

Antelope Valley District Newsletter

January 2010

Leading Youth to Lifelong Values, Service, and Achievement

Thank you to all for making a great 2009 here in the AV. We look forward to seeing ya'll in 2010. YIS, The AV Staff.

Friends of Scouting Presentations –Friends of Scouting is an annual direct-solicitation campaign, reaching out to Scout families, service organizations and businesses. *It costs \$260 to provide one year of quality program for each Scout in the Western Los Angeles County Council.* Contact the AV Service Center with any questions. **For the 2010 campaign it is time to schedule your units presentation.** Presentations preferred between December and February. Contact Mary Carrino at mcarrino@sbcglobal.net

Pow Wow/University of Scouting Training - Jan. 30th, 8am-4pm. Pinecrest School in Woodland Hills. REGISTER NOW!! \$15 per person includes lunch. This is a great opportunity to learn some new scouting skills and information. Registration forms online or in the AV Service Center.

Congratulations to April Barr for being the only WLACC Silver Beaver recipients from the AV. Come and join us on *January 28, 2010* at the Council Recognition Dinner at the Odyssey Restaurant. \$70 per person. Reservation forms at the service center. This will be our first major council event of 2010 - - the 100th Year of the Boy Scouts of America! At the dinner, we will recognize the accomplishments of the current Silver Beaver Award recipients - individuals who have "rendered noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth" both in and outside of Scouting. Visit <http://bsa-la.org/index.php?page=News> for additional information and online registration.

Rechartering - For all the units that have turned their units in on time – thank you. For those that still are completing paperwork, please let me know what I can do to help.

2010 Antelope Valley District Camporee. It has been set for Apr 9-11 at Tejon Ranch. Plan now to attend. Details to follow.

Spring Rallies: A Great Way to Strengthen Your Unit

We are putting together the spring recruitment rallies and need YOUR unit's recruitment date(s), time(s) and location(s). Every unit should have a spring recruitment – including Troops. For every pack you can get a jumpstart on getting next year's Tiger den in place to go to Day Camp. MORE boys for Troops and Packs can get you more families and adults willing to be involved. We need 3 to 4 weeks notification before the recruitment rally date to order and get flyers printed.

District Award of Merit Nominations due Jan. 16th. The District Award of Merit is awarded for outstanding service to youth within a district or for outstanding longtime service to youth by a registered Scouters residing within that district. Candidates for this award must be nominated. Applications are available at our council service centers.

2010 Antelope Valley District Adult Leader Recognition Dinner Sat. Mar. 13th 6:30pm, tickets \$13 each. (Purchase before Mar 2nd and receive a \$3 per person discount) No tickets will be sold at the door. **ALL** Antelope Valley Scouters and families are welcome for an evening of food, door prizes, and fun. We look forward to seeing you there. The order form will be available soon on the district website and at the AV Service Center.

Training - Encourage all adults to get trained! The success of a unit depends on trained leaders! If you have questions please contact our Training Chairman Barry Swenson at szonian@yahoo.com. Please go to our district training at <http://antelopevalley.bsa-la.org/training.html> for specific times, locations and contacts. Our next Cub Specific Smorgasbord of training is in the spring. For units wanting to host a unit training session at any point in the year please contact Barry.

Training Available Online –Check out the continually updated national website for available online courses at: <http://olc.scouting.org/>. Training is currently available for Fast Start, Youth Protection, Troop Committee Challenge, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, District Committee Selection, Den Chief Fast Start, Hazardous Weather, Generational Diversity, "What is Scouting?", Trek Safely, Climb on Safely, and other Supplemental training. Additional courses will be added in the near future.

Please also consider getting additional networking and information at our council premier training – PowWow, University of Scouting and Commissioner College on January 30th. We only do this once a year and the amount of information will boost your program for you and your unit(s).

Have you ever considered how important training is? Have you been trained? Do you like training others? **WE NEED TRAINERS TO JOIN OUR DISTRICT TRAINING STAFF.** Contact Barry for further information.

Units should now process **Online Advancement and Online Tour Permits** at www.myscouting.org - visit our district website for instructions on how to make this happen for your unit.

2010 Cub Scout Camping - Many upcoming opportunities for Cub Scouts to go camping, both overnight & day events at all of our camps: Day Camp, Cub Resident Camp, Family Camp, Cub/Parent Weekends. Additional information & online registration at <http://www.bsa-la.org/program/cubs/cubs.html>

2010 National Scout Jamboree. Youth can now pre-register to attend the jamboree - there are openings only in two of the five troops remaining. The form is available at the AV Service Center. Want a sneak peak about the excitement and fun? Visit www.bsajamboree.org. Please visit our council website for further information at <http://bsa-la.org/index.php?page=national-jamboree>.

2010 Boy Scout Summer Camp Applications being accepted. All units can submit applications online at www.bsa-la.org

Etrails Our council newsletter is available at www.bsa-la.org and click on email/newsletters

Just a reminder: Please check your unit "box" in the file cabinet in the AV Service Center. We have some units that haven't taken cleared them out in a while.

POPCORN CAMPAIGN - Was your unit "Powered by Popcorn"? Congrats and many thanks to all the units that participated this year. You can still participate year round. Go to: www.GiftofScouting.com. There will be many boys who will get more quality program because of YOU.

AV Scout Shop - New items are coming in on a regular basis. 75% off old style uniforms in stock. Many in stock items on sale.

AV Unit Websites & Emails - Do you have a unit website? Please let us know. If you aren't receiving at least one weekly district email please let us know with your updated email address.

All Council Service Centers including **AV Service Center is closed on Monday, January 18th, 2010.** We will resume regular business hours on the next regular business day.

Unit Tax Exempt Status Clarified With it being the beginning of a new year we would like to clarify the federal tax status of Boy Scout packs, troops, and other units.

The IRS recognizes the Boy Scouts of America National Council as tax exempt under IRC Section 501 (c)(3). This tax exempt status extends only to BSA local councils and their trust funds. It does not extend to or include Scout packs, troops or other units. Scout units are not considered subordinate organizations of the BSA, they are not included within the BSA group exemption, and they are not entitled to use the BSA's Group Exemption Number ("GEN"). This is an IRS rule.

Units must either: 1) obtain their own employer identification number ("EIN") using IRS Form SS-4, or 2) use the EIN of their chartering organization. Sometimes, the IRS correctly explains to a unit the process for an organization to be considered a "subordinate" of a parent organization, and this explanation is interpreted as permission to do so. But, again, the BSA National Council cannot, and never could, declare Scout units to be subordinates. Also, receiving an EIN does not imply tax exempt status; it is nothing more than a unit's "Social Security" number. If a troop's chartering organization is a church (and tax exempt), the troop could be considered tax exempt only if the church let the troop use the church's EIN, or the troop's EIN was included within the church's group exemption by the church. "Unit" gifts would be tax deductible as gifts to the church, not to Scouting.

Gifts designated for a specific unit should not go to a local council with the expectation that the gifts will pass through the council to the unit. This includes gifts from corporate charitable incentive plans and employee matching grants programs. Councils may hold funds in a unit account for things such as camperships at the council's camp or program-related items and awards. However, due to the added staff burden and expense it creates for the council, each local council is free to choose whether it will create unit accounts.

Remember also that Article XI of the BSA Charter and Bylaws states that "Contributions shall be solicited in the name of the Boy Scouts of America only through or by the authority of the Corporation and shall be limited to the National Council or chartered local councils...". Similarly, the BSA Rules and Regulations gives each council the power to "control the raising and expenditure of all funds for local Scouting work in their jurisdiction." As such, attempting to incorporate a Scout unit as a separate tax exempt entity is strongly discouraged as a potential conflict with BSA rules and bylaws.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



If you have additional questions please contact the AV Service Center.

We look forward to helping you serve our youth.

WLACC Website: www.bsa-la.org

District Website: <http://antelopevalley.bsa-la.org/>

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