

Mesa Verde District News

Don't Forget the District Banquet *Thursday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.*

Many, many thanks to
Bill Faust
and
Art Schneyer
for their many years of
service to the district!

From Karen Zenger, new District Commissioner:

"I got involved in the Scouting Program approximately 30 years ago with my son and have never looked back. I truly believe in the Scouting program and the opportunity it gives youth to be the best that they can be ... to grow with leadership and life skills.

The awards I have received that give me the most pride are those bestowed on me by my peers. Thank you all for the opportunities you have given me to be involved in a great program."

Cub Scout Corner:

Hello Fellow Cub Scouters,

What a year it has been so far! Can you believe that half of the program year has come and gone? You all have been busy with planning your meetings, popcorn sales, recruiting, and Blue and Gold, just to mention a few items.

Here is a synopsis of what we have covered at Roundtable so far this year:

1. Planning your yearly calendar
2. Leadership roles
3. Recruiting
4. Cub Scout resources
5. Uniforming
6. Rank advancement
7. Rewarding your leaders

At our next roundtable we will be going over the Cub Scout outdoor program, Pine Wood Derby, and the upcoming District Cross-over Ceremony. If you have any craft items you would like to share, please bring them with you to show others.

Please invite all of your leaders and parents to attend Roundtable. Roundtable is a great resource for all. See you there.

Yours in Scouting, Dennis Snodgrass

Some facts about Spencer Smith, new District Chair:

Spencer Smith founded Smith Group in May 2000 with the purchase of his first franchise, Big O Tires in Cortez. His desire for multi-unit ownership and to create many careers led him to acquire the rights for six Aaron's franchises in December 2002. His initial goal was to open 10-15 stores in the same number of years. Spencer quickly led his team to exceed that goal by opening their 40th location in less than 10 years! Smith Group develops real estate for many of their locations throughout eight western states. This interest in development led Spencer to co-found First Capital Commercial, a commercial correspondent lender. With 40 Aarons, two Big O Tires, one Rimco and First Capital Commercial currently in operation, they are planning for many years of growth. Previously honored as a Multi-Unit Franchisee MVP in 2013, Spencer has also been featured and quoted in Multi Unit Franchise and Franchise Times magazines. As CEO of Smith Group, he looks forward to growing revenue, driving profitability and further developing his management team to capitalize on future growth opportunities.

Spencer's involvement with his church, Boy Scouts of America, Child Advocacy Center and other civic organizations helps bring balance to his business and family, as a husband and father of five children.

Order of the Arrow News

The Ute Chapter held elections at their December meeting with the following results:

Tyler Daniel - Chapter Chief

Wyeth Rossi - Chapter Vice Chief

Trevor Snodgrass - Secretary

Ian Phillips - Treasurer

We made the commitment to keep the business part of our chapter meeting to approximately 15 minutes and the balance will be devoted to practicing drumming, dancing, and ceremonies or working on regalia projects - fun and fellowship are mandatory.

Some upcoming important dates are:

District Awards Dinner (OA will be drumming, singing, & dancing) - February 6

Spring Fellowship - March 1-2, Albuquerque

Section Conclave - April 11-13, Roswell

Regalia Workshop/Fellowship - February 22, Zenger Chicken Sanctuary

Please remember the Order of the Arrow is available to help with your unit ceremonies and camp promotion. We are the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

Submitted by Trevor Snodgrass, Ute Chapter Secretary

Camp Promotion and Order of the Arrow Unit Elections

Boy Scout Unit Leaders - now is the time to schedule your unit elections for Order of the Arrow and camp promotion. Even if you have your long term summer camp plans for 2014 already on the calendar, your unit can benefit from our camp promotion. Camp promotion involves more than just helping you choose a long term summer camp experience.

Membership requirements for the Order of the Arrow are as follows:

Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

After registration with a troop or team, have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the BSA. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Youth must be under the age of 21, hold the BSA First Class rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity Coach, be elected by the youth members of their troop or team.

Adults may be selected following nomination to the lodge adult selection committee.

The right to earn Ordeal and Brotherhood membership is given only by the scouts of a candidate's home unit during an authorized Order of the Arrow unit election.

Need to schedule a Camp Promotion/Unit Election? Please give us at least 2 weeks lead time.

Please contact:

Bob Zenger, District Camping Chair 970-903-9096

Tyler Daniel - Ute Chapter Chief

Karen Zenger, Ute Chapter Advisor 970-749-6036 or 970-749-7879

Thank you - look forward to talking to you soon.

Submitted by Bob Zenger, Mesa Verde District Camping Chair

Congratulations to Mesa Verde's New Shooting Merit Badge Counselor

Joe Foster of Troop 807 completed the NRA Rifle Instructor Certification last month in Albuquerque.

This makes him the only council-registered rifle merit badge counselor for the Mesa Verde district.

Any questions, contact Rob Andersen at 575-756-2382.

Mesa Verde and Anasazi Districts Join Together to Achieve a Fun and Successful Klondike!



New flag for combined Mesa Verde/Anasazi events



More than 250 scouts attended

See page 4 for more Klondike information.

These pictures submitted by Erle Kins.

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Troop 538 had a very full (and fulfilling) Veteran's Day! We started the day off by participating in the parade sponsored by the Durango Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). This year Troops 507 and 538 combined talents to fabricate a float for the parade. Mr. O's vintage tractor was a hit as it towed a full campsite and a rowboat. The parade drew participation from several Cub and Boy Scout units and whole host of Boy Scouts, Webelos, and Cub Scouts. After the parade, troop 538 participated in a fellowship luncheon at the VFW center. Following the luncheon, we visited Four Corners Health Care Center, a nursing home, to honor their veterans and perform a flag retirement ceremony. Our day was put into perspective as some of the vets told stories of their service. Our scouts made everyone proud.

The Klondike Derby of 2104 was a real hit with scouts from the entire Four Corners area. This year the Anasazi and Mesa Verde Districts combined efforts for a full weekend of scouting. Around 200 scouts, leaders, and parents came together at the Middle Mountain Campground on the east side of Vallecito Reservoir to enjoy a balmy January weekend of scouting activities, camping, competitions, and camaraderie. Friday's night's opening campfire was hosted by the Crow Chapter of the Order of the Arrow and was a weekend highlight. Saturday's events included competitions in first aid, pioneering, snow shoe racing, matchless fire building, lunch preparation, campsite preparation, and the traditional sled races. Some 22 Patrols demonstrated their skills and scout spirit showing that Scouting is truly Fun with Purpose. Ribbons and awards were provided for the various competitions and this year a combined District Flag was awarded to the Patrol with the highest overall score.

Congratulations Troop 538 on earning both the Mesa Verde District Flag and the first ever combined Mesa Verde District/Anasazi District Flag for their teamwork at the 2014 Klondike!

Submitted by Mike Adamski, Troop 538