall 1994 Issue of the Commissioner (A newsletter for Council Commissioners and Scout Executives) articles include:

- \* National President Applauds Commissioners, new National President Norman Augustine's remarks at regional leadership conferences focus in part on commissioners.
- \* New Guidebook available for Native American Outreach, "Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Exploring in Native American Communities" item # 7-110

- \* Standard Unit Service Plan dates for October - December (October - Uniform Inspection, November - Youth Protection, December - Membership Inventory)

| Region    | Units  | Commissioners Needed | Commissioners Registered |
|-----------|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Northeast | 22,479 | 7,493                | 5,703                    |
| Southern  | 32,869 | 10,957               | 6,931                    |
| Central   | 28,316 | 9,439                | 7,970                    |
| Western   | 35,736 | 11,912               | 8,502                    |

- \* The International Adventure (A newsletter from the International Division of the BSA)
  - \* A new Exhibit kit is available for Councils to borrow to use with Scout Shows, roundtables, etc. requests the kit at least 4 weeks in advance. Only cost is the 2 way shipping and insurance for \$1000. The kit is a 6 panel display board about the international Scouting division and up-coming world events.
  - \* List of new direct Service Eagle Scouts
  - \* Article about the National Meeting in Nashville, TN and new international appointments.
- \* BSA Today (a newsletter published for chartering organizations)
  - \* New president of the LDS church, Howard W. Hunter
  - \* New Chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, Robert Runnels, Jr.
  - \* Philmont training schedule info that relates to chartering organizations
  - \* An article about Unit Commissioners, as "frontline diplomats"
  - \* A new edition of the "A Scout is Reverent" flyer is available #05-206, a listing of all current religious awards and who to contact for more information.
  - \* New edition of Eagles Soaring High, a trail worship book for Christians, Muslims, and Jews. This revision is the first to have the Muslim faith included. Every youth and adult to attend Philmont receives a copy.
  - \* Catholic Scouting Committee kicks off a national membership initiative.

Supply Division Hotline (A newsletter for Scout Stores and

## **Scout Suppliers)**

### **Revisions in Material:**

- \* **Cub Sports Baseball Pamphlet, minor revisions**
- \* **Law Enforcement Exploring Proficiency Award and Progress chart, minor revisions**
- \* **Learning for life grade 1 pamphlet, major revision**
- \* **New edition of the guide to safe scouting**

### **Noteworthy Stuff**

- \* **The conservation good turn emblem #00149 will be available for purchase by November 15, 1994**

### **Temporary Discontinue**

- \* **The American Cultures merit badge pamphlet is held up in publishing.**

## **ProSpeak (A newsletter for professional Scouters) October 1994**

- \* **Youth protection guidelines training updated:**  
The update to the video training for youth protection will be released late this fall. The video have been shortened to 60 minutes to allow questions and discussion of each Council's reporting procedure and still allow the entire training to be around 90 minutes.
- \* **1995 Quality Units will be required to have one unit leader trained in youth protection to qualify for "Quality Unit" status.**
- \* **Packs will have two additional changes to their "Quality" unit requirements, the first; the advancement requirement is set at 70%, and the unit must earn the national summertime pack award.**
- \* **An article highlighting the new materials released for Exploring in religious institutions. #5-938.**
- \* **Venture/Varsity Terminology to change. Starting in 1995 the older boy program used in the troop will be called Venture regardless of whether the boys are doing high adventure or sports activities. Only separately registered Varsity teams will continue to use the varsity term.**
- \* **New Explorer recruitment video. AV-03V008, "The Exploring Challenge" testimonials from Explorers with rock and roll background. Career and high adventure posts.**
- \* **January 5 is the deadline for the National Young**

**American Awards program.**

**Current Membership Numbers:**

|                         | <b>1994</b>    | <b>From Last Year</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Tigers</b>           | <b>137,122</b> | <b>+5.3%</b>          |
| <b>Cub Scouts</b>       | <b>802,140</b> | <b>-4.0</b>           |
| <b>Webelos</b>          | <b>769,541</b> | <b>+0.3</b>           |
| <b>Boy Scout</b>        | <b>823,594</b> | <b>+0.2</b>           |
| <b>Varsity Scout</b>    | <b>59,876</b>  | <b>+6.4</b>           |
| <b>Explorers</b>        | <b>281,748</b> | <b>+6.2</b>           |
| <b>Elem - LFL</b>       | <b>119,402</b> | <b>+16.1</b>          |
| <b>Middle - LFL</b>     | <b>66,403</b>  | <b>+10.8</b>          |
| <b>High S - LFL</b>     | <b>474,852</b> | <b>+2.6</b>           |
| <b>Spec Needs - LFL</b> | <b>41,560</b>  | <b>+22.2</b>          |

**Misc:**

\* Akela Calls, June 9 - 11, East Stroudsburg, PA. A gathering for Volunteer Cub Scout leaders and professionals. \$110. Seminars, a midway.

\* The American Indianist Society of Worcester, MA announces a Native American Education Seminar, crafts seminar and Pow Wow to be held on November 19, in Springfield, MA. Scouts and others are invited, Contact Bob Gurney (508-485-8217) or Rick Conway (413-732-5756).

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**Date:** Sun, 26 May 1996 16:20:05 -0500  
**From:** "Settummanque, the blackeagle (MAJ) Mike L. Walton"  
**Subject:** Re: uniform options for females

Rhonda (Crusader Rabbit) wrote:

> I think it looks better to have all the leaders in similar  
> colors. In other words, if female cub scout leaders are to wear yellow,  
> then male cub scout leaders should wear yellow.

The National Uniform and Insignia Committee discussed this very same matter during the National Meeting of the BSA earlier this month. Look at some \*significant new options\* being made either at the start of the new program year (August in most places; actually September) or somewhere around January of the new year (as soon as they get all of the final "bugs" out of their decisions).

I think that you and other Cub Scouters will be pleased with the outcome.

There was also two other matters discussed which we've talked about here recently: the merit badge sash being used for temporary patches and insignia, and the "brag vest" (the red vests that the BSA has been selling for years to allow Scouts and Scouters to wear old temporary or not-current insignia upon). Did you know that the vests are NOT ALLOWED to be worn with the uniform officially?? I didn't know that, but in the Insignia Guide, it states that the red vest should be "displayed in the home" of the person (never mind that in the past three BSA catalogs, and "urban legend" has had us all wearing them on top of the official uniforms when the event "called for it"!!!). So, the Uniform and Insignia Committee is going to finally "make it official" for us all. There will be a new edition of the Insignia Guide with specific guidance on what should go on the back of the merit badge sash (some Councils have been telling their membership that old rank patches, pins and Cub Scout insignia does not belong there....which isn't exactly true).

It was agreed that Scouting and Boys' Life will both carry articles reannouncing the availability of the back of the sash for temporary insignia because "most Councils failed to get the word out to their membership" and because the current Boy Scout Handbook and Scoutmaster's Handbook, two key publications for Boy Scouts and Scouters, do not have a reference to what should go on the back of the

sash...just that merit badges goes on the front.

Also, patch/memabilia collectors, look at MORE items to be placed as "restricted items" due to some local Councils complaining about them being readily available for purchase by "people that don't have any reason to have them except to collect or resell them". This is really getting silly, folks...as long as the items are being purchased, there really should be little restriction placed (except for advancement and special award items) on who can purchase them or how many can they get.

I was told that there's yet another "new Exploring marketing plan" being released to local Councils this fall (we've been now through five of them, and only two has been somewhat successful!) and that the popularity of the "Right Stuff" commercials promoting Scouting's programs will be expanded to include Exploring and "values associated with being a member of the BSA".

Look for some of our existing publications to be combined into "guides" aimed specifically at various District/Council leaders. Also look for some of these publications to be "restricted to the registered position", whatever \*that\* means. Our registration and rechartering upgrade is just about 80 percent complete, with most of our local Councils now in receipt of the hardware and software needed to process advancement and registration information directly to the Regional offices and therefore to National. There are still some hold-outs but most of the Councils are "warming up" to the idea that they should share their registration, position and unit chartering information in "real time" with the Region. Look for more grey hairs among the professional (career) cadre as they will be forced to create even more new units because \*now\* there is some "real time" tracking going on that previously was only kept between Council Scout Executive and each field professional.

Look also for more "District Directors" (as opposed to Field Directors) to be named within your Councils. After a careful and long study of the impact of "throwing the middle managers back out into the field", the Professional Advisory panel is recommending this, saying there would be little conflict between a District Director, defined as the "senior professional member of his or her District, with coordination, coaching and supervisory responsibilities for up to four other professional members"; and the Field Director, defined as "a middle-level manager of field operations with coordination, coaching and supervisory responsibilities for up to five

other professional members (Senior District Executives, District Executives, Associate District Executives and other professional employees)".

It's a personnel-reduction measure, aimed at reducing the "overhead" within the Council Service Center, as well as insuring that all Districts are "covered" at all times with competent professional advisement. The last thing I've read back in March, was that we had 83 local Councils with vacant entry-level or junior-level District Executive positions and that in 39 Councils, there was more than one field vacancy. District Directors (a cross between a Field Director and what we used to call "District Executive-multiple person") can supervise his or her District AND also "pitch in" as a temporary DE until one can be hired or moved.

This has already started to happen in some of our larger local Councils.

Finally, I was told that the Program Group is looking seriously at the removal of the position called Junior Assistant Scoutmaster because of the impact that the present Varsity program has on 15-17 year olds and because JASMs have outlived their "usefulness" as potential Assistant Scoutmasters, which was the traditional, original reason why the position was created. This would mean, if approved, that JASM would no longer be a leadership position for Eagle nor would JASMs work with Den Chiefs as presently "described" in the Junior Leader Handbook. Personally, I saw the handwriting on the wall when our YPP (Youth Protection Plan) program was implemented...while we used to be able to trust a 16 or 17 year old senior Scout to assist the Scoutmaster and other Assistant Scoutmasters (I treated mine like Assistant Scoutmasters!), today, we just can't "afford" to do so...and that's a real shame. It doesn't give my 15 year olds any "incentive" to stay in the Troop past driving-permit age!

<soapbox> I wished instead of removing the position, that rather they choose to retain the position and "suggest" that as part of their responsibilities, that they attend Scoutmaster Fundamentals and Roundtables for at least six months, be paired with an Assistant Scoutmaster during their time of appointment, and to be placed in charge of coordinating community activities for the Troop. This gets the JASM out in the public light, gives him something to look forward to doing, and most importantly, start treating him as an adult (which is I feel why we lose a lot of our 16 and 17 year-olds....we let them drive, we let them

start making work and school decisions, but yet when they come to a Scout meeting, we make them "babysitters" for one or two Den Chiefs if we have them in our Troop...otherwise, he sits around with a patch on his shoulder with no \*real job\*....) </soapbox >

Nothing's been decided upon, and we will probably hear the final word somewhere around the first of next year or sooner.

This is important to note, even while the BSA has formally opened their new Web site:

Formal, OFFICIAL announcement of ALL policy changes is made through our official magazines (\_Scouting\_ and \_Boys'\_Life\_), through your local Council newsletters (and now Web pages \*grinning\*) and through announcement during District training events ("Roundtables"). That's the way the BSA has always done it, and there's NO PLANS to change the existing, OFFICIAL path of information flow! My information is just, as always, an informal "what's being thought about" as information is shared after series of national and regional meetings and conferences to obtain feedback and early support. Other than this, I don't know any more than any other volunteer out there would know!!! \*smiling\*

All in all, I was told that the All Hands Meetings and the National Meeting went pretty well. Does anyone else have any feedback from the event?

Settummanque!

(MAJ) Mike L. Walton (Settummanque, the blackeagle) (\_\_\_\_\_)\_  
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