

# Trailblazer District Training Newsletter

September 2007



## Trailblazer Training Day—Oct 6

On Oct 6th, we are offering classes at the Iowa National Guard facility in Council Bluffs. New Leader Essentials, 8am-10am; and Cub Scout Leader Specific (combined) class, 10am – 4pm. By attending the Cub Leader class, you will be trained in Tiger Den Leader, Den Leader, Webelos Den Leader, Cubmaster and Pack Committee Member specifics all at once. Lunch is provided. You must register in advance. To register, go to <http://www.mac-bsa.org/Boyscouts/training/20070728-TrailblazerTrainingDay.pdf>.

### HELP WANTED FOR TRAILBLAZER TRAINING DAY

Instructors  
Lunch Organizer  
Set Up Helpers  
Take Down / Cleanup Helpers  
Contact Brad Hyndman at 712-256-2935  
or [spawned@cox.net](mailto:spawned@cox.net)

## SEPTEMBER IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is pleased to partner with the Boy Scouts of America to increase the level of citizen preparedness across the country. DHS has asked the Boy Scouts of America to build upon the foundation of the Ready campaign and to help citizens across the country prepare for emergencies of all kinds.

Go to:

<http://www.scouting.org/pubs/emergency/award.html>

You can get posters, videos and other fun things for free from FEMA. There are two ways to get FEMA publications. You can call, toll-free 1-800-480-2520 or you can write to: FEMA P.O. Box 2012 Jessup MD 20794-2012

Here is a listing of some of the things you can order:

- Ready...Set...Prepare! (Ages 8-11)
- Ready Set Prepare (Ages 4-7)
- A Disaster Preparedness Activity Book (Ages 8-11) FEMA 523
- A Disaster Preparedness Activity Book (Ages 4-7) FEMA 522
- Brochure: Wildfire-Are you Prepared? 5-228 L203
- Door Knob Hanger: Fire Safety. Ask for 5-0200

You can also order a Disaster Public Information Catalog to find out all the materials that FEMA offers.

## How We Are Doing

The 2007 Goal of the Trailblazer (TB) District Training Committee is to have 50% of our total leaders trained by the end of the year. As of August 30, 2007, our numbers looked like this:

<u>Position</u>	<u>% Trained</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>MAC</u>
Tiger Cub Leaders		13%	12%
Den Leaders		12%	23%
Asst. Den Leaders		10%	13%
Webelos Den Leaders		16%	19%
Asst. Webelos Den Leaders		33%	24%
Cubmasters		69%	77%
Asst. Cubmasters		13%	27%
Pack Committee Chair		12%	24%
Pack Committee Members		15%	13%
Pack Trainers		20%	3%
Scoutmasters		73%	78%
Asst. Scoutmasters		42%	27%
Troop Committee Chair		45%	30%
Troop Committee Members		21%	23%
Crew Advisors		100%	68%
Assoc Crew Advisors		60%	21%
Crew Committee Chair		100%	31%
Crew Committee Members		57%	23%
Youth Protection Trained		50%	47%
Direct Contact Leaders		31%	41%
Top Leaders Trained		72%	76%
<b>Total Leaders Trained</b>		<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>

Trailblazer youth deserve 100% trained leaders. Trailblazer leaders can attend any training sessions offered anywhere in the Mid-America Council.

## Where to Find More Information

- The Mid-America Council website at <http://www.mac-bsa.org/>
- The Monthly Bugle
- Roundtable – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7 pm, at LDS Greenview in Council Bluffs

## BSA Online Training

Log onto <http://olc.scouting.org/> and set up your own free account.

Current offerings include *Youth Protection Training, Cub Scout Leader Fast Start, Boy Scout Leader Fast Start, Venturing Advisor Fast Start, Venturing Crew Orientation, Troop Committee Challenge, Staffing the District Committee, Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense.*

## SW Iowa Training Calendar

Sep 6, 7:00p	Youth Protection, TB Roundtable
Sep 21-22	OW BALOO & IOLS Nishna Bend RA
Oct 6, 8a-4p	Trailblazer Training Day IA Nat'l Guard, Council Bluffs
8:00am	New Leader Essentials
10:00am	Cub Scout Leader Specifics
Nov 1, 7:00p	New Leader Essentials TB Roundtable
Nov 3	University of Scouting Boys & Girls Town
Nov 3	Den Chief Training U. of Scouting

For more info, to register, or get on the training email list, contact the District Training Chair, Brad Hyndman at 712-256-2935 or [spawned@cox.net](mailto:spawned@cox.net)

## COPE & Climbing

COPE Facilitator Training, Sept. 26, 29 & 30, 2007

Climb/Rappel Instructor Training, Oct. 3 & 5, 2007

For more information, go to [http://www.mac-bsa.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=353&Itemid=57](http://www.mac-bsa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=353&Itemid=57)

## Uniforming

Here are some excerpts from an article by Bill Nelson, Grand Canyon Council May 27, 2002. Read the full article here: <http://scoutmaster.org/uniforming.asp>

The Scouting program in the Boy Scouts of America has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. To accomplish these aims, the BSA has designed eight methods in Boy Scouting. One of these methods is uniforming.

Over the years, Scoutmasters have noticed that Scouts who truly try to live by the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives seem to be moved by the spirit to wear the Scout uniform (if they can afford it). Why? What is so magical about these pieces of cloth? Why would the BSA make wearing certain cloths part of the eight methods of Boy Scouting?

The uniform supports the first Aim of Scouting, that of character development. The uniform is a symbol of the boy's commitment to Scouting - his acceptance of the BSA's ideals and willingness to live by them. The boy knows that when he is in that uniform he is expected to act in accordance to the values of the BSA and the values he has made an oath to live by. We need to communicate to them that that the uniform is a symbol of their commitment to Scouting, to the BSA, to their Council and to other Scouts and, not wearing the uniform is a sign to others that they may lack that commitment.

The uniform also makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. People who are not Scouts recognize the

Boy Scout uniform. To the community the uniform represents a welcome image, a reminder that not all kids are bad, and not all gangs are violent.

Uniforming also supports the second Aim of Scouting, that of citizenship training. In that it contributes to patrol and troop spirit. Boys who wear the uniform are put on a par with each other. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others.

Uniforming also contributes to the third aim of personal and mental fitness. In Boy Scouting, the Scouts must satisfy certain requirements to achieve rank and responsibility within the program. These requirements often require the mastering of a physical or mental skill. When the requirements are satisfied an award or badge is earned. The uniform gives the Scout a reason to take pride in the way he looks, and in the badges and awards that testify to his achievements.

As for adults wearing uniforms, all I can say is what Baden-Powell said: "It is largely a matter of example. Show me a slackly-dressed Troop and I can "Sherlock" a slackly-dressed Scoutmaster. Think of it, when you are fitting on your uniform or putting that final saucy cock to your hat. You are the model to your boys and your smartness will reflect itself in them." Instead of using uniforming as a club that might prevent a boy from participating in Scouting, when you are with the Scouts, even for the simplest of things, put on your uniform. It raises the moral tone of the boys and it heightens their estimation of their uniform when they see it is not beneath a grown man to wear it. It also heightens their estimation of themselves when they find themselves taken seriously by men and women who also count it of importance to be in the same brotherhood with them. As

Scouters we must constantly remind ourselves that it isn't so much what we say to the Scouts that they will emulate, but what we do. The Scouts are told by other leaders, by their handbooks and by each other to look to us as role models. And they will, they will do what we do and wear what we wear.

It is important that each of us fully understands the importance of each of the eight methods of Boy Scouting. I hope that after reading this discussion on how uniforming directly contributes to the three aims of Scouting that you have a better understanding of the often neglected and misunderstood method of uniforming.

## Demerit Badge

*Is Boy Scouts of America doing enough to keep kids safe?*

I read an interesting article in the July 2007 issue of Outside Magazine, by Annette McGivney. The author's basic premise, is that the BSA is not a safe organization and that many of its leaders are inexperienced and untrained, at least when it comes to outdoor skills.

An excerpt from the article: "My distrust of the Scouts reached a tipping point in March, when 12-year-old Michael Auberry, from Greensboro, North Carolina's Troop 230, disappeared while on a camping trip in the Blue Ridge Parkway. Fortunately, after a four-day search, Auberry was found alive and well. He'd wandered away from camp, it was later reported, and gotten lost. I was relieved, of course, that Auberry emerged unhurt. But then I got angry. What irked me wasn't the incident itself but the way Scout leaders reacted. Instead of apologies—a kid had been lost, after all—what I saw was a round of collective back-patting by Scout leaders across the country who proudly

recounted how the wayward boy had used his Scout-taught survival skills. "Preparing kids—that's our motto. That's what we do," Ely Brewer, of the Mid-Iowa Council of Boy Scouts, told Des Moines TV station KCCI. Fine. Auberry knew how to make a bed out of leaves. But here's a thought: How about making sure he doesn't wander off in the first place?"

Another excerpt from the July article: "According to BSA director of camping and conservation Frank Reigelman, the group's primary means of educating troop leaders is through the Boy Scouts' *Fieldbook* and other BSA literature. "We provide various publications and planning tools to help volunteers with trip planning. The material is out there if they choose to use it," says Reigelman, who emphasizes that it's hard to enforce requirements in a volunteer organization with 47,000 troops across the country."

So what can YOU do to prevent negative press, such as this? You in Carson? You in Malvern or Emerson? Or you in Council Bluffs? You can become the best-trained and most experienced scout leader that you can be. First, attend the basic required training for your scouting position. Then seek out other venues to learn the skills you need. Know your strengths and weaknesses. Just because you got all your boys through a week of summer camp at Cedars, doesn't mean you're quite ready to take the group on a Colorado 14er for 10 days.

Read the full article at:

<http://outside.away.com/outside/culture/200707/boy-scouts-1.html>

The September issue contained several letters to the editor, both pro and con, about the July article, including one from BSA President Rick Cronk.