



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

October 2019

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 11/2/19

University of Scouting is a semi-annual training event for leaders and parents of all program levels. It is an action-packed day of supplemental training. Sessions are led by experienced volunteers who will help you enhance your ability to deliver a fun and exciting program to the Scouts.

<https://www.shac.org/university-of-scouting>

NATIONAL RECHARTER UPDATE

The following is an excerpt from the communication we have received from Mike Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive:

“As we evaluate the growing cost of delivering the Scouting program, a vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is considering the best way forward that will likely require us to implement a national membership fee increase for youth members and adult leaders as of January 1, 2020. This prospective change is being driven by the significant cost increase of the liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities. We do not know the amount of the increase at this time since this requires National Executive Committee input and approval. Please know that we are only considering this change out of necessity, and we are committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. That is why, in anticipation of a likely increase, we are working to establish a donor-funded BSA Registration Assistance Fund to provide financial support to those who need it. This fund will be in addition to the many existing council and unit membership assistance funds. We recognize the timing of this likely fee increase creates challenges as units have already begun collecting fees for their 2020 registration renewal process. We sincerely apologize and hope you understand that we would not be pursuing this path were it not absolutely necessary to ensure the BSA can continue carrying out its mission to serve youth. We are committed to supporting you through this process and are making necessary adjustments to the online rechartering system to ensure units can carry out the normal yearly process with as few issues as possible. We commit to providing the new registration fee no later than October 23, 2019, which would take effect on January 1, 2020.”

This fee increase will apply to the upcoming recharter cycle. Please note that this fee increase is in addition to the local insurance fee change to \$3 per member/leader that was recently announced by the council. We apologize for the inconvenience that this late announcement will place on your units, and we will communicate the amount of the new national registration fee as soon as we receive that information from BSA. In addition, Trail’s End has agreed to extend our Show-and-Sell Popcorn campaign by two weeks, with additional replenishments, to allow units more time to raise the funds necessary to recharter in December.

The second update from National BSA is that all registered adult leaders must review the [Background Check Disclosure](#) and complete the BSA’s new [Background Check Authorization](#). These authorization forms must be submitted with each unit’s recharter this December. No recharters will be able to be processed without this signed form from all registered adult leaders that are being renewed for the 2020 calendar year. We apologize for the inconvenience that these two announcements will place on your unit and its leadership while you continue to provide a life-changing Scouting program to the youth of Southeast Texas.

CALENDAR

- 10/11 Fun with Family
- 10/15 Venturing Forum
- 10/17 Council Coordinated
- 11/2 University of Scouting
- 11/19 Council Recognition Reception

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!

GEOFENCING AND RECRUITING

Geofencing is a method of geographically targeting a specific audience using Facebook. Units with public, organizational Facebook pages can set up a Join Scouting Night event with a geofence that targets a specific audience (e.g. parents) around a specific location (e.g., within 3 miles of a school).

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable is a monthly program offered by districts that gives leaders hands-on experience and provides a forum for leaders to offer and receive help from their fellow Scouters. Roundtable is a form of supplemental training for volunteers. The objective of Roundtable is to give leaders program ideas, information on upcoming events and trainings, and an opportunity to share experiences and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Scouting leaders. As a result of the roundtable experience, unit leaders will be inspired, motivated, informed, and able to provide a stronger program for their Scouts.



Roundtable is a form of commissioner service and supplemental training for volunteers. The objectives are to provide leaders with program ideas; to update information on policy, events, and training opportunities; and to offer an opportunity to share experiences and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Scouting leaders. The roundtable staff inspire, motivate, and enable adults to provide a stronger program for their Scouts. The breakout sessions explore a particular activity or area of interest. Leaders are encouraged to share their questions, their successes and their failures (usually the latter is the most instructive!). Helping you, the Scout leader is the sole purpose of roundtable. Who should attend? Everybody! Roundtable is designed for all leaders – Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Webelos leaders, committee members, assistant Scoutmasters, den leaders; every Scouting position has a place at roundtable. In the Cub Scout session, there are separate break-out programs for Wolf and Bear leaders, Webelos leaders, Cubmasters, and pack administration. Whether you’ve been in Scouting for 40 years, or just signed up last week, roundtable has a lot to offer. Because roundtable is by, for, and about YOU, every job is made easier by sharing the load, and roundtable takes on the job of creating and presenting your program. Sure, you can make your own program from scratch, but you certainly don’t have to! Roundtable is loaded with ideas and demonstrations of all kinds. Got a particular problem you just can’t work out? Come to roundtable and ask the group – draw on the years of Scouting experience made available just for you. Roundtable is open to all adults involved with any BSA program. Registered leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

UNIT STRONG

Strong units continue to recruit throughout the year. Follow up with those who came to Sign Up Night, but did not sign up yet. Invite youth to your October meetings to give people another opportunity to join! Fall is a great time for Troops and Crews to hold open house events to showcase the awesome activities that you have planned for the year!