



# *Pine Tree District* *Newsletter* *- January 2020 -*

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[www.Scouting.org](http://www.Scouting.org)  
[facebook.com/pinetreedistrict](https://facebook.com/pinetreedistrict)

Kim Erickson  
District Chairman  
218-851-5869 Cell  
[cmcdistrictchair@gmail.com](mailto:cmcdistrictchair@gmail.com)

Loren Meinke  
District Commissioner  
612-203-2625  
[nerolb@charter.net](mailto:nerolb@charter.net)

## **Your District Leadership Team**

Kenneth Toole  
District Executive  
320-253-3930 Office  
218-780-0694 Cell  
[kenneth.toole@scouting.org](mailto:kenneth.toole@scouting.org)

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## **20 tips for planning and hosting the best Pinewood Derby ~ Bryan Wendell**

**The “why” of Pinewood Derby needs little explanation. You do it because it’s the perfect combination of cars, competition and character-building fun. But as for the “how,” we’ve got you covered.**

### *Before race day*

**1. Maintain perspective.** Pinewood Derby shouldn’t be all about racing, and it’s certainly not all about trophies or ribbons. It’s really about “the close parent-child bonding that takes place throughout the process of designing and building a Pinewood Derby car,” says Joe Gargiulo, a unit commissioner and pack race manager in the Connecticut Yankee Council.

**2. Delegate responsibilities.** Gargiulo splits volunteers into four teams: The Track Crew handles setup, testing and racing. This team includes scorekeepers, a referee and a master of ceremonies. The Pit Crew does check-in and pre-race inspection. The Activities Crew keeps youth busy when they aren’t racing. And the Food Crew? It might have the most important job of all.

**3. Establish rules.** This isn’t NASCAR. There are no national Pinewood Derby rules, so packs are free to set their own. With that said, if your district or council hosts a derby and you want to send your pack’s winners, you’ll need to follow their rules on car length, width, weight and wheel construction. Warren Kalsow runs the Pinewood Derby for the St. Paul, Minn.-based Northern Star Council. He says rules “simplify inspections, eliminate as much confusion as possible, provide guidance and create a fair race for all the youth.” [Read the latest Northern Star Council rules.](#)



**4. Host a car-making workshop.** A few weeks before race day, plan an evening of car-building fun. Bring power tools (adults only) for the big cuts and handheld instruments for smaller refinements. Make it a come-and-go affair — 5 to 9 p.m., perhaps — where families show up for an hour or two and leave with a car that’s 80 percent ready, lacking only paint. Bring the official pack scale.

**5. Hold an inspection event.** With more than 100 Scouts, Pack 1576 in Sterling, Va., once had a Pinewood Derby that lasted until 10 p.m. After hours of check-in, inspection and races, everyone was “showing ‘E’ on the fuel indicator,” says pack trainer Zeeshan Rasheed. He found a better way: Move check-in to a few nights before the race. Cars were weighed, OK’d and then impounded in a special locked case Rasheed built himself.

**6. Gather materials.** At the first Pinewood Derby race in 1953 in Manhattan Beach, Calif., the materials list included car kits for each Cub Scout; a two-lane, 31-foot track; a battery-powered finish gate with red and white lights to show which car won; and trophies donated by a local aerospace manufacturer. Sixty-four years later? Same list, though timing technology has improved and most packs prefer a four-lane track.



**7. Establish a timing system.** Would you want to be the parent who decides which car won a close race using your naked eye? Didn’t think so. That’s why Derek Hart, now Scoutmaster of Troop 476 of Cincinnati, took away the human element in favor of a more accurate system. “We moved from an elimination bracket series judged by reluctant parents to an electronic timer system with race management software,” he says. It can be pricey, but investing in a similar system will result in better race-day operations.

**8. Use racing software.** A Google search for “Pinewood Derby software” results in several paid — and free — solutions for scheduling software that gives every car a turn down each lane. Winners are determined by a total time of all four runs — eliminating lane variations as a factor. “The software also grouped cars in subsequent heats by time, so the races all ran pretty closely,” Hart says. “Even slower cars looked pretty competitive coming down the track with other slower cars.” The result was a fair and fun derby with zero Excel-induced headaches.

**9. Determine awards categories.** Recognizing the three fastest cars in each division (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos) is obvious, but the Pinewood Derby is about more than speed. Reward creativity and craftsmanship with awards like Most Colorful, Best Paint Job and Most

Patriotic. But don't go overboard. No more than 60 percent of the Scouts should leave with an award. Those who walk away empty-handed do, in fact, leave with a valuable lesson.

**10. Recruit judges.** This is a great way to involve your chartered organization. Ask your chartered organization representative to select a judging panel, and be sure families see the list of design categories well in advance.

**11. Find some Boy Scouts.** The Pinewood Derby is a uniquely Cub Scout event, but Boy Scouts can serve refreshments, keep chaos down, and lead songs and skits. A great job for den chiefs: car handling. They can place them on the track at the beginning of each heat and carry them back to the pits after.

**12. Buy (or make) awards.** Trophies are great, but they aren't exactly free. So Hart made his own. He created medals by cutting the trunk of a Christmas tree into discs. He sanded the discs, added a coat of

polyurethane and wrote the award name with a permanent marker. An eyelet and length of leather finished the medal. "They looked pretty awesome, if I do say so," he says.

**13. Encourage (the right amount of) parental involvement.** Some cars look like the Cub Scout got a little too much help from Mom or Dad. But the opposite is just as bad. The point is for a parent and son to bond over the shared experience. Jim Reckling, a committee member for Troop 431 of Allentown, Pa., says the amount of parental involvement should taper over time. "With Tigers, you do most of it, showing them how to safely use the tools," he says. By his second year of Webelos, the boy does almost everything while the parent watches.

*On race day*

**14. Decorate the space.** The Pinewood Derby isn't a regular pack meeting, and it shouldn't look like one. Jim Brox, assistant Cubmaster of Pack 28 from Gainesville, Va., uses decorations donated by local auto shops: cardboard cutouts of NASCAR drivers, empty oil-can boxes, inflatable tires, checkered flags, replica Goodyear blimps — basically "anything that says race day," he says.

**15. Recruit last-minute volunteers.** Count on having plenty of volunteers available for smaller tasks on race day, says Gargiulo. "Most parents would be happy to help rather than just standing around," he says. And who knows? Your next Cubmaster could be among them.





**16. Have spare parts on hand.** A lost or broken car could ruin a Cub Scout's experience, so Gargiulo comes prepared. "I always have extra precut cars, tools, wheels, axles and weights to give to Cub Scouts who, for whatever reason, are unable to build a car with their parent," he says. "Make sure everyone participates."

**17. Serve food.** A hungry Cub Scout is a grumpy Cub Scout. Hart says his pack served food (donated by local businesses) in the back of the room and used it as a fundraiser. "It managed to make a bit of money for the pack, as the derby was held over lunchtime."

**18. Don't be too strict.** Use rules to ensure a fair race, but don't let them get in the way of fun. "It would devastate a child to get disqualified for things like the wheel spacing being off by a quarter inch," Gargiulo says. Stickler for the rules? Instead of tossing the car aside, skip to the next race while the Cub Scout and his parent make a quick fix.

**19. Keep it moving.** Consider the age-old showmanship motto: Leave them wanting more. Don Whitacre, committee chairman of Pack 101 in Ann Arbor, Mich., says his pack tries to have everything done in 90 minutes. The pressure is on the master of ceremonies to "announce winners, encourage the Cub Scouts and keep the event flowing."

**20. Watch for ultra-competitive parents.** Surprise! Parents can get a little spirited at the Pinewood Derby. Ideally, you've reminded them the event is for the Cub Scouts, not them. Still not enough? Tony Hooker, a Webelos den leader in Pack 173 of Concord, N.C., offers a parents' division "with less restrictive rules to help redirect that competitive spirit," he says. "My own entry a few years back used a model plane propeller."



## *Cub Scout Winter Camp - NANUQ*

Camp Nanuq is a winter Cub Scout program based out of Miller Castle on the Parker Scout Camp property. Campers will arrive Saturday morning, receive their room assignments, and then get ready for some outdoor fun!

Weekends to choose from: Jan 18/19, Feb 8/9, Feb 15/16, Feb 22/23

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-nanuq2020>



# *The Legend of the Yeti*

## *2020 Klondike Derby*

### *Parker Scout Camp*

### *Leap Day 29 Feb*

Register Online:

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-2020Klondike>

**Cost is \$10 per Scout and \$5 per leader**

Legend tells it that once every four years the Yeti comes out of hiding for fun and adventure and he tends to pick Leap Day for this special visit. We hope to lure him out of hiding at Parker Scout Camp and we want you Scouts to come join the fun and help us find the Yeti!



#### First Aid Challenge

Your patrol was seek attacked by the Yeti and you have injured members. Be Prepared to administer First Aid and potentially transport one member of your patrol to safety after treating their wounds. Scouts will be judged by administering proper treatment for the wounds, speed, order of treatment and transport time from fixed points. Scouts should have some first aid materials, but some will be provided.



#### Fat Tire Racing

The Yeti loves a good race but nothing is more important than evading his grasp. Scouts need to avoid the Yeti and his traps/obstacles and return to safety after retrieving the Yeti treasure.

#### Fire Building

Nothing draws in the Yeti like a warm fire to help him thaw out from the cold. You need to build, start and sustain a fire to warm up your Yeti friend. Materials will be provided, but some must be searched for. No materials from your sled may be used. This is a timed event

#### Blindfold race

Sometimes seeing the Yeti can be a scary experience and it can scare the sight right out of your eyes. Be Prepared to transport your fellow Scout with some additional challenges along the way. Timed event.

#### Branding the Yeti

The Yeti likes a special cookie and he really likes it when you decorate them for him! You will cut up some Yeti Cookies and decorate them with branding irons.

#### Curling

Throwing rocks around has always been the Yeti's favorite sport, and he really likes to have nice clean ice. Invite the Yeti to come play and see how well you clean house.

#### Lunch

Nothing welcomes the Yeti better than a nice pot of hot soup over the open fire. Bring a can of soup to add to the mix and join us for lunch. PLEASE NO CREAM SOUP.



An EXCITING ROUNDTABLE awaits you!

Special Presentation by Area Commissioner, Greg Nygren  
"Unit Finance Responsibilities and Legalities"

Big Rock - New Member Coordinator

DISTRICT AWARD NOMINATIONS  
DISTRICT LUNCHEON INFORMATION

*See you January 14th at 6:30 pm  
Brainerd Salvation Army Chapel*

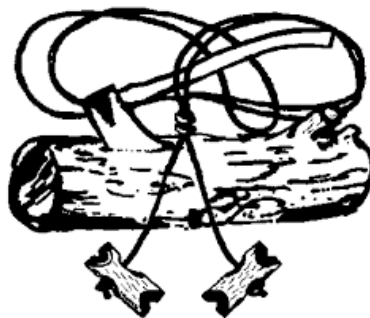
Cub Scouts  
Lock-In Details  
Law: Trustworthy

Topic: Happy Birthday USA and The Great Race (derby cars)

Have you come to a Round Table? Why NOT? Roundtable is more than just another Scout meeting. Its your chance to hear from subject matter experts in things like backpacking, winter camping, summer camps and much more. It's also a chance for you to talk with your fellow leaders and learn what they are doing and trying that could help you.

Everyone is welcome  
Parent, Leaders and even SCOUTS

ScoutsBSA  
Klondike Details  
OA - What Is It and How Do I Use It In My Unit



## Wood Badge 2020

Wood Badge buffet (for all Wood Badgers and potential Wood Badgers)  
January 25, 2020

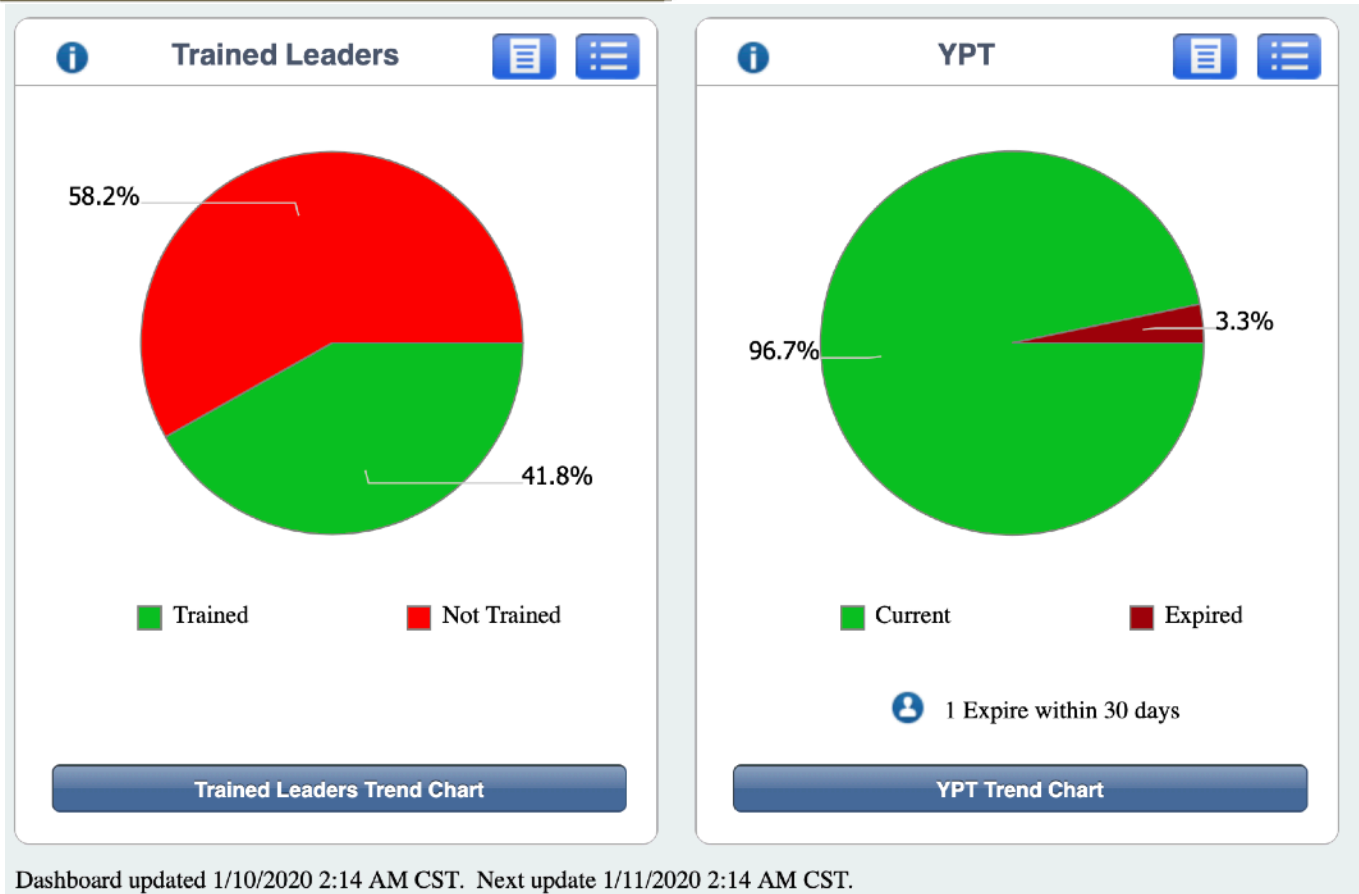
Orientation: Wed., September 9, 2020

First Weekend: September 24 -27, 2020

Second Weekend: October 16 -18, 2020



## Training Update



It is our goal to get at least 60% of our leaders trained in their positions. As you can see we have just over 40% of our leaders trained. This means we have leaders who are doing a job that they may not know all of the ins and outs of, they may not know all of the resources that are available to them and they may not be giving their Scouts the best program they are capable of delivering. We want every leader to know they can do a great job and make it easier for them.

### Up-Coming Training Events

**None are currently scheduled but we are taking requests from unit to do unit trainings**

Training is also available on the [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) website. You can log into the site and watch the videos. Do not let the number of videos intimidate you because many of them are very short but still very informative. Training helps you and will make your program better!





Friends of Scouting is your chance to support the bigger mission of the Scouting Movement in your Council. We need your support to ensure we can provide the best program to all young people who want to be Scouts. One way you can support the mission is to buy a brick in the Parker Plaza.

### Parker Fund Pledge Form

☐ I have enclosed a donation for an engraved brick to build "The Parker Fund".

☐ 15" x 10" Brick..... \$1,000    ☐ 10" x 10" Brick..... \$500    ☐ 10" x 5" Brick..... \$250  
☐ Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Brick Text Engraving \_\_\_\_\_

3 Lines Maximum: 23 characters per line for 15" x 10"; 13 characters per line for 10"x10" and 10"x5"

Please make checks payable to: Central Minnesota Council, BSA. By August 15, 2018



The Parker Fund has been established as an investment in Parker Scout Camp to ensure the property remains a healthy and valuable asset for youth and families for years to come.

The goal of the fund is to raise \$1.3 million for projects at camp and start an endowment fund that will provide for the maintenance and upkeep of Parker Scout Camp and to continue to develop fun and innovative programming for youth. We are nearly half way to that goal and we need your help!

Please consider a gift at the \$1000, \$500 or \$250 level. Your gift will be permanently recognized with an engraved brick in our new flag plaza at camp.





# *Pine Tree District Banquet*



Sponsored by the Elks Lodge of Brainerd

**Register Online at:**

**<https://scoutingevent.com/296-PTBanquet2020>**

The Pine Tree District Committee invites you to join us as we celebrate our Eagle Scouts and honor some of our amazing volunteers.

- \* We will recognize our 2019 Eagle Scouts
- \* Recognize Silver Beavers
- \* Present the District Award of Merit
- \* Present the Scouter of the Year Awards

**Cost is \$10 for Preregistration**



St. Andrew's Catholic Church  
1108 Willow St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Social begins at 11:30  
Lunch served at Noon  
April 4, 2020



Parker Scout Camp, Nisswa

*February is  
Culver's Cares  
about Scouting Month.*

*Purchase a wall hanger  
and show your support for Scouting.*

*Be sure to share with your friends so  
they can show their support as well.*

*Profit sharing night will be announced soon!*





With the new year comes election season for the Order of the Arrow. Scoutmasters and other unit leaders will soon be contacted by a member of the Lodge Leadership Team. It will either be via email or phone. Please when this person contacts you please help them out by scheduling your Troop's election and camping promotion. We want to have all of our elections completed before Spring Conclave.

Speaking of Spring Conclave it will be here before you know it. Registration is open now. If you were elected in 2019 and did not complete your Ordeal this is your last chance to do so. Please join us at Spring Conclave.

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-OA2020SpringConclave>

Before Conclave you have a chance to enjoy some really great fellowship and learn more about Native American customs and tradition at Indian Winter. This event is held at Parker Scout Camp. Please join us for this wonderful event.

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-OAIndianWinter>



Remember to like us on Facebook

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

Troop 43 Assistant Scoutmaster Zach Vogt will continue to serve as the Lodge Adviser in 2020.



Congratulations to our two Pine Tree Scouts who will be serving in positions on the Naguonabe Lodge Executive Committee.



Blake Collins, Troop 43, will hold the position of Vice Chief of Administration.



Jonathan Saba, Troop 43, will hold the position of Lodge Secretary

# Pine Tree District Award Nomination

I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

of Pack/Troop \_\_\_\_\_ for the (circle one) Cub Scouter,

Scouts BSA , Scouter Award of the year because: (give a few short details for the committee to consider)

IF YOU DON'T NOMINATE WHO WILL? YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS DESERVING PLEASE SEND IN THE NOMINATION!

EMAIL TO HEIDI LOCKWOOD - [hll@brainerd.net](mailto:hll@brainerd.net)

*Cub Scouter is presented to a leader who is registered as a Den Leader or Cub Master with a Pack in the Pine Tree District.*

*Scouts BSA is presented to a leader who is registered as an Assistant Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster in the Pine Tree District.*

*Scouter of the Year is presented to a leader who is registered in any other position such as Committee Chair or Committee member in the Pine Tree District*



2021 National Jamboree  
Face the Challenge

Summit Bechtel Reserve

Get your spot now and start fundraising for this Mountain Top Experience.

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-nationaljamboreecmc>





There are always ways to increase your units service hours. In the winter adopt a few fire hydrants and help keep your neighborhood safe, by keeping them clear of snow and debris. The home you save could be yours or another Scout.



### ALPHA LUPUS

Alpha Lupus is a weekend winter camping school designed to teach Scouts, Scouters and Venturers the basic skills needed to operate a safe outdoor winter program for your own unit. (adult leadership is required.)

Alpha Lupus is open to any registered Scout, Scouter or Venturer who desires to learn how to have safe fun during Minnesota's best 6 months of camping (participants must be second class and 12 years of age or older, and should have some winter activity experience as a Webelos Scout, or with other group programs).

January 24-26 or February 7-9

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-alphalupuskota2020>

## When is Scout Sunday 2020?

When it comes to the Scout Law, last is certainly not least.

Being “reverent” is a year-round part of a Scout’s life, but there’s one time each year when the connection between Scouting and faith takes on even more significance.

It’s Scout Sunday, held every February. The annual celebration gives Scouts a highly visible way to show their appreciation for their faith-based chartered organization.



On Scout Sunday, at places of worship across the country, Scouts wear their uniforms to worship services. Sometimes they’ll help with the service by conducting a flag ceremony, collecting the offering plate or reading scripture. Other times they’ll receive **religious emblems** earned over the previous year.

In still other packs, troops, crews and ships, Scout Sunday is a chance to perform an act of service for the chartered organization — often consisting of an afternoon of pre-spring cleaning inside or outside the place of worship.

But Scout Sunday isn’t the only time when Scouts show their appreciation for a faith-based chartered organization.

### When is Scout Sunday 2020?

Scout Sunday 2020 is **Feb. 9, 2020**, according to the **BSA’s Calendar of Religious Observances**. But units and chartered organizations are free to schedule Scout Sunday on any Sunday in February.

The BSA says a local church may celebrate “on the Sunday most acceptable to the pastor and congregation.” So check with your chartered organization representative or faith leader before making your Scout Sunday plans. Depending on your faith organization, Scout Sunday 2020 could be held Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16 or Feb. 23. Longtime Bryan on Scouting readers may remember that in past years the BSA used a simple formula to determine Scout Sunday: it was to be held on the Sunday before the birthday of the BSA on Feb. 8. Recognizing that each chartered organization has a unique schedule of worship, the BSA no longer uses that guideline.



### Ripley Rendezvous 2020

“Search and Rescue”

April 24-26

[www.scoutingevent.com/296-2020Ripley](http://www.scoutingevent.com/296-2020Ripley)



# WOOD BADGE BUFFET

Come join us for a delicious Chili Buffet!

Saturday, January 25th, 2020 at 10:00am  
at the Council Office in Sartell.

Meet the Staff for the 2020 course. Hang with fellow critters.  
Bid on auction items. Hear about some of the new  
course updates. Register for the 2020 course.  
Bring your patrol flags (and your patrols) &  
sing our favorite song!

Adults- \$10.00

Potential Participants  
& Kids eat Free!!

Proceeds will go  
towards programming and  
scholarships for the  
upcoming course.

**Chili Buffet-  
Some Hot!  
Some Not!**



Register on-line at:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/296-wbbanquet2020>



Greetings friends and fellow Scouters,

It's a new year, we flipped another page on the calendar and really all that means is we have reached the midway point of our Cub Scout Calendars and program calendars. Scouting keeps moving forward as we come into the 2020 year.

January brings several wonderful program opportunities for both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA. We have Nanuq at Parker Scout Camp for our Cubs and Alpha Lupus for the Scouts BSA members. Don't let the cold temps scare you off from all of the fun that winter camp has to offer.

How cold is it that this is a Leap Year? Have you heard of the Legend of the Yeti? The Pine Tree District Klondike has a special theme this year. We want all of our Scouts BSA members to join us at Parker Scout Camp for this special event. We hope to lure the Yeti out of hiding and have a great time. Please get your unit registered today for this fun filled Scout challenge. No you do not need to bring a klondike sled but you can if you wish.

It's a bummer to say but we are starting the new year with a down turn in our membership. We lost a bunch of our fellow Scouts last year and we didn't recruit many either. The best way to increase the fun of our program is the increase the number of Scouts in the unit. Also the best way to increase the number of people helping run the program is to increase the number of Scouts in the unit. The best way to do both of those is to invite your child's friends and also invite your own friends to join the fun of Scouting. Please share the message of Scouting and share the fun of Scouting with your friends and family.

It is time once again for our annual Family Friends of Scouting campaign. A friendly reminder that your annual dues do not support the operations or programs of the Council. The increased membership fees that you paid at recharter go to our National Office to keep the program alive nationally. Your contribution for Friends of Scouting stays locally and ensures we have programs right here in Pine Tree District and ensure we can keep the lights and heat on a Parker Scout Camp. A member of the District Committee will come to a meeting of your units choice to give a FOS presentation. Please provide me the date, time and location for your unit so I can get you on the schedule.

The annual District Recognition Banquet is just around the corner and we need nominations for the district awards. The only way we can present those awards is if someone nominates someone else for the award. Please take a moment and write up a nomination for someone in your unit. It doesn't have to be long but tell their story. Have they run your recruiting efforts? Have they taken over for someone who quit and saved the Den? Have they diligently served as treasurer? You undoubtedly know someone deserving.

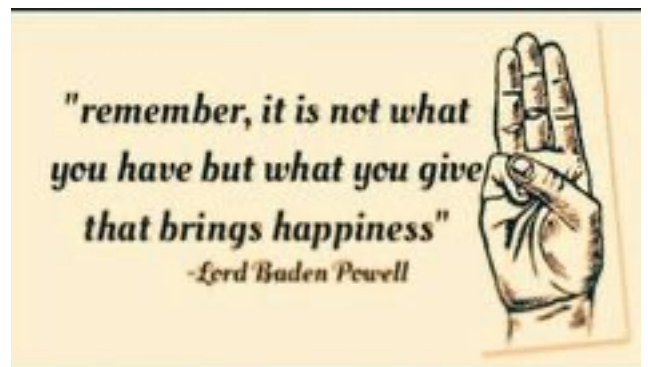
With all of the pack pinewood derbies coming up I hope you read the article that leads off the newsletter. Don't forget there will be a district derby on March 21st. Check back in next month's newsletter for more details. All Cub Scouts are welcome to participate.

Have you liked the District Facebook Page? It is a great way to get updates and current news from the District Leadership. Please go back to page 1 and see the link at the top for the address and like the page today.

There is a great deal going on and so much coming up. Thanks for all you do to make this program happen for all of the young people we serve. It's all about the youth.

In Service,

Ken



			January			
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Dis. Comm.	8	9	10	11 Nanuq
12	13	14 Roundtable	15	16	17	18 Nanuq
19	20	21	22	23	24 Alpha Lupus	25 Nanuq Alpha Lupus Wood Badge
26	27	28	29	30 Dave Retirement Party	31	
			February			
						1 Nanuq
2 	3	4 Dis. Comm	5	6	7 Alpah Lupus	8 Nanup Alpha Lupus
9 Alpha Lupus	10	11 Roundtable	12	13	14 	15
16	17 	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Klondike

For more information on events in Pine Tree District or Central Minnesota Council visit  
<http://www.bsacmc.org/#!/event-calendar/c1xcb>

Your input on the District Newsletter is always welcome please contact Ken with your input  
[kenneth.toole@scouting.org](mailto:kenneth.toole@scouting.org)