

## OX CART TRAILS DISTRICT (#3) NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2018, JANUARY 2019, FEBRUARY 2019

Serving the Minnesota counties of Ottertail and Wilkin as well as Richland County in North Dakota

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District Executive	Lindsay Aune 701-799-6753 lindsay.aune@scouting.org



<https://www.facebook.com/OxcartTrailsDistrict>

### DECEMBER

- 1 District Charter Renewal System Opens Online
- 6 7:00 PM Round Table, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 6 7:00 PM Charter Renewal Help Session, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 24-25 Office Closed
- 27 7:00 PM District Committee Meeting, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 27 8:15 PM District Commissioners Meeting, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN

### JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year
- 3 7:00 PM Round Table, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 19 8 AM – 3:00 PM, Klondike Derby (Boy Scout), Moccasin Valley, MN
- 23 5:00 PM-6:30 PM Charter Turn in Party, Augustana Lutheran Church, MN
- 26 District Planning Conference, Glendalough State Park Visitors Center

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Cub Scout Winter Fun Day, Runestone Park
- 7 6:30 PM District Awards Banquet, Grace United Methodist Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 28 7:00 PM District Committee Meeting, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
- 28 7:00 PM District Commissioners Meeting, Augustana Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN

### ADVANCEMENTS

#### Eagle Scouts

Caleb Boehm	Lone Scout
Benjamin Nuss	Troop 302
Brayden Aasen	Troop 325
Dylan Pearson	Troop 346

#### Other Ranks

8 Lion Rank	22 Scout Rank
65 Bobcat Badges	25 Tenderfoot Rank

65 Tiger Rank  
37 Wolf Rank  
46 Bear Rank  
50 Webelos Rank  
23 Arrow of Light Rank

9 Second Class Rank  
10 First Class Rank  
10 Star Rank  
7 Life Rank  
4 Eagle Rank  
393 Merit Badges

## CHARTER RENEWAL

Although recharter is not the most fun, it's an essential process to record keeping, chartering organization relationships, and keeping your scouts/adults insured! Oxcart Trails starts the charter process in December with an expiration date of February 28<sup>th</sup>. Here are some helpful tips for your unit to make it an easy process!

- Get your new scouts' applications turned in and paid **ASAP**. This gets them on the books before you start. *If you don't, you'll need to enter in every bit of information for them, lengthening the process.*
- Confirm from each existing scout if they are returning for 2018-2019.
- Get each leader to take the new YPT *immediately*. **Tip!** Get everyone in a room and watch it together. There are several Youth Protection Champions in the district who can help get your unit trained. Just ask Mike Guck or go to our District Website to find out how to get in touch with one of them.
- Need help? Ask NOW. The longer you wait, the tougher it gets.
- Incentive: **Free Ranks require charter turned in no later than January 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Important Dates!

- December 1<sup>st</sup>: Charter Renewal system opens online.
- The December Roundtable will offer a course on charter walk through. If you want to complete your charter at this time, have additional questions or need some assistance, come prepared with an up to date roster and completion of YPT with adults who will register.
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>: 5-6:30pm: Charter turn in party. Free pizza!

## KLONDIKE DERBY

This year's Klondike on January 19, 2019 promises to offer an enjoyable experience for Boy Scouts, Crews and adult Scouters alike! Test your skills and earn prizes! Lakes District is invited. Make sure your Klondike Sled is ready to GO! We will also be doing these exciting activities:

- Survival skills tests
- Troop building activities
- a hike
- lots of other fun activities

Pack your own lunch and dinner, or other snacks you might want to enjoy! We will once again be at Moccasin Valley in Erhard. Cost will be \$10 per person, which includes the program fee, a patch and some delicious hot chocolate! Arrow of Light Scouts are invited to watch with a parent. Event

registration on January 19<sup>th</sup> will start at 8:00AM. Be on the lookout for a list of what supplies to prepare to test your scout skills!

### **DISTRICT RECOGNITION BANQUET**

We are delighted to have Mark DeMartelaere planning an amazing banquet at Grace United Methodist Church on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It sure to be an amazing evening, as the past two years with Mark at the helm have proven to be spectacular. Dave Iverson will serve a meal of smoked Pork. Please be sure to get your nomination forms from Mark DeMartelaere and returned to him no later than January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Please do not be afraid to share your nomination with the person you are nominating! We want them to be present to receive their award, as it is a great honor to be recognized for their years of service to Scouting, and to the District.

### **WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION**

Now is the time to follow up with those Packs in your area to contact the Arrow of Light (AOL) Scouts and invite them to check out your Troop. This should be done early, so it can be a part of the AOL Den's plan and your Troops plan on incorporating them into a few meetings and activities. 98% of all Boy Scouts were Cub Scouts so work with your Cub Scout Pack in your area! Have Den Chiefs help and earn leadership for rank advancement. More Scouts will cross-over the more involved the Troop is with the Pack. Mark Sundberg, Oxcart Trails District's new Webelos to Scout Transition Chair is a great resource to AOL Den's and Troops plan these meetings.

### **SPRING RECRUITMENT FOR ALL SCOUTING**

Although we do most of our recruiting in the fall for our programs, it is never too late to Join Scouting! For Cub Scouts, we will focus on Current Kindergarteners, and any grades you are short on members. I want your Pack, if you have an ACTIVE summer program that is being planned, (at least one active per month), to participate in this in the month of April. May is getting too late to do spring Recruitment. For our Boy Scouts/Scouts BSA, we can focus on 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up in your community. The spring is a wonderful time to do this as we can get new Scouts involved before the end of the School year and into our great summer adventures. Please let Lindsay Aune know about your Spring Recruitment Plans!

### **SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

Throughout the year, there are many families that worry about how they are going to make ends meet and keep food on their table. "Do a good turn Daily" is a THE slogan of the Boy Scouts of America, one that we install into each of our youth that participates in Scouting. We also teach them how they can make a difference in the lives of others. The Northern Lights council's annual Scouting for Food (SFF) drive is one way in which we can make a larger impact on a very serious problem occurring in our local communities. Starting March 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, all units and their Scouts are encouraged to take part in this year's Scouting for Food campaign. We will have more information at the February and March Roundtables. Please plan to have your unit be a part of this council-wide community service project.

Every year, Oxcart Trails District Collects nearly 7,000 lbs. of food for local food pantries during our annual Scouting for Food Drive. To see the difference that Scouts can make in just one short week is truly remarkable!

## **FAMILY FRIENDS OF SCOUTING PRESENTATION**

Many of you have already scheduled your unit presentation, but if you haven't yet please do so. Friends of Scouting is important part of the year for the Northern Lights Council. With the money that is raised during the campaign we can continue to improve many of our camping opportunities and other programs that we as a Council have to offer. The funds also go to support our efforts to improve the health of all the units in our council. Please consider supporting Friends of Scouting this year.

## **FREE RANK INSIGNIA IN 2019**

The Northern Lights Council is pleased to offer Packs and Troops the opportunity to earn free rank insignia throughout 2019. Qualifying units will receive free rank insignia each time a Scout advances in rank. This offer is made possible by the annual Friends of Scouting campaign and council product sale. To qualify for free rank insignias a unit must meet each of the following requirements:

1. Participate in Popcorn Sale – the unit must participate in the council sponsored 2018 Trail's End Popcorn sale with a minimum of \$500 in total sales.
2. Journey to Excellence – Units must achieve at least "Bronze" level recognition in Scouting's Journey to Excellence in 2018. • The Journey to Excellence unit scorecard must be completed, signed and submitted.
3. On-time Charter Renewal – To be considered "on-time" the charter renewal paperwork must:
  - Be received by a district representative by the district due date (see below)
  - Be complete, with fees, error-free and ready to process by the final deadline (no missing signatures, required applications, Youth Protection training certificates, etc.)
  - Be Turned in on or before January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019
4. Friends of Scouting – Unit must attain 2019 Friends of Scouting goal.
  - Presentations should be held between November 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019
  - The minimum goal is determined by: (Number of registered youths listed on charter renewal paperwork x \$40)

## **JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE (JTE)**

Volunteer leaders, Scouts, and their families have fun together as they participate in the Scouting movement and help shape a stronger, brighter future for our communities and our country. The Boy Scouts of America recognizes those Scouting units where Scouts, their families and their leaders make the program stronger and more fun for everyone. Units can achieve one of three levels of the Journey to Excellence Recognition Award; Bronze, Silver, or Gold. If you would like to see a copy of the JTE scorecards, please go to <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/> to find the most relevant one for your program unit.