



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

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A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

A scout tells the truth and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.



STEM NOVA

The Boy Scouts of America's NOVA Awards program incorporates learning with cool activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. The hope is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and shows how science, technology, engineering and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them. Counselors and mentors help bring this engaging, contemporary, and fun program to life for youth members. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are considered by many to be the foundation of an advanced society. In many forums - including political, governmental, and academic - the strength of the STEM workforce is viewed as an indicator of a nation's ability to sustain itself. The BSA's STEM initiative gives Scouts an opportunity to explore relevant skills and experiences and to be recognized for their achievements. The aim is to expose youth to new opportunities and help them develop the STEM skills critical for the competitive world marketplace. Many of our community partners offer STEM merit badge classes and advancement workshops, and other opportunities such as the Science Engineering Fair of Houston. There are four Nova awards for Cub Scouts, Webelos, Boy Scouts and Venturers. Each award covers one component of STEM—science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. These awards are designed to encourage participation and to increase interest in STEM by making it relevant and fun. A Nova counselor can be any registered adult age 21 or older. Scouters with a STEM background may work with Scouts in their unit and are also encouraged to work outside of their own unit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/9 Key Leader's Conference
- 1/30 & 2/6 Scouting for Food
- 2/13 University of Scouting

THE GREAT RACE

Being a member of a racing or any team, provides an opportunity to demonstrate that one is trustworthy. Team members must trust each other to be prepared and perform tasks to the best of their ability. They trust that in the event of a loss, the team will demonstrate good sportsmanship toward each other and the other teams.

CAMP DEVELOPMENT

The Sam Houston Area Council has the vision to become a leader in camping by having first-class facilities that are well maintained and provide safe, fun and educational outdoor programs for our Scouts. In 2012, the council approved a new Camping Vision Statement: *"Exemplary, Sustainable Outdoor Experiences and Creative Learning for 21st Century Youth and Their Leaders."* To achieve this vision, the council has a properties master plan. Key principles of this plan that drive decisions: **exemplary** – first-class facilities, maintained to meet today's standards; **sustainable** – a long-term solution for ongoing operating and maintenance costs of facilities; **program impact** – delivering high-quality programs associated with quality facilities – driving towards achieving the goals of the Camping Vision Statement; **impact** – maximizing the use and access based on location to our camps by as many Scouts as possible; and **efficiency** – being a good steward of resources and eliminating redundancy. The current plan includes developing new camps such as the Tellepsen Scout Camp at Bovay Scout Ranch (near Navasota), the future Camp Strake (near Evergreen) and the future Janis and George Fleming Cub World at Bovay Scout Ranch. It also comprises making improvements to Camp Brosig (near Sealy) and McNair Cub Adventure Camp at Bovay Scout Ranch and discontinuing operations at camps that have low usage, are not meeting financial plans and/or are not sustainable. After months of diligent analysis by a special task force of the council's Board of Directors, it has been decided that eventually El Rancho Cima will close and the property will be sold. The desire is to continue to conduct Boy Scout summer resident camp there through the summer of 2018 and transition to the new Camp Strake in the summer of 2019. However, no firm plan and timeline has been established. For additional information about Camp Strake (design plans, construction schedule and periodic updates), please reference www.samhoustonbsa.org/camp-strake.

UNIT STRONG

To show a commitment to personal fitness and earn the SCOUTStrong Healthy Unit Award, follow three healthy practices at all meetings and gatherings: snack on fruits or vegetables, drink water, and include fun physical activity.