



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

April 2017

## SCOUTER'S KEY

The **Scouter's Key** is a set of recognitions for primary **leaders** who complete advanced tenure, training and performance requirements in one (or more) of the following positions: **Cubmaster**, **Scoutmaster**, Varsity **Coach**, Venturing **Advisor**, Sea Scout Skipper, Roundtable commissioner, District/Assistant District commissioner, Unit commissioner, or District committee chair (chair of one of the operating committees).



## TOUR AND ACTIVITY PLANS TERMINATED

The Boy Scouts of America is ending the Tour and Activity Plan system and removing it from [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org), effective April 1, 2017. This decision by a BSA National Council cross-functional team will reduce the administrative burden on our volunteer leaders. Our council's Enterprise Risk Management Committee reminds volunteers that even though the Tour and Activity Plan system no longer exists, proper planning before a Scouting activity is a critical component to keeping Scouts, leaders, and parents safe. The Guide to Safe Scouting and other resources can help you in your planning.

## SILVER BEAVER AWARD

The **Silver Beaver Award** is the highest form of recognition that a local council can bestow on a volunteer. In 1931, BSA President Mortimer L. Schiff recommended to the national board that an award be devised for recognition of distinguished service to youth in the area of a local council, and the concept of the Silver Beaver Award recognition was established. The Sam Houston Area Council has participated in this recognition program since its inception, presenting Silver Beaver Awards in 1931 to W. A. Childress and to E. A. Hudson. Beginning with those first two awards, more than 1500 adult leaders in our council have been recognized in this manner. The Silver Beaver Award is presented at the Council Recognition Reception. Nominations for Silver Beaver are due by May 1, 2017. The Council Recognition Reception will be held on November 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm.



## EL RANCHO CIMA DECOMMISSIONING

Have you or anyone in your family ever served on staff at El Rancho Cima, or do you just have fond memories of the Ranch? With the anticipation of the sale of El Rancho Cima, Sam Houston Area Council will be hosting a Decommissioning Celebration on July 15, 2017. We plan to have a fun filled day of hiking to Sentinel Peak, swimming, shooting sports, bus tours of the property, a Bar-B-Q dinner, and a final closing campfire. This event is open to everyone to provide an opportunity to see El Rancho Cima one last time.

When: July 15, 2017

Where: El Rancho Cima, 5800 Ranch Road 32, Fischer, TX 78623

Cost: \$15.00 per person (includes all activities, B-B-Q Dinner and Decommissioning Patch)  
Youth 5 yrs. old and younger are free

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Campfire

Questions or Comments may be directed to Mr. Brett Lee at [Brett.lee@scouting.org](mailto:Brett.lee@scouting.org). Please see the [El Rancho Cima Decommissioning Celebration](#) activity on the SHAC website to register to participate.

## CALENDAR

- 4/20 Council Coordinated
- 5/1 Silver Beaver nominations due
- 5/6 Scout Fair: Minute Maid Park



## UNIT STRONG

Strong units participate in Scout Fair. You can host a booth or work as a service unit. Have your scouts come to the Scout Fair to learn and enjoy. The boys enjoy working their own booth and visiting the booths of other units.

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email [squareknotnotes@yahoo.com](mailto:squareknotnotes@yahoo.com). We serve \*you\*! Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!