

December 2010

Blue Ridge Council E-Newsletter

Abbeville, Anderson,
Greenville, Laurens,
Greenwood, Newberry, Oconee
and Pickens Counties



New Scout Executive- January 2011



*Please
welcom*

*elcome our New Scout Executive...Mike Butler to the
Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America.*

(Mike Butler (center) with the Selction Committee)

The Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America selection process for the new Scout Executive was very successful. **Mike Butler** from Bethesda, Maryland was selected by our Selection Committee last week. Mike will assume his duties here in the Blue Ridge Council on January 1, 2011. [Please see the attached Bio of Mike Butler.](#)

Popcorn Wrap-Up Information !!!!

Council Calendar

December

- 1- Last day to settle popcorn and receive all of commission rate
- 8- Unit Commission Reduced by 2%
- 15- Unit Commission Reduced by 6%
- 21- First Day of Winter
- 22- Unit Commission Reduced by 10%
- 24- 27 Christmas Holidays- Office Closed

January

- 1- Happy New Year's Day- Office Closed
- 8- Council Board Retreat
- 17- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office Closed
- 22- Boy Scout Specific Training
- 22- Merit Badge University
- 22- Pow Wow
- 29- OA Winter Banquet
- 29- Pre-Camp Inspection

February

- 4-6 Explorer Ski Weekend
- 6- Scout Sunday
- 10- Council Annual Banquet
- 12- Camp Staff Interviews
- 14- Valentine's Day
- 19- Trainer's Edge
- 21- President's Day - Office Closed



Thank you Bi-Lo Charities for supporting Scouting in the Upstate!

Join Our Mailing List!



2010 Popcorn Payment Information

All **SHOW AND SELL** payments were due on October 26th to the Council Service Center. All payments are to be turned in as one check or cash.

Take order payments are due **NO LATER** than December 1st to the Council Office. Late payments will incur percentage penalties.

Below you will find the percentage increases found on the commission contract filled out at the beginning of this year's sale. These percentages will be adhered to this year so please be sure to send your payments to **Boy Scouts of America, 1 Park Plaza Greenville, SC 29607.**

Payments DUE December 1st to receive full commission!

- December 08, 2010-Unit Commission Reduced by a total of 2%
- December 15, 2010-Unit Commission Reduced by a total of 6%
- December 22, 2010-Unit Commission Reduced by a total of 10%

Cub Leaders 2011 Pow Wow



Come spend a fun day learning all sorts of things to enhance your Cub Scouting experience! Learn how to put on a Blue & Gold, Cub Grub, Cub Scout Science, how to put on a den meeting, crafts and more! If you would like to learn how to be a better leader in your Cub Scout Pack, this day of training is for you. If you are new

or a veteran, there is something that will benefit you. Also, it's a lot of fun!

This year's Cub Scout Leaders Pow Wow is set for *January 22, 2011* at Southern Wesleyan University in Central SC. Registration begins at 8:15 AM (not before). The opening ceremony is set for 9:00 AM. The fee is \$25.00 and is due by *January 4, 2011*. This fee includes program materials, patch, the Pow Wow notebook and buffet lunch in the dining hall. [Click here to register for Pow Wow.](#)

Make plans to be there!

If you have any questions or would like to serve on the staff please contact Nathaniel Harris at 864-233-8363 x. 206 or via email at nharris@bsamail.org .

2011 Camp Old Indian

Thank you to Wendy's our Round-up Sponsor for Fall Recruiting at our schools.



Quick Links

www.blueridgecouncil.org

www.scouting.org

www.scoutparents.org

www.scoutstuff.org

www.boyslife.org

www.seascout.org

www.scoutingmagazine.com

www.bsafielddbook.org

www.bsaseabase.org

www.goodturnforamerica.org

www.bsamuseum.org

www.scoutingfriends.org

www.scoutingvalelapena.org

www.thescoutzone.org

[Scouting Fun!](#)



The Blue Ridge Council appreciates Publix Super Markets Charities investment in the Scouting Program.

Dear Scout Leader,

We are excited about the upcoming 2011 camping season and we hope everyone is making plans to be with us next summer! We camped over 2,500 youth and adults during the 2010 season and with reservations that are already booked, we know that 2011 will be bigger and better.



We want to encourage you to get your deposit in to hold your site, remember the \$50.00 deposit is due on November 18th. **Campsites are filling up fast, don't be left out, get registered today.** If you have questions or need help getting signed up Contact Matt Kubler at 864-233-8363, or toll free at 1-800-277-2724

Over the course of the last few years we have seen many physical improvements at Old Indian such as a new trading post and conference center, new underground infrastructure, (Water, sewer, electric and gas) a completely rebuilt rifle range, road improvements, both dams redone (swimming lake and boating) and the biggest improvement of all, the addition of 14 new bathhouses. Bath houses include individual hot water showers, urinals, and flush commodes in each campsite. We are very pleased with everything that has been done and we will continue to improve and get better.

One thing that hasn't changed is the great staff, program and beautiful mountain location. Our new leaders guide will be available at the November promotions meeting and will be posted on the website. We want to remind you of some of the great programs that are available; High adventure, Order of the Arrow, climbing and repelling, white water rafting, pathfinder (for younger scouts), adventure to eagle (for the older scouts), black powder shooting, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, mountain biking, photography, CPR, first aid and over 50 traditional merit badges.

Camp season will be here before you know it, so make plans now to be with us. Thank you for supporting Camp Old Indian and we look forward to serving you in 2011!

Hollingsworth Funds, Inc.

Thank you to the Hollingsworth Funds, Inc. for your continued support of our Scouting Programs.

Thank you for supporting Scouting in the Blue Ridge Council!

District News

[Foothills](#)

[Southboulder](#)

[Learning for Life](#)

[Reedy Falls/Reedy River](#)

[Saluda River](#)

[Pickens](#)

[Six and Twenty](#)

[LongCane](#)

[Oconee](#)



Local OA News!!!



Scout Night with the Greenville Road Warriors! Mark your calendars now for February 19!



Scout Night with the Greenville Road Warriors Hockey Team!!!

Calling all Scouts!! Come out for a fun filled night with the Greenville Road Warriors Hockey Team on Saturday, February 19! There will be plenty of excitement on and off of the ice on February 19!

Scouts you have the option to choose between 2 VIP packages!!

Package 1 - Come out for a fun filled night with the

Greenville Warriors *OR Package 2*- Enjoy the game THEN enjoy an overnight stay at the arena while enjoying a movie on the Jambo-tron!!

Additional information about our Scout Night with the Greenville Warriors will be available soon!

Summer Employment Opportunities at Camp Old Indian!!!!



CAMP OLD INDIAN STAFF INTERVIEWS A SUMMER CAMP STARTS WITH A GREAT STAFF!!!

In order for you to be considered for a position on camp staff, you must attend a staff interview. Staff interviews will be held on Saturday February 12, 2011 at the Scout Service Center. Please wear your Class-A uniform. If you have any questions or need directions, please feel free to call Matt Kubler at 233-8363 or email mkubler@blueridgecouncil.org. If you are unable to attend on this date please contact Matt for an alternate interview date. Applications are available on the website or at the Scout Office and will be

accepted prior to the interview process. Without knowledge of your interest all available positions will be filled.

Mail your application to: Blue Ridge Council, ATTN: Camp Director, 1 Park Plaza, Greenville, SC 29607.

Upon receipt of your completed application you will be contacted and given an exact time slot within the above allocated times so you will not have to wait. Each interview will take 10 to 15 minutes. [Click here for application.](#)

TIMES FOR INTERVIEWS:

Saturday February 12, 2011

- RETURNING STAFF 9:00AM-11:00AM
- NEW APPLICATIONS 11:00AM-12:30PM

DON'T WAIT APPLY TODAY!

Camp Old Indian - Reservations, Camping Opportunities , Leader Training

Upcoming Camping Opportunities for Scouts



[2011 Boy Scout Summer Camp Chart](#)

[National Youth Leadership Training \(NYLT\)](#) - June 5- 10, 2011- *Offers training in advanced Scout skills and teaches the eleven points of leadership.*

[Winterfest - February 4-6, 2011](#) (Gatlinburg, TN)



LEADER TRAINING: Are you a trained leader?

[Merit Badge University](#) - January 22, 2011

[Boy Scout Leader Specific Training](#) - January 22, 2011

[Trainer's Edge](#) - February 19, 2011

[2011 Council Training Dates](#)

Merit Badge University



2011 BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

Scoutmasters and Venture Crew Advisors don't miss out on the 2010 Blue Ridge Council Merit Badge University, which will be held on *Saturday January 22, 2011.*

The MBU is an opportunity to earn a Merit Badge. Scouts will be evaluated on the content of the MB. Scouts should have read the MB pamphlet and should be ready to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. (Be Prepared!)

Merit Badges offered for 2011 include:

Architecture, Aviation, Auto Mechanics, Chemistry, Cinematography, Cit in the Community, Cit in the Nation, Cit in the World, Climbing, Communications, Composite Materials, Computers, Crime Prevention & Fingerprinting, Dentistry, Electricity, Emergency Prep, Engineering, Environmental Science, Fire Safety, First Aid, Genealogy, Horsemanship, Journalism, Law, Lifesaving, Medicine, Personal Management, Photography, Pioneering, Plumbing, Public Speaking, Railroading, Rifle Shooting, Surveying, Truck Transportation, Veterinary Medicine, Woodwork.

Paul Winston is the 2011 BRC MBU Director. [Click here to view the Merit Badge University website.](#)

2011 Recharter Process



Rechartering has been streamlined to make the process a lot easier. The youth that were recruited at school nights will be marked with a red 'x' to show they have paid for 2011. This is intended to eliminate duplication of registration fees. As a reminder, annual registration fees have been increased to \$15 for new and rechartering Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers. The following information will help you in the process.

Included in the Kits- For Information Only: (Units Keep)

Unit Renewal Instruction Sheet: "Recharter Step by Step"

Unit Accident Insurance Claim Form

National requires new adult volunteers registering in a unit to provide social security numbers. If someone is currently registered and is transferring or multiple registering with a different unit, a new application with SSN# will be required.

Items to be returned to the Council Service Center:

- Unit Re-charter Renewal Form with Fees
- Applications for all unregistered youth and adults
- Gold Star Unit Certification Form with signature
- Demographic Letter
- Annual Charter Agreement
- National requires new adult volunteers registering in a unit to provide social security numbers. If someone is currently registered and is transferring or multiple registering with a different unit, a new application with SSN# will be required.

Journey Of Excellence

**BSA Action Required:
Additional Journey to
Excellence webinars**



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

In order to accommodate volunteers and professional staff who were not able to attend one of the Journey to Excellence webinars in October or November, the Boy Scouts of America has expanded the schedule into early 2011 with more dates and times. Please share the schedule below with those who did not attend a council, district, pack, troop, or crew webinar this fall.

The final Journey to Excellence forms are posted online at www.scouting.org. They can be accessed by clicking on "volunteers" and looking under the "quick links" heading. **This is also where the recorded webinars are located.** All forms are also on MyBSA>Resources>Council and District Operations in the blue column on the right. In addition, please check the online scorecards for the most up-to-date versions.

If you have any questions, contact Stan Willey at 972-580-2381 or e-mail stan.willey@scouting.org.

All times shown below are Central time.

Council Webinars

- * Wednesday, January 26 at 9 a.m.
- * Tuesday, February 1 at 4 p.m.

District Webinars

- * Wednesday, January 26 at 11 a.m.
- * Thursday, January 27 at 8 p.m.

Pack Webinars

- * Wednesday, January 26 at 7 p.m.
- * Wednesday, February 2 at 10 a.m.

Troop Webinars

- * Thursday, January 27 at 11 a.m.
- * Tuesday, February 1 at 7 p.m.

Crew Webinars

- * Thursday, January 27 at 9 a.m.
- * Wednesday, February 2 at 1 p.m.

Council webinar link:

<http://journey-to-excellence.kintera.org/council-staff-volunteers>

District and unit webinar link:

<http://journey-to-excellence.kintera.org/district-unit>

Family FOS Enrollment



The *Character 2011 Family Membership Enrollment* process is the annual opportunity for a parent to support the big picture of Scouting in the Upstate by making a pledge to Scouting. Again, this year our intention is to reach each parent through presentations at Pack, Troop, Team and Crew gatherings from December 2010 through March 2011.

The Character 2011 presentations will make a dramatic impact on our ability to continue

the implementation of the capital improvements for Camp Old Indian. Parents will have an opportunity to truly make a difference in the future of Scouting in the Upstate. [Click here to view our fully embroidered recognition items parents and leaders will receive.](#)

Council Annual Banquet - February 10, 2011



The Council Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 6:30 pm. The Banquet will recognize Silver Beavers and Eagle Scouts within the Blue Ridge Council.

The Silver Beaver Award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character for distinguished service to youth. All applications must be submitted to the Council Office. The following lists instructions necessary to complete the application process:

1. Be sure to give the full name and titles of the nominee exactly as you want them to appear on the certificate. Please do not use abbreviations, initials only, or

nicknames.

2. Furnish as much information as possible for sections a, b, and c.

a. Record of service in the Boy Scouts of America. (Name chartered organizations in cases where service is unit-connected.)

b. Statement covering the nominee's standing in the community, citing activities in which the individual is most active in business, professional, civic, religious, educational, fraternal, veteran, rural, and other fields exclusive to Scouting.

c. Record of noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth within the territory under the jurisdictions of this council.

3. Long-established policy limits the award of the Silver Beaver to adults (over 21) who are registered as volunteer Scouters.

4. Nominations will not be considered for former professional Scouters or council employees within 5 years of their leaving employment of BSA.

5. Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

Applications are available at the Council Service Center or by [clicking here](#). [Click here for reservation form](#). If you have any additional questions please contact the Council Office, 864-233-8363.

Scouting for Food



Scouting for Food is when the Scouts go out into the community and collect food items to donate to local food banks for those less fortunate. All Scouts should participate in this Food Drive. Scouts should do a good turn daily, and this is a fantastic way for us to gain community service hours, and to be seen out in the community doing good things for people who need it.

We always participate in Scouting for Food on the two Saturdays surrounding the Birthday of Scouting which falls on February 6th in 2011. Not only is it an appropriate way to celebrate Scouting's Birthday, but food pantries really need a boost after the holiday rush. Scouts do a great job every year of helping to restock those empty pantries.

In past years we have provided bags for units to use, but this year we are asking that you use your own bags or boxes to collect food. Everyone has plastic bags sitting around the house, and most people would love to get rid of them. The Blue Ridge Council has developed a flyer that can be passed around neighborhoods indicating which day Scouts will be in your area to pick up food.

This year we will again collect soup, beef stew, chili, canned fish, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, and many other food items. We only ask that you not collect anything perishable or frozen.

There are several ways to participate in Scouting for Food. You can go out on a day and drop the flyers off in neighborhoods, and pick food up on a specified date. You can go out and collect the food as you go. You can go stand outside a grocery store and collect food. The important thing is to collect the food so we can give it back to those less fortunate.

You may be wondering if there is a particular food bank to which you should donate the food. Well, the neat thing about it is, *your* unit picks the place that *you* think will benefit most from the food. Examples are your local Salvation Army, your church, United Christian Ministries, your sponsoring organization and other local food pantries.

So, how do you get involved with this great activity? You can pick up the Flyers at your Round

Table Meeting in February. Call your District Executive to get more details.

Please plan on participating in Scouting for Food. Together we can do a Good Turn for America.

Webelos Scout's View on Funding Public Education

(Letter by Webelos Scout Benjamin Grayson of the Foothills District Pack 616 sent to the Greenville Journal)

A Fifth Grader's Perspective on Funding Public Education in South Carolina

Submitted by: Neil Grayson on Oct 16, 2010 at 4:55 pm Tagged with: public education Source: Benjamin Grayson

My name is Benjamin Grayson, and I am in the fifth grade at Mountain View Elementary School in Taylors, South Carolina. We have an awesome school with a great principal and teachers. But our teachers are in trouble. Our tax laws have created a state budget crisis which has reduced the funding for my school. Please view my video about how my school has been directly affected by tax cuts.

<http://ourschoolneeds.discoverbing.com/Projects/Default.aspx?prj=351#fb...>

I have interviewed my principal, Mr. Hughes, my assistant principal, Ms. Gibson, my teachers, and my health room nurse about the effects of state budget cuts on our school. I have also talked to Jim Rex and Dick Riley. Mr. Riley was like the principal for our whole country, and Mr. Rex is like the principal for our whole state.

From what I have learned, each year we are losing more teachers due to budget cuts. At my school, we have lost seven teachers since 2008, four of them last year. They have either been sent to other schools or we have not had the money for them to be our teachers. Some of the remaining teachers now only work part-time. My Challenge teacher, Ms. Stanton, had her hours reduced from five to four days a week. The Challenge program is important and fun. We have learned about Egypt, Greece, and Rome. We also entered a bridge-building competition last year. I would hate to see our Challenge program get cut or lose Mrs. Stanton next year. This year, we lost a fifth grade teacher and now only have five. When the number of teachers goes down, the number of kids in my class goes up, which makes it harder to learn. My class size went up almost thirty percent from 22 to 28 students. We also lost Mrs. Key, our science lab teacher. She was a great teacher. We had fun in this class and did interesting experiments. Last year, every class in grades 2-5 went to our science lab each week and were taught by Mrs. Key. This year, the materials in our science lab are sometimes used by my fifth grade science teacher, Mrs. Banks, but the lab is mostly empty. Microscopes and other cool things have been boxed up in storage.

My principal, Mr Hughes, told me we are being forced to choose between saving jobs and buying basic supplies. Because Mountain View chose to save some teacher jobs over supplies, teachers are having to buy their own supplies for class or do without. Our teachers are spending between \$1,000 and \$2,000 of their own money each year to buy



what they need for kids. They are paying for copies if they make more than 5,000 copies a year. Some of our school work is printed on half sheets or even quarter sheets to save paper. The print is so small there is no room to write the answers.

The school staff also needs supplies. Our health room nurse said she receives no money from the school district to buy supplies to use if we get sick or hurt at school. We had some money saved since 2003 from our after-school program, but it is running out. Mr. Hughes, my principal, says next year will be even worse. We will have fewer teachers, fewer supplies, and larger classes.

I am trying to do my part to help my school. I wrote letters to our legislators asking them to change the tax laws, which reduced funding for my school. My sister and I sold 650 chocolate bars to raise money for my school. We also went to a local meeting about the public education funding crisis, and I have been interviewed by our local newspapers.

My Mom saw a contest where kids could write an essay and make a video to try to win \$100,000 for their school. I entered this contest. My entry is called "Save Our Teachers." My entry needs your ratings and votes to win. Please go to this website to rate my entry. Our teachers deserve it and so do our kids!

<http://ourschoolneeds.discoverbing.com/Projects/Default.aspx?prj=351#fb...>

Benjamin Grayson

[Click here to view Benjamin's actual letter.](#) [Click here to view article that was listed in the Greenville Journal.](#)

Winterfest 2011 !! February 4-6, 2011!! Mark your calendars!!!



The 2011 Explorer/Venturer Winterfest Ski Weekend is scheduled for February 4- 6, 2011 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, located in the heart of the Great Smokey Mountains. This is an exciting competitive event activity for all Explorers and Venturers. It is sure to be the highlight of the year for your Unit! This year's event is expected to have over 3,000 participants! Activities include: skiing, dancing, kayaking, water volleyball, swimming, shopping, scuba diving and more! In addition, there will be many competitions that include: fire fighting, law enforcement, mock trial, shooting range, venturing roundtables, backpacking, water basketball, climbing tower, and much more. Click here for [Registration Packet](#). For additional information, please contact Dwayne Skinner at 864-233-8363 x208.

Greenville Scout Shop



Greenville Scout Shop

Phone: 288-1560 Fax: 288-1613

Email: ssutton@bsamail.org

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America

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www.blueridgecouncil.org