



COUNCIL

Abraham Lincoln Council
Boy Scouts of America

Lag

December, 2011

Information for Parents and Leaders in Boy Scouts and Venturing

Greetings. As 2011 comes to a close, there are many exciting things going on in the world of Scouting. Please, take a minute to review this letter, and note items of interest. 2012- 2013 promises to be some of the most exciting years in the long history of the Abraham Lincoln Council. For more information on every one of these events, visit the council's website at www.alincolnbsa.org. From there, you can register directly or easily find the link that will get you where you want to go.

National Jamboree 2013

The newest National High Adventure Base, The Summit, will open for business in 2013, as it is the site for the National Jamboree in West Virginia. The council has a limit of 36 Scouts, 8 Venturers and 6 leaders for this incredible event.

Under the leadership of veteran Scoutmaster Gary Weedman, our group will join 40- 50,000 other Scouts and leaders from around the world. Features will include zip lining, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain boarding and mountain biking.

The actual jamboree begins on July 15, 2013 and ends on July 24, 2013. In addition, there will be time for travel and touring. The cost of the jamboree is \$850, plus transportation, some meals, and touring.

Boy Scout Participants must be at least First Class and at least 12 years of age on July 15, 2013 and less than 18 on July 24, 2013. Venturers must have graduated the 8th grade or be 14 by July 15, 2013. ([Click here to register](#))

Northern Tier Base Winter Program

The Boundary Waters of Minnesota and Canada take on a whole new look in the winter months. Known as Okpik, our Scouts get a taste of what a real winter looks and feels like. The group will leave on Thursday, February 16th in the afternoon (as soon as school is out) and they will return on Monday, February 20th (President's Day). Participants must be 13 by February 17th, 2012.

The crew will stay in hotels while traveling on Thursday and Sunday nights and in a cabin on Friday and Saturday night. If they desire, they can sleep in a snow shelter on Saturday night. Supplemental personal gear and sleeping systems are loaned by the base to those in need.

The total cost is \$425 and the trip is limited to 4 Scouts and 2 adults. ([Click here to register](#))

College Scholarship Applications Available

There are a number of college scholarships available in the Abraham Lincoln Council and through the National Eagle Scout Association. The competition can be stiff, but there is only one sure thing... if you don't apply, you can guarantee you will not to be selected! Here is a brief summary of those available:

Sailing Regatta

Each week's participants in the Camp Bunn Sailing program take part in a mini regatta. The top 2 from each week are then invited back to participate in the Skipper's Cup and compete for a portion of at least \$1,000 in college funds. Last year, four out-of-council Scouts returned- and none of our own- and competed for the Skipper's Cup. Each of them was a rookie sailor prior to their Camp Bunn experience. Open to all Boy Scouts attending Camp Bunn and participating in the sailing program.

George T. Preckwinkle Eagle Scout Scholarship

A \$1,000 college scholarship awarded to one member of the previous year's Eagle Scout Class at the annual Eagle Recognition Dinner. In 2012, a Scout or Venturer who completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review in 2011 will be recognized. Applications can be found on the council's website and are mailed directly to the Eagles in December of each year, with a deadline to return the application by January 15th. ([Click here to apply](#))

Jean H. Goff Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,500 college scholarship awarded to a current high school senior who applies and is selected. Current seniors in the Abraham Lincoln Council from the 2011-12 school year may apply by January 15, 2012. The Eagle Scout Award is not required. Applications may be found online at the council's website. ([Click here to apply](#))

National Eagle Scout Association College Scholarships Visit www.NESA.org for details and applications. In 2012, NESA will award 153 scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to a member of the current high school senior class. Applications must be filed by January 31, 2012.

Trails' End Popcorn Scholarships: Any Scout (Cub, Boy Scout, or Venturer) may earn money toward college by selling \$2,500 one time in the annual popcorn sale. From that time on, 6% of all of the Scout's sales (including the \$2,500) will be set aside for a college scholarship fund in their name- and it will earn interest. It is never too soon, or too late, to start.

Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico

The most famous BSA High Adventure Base is Philmont Scout Ranch, in northern New Mexico. It is a 137,000 acre working ranch, where Scouts and Venturers hike the mountains, cook their meals and enjoy the fellowship of other Scouts and leaders.

Our crews travel by train from Galesburg, IL to Raton, NM and by bus to the ranch. In 2012, we have 3 crews that are nearly full. Scouts must be 14 by September 1st of the year they attend. The next time we will have several council crews is 2014, so start planning now. The Philmont Treks last 15 days, including travel time.



Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner

Since the Abraham Lincoln Council was founded in 1920, 2,985 Eagle Scout Awards have been presented in the council.

In 2011, as of this writing, 57 Eagle have been awarded this year. We are proud of the achievements of these Scouts.

On February 27th, our 2011 Class of Eagle Scouts will be recognized at a dinner at the Hall of Flags in the State Capitol Complex, followed by a program in the House Chambers.

The dinner is limited to the Eagle Scouts, their sponsors (often a business person or professional in a career field of the Eagle's interest), and members of the Executive Board.

Camp Bunn 2012



Camp Bunn, the council's Boy Scout Camp near Carl-ville is one of the premier small council camps in the Midwest. We are proud to offer a wide variety of merit badges and program opportunities for Boy Scouts.

Among our many programs, we offer the usual Boy Scout Camp offerings- swimming, canoeing, nature, outdoor skills, shooting sports, climbing and repelling. In addition, we offer fine arts (cinematography, photography, art, theater, and public speaking), sailing and personal watercraft (jet skis).

Lake Freesen, virtually owned completely by the council, is a gem of a lake that allows a wide variety of aquatic activities. If your son has not been to Camp Bunn for Boy Scout Summer Camp, we urge you to discuss it at a Troop Committee Meeting. Visiting new camps can be a wonderful thing, but supporting our home town camp is critical to being able to keep and maintain it.

Friends of Scouting

The annual Friends of Scouting Campaign is critical to the council's financial stability. Please, do your best to contribute to the Abraham Lincoln Council.

This annual giving campaign accounts for nearly 20% of the council's operations, and allows us to pay the utilities at the office and camps, complete routine maintenance, and to provide a full time support staff.

For those who have given in the past, thank you. For others, please, share a little. Collectively, your gift means a lot as the council continues to thrive.

Journey to Excellence

In 2011, the National Council announced a new recognition program for Scout units, districts and councils called the Journey to Excellence.

On the council level, it has gone through 3 prior years of testing and evaluation. In all 3 test years, the Abraham Lincoln Council was classified as a Gold Level achiever, putting us within the top 20% of councils in the country. It appears that we will again be in the

Swimming Program for Boy Scouts

Learning to swim, or improving that skill may be the most important skill that a Scout can learn. By doing so, they may one day save someone else's life or even their own.

We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of levels at the Springfield Y (4th and Cook Street) in two, five week sessions.

Session 1 (January 14, 21 & 28 and February 4 & 11) has 3 options:

- Beginner's Level 1 (\$15)
- 2nd Class Swimming Requirement (\$15)
- Swimming Merit Badge (\$20)

Session 2 (February 18 & 25 and March 3, 10 & 17) also has 3 options:

- Beginner's Level 2 (\$15)
- 1st Class Swimming Requirements (\$15)
- Lifesaving Merit Badge (\$20)

There are some requirements for each option, detailed on the council's website. Go to the Event Registration Tab, and Winter Swim Program for full details, including times.



Globetrotters Come to Springfield

The famous Harlem Globetrotters return to Springfield on January 6th at the Prairie Capital Convention Center at 7 pm. A special rate for Scouts and their families is available.

Check out the flier on the council's website, under the upcoming events column on the home tab.

Springfield Junior Blues

The Springfield Junior Blues will again host a Scout Family Night at the Nelson Center, on Saturday, January 7th at 7 pm. Head out to cheer on the Junior Blues as they take on the Kalamazoo Jr. Wings.

Klondike Derby

The Annual Klondike Derby will take place January 27-28, 2012 at Camp Illinek. Boy Scout Troops and their patrols are encouraged to attend this fun and challenging event.

Patrols will travel by foot around camp to a variety of stations, each designed to test their Scout Skills as well as their ability to work together as a team.

Even new Scouts should take part in this event. If they don't have the basic knowledge, it is a great teaching opportunity. They'll learn new things, and gain some understanding on practical applications of those skills.

Silver Beaver Award Nominations Sought



The highest award that the local council is able to present to volunteers is the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of Distinguished Service to Youth within a local council.

You may know or appreciate the efforts of someone you have worked with in Scouting or who has impacted your family. Take a few minutes to find, complete and submit a nomination form, found on the council's website under Awards/ Recognitions.

The council has a limited number they can present each year. A volunteer committee reviews nominations and makes the selections.

A few pointers:

- Nominations by family members for other family members are not considered.
- Due to the limited number that can be awarded, nominations are carried forward from one year to the next.
- Don't be disappointed if it takes a few years for your nominee to be selected- there are many great volunteers who make Scouting happen. The committee has tough decisions to make.

First Aid Meet

Boy Scouts will compete by patrol in the annual First Aid Meet, to be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Illinois National Guard base in Springfield.

Located at 1301 N. MacArthur, the drill floor is the perfect place to hold this event, as Scouts face more than a dozen scenarios designed to give them a realistic experience that will test their skills or teach them new ones.

A fast paced event, Scouts travel round robin style, to face the scenario and "treat" the victims. There are two flights for the day, one starting at 8 am, the other at 10:30 am.

Once again, visit the council's website for more information and the online registration.

New Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Matt O'Brien will start as our new Venturing/ Exploring Executive on January 9, 2012. Matt (no relation to Scout Executive Dan O'Brien) is an Eagle Scout from LaGrange, IL and a recent graduate of the University of Illinois. He is also a past Lodge Chief of his home Order of the Arrow Lodge.

The Abraham Lincoln Council is a proud member of the following United Ways:
Prairielands, Greater St. Louis & Christian County.



Council Recognition Dinner

Scouting is all about kids and helping them grow to be better adult citizens. However, once a year, we take the time to say "thank you" and recognize adult volunteers in Scouting.

This year, our Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be on Tuesday, March 6th, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield.

Training Award Recipients, Journey to Excellence Unit Achievement, District Awards of Merit and Silver Beaver Awards will be presented.

Watch the council's website for more details as they become available.

Abraham Lincoln Council, Boy Scouts of America

Volunteer President: Dr. Tom Robbins
Council Commissioner: Charlie Rice
Scout Executive and CEO: Dan O'Brien

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CALENDAR

January 2012

January 6: Harlem Globetrotters Scout Night
January 7: Scout Family Night with the Junior Blues
January 14-February 11: Swimming Program Session 1
January 15: Applications due for George T. Preckwinkle and Jean H. Goff Scholarships
January 27-28: Klondike Derby
January 31: Applications due for the National Eagle Scout Association College Scholarships

February 2012

February 16-20: OKPIK
February 18-March 17: Swimming Program Session 2
February 27: Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner

March 2012

March 6: Council Recognition Dinner

June 2012

June 10-16: Camp Bunn Week 1
June 17-23: Camp Bunn Week 2
June 24-30: Camp Bunn Week 3

July 2012

July 8-14: Camp Bunn Week 4
July 11-25: Philmont Scout Ranch

July 2013

July 15-24: National Jamboree 2013