

April 21, 2008

Dear Scouters,

Cherokee Area Council continues to make improvements with new units and youth joining, adult leader training, fund raising, and facility improvements. With the help of our two District Executives we are having success in starting units giving more youth the opportunity to participate in Scouting. Bruce Jordan just returned from a BSA training course in Dallas and Curtis Zunigha is preparing to go next month.

We have had volunteering training this year at the Merit Badge Festival and monthly Roundtables in both Districts. Training is so important to the success of the units and the program to the youth. This is building to our next Wood Badge Leader Training this fall that I mentioned in my last letter. The Wood Badge staff has already had two staff training sessions in preparation for the course this fall. Please get your application in soon and you not only save some money on the fees but help the staff in their planning. Thank you for your dedication to Scouting and we look forward to seeing those who have their Wood Badge beads at this course. If you need any information please see the link on the left hand bottom of the council web page www.CherokeeBSA.org or call the Scout Service Center at 336-9170 (888-269-1328.).

Also, there have been some great Council events since my last letter and I hear great reports about the fun, learning and service at these events. Preparations are being made for summer Cub events and troops and crews are planning for summer camp and high adventure. It is great to see all of the events that are available to youth through Scouting. These would not happen without the help of each of the volunteers – THANK YOU.

This year Scouts and Units have an opportunity to raise additional funds through the sale of spring popcorn. This is a new popcorn company and we would appreciate the feedback on their products from those who have chosen to participate in this sale.

We have had a great start to our FOS with many of the units contributing to the financial success of the program. We are still about \$20,000 short of our goal and if you can help, please send your pledge or contribution to the Scout Service Center. Also if you are a golfer and would like to participate in our annual Golf Tournament on Friday June 6th at the Adams Municipal Golf Course, please let the Scout Service Center know. We are doing something different this year with flights based on groups such as financial, civic club, and other commercial business for prizes and bragging rights. Again THANK YOU to all of those who give of their financial resources as well as time.

There continues to be improvements made to our facilities with changes to the office and Scout shop in the Scout Service Center and plans to make some changes to the conference room and, in the future, the museum. In fact, we are planning an open house next month if we can work out all of the details, please look for that announcement and stop by. Camp continues to see improvements to the buildings and the property. The OA removed a number of trees, new doors are on at the Lodge, and plans for much more as funds are available.

Please note on the web page www.CherokeeBSA.org the list of Sponsors of our FOS dinner - without their support it would not be possible to have a successful program. If you have the opportunity to purchase a good or service from one of these sponsors PLEASE DO SO and let them know that at least in part you are doing it due to their support of Scouting. In any case you can tell each of them "Thank you" when you see them.

Work has begun on the 2008-2009 calendar so you can plan your unit events. Thank you again for your support and efforts for Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Chris Cook, Council President