

# PINENUT SCOUTING

Pinenut District, Boy Scouts of America

March 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Pinenut District Earns Silver

Pinenut District earned the Journey to Excellence Silver Award for 2013.

There are three levels of the Journey to Excellence Award. At the Bronze level the Scout unit, district or council is said to be meeting the needs of its Scouts in an average manner.

At the Silver level the needs of the Scouts are being meant in an excellent manner and at the Gold level in an outstanding manner.

The BSA Journey to Excellence program tracks the operations and programs of Scout units, districts and councils to determine their

effectiveness.

Training, youth advancement, outdoor activities, service projects, program elements, and the meeting of membership and financial goals are just a few of the areas tracked and rated.

Earning the Silver award demonstrates that Pinenut District is providing an excellent program for our Scouts.

For 2014 the district hopes to achieve the Gold Award.



## Merit Badge Fair

The first day of the Pinenut District Merit Badge Fair will be held Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the LDS Stake Center in Carson City.

Boy Scouts from across

the district will be meeting with registered counselors to earn merit badges ranging from Robotics to First Aid.

For many merit badges Scouts will depart the fair



with "homework" to complete and bring back to the second day of the fair, Saturday, May 3, 2014 at the C-Hill LDS building in Carson City.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 11: District training for unit Membership Chairs.

March 11: Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm, Location To Be Announced.

March 13: Roundtable, 6:30 pm, Carson City LDS Stake Center.

March 15: Merit Badge Fair—see article below.

### Order of the Arrow

The Pinenut District Chapter of the Boy Scout Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Pinenut District office in Carson City.

Deserving Scouts from every Troop are elected to the O/A by their peers.

The O/A is a service organization whose organization honors the traditions of Native Americans, through the art of Native American dances and ceremonies.

Troops wishing to hold O/A elections need to contact our District office at (775) 787-1111.

## Camp Card Sales

Camp Cards for 2014 will be made available To units who ordered them at the March 13th Roundtable. All money and unsold cards need to be collected by participating units on April 21st and turned in no later than April 29th.

Cards sell for \$5.00 with the individual Scout salesman retaining \$2.50 for each card sold, as commission. These funds are to be managed by the Scout's unit and are designed to be used to help pay for summer camp.

Each card contains "coupons" from several local businesses with most of the coupons being reusable over and over throughout 2014.

Units selling out of cards may request additional cards from either Barbara Ford or James Thorne.

## **A Call to Action! Scouting Needs Your Help!**

Recent statistics show us that Scouting in America is in trouble. The National Council estimates that for every new Cub Scout Pack started, nationwide, it loses five Packs. Overall registration of youth in the BSA has dropped 200,000 in the last five years and the downward spiral continues. In Pinenut District alone, after all unit recharter packages have been processed on April 1st, it is estimated that only about 550 youth will be served by Scouting in an area from Dayton, Nevada to Bridgeport, California. The BSA surveyed several hundred mothers of age qualified boys and found that about half of them had never been asked about having their sons join Scouts. Statistics also show that the average American boy spends seven hours a day in front of a computer or other such media screen, while they spend only about 15 minutes a day outdoors.

What can we do to reverse this trend? Each of us involved in Scouting, each of us who have seen the benefits of Scouting, each of us who have seen our sons grow and mature in the Scouting program need to take action now! Not when we make time, but now! We need to be speaking to our friends and neighbors. We need to be talking about Scouting to our co-workers and employers. We need to be speaking to educators and religious leaders. We need to encourage our sons to talk to their friends about Scouting. We must understand that our units need to grow and prosper, even after our sons age out of the program. We need to assist Pinenut District and our brother units in their membership efforts. We need to help start new units.

Every parent of a Scout needs to participate in their units as **trained** leaders or as committee members to ensure our program is the best it can be. We all need to see that Scouting again becomes the one activity that all young men want to be part of and the one which their parents want to support.

Are we up to the task or are we willing to let Scouting languish in America?

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## District Volunteers Recognized



Mike Rowe, Pinenut District Chairman, was recognized with Nevada Area Council's highest award, the Silver Beaver, at ceremonies held in Reno, January 25, 2014. This award recognized Scouters for their outstanding volunteer service to Scouting within the council over a substantial period of time.

At ceremonies held February 21, 2014, three Scouting volunteers were recognized with Pinenut District's highest award, the District Award of Merit. These ceremonies were held at the District Fellowship Dinner.

Bill Boston was recognized for his service with Pack 360 and Troop 847, both located in Dayton and as the Pinenut District Training Chairman. Under his leadership and

guidance, the district saw the percentage of trained unit leaders in its working area soar above those percentages currently recorded by the local council or by the national council.

Marla Morris was recognized for her service to Pack 33 and Troop 33 of Minden and as the Pinenut District Cub Scout Day Camp Director. Her dedication and leadership brought a higher quality program to the Day Camp and an increase in Cub Scout participation during a time of shrinking overall membership.

Judge Jim Wilson was recognized for his long support of Scouting in this area and for his leadership as the Chairman of the Pinenut District Nominating Committee for the last

Two years and he continues to serve in that capacity. This committee selects and nominates Scouting, community and business people to serve on the district committee.

Ron Thornton, the District Commissioner was awarded the Distinguished Commissioner Award, also at the Fellowship Dinner. His leadership of the district commissioner staff resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of Scout units visited and served. Through the efforts of his staff, problems were identified and resolved quickly, unit programs saw quality improvements and the Scouts were better served.

Allen Newberry was recognized for 45 years of service to Scouting.

To View the program updates coming to all levels of Scouting go to:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx>