

Bigfoot District Newsletter

A Note from the commissioner

March 2008

The story is told of a walled city among the ancient civilizations of Persia, where lived a white-haired sage, renowned for his wisdom and insight into the understanding of men. Each day he would stroll around the city's walled borders and wander among the sheep folds or greet the travelers along the well-worn highway.



It was on such a day, while strolling along the highway, that the savant met a younger man, walking with determined gait and fixed gaze. The sojourner walked up to the sage and asked in earnest tone, "Old man, I have struck out on my own and am seeking a place to begin my fortune. Tell me, what are the citizens like in this fair city?"

To this the sage asked, "My friend, tell me what the citizens were like in the city from whence you have come."

With a glinted stare the young man replied, "Oh, they were a hard lot; negligent to youth, unkind to a stranger, stingy with their means, small-minded and mean-spirited. I am glad to be done with such a place."

To this the white head bowed and with sad tone replied, "My young friend, I'm afraid you will find the people of this city the same as those from whence you have come."

Sadly, the youth passed on, resolute and fixed as ever.

Not long after, another young man made his way along the dusty road, a lightness to his gait and open expression, who, upon spying the sage, asked, "Kind sir, I have struck out on my own and am seeking a place to begin my fortune. Tell me, what are the citizens like in this fair city?"

To this the sage asked, "My friend, tell me what the citizens were like in the city from whence you have come."

Eagerly, the young man replied, "Oh, they were a dear lot, kind and affectionate with their youth, open-armed to a stranger, industrious and free one with another. I say, I was sorry to leave but felt to learn my own way."

To this the white head nodded and, with knowing smile, replied, "My young friend, I rejoice that you will find the people of this city the same as those from whence you have come."

There seem to be many about us today wagging their heads, wringing their hands and lamenting the careless, disrespectful, valueless generation following our footsteps. And it is true that there is cause for concern in many quarters. But, my life has shown me that if you go about looking for the ill in our youth you won't have to look far to find reason for despair.

However, if you consciously change your intent, looking instead for the good, the wholesome, the selfless, the eager, you will just as assuredly find them all around us. You may even find those eager faces on some of the same youth you had previously cast aside. May we change the focus on our lenses and look for the good – I know we'll find it.

Summer Plans

Summer is fast approaching. Are your units planned for their super summer events? If your Scout Troops haven't already reserved their week at Camp Morrison the weeks are filling fast. Call now at 376-4411.

If your Varsity Units are looking for a super high adventure activity there are still open dates for the Salmon River High Adventure Base. But you need to call the Scout office now at 376-4411.

Training

Scouting Essentials and Age Specific Training **Date: March 8th** **Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Location: First Christian Church 619 12th Ave. South Nampa, ID (corner of 12th Ave. & 7th)
Bring a lunch or there are sandwich shops across the street.

There will be training sessions for all four Scouting groups: Cubs, Scouts, Varsity and Venturing.

Roundtable March 2008

Make sure to join us at 6:30 Thursday evening for our Commissioner Meeting. We'll be answering unit concerns and will discuss Commissioner Basic Training.

Also, bring along your unit leaders for 7:30 Roundtable Training. See you there at South Middle School. Camp Morrison Badgetracker update BadgeTracker, the merit badge registration tool for Camp Morrison, is now available for troops attending camp. Instructions for accessing BadgeTracker can be viewed at the Ore-Ida web site:

<http://www.oreida-bsa.org/Camps/CampMorrison/BadgerackerInfo08.pdf>

*** Kodiak Leadership Training Trek Jul 28 - Aug 2 ***

Join a Kodiak Trek! July 28-August 2, 2008

The adventure, open to Venturers and older Scouts, begins at the Salmon River High Adventure Base, located near Riggins, Idaho, and includes rafting, hiking, and rappelling in some of Idaho's most beautiful mountains and forests, combined with a unique teen leadership training course.

Wildlife is abundant as the Salmon River, noted in fable and film as the River of No Return, flows through part of the largest designated wilderness area in the lower 48 states. Become a better leader while having an experience of a lifetime!

Kodiak is a week of high adventure combined with a fun leadership course. Kodiak is not taught indoors or in a classroom; it is done completely outdoors utilizing examples from nature to illustrate principles of good leadership, and it is part of the Venturing Nature of Leadership training series.

Learn more at Roundtable this Thursday or call Tim Standfill at the Scout Office at 376-4411.

Cost per participant, with food: \$235.00 (\$220.00 for members of Gold Card units.)

NYLT youth leadership training

The National Youth Leadership Training Course (NYLT) is an opportunity for all Junior Leaders in the Scout Troop, Varsity Team or Venturing Crew to learn how to be effective leaders in their unit. Young men learn Leadership Skills while participating as temporary members of a training troop or team.

NYLT is complimentary to the Wood Badge adult leadership course. Every Scout Unit should have trained adults and youth leaders for efficient unit operations and optimum youth development. Join us for the Scout Leadership experience of a lifetime.

The course fee is \$160, which includes all training materials, activity materials and food. A \$15 discount is given if all fees are paid by June 6th.

Two different courses are available, July 14-19 and July 21-26.

For more information call Frank Snapp at 541-889-9076, Alex Brown at 208-362-0118 or Pat Boydston at 208-888-1399.

Details and registration form are available at the Ori-Ida Council web site:

<http://www.oreida-bsa.org/Training/NYLT/NYLTHomepage.htm>

***Wood Badge adult leadership training ***

Wood Badge is the premier leadership training course for adult volunteers in the Scouting program. Although it is offered only to Scouting leaders, the training comprises leadership skills commonly offered to business leaders in seminars costing far more than the \$190 cost for the six days of Wood Badge.

The Wood Badge course consists of two 3-day sessions, Thursday through Saturday September 11-13 and 25-27 (both must be attended) at Camp Morrison in McCall. Give your unit the trained leader that they deserve and sign up for Wood Badge training today. Details and registration forms are available at the Wood Badge web site:

http://www.capitalscouting.org/wood_badge

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*** Venturing Photo Contest ***

What images do you think best reflect the essence of Venturing? Capture them with your camera and then enter your favorite photographs in the "Venturing 10th Anniversary" photo contest.

The contest is open to all registered youth members of the Venturing program. Photos will be judged in four categories:

1. Wildlife
2. People
3. The Spirit of Venturing
4. Spirit of Patriotism

Our judges will be looking for the photographs that best exhibit creativity, originality, and visual beauty. A winning photograph will be selected for each of the four categories. From the four winners, one photograph will be selected as the Grand Prize Winner.

One winner from each of the four categories will receive a \$200 BSA Supply gift card. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$400 BSA Supply gift certificate, and a three-day, expenses paid trip with his/her parents to New York City to attend the annual Explorers Club meeting as the guest of Richard Wiese, the youngest ever president of The Explorers Club.

Details can be viewed on the contest flyer at the venturingdocuments web site:

http://www.capitalscouting.org/venturing_docs/

- **Eagle Scout congratulatory letters change ***

For those who are requesting presidential congratulatory letters for their new Eagle Scouts, the White House is now asking for faxed requests as they are undergoing security changes.

Please include the Eagle Scout's full given name and the date of the Eagle Court of Honor. The white house will send out greetings from the President 10 days prior to your Eagle Court of Honor. Fax requests to 202-395-1232.

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- * Eagle Scout service project opportunity *

The following is an Eagle project opportunity to pass on to your district's leaders.

We are looking for a scout who needs an Eagle project and would be willing to start on it right away. Parks & Rec. is fast becoming the last remaining haven for wildlife in this part of Boise .

We are enhancing the habitat on our property to create a winter supply of food for wildlife, to create a more aesthetically appealing setting, and we are attempting to eradicate noxious weeds on our property.

Idaho Fish & Game has donated 2,000 bitter brush & sage seedlings to us that need to be planted by the end of April at the latest. The planting site is on our property at 5657 Warm Springs Ave.

The project would include these items:

- Meet with Fish & Game biologists and Idaho Parks & Rec.
- Assist in the development of a site plan
- Pick up and deliver seedlings to IDPR
- Plant seedlings
- Learn how to sow the seedlings for optimal growth
- Gather tools and manpower
- Possibly would include noxious weed removal

Please call me at the contact information to discuss our project further. Thanks!

Kathryn Hampton

Volunteer Services Coordinator; Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation; 5657 Warm Springs Ave.; Boise, ID 83716; Direct phone: (208) 514-2493

Email: KHampton@idpr.idaho.gov <http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov>

*** Order of the Arrow Elections ***

The Order of the Arrow is known as Scoutings Honor Society, whose purpose is to recognize Scouts that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, and pledge themselves to cheerful service.

OA members are elected by vote of all the Scouts in their troop or team. Scoutmasters and Varsity Coaches are invited to contact Steve Messinger at 376-7457 (steven_d_messinger@prodigy.net) to arrange for a visit by an OA election team.

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* Scout Fair May 16-17 *

When Tradition Meets Tomorrow -- Scout Fair 2008

The annual Ore-Ida Council Scout Fair will be held May 16 & 17 at Lake Hazel Middle School, 11625 La Grange, Boise. This is a fantastic event that no Pack, Troop, Team or Crew should miss! - Merit Badge classes - Pinewood Derby - Friday night Camporee - Dozens of booths by Scouting Units and community groups

Sign up now to reserve your spot for a booth. See the leader's guide to get ideas for a booth. Volunteers are needed!! Help is needed for setting up and cleaning up as well as during the Scout Fair. The Leader's Guide, with all the information and the application for booth space is available for download here:

<http://www.oreida-bsa.org/Events/ScoutFair/2008ScoutFairLeader'sGuide.pdf>