

## **Cardinal District Roundtable Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

Pack 737 Leaders Attending:

Steve Hutchinson, Pack Secretary/Trainer  
Daniel Graff, Tiger Den Coach

### **February Theme**

Discussed the February Theme which is "Uncle Sam Depends On You." Packs and Dens should focus on patriotic and civic themes. Some ideas included: Flag Etiquette; Inviting personnel in from the Military, Police, Fire, Rescue, etc.; Some dens have used "Rescue Heroes" as part of meetings; "What Does the Flag Mean to Me?";

Another activity that sounded cool is to visit the General Assembly since it will be in session in February. Contact your delegate to arrange a visit. At least one Henrico delegate is an Assistant Scoutmaster and said that scouts are always welcome.

New attendees were welcomed with the "SaaaaaaLUTE!" cheer, including our own Daniel Graff who was actually a returning leader from roundtables in past years.

The meeting used an opening ceremony called "A Symbol of Our Land." The opening involves five Cub Scouts who explain how the flag is important in different ways. The fifth scout finishes with "I am a Cub Scout. I am just learning about my nation and what freedom is all about. Teach me about our flag, show me how to respect and care for it. Help me to become a better American. Please join me in repeating the Pledge of Allegiance."

They then did a flag folding demonstration that was done with a large tarp. The tarp confused me at first but I think the purpose was that you could have more scouts involved in the folding. They talked about a flag folding ceremony available on the web that has phrases to be said after each fold is made. It can be found on the site: <http://usflag.org/fold.flag.html> . They also mentioned that the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has ceremonies available for many flag activities including one ceremony for the proper destruction of an old flag.

They also demonstrated a game called "Uncle Sam Tag." The only supplies you need are fabric strips in a variety of colors to use as flags (one strip per player). Players tuck the flags into their belts at the back or in their back pockets. One player is Uncle Sam. He stands in the middle. Other players chant, "Uncle Sam, Uncle Sam, may we cross over to your great land?" Uncle Sam answers, "Yes, if you are wearing [blue]." Players wearing that color flag get a free pass to the other side. Then, on the signal "go" from Uncle Sam, the rest of the players try to run to the other side, without getting their flags pulled by Uncle Sam. Flagless players become Uncle Sam's helpers. Begin again, but this time, Uncle Sam calls out another color. Keep going until all the players are caught but one. This player becomes the new Uncle Sam.

### **Charter Renewal**

John Stahl, the Cardinal District Commissioner, led a discussion about rechartering. There is a recharter training meeting this Thursday, January 9th at 7:30pm at Wellborne United Methodist Church on Maybeury and Patterson (near the Tuckahoe YMCA). Every unit MUST send one representative to the meeting, preferably the person who will be doing the rechartering.

The recharter process takes place at the Council Office on February 8th and each unit will have a 20 minute slot in which to complete their recharter. This time slot, as well as necessary forms

and information will be given out at the training meeting on Thursday. They did confirm that for the first time units will be able to submit a diskette from PackMaster or TroopMaster for their recharter information. You will still need to submit any forms that require signatures, especially those from the charter organization.

### **Blue & Gold Banquet**

The official theme is the same as the monthly theme: Uncle Sam Depends On You." Recommendations included trying to get vehicles from fire & police departments, rescue squads, or the military

They discussed the importance of big elaborate advancement ceremonies to make the kids feel special. Several packs indicated that they actually do face paintings on the scouts using the colors of the rank they are being awarded.

Make sure you include your adult volunteers with fun awards like a flashlight on a string for "lighting the way" or a tent stake for "your stake in the future."

### **Youth Protection Training**

Youth Protection Training will be provided at the next roundtable meeting on February 4th. Every unit should have a person trained in Youth Protection and training needs to be recompleted every two years. Starting in 2003, it will be a requirement for units camping to have a leader with Youth Protection training with them (and, of course, a BALOO-trained leader).

### **Uniform Inspections**

In order to achieve a "Quality Unit Award" each pack needs to conduct a formal uniform inspection at least once during the year which was interesting to find out since I don't believe we've done one. At least not in the past four years. Anyway, they asked why uniform inspections were important and one leader properly responded "to stimulate Scout Shop sales." Actually it's to promote dignity, self-respect, achievement, and group membership.

Some packs shared how they promote the uniform inspection. The best I heard was to first train the pack leaders at a Committee Meeting and let the den leaders inspect their scouts during the den meetings leading up to the pack meeting inspection. The official Uniform Inspection form is available on the Pack 737 website at <http://pack737.com> and click on the 'Documents' button. This sheet shows the proper location for all patches and pins (do you really know where that Summertime Activity Award is supposed to go?). There's actually a point system that goes with the inspection and some packs give an award to the den with the best average score or best attendance. Some packs do this at every pack meeting with perfect attendance awards handed out at the graduation ceremony at the end of the year.

Another idea to help those of us who are "sewing challenged" was to setup a "Uniform Night" where volunteers bring in their sewing machines and scouts can bring in a dollar and get their patches sewn on.

**Upcoming dates**

JAN 18 - FOS kick-off breakfast at 8:30am at Elks Lodge on Nuckols Road

FEB 4 - February Roundtable

FEB 8 - Recharter Day

MAR 1 - Robert E. Lee Council Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow. Location TBA

MAR 3 - Council Recognition Dinner. Downtown Marriot