



Big Bend District News – Happy New Year Edition

District Committee Meeting / Roundtable / Eagle Candidate Paperwork Workshop - All Scouters in the Big Bend District are invited to attend this monthly meeting. We are meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the Alpine LDS Church located at 43108A Farm Road 1703 in Alpine at 7:00 p.m. **Meetings in 2012 are scheduled for: January 3,** February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1.

Meeting Agenda for January 3:

- **Commissioner Fast Start Overview** – This on-line training makes it easy for a Scouter to be able to move into the position of Unit Commissioner. Each unit needs a Unit Commissioner – someone to be a go-between the council and district and the unit. Commissioner training is outstanding and the support from the council and district makes serving easy.
- **2012 Events** – We will have information on council and district events that are ahead for 2012.
- **FOS Preview** – It is time to get the council FOS campaign going. We will present information on the visible and unseen costs of Scouting, as well as the benefits that Scouting brings to the Big Bend District and the Buffalo Trail Council.
- **Eagle Candidates** – If you have a young man who is getting ready to do his Eagle Leadership Service Project, he can come to the meeting and we will be able to review his plans and help him out with ideas or encouragement or suggestions. **We will review the NEW EAGLE PAPERWORK REQUIRED FOR PROJECTS IN 2012, as well as the new BSA Advancement Guide.**
- **A Time to Share** – One of the best things we can do as Scouters is to network with fellow Scouters. We will plan to have a time for sharing the Roses, Thorns and Buds we all encounter along our Scouting trail.

Recharter – If you have not completed your unit recharter for 2012, it is due. If you have any problems bring them to the January 3 meeting for help.

Events: More details on these can be found at the BTC website: www.buffalotrailbsa.org.

- **Merit Badge Academy** - January 21st and 28th at the Midland LDS Church. Also at the Merit Badge Academy, parents, Life Scouts, and troop leaders can complete the Life-to-Eagle training. This session will review the approval process, online resources, application processes, and Board of Review procedures.
- **10 Commandment Hike**, "Duty to God" and Flag Retirement "Duty to "Country" on Saturday, February 4, 2012.
- **Council Recognition Banquet** - Commemorative Air Force Museum on February 11, 2012. Help us honor our Silver Beaver recipients and our 2010 Class of Eagle Scouts.
- **BTSR Work Weekends** – Come help get the camp ready for the Summer 2012 season: March 17-18 and May 12-13.
- **SPRING BREAK CAMP!!!** - March 11-17, 2012 at BTSR.

- **College of Commissioner Science & District Committee Workshop**, Saturday, March 24, 2012.
- **OA Family Campout** at B TSR April 9-11, 2012.
- **Wood Badge – The Countdown is on!** Make plans to attend Wood Badge leader training at **B TSR** on **April 12-14** and **May 3-5, 2012**.

Philmont Training Center 2012 Schedule: <http://philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conferences2012.aspx>

How can we serve you? The Big Bend District Committee is here to serve the needs of each unit. We try to do this via BSA and BTC websites, Big Bend District emails and our monthly meeting. If you need training brought to you, let us know. If you have specific questions, problems or need any information, we are an email or phone call away. We can work with you to set up events, activities or outing for your unit.

District Contacts:

- **District Chairman** - Byron Welch - Email dr.byron.welch@gmail.com; Phone – 940-390-5205
- **District Commissioner** - Vacant
- **District Director** – Scott Britton - Email: Scott.Britton@Scouting.org Wk - 432-570-7601 Ext 18
- **District Executive** – Travis Koneschik – Email: Travis.Koneschik@Scouting.org Wk – 432-770-6996

Scoutmaster Minute – Past Year Reflections, New Year Resolutions

Well, here we are again, another new year is at hand. How was your 2011? Did you make any resolutions at the end of 2010? Did you accomplish them? Are you making any resolutions for 2012?

New year resolutions are often a source of humor. One comic said, *An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.* Jay Leno said, *Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution.* Still others have said, *Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits; and May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.*

The comics and cynics understand that far too many resolutions are broken because they require major changes in behavior or practice, usually after someone gets up the morning of January 1. And when the old habits start anew, the resolution is put off until the next new year. Oprah Winfrey said, *Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.*

The practice of reflecting on the past, setting goals for the future and measuring the status of completion along the way is a powerful tool in our professional and personal lives. We teach that to our Scouts. When they have their advancement checked off in their Handbooks they are making a written record of their Trail to Eagle. The Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review are opportunities for reflection and setting goals for the future.

In Scouting, we reinforce a resolution each time we repeat the Scout Oath or Law. We resolve to do our best to do our duty to God and country, and to make ourselves the best citizens we can be. The Oath and Law cover almost everything that makes a good man and a good citizen. So, as we start the New Year, let's repeat the Oath and Law and resolve *do my best to do my duty.* Byron

Please keep us informed of your activities and events, and have a great 2012!