

## **February 2008 Commissioner Newsletter Article**

### **Our First Ever Online Recharter Declared a Success!**

Recharters should now be turned in. We've had our first year of online registration. We've all learned a lot through this maiden experience and I can say I feel it's been a terrific success. Certainly there were some stops and starts, a few computer challenges and all but I feel overall the online registration process has worked well, and definitely better and easier than expected. And going into next year we'll do a better job in preparing everyone, making it easier still because we have a better idea of where we're going.

Now, I can hardly wait for the next piece of the puzzle, due to come out in a few months: Online Advancement.

### **Plan for Success this Year**

I was visiting a Venturing Crew a week ago and the young men were making final arrangements for an upcoming Parent's Night. I attended another Parent's Night three weeks ago and I get excited attending these.

The purpose of the Parent's Night is to celebrate the help and support our young men receive from their parents and express their appreciation. The Parent's Night often includes a dinner, as the one did three weeks ago. Then, after the dinner, each of the adult leaders spoke for a few minutes on a couple topics that were key to the success of the unit.

The crowning point of the evening, in my book, is when the young men then hand out, to their parents and other leaders of the sponsoring organization, a copy of their annual calendar for the coming year. This is significant for a couple reasons.

- #1. It means there is a plan. And that plan is outlined by the young men during a Planning Conference where the young men make sure everyone is represented and they have a vision for the coming year.
- #2. It means the young men are running their unit and learning the important skill of leadership, responsibility and accountability.
- #3. It means that mom and dad have an idea of what's going on. It also means there is a better opportunity of engaging the parents in the Scout Committee if they aren't already members.

You can do your annual planning conference either just before the school year starts, as I've always done, or at the beginning of the calendar year. The important thing is:

1. That it happens.
2. That the young men do the planning and take ownership of the plan.
3. That the parents are brought on board.

If you have had a unit Planning Conference and are trying to run your unit month by month, there is a better way, and easier way, a more effective way of accomplishing what the Boy Scout of America is really about: developing tomorrow's leaders, today.

I'll be looking forward to being invited to *your* Parent's Night as well.

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### **Merit Badge Pow Wow this Month**

Bigfoot District Merit Badge Pow Wow will be Feb 9th & 23rd at the LDS building on 11th Ave. N. and 6th St. N. Registration is a first come first served event from 8:00 am until 9:00 am on the 9th with classes from 9:00 – 12:00. Each boy can select one merit badge to work on and must have a copy of the merit badge book and have read it before coming.

Merit Badge offered are:

Citizenship in the Community  
Citizenship in the Nation  
Citizenship in the World  
First Aid  
Communications  
Emergency Preparedness

For more questions come to Roundtable, Thursday, February 7th.

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### **Were you at the University of Scouting**

This year's Council University of Scouting and Cub Scout Pow Wow was a screaming success with over 60 classes being offered at the Meridian High School for Cub Leaders through Venturing Advisors. Over 500 people attended this year's event – our highest attendance ever! Over 200 feet of hoagie sandwiches were served for lunch and each participant went home with a 200 page resource book and a CD created just for this event. Amazing! You've got to plan on attending next year's University of Scouting the last Saturday of January.