**February Monthly Newsletter**

* You can meet in person now!! Unit leadership must secure approval from the unit’s chartering organization prior to resuming in person meetings. Restrictions are in place for the following:
  + Use of overnight indoor facilities is prohibited
  + One person per tent unless they are from the same household (see BSA policies)
  + Preparing and serving food outdoors is limited to a small group of adults unless a youth is only preparing food for themselves
* All units that hold a spring recruitment and recruit 5 new youth will receive a TBD incentive! The District would like all units that are meeting in person to hold at least 1 spring recruitment event. Let [Ashley Metelski](mailto:ashley.metelski@scouting.org) know your date(s) ASAP!
* Friends of Scouting: now that units can meet in person again, please coordinate with your leaders to see when the FOS team can do a presentation in person. If you can be a presenter, please consider doing so and let Ashley know. Remember, any money raised for Friends of Scouting is directly funding Cherokee district and helps the longevity of Scouting!
* The last STEM University of 2021 is on Saturday, February 27. This event is virtual. All College registrations are open. Register [here.](https://stlbsa.org/stem/upcoming-stem-events/)
* Camp for free through the end of February! Tent camping & day passes for all properties are complimentary now- end of February. Some cabin rental and program fees have been reduced. Register [here](https://stlbsa.org/camps/).
* Upcoming Trainings:
  + Youth Protection Training (virtual): January 23, February 18 & March 22. Register [here](https://stlbsa.org/training/youth-protection/).
  + Scouts BSA Leader training is February 16 & 23 from 7pm-9pm via Zoom. Register [here](https://scoutingevent.com/312-ScoutsBSAleadertrainingFeb).
  + Shotgun Instructor training is February 22 & 23. Candidates must complete Basic Instructor Training before taking these courses. Register [here](https://scoutingevent.com/312-41984).
  + Learn how to conduct a Cub Scout shooting sports range from the comfort of your home! There are 2 virtual classes available to get your Rangemaster certification. Sessions are: March 13 & May 15 from 9am-Noon. Register [here](https://scoutingevent.com/312-41031).
  + The Spring 2021 course for Woodbadge will be held May 21-23 & June 5-6 at Beaumont. The informational dinner will be held March 29 (most likely virtually). Register [here](https://www.scoutingevent.com/312-2021woodbadgespring).
* Leader Outdoor Experience:Training will be held in one day sessions due to COVID and attendance is limited to 50 people per session. Sessions are April 24th and April 25th at Beaumont Scout Reservation and May 1st Camp Warren Levis. Register [here.](https://stlbsa.org/training/cub-scout-leader-outdoor-experience/)
* Intro to Outdoor SkillsTraining will be held in one day sessions due to COVID and attendance is limited to 50 people per session. May 22nd and May 23rd at Beaumont Scout Reservation. May 22nd at Camp Warren Levis. Register [here.](https://stlbsa.org/training/outdoor-leadership-skills/-)
* Rank Extension Update: Cub Scouts will have until August 1 to complete their current rank.
* Mark your calendars to register for summer camp by May 5, 2021 to take advantage of our early bird camper savings discount! More information on our camps is located [here](http://www.stlbsa.org/camps).
* The 2021 Camp Card sale will occur later this spring. There will be an online option this year to enhance the sale. Cards will be sold in April and May. More details coming soon!
* Looking for resources for your Pack? Check out the Cub Scout Toolbox [here.](https://stlbsa.org/resources/resources-toolbox/cub-scouts-toolbox/#bobcat)
* Last Scout Standing event, April 16-18 at Pine Ridge: The toughest and most rewarding thing you will ever do as a Scout! This challenging course is for four person teams, registered as a team or individually, of Scouts and Scouters aged 14 and up. Team age groups are 14-17 years of age, youth MUST be 14 by the beginning of the event and 18 years old and up, meaning any registered adult may participate. For more details, and to register, click [here.](https://scoutingevent.com/312-2021LSS)
* The 6 District Spring Camporee will happen this year! All Troops & Crews are welcome to join us for a fun filled weekend at Camp Lewallen, April 30-May 2. Register [here!](https://scoutingevent.com/312-6districtcamporee)
* In lieu of the 2021 District Dinner, we will hold a District Awards Ceremony during May’s Program Preview on 5/10/21. Location TBD. Event will start at 6pm. Nomination forms for District Award of Merit can be found [here](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi56NTCg-DuAhWBAp0JHVRLCekQFjAAegQIBBAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Ffilestore.scouting.org%2Ffilestore%2Fpdf%2F33720.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2_xmzytKWTkwkb5Zxe1fY9f). Email completed nominations to [Ashley Metelski](mailto:ashley.metelski@scouting.org) by April 12. You can find a list of previous award winners [here.](https://stlbsa.org/find-your-district/cherokee-district/cherokee-information/)
* The Council will be hosting two summer camp webinars at the end of the month (Feb 25th and 27th )! Please join us to learn about 1) summer camp options for all programs and 2) our COVID precautions and safety procedures this summer. Registration is OPEN! You must register in order to get the zoom link emailed to them 48 hours prior to the webinar. <https://stlbsa.org/camps/> - click the link for the webinar. *Note: A similar Camping presentation will be given at our March Roundtable. Feel free to attend the summer camp webinar in case you can’t make it to March’s Roundtable.*
* If your unit has questions regarding Special Needs Scouts, please contact [Eleanor Phillips](mailto:philipseleanor@gmail.com), with the Council’s Special Needs Committee.
* Day Camp & Overnight Camping placemats will be DIGITAL this year! You will be able to download on the website by the end of this week [here](https://stlbsa.org/camps/cub-scout-day-camps/). We can print these at the Ritter Service Center. To request copies, please email [Tamara Smee](mailto:tamara.smee@scouting.org).
* The Spring Shoot O Ree will take place March 27 at Beaumont from 9am-3pm. This event will have shooting sports activities for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA & Venturers. Register [here](https://stlbsa.org/calendar/) - click “Shoot O Ree”.
* The Council has a great line of virtual merit badge offerings through April! Merit badges will add as other courses fill up. Spring in person sessions will be added in late February/March. Click [here](https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/) for details.
* The Council’s Marketing department will be kicking off a weekly social media platform Eagle Scout Showcase. There will also be occasional alerts sent to the media.  If you have a 2020 or 2021 Eagle Scout, please complete this [form](https://boyscoutsofamericagreaterstlouisareacouncil.formstack.com/forms/eagle_scout_media_request) to be included in the showcase. This is on-going so there’s no deadline.