

Mesa Verde District News

District Readies for Annual Elections

Suggestions may be made via email to the nominating committee for inclusion in our report provided the nominees are received by Friday, November 15, 2013. If accepted by the nominating committee, the candidate will be contacted by the nominating committee and permission received from the person to stand for election and to serve.

To provide a fair and orderly nominating process, nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the time of election. This procedure also permits sufficient time to consider in advance all aspects of a nominee's suitability to serve.

Please include suggestions for the following:

- District Chair
- Vice Chair of Membership
- Vice Chair of Finance
- Vice Chair of Program
- District Commissioner
- District Members at Large

The election will be at the Annual District Committee Meeting held at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at the LDS Stake Center, 2 Hilltop Circle, Durango, CO 81301. The following are eligible to vote:

- Chartered organization representatives registered and currently representing chartered organizations
- Registered council members at large residing in the district
- Registered district members duly elected at the last annual district committee meeting.

Submitted by Spencer Smith, spencersmith73@gmail.com

Shooting Instructor Class Forming

If you take your shooting as seriously as you take your scouting, WE WANT YOU.

The Great Southwest Council Shooting Sports Committee is looking for scouters in all the districts who are serious about shooting safety and education. If your scouts do not finish their shooting merit badge at camp, it can be difficult to complete. At the GSWC SS Committee we are on a mission to get more NRA certified instructors to help each district to have stronger shooting sports programs and meet BSA national standards. In addition to local merit badge completion, we want to be able to staff some shooting weekends at Gorham for special events like Order of the Arrow shooting, Powder Horn, Venture (pistol) and district merit badge completion. BSA National requires that to run any live Boy Scout shooting activity* there must be an RSO (certified Range Safety Officer) in control of the range and a certified instructor working with the scouts (must be instructor certified with the gun being used: rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader, pistol).

If the person that I have described above is you, WE NEED YOU. We are in the process of setting up an instructor class at the lowest possible cost.

*Cub Scout BB gun and Archery Range Master have different BSA certifications.

Please contact me at Ke5rbf@gmail.com.

Submitted by Rob Andersen

Order of the Arrow News

Upcoming OA event dates

Winter Banquet — December 6th-8th

2013-2014 Lodge Officers

Chief — Scott Yarbrough

VC Administration — Jeffery Downing

VC Operations — Michael Booton

VC Northern Chapters — Billy-Pat Heinen

VC Southern Chapters — Jacob Felts

Secretary — Chris Andersen

Treasurer — Jared Peterman



Current OA members socialize with new members at the Welcome Barbecue, hosted by Backcountry Experience.

Mesa Verde District,

The Ute chapter has been pretty busy over the past month! We started off by having a BBQ on the first Thursday of last month, and it went great! There was also the Northern Chapters Fellowship in Los Alamos where we had a fun-filled weekend with games till three in the morning and even shooting .22s and shotguns at a Los Alamos sportsman's club. The adults supervising us at the range also gave us a weapons demo where we watched them shoot several machine guns and a 50-caliber rifle!

I also would like to thank Ian Phillips and Trevor Snodgrass for putting on an Arrow of Light ceremony for Pack 510 in Bayfield. All in all we had a pretty good month. On the weekend of December 6-8, there will be the Lodge Winter Banquet. This event will be held in Albuquerque this year. For those of you who don't know, Winter Banquet consists of great training on almost everything OA, great fellowship and even a silent auction that helps fund the OA camperships (and members can come across great Christmas presents!). Scoutmasters, please, let the Arrowmen in your unit know about the great opportunity that OA is and encourage them to start coming to meetings to help OA become even better!

Yours in Service,
Chris Andersen,
Ute Chapter Chief





Troop 501 went on an 18 mile backpack from Dry Creek to Junction Creek to get ready for our June Philmont trek. We also did a fundraiser where we sold food at the big Backcountry Experience spring sale. Above are two photos of our zip line adventure at Full Blast in Durango. Fifty Scouts and family members attended this wonderful event at a substantial group discount offered by the owner of Full Blast, Eagle Scout Cameron Winters. They had a blast and plan to make it an annual event.

Submitted by Vicki McLaughlin

Quiz

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name 10 people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is none of us remember the headliners of yesterday, and these are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields, but the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
6. Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? The lesson?

Submitted by Karen Zenger

Scouts Help With Landfill Project

Last April, four scouts from Troop 535 assisted the Montezuma County Landfill during its spring electronic waste event. The scouts were Kacee Daves, Killian Kaiser, Kyle Kuhn and Brandon McMillan. They were accompanied by Assistant Scoutmaster Eddie Kaiser (who also pitched in to help for about an hour in the packaging of the electronics) and troop committee member Sara Kuhn.

The scouts helped from 8 am to 1 pm by greeting customers, completing surveys, directing traffic, unloading electronics, and packing the electronics into appropriate boxes. They also were given a quick safety briefing and wore personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety vests.

Several compliments were received from the folks turning in their electronics, including one lady who wished she ran into more professionals who would behave like the scout who helped her with a no-nonsense approach tempered with incredibly good manners. Others spoke highly of the assistance and thought it was wonderful to see young men helping folks.

All the electronics collected were disposed with an E-Steward, R2 and ISO 14001 certified vendor, Natural Evolutions, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The county employees fed the scouts pizza for lunch, which they ate in shifts in order to continue helping the public. The landfill staff also praised the boys for their help and commented that they could not have finished packaging the 14 plus tons of electronics without the assistance and hard work of the boys.

As an aside: The boys decided to help out because the landfill foreman, Tim Bates, who is one of their active assistant scoutmasters, was taking a Wilderness First Aid course. This caused a shortage of staffing at the landfill. Not saying that Four Scouts = One Foreman, but they did help a lot and it made it possible for Tim to take the first aid class.

As the landfill manager, I personally appreciated their efforts and saw a lot of leadership potential and some hope for the future in these four boys. They also had some fun!

Submitted by Debby Barton

Fall Camporee: Good Times Had By All!

Photos Submitted by Earl Kins





The lower left-hand picture is Troop 538 at Camp Dobbins. We were fortunate to share our summer with visiting scouts from California (Bryson and Nathan plus their dad, Clint).

A group of older scouts were fortunate to travel to Northern Tier. Their leaders were feeling pretty fortunate, too.

Submitted by Mike Adamski



What a lovely day at the Zenger Chicken Sanctuary! Top five highlights: 5. Beautiful fall day: warm sunshine with blue skies, orange and yellow turning leaves, white capped mountains in the distance; 4. Great hospitality at the end of the road! Mother Nature's outdoor abundance all around us in a perfect training theater,

with adjacent comfortable chairs, hot coffee and a flush toilet. Against a background of soft clucking, Abby the dog demonstrated sincere ecstasy with so much company delighted to scratch her head and tummy and enthusiastically joined in the first aid relay; 3. Wonderful food. Gordon is the best Dutch oven chef. Let's invite him to every district event; 2. Fine fellowship among the training staff. About 90% sea stories and tall tales, 10% work. Twenty-seven individuals identified for possible recruitment to district training team? Centuries of Scouting experience on hand to be shared with new leaders; 1. Best of the day: watching five, new, young(!) enthusiastic adult leaders having fun, soaking up knowledge and skills to use in building a stronger program for the youth of their communities. Thank you, Bill and Mel for organizing this training, and thank you Bob and Karen for hosting it.

Submitted by Susan Bates

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