



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

November 2016

## FRIENDLY

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

## CUB SCOUT RETENTION TIPS

**#1 – Be Active.** Boys' brains tend to shut down if they have to sit for a long time. When you cover something instructional, turn it into a game or contest. Get them moving around. The more activities that you do with your pack or den, the more your boys will have fun and want to come back each week.

**#2 – Field Trips.** Boys love field trips, and parents usually like them also. Some pack field trips help with advancement, but others are just good Cub Scout fun.

**#3 – Outdoor Focus.** Spending time outdoors doing stuff like hiking and camping are what boys are looking forward to when they join Scouts. Boys who get to camp are the ones who are most excited about Cub Scouting.

**#4 – Stay in Touch.** Staying in touch is often enough to keep a boy from dropping out. Be sure your pack is welcoming to new families. Good communication can have a big impact on Cub Scout retention and keeping your pack running well.

**#5 – Summer.** Don't stop your Cub Scout program for summer. It is a lot easier to keep your scouts coming to your program in the fall if you haven't stopped for a 3-month break. Having an active summer can help with May recruiting as parents are looking for something for their kids to do during the summer.

**#6 – Schedule.** Making and distributing a schedule several months in advance can be a boost for your pack in several ways. Your schedule will show new recruits that your pack is well-run, organized, and lots of fun. Making a schedule will also help ensure that your pack does the Cub Scouting things your boys would like to do.

**#7 – Webelos Appeal.** Although the boys in your pack are all kids, they are not all young kids. They range from 6 to 11 years old. One of the great things about a Cub Scout program is seeing how much boys grow and develop. Be sure your pack activities are designed for the interests and needs of all your boys.

## CALENDAR

- 11/4-11/6 OA Pow Wow
- 11/5 Cub Leader Pow Wow
- 11/19 Popcorn distribution
- 12/3 College of Commissioner Science
- 12/15 Recharter deadline

## WORKING AS A TEAM

Working as a team is something all of us need to do to succeed in life. The scouting program offers many chances for the Scout to be a part of a team and understand his role on that team. There are also many opportunities to demonstrate the different teams a youth will belong to as he journeys through Scouting, and that he may be on more than one team at one time.

## ORDER OF THE ARROW FALL POW WOW

OA Fall Pow Wow is Colonneh Lodge's premier event. It is a combination of sports, games, expos, shows, ceremony competitions, Native American crafts, Pow Wows, and so much more. OA Fall Pow Wow is held at [Bovay Scout Ranch](#) on November 4 through 6, and is three days of non-stop fun, food, fellowship and celebration. 2017 lodge officer elections will be held and don't miss the annual Vigil call out following the Saturday evening show.

## AMAZON SMILE

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## UNIT STRONG

Strong units are involved with service to their community and chartered organizations, fundraising to support both the unit and the council, active programming that is fun for the youth, and advancement. When all of these are present, then membership comes naturally as boys want to join the unit and stay in the unit!