



## **ADIRONDACK ECHOES...**

Greetings fellow Scouters! Welcome back to the 2014-2015 scouting program.

My name is John Devlin...and for those of you who don't know me...I am your District Chair. I am entering my 7<sup>th</sup> year in this position. I am also the Troop Committee Chair for Troop 4 in New Hartford and I sit on the Board of Directors for the Council...whew!

This letter is going to a recurring monthly outreach from me...to you! Why? To help keep you informed of upcoming events and to lead to better and more frequent communication...but each of you must help...more on that later. If you want to reach me directly, my e-mail address is [jfdevlin@roadrunner.com](mailto:jfdevlin@roadrunner.com). I promise to respond in one way, shape or form within 24 hours.

So keep in touch and let's keep building this great program...

We had our district kickoff meeting at the Frankfort Marina on August 25<sup>th</sup>. We had a delicious meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, homemade potato salad, chips and soda. We discussed the calendar and some of the events and topics that are covered below. We were also joined by our new scout executive Steve McEwan! We welcome him aboard and wish him well in his new job!

Sooooo...we have some really great events coming up this month and we hope both you and your units will be attending.

### *1. The Fall Camporee...at...the Mighty Run!*

The Camporee is early this year. It is September 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held on the grounds of the Masonic Home. The home is located on Bleecker Street in the City of Utica. We urge you to sign up as soon as possible. Early sign up is very helpful to us in that it allows the District or the Council to effectively plan activities, site arrangement, equipment and so many more things. If your unit is planning to go, please sign up today!

### *2. Beaver Weekends:*

Help us close up and clean up after a great summer. If you have not gone, I urge you to attend at least one. It is a lot of fun and I have never walked away from the weekend without learning a skill or how to do something that has come in downright useful at home at a later point. You need not come for the whole weekend. Join us for a day or for a weekend of good turns at the places and times below:

Cedarlands Scout Reservation – September 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>.

Camp Kingsley – September 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
Camp Russell – October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

3. *World Brotherhood Camporee* – September 26 to 28<sup>th</sup>, Wellsley Island State Park, Wellesley Island, NY. Sign up time has passed but we hope you will be attending this nice event.
4. *Adirondack Foothills Roundtable* – If there is something that we need to be doing or that needs to be discussed, please attend. Your units should be sending at least one representative to this once a month meeting. I hear sometimes that the “district should be doing this or the council that...” Communication is not a one way street...it is two ways. You are the leaders on the front line and closest to the people we serve...our youth. We need you and we need your voice. Please send at least one representative to the meeting. All meetings are held at the very centrally located Reese Road Elementary School in Frankfort, NY. Roundtables are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month unless there is a holiday conflict.
5. *Cub Scout Emergency Preparedness* – this will be on September 27, 2014. See the most recent Scout Wire or contact Diane Drake at (315) 735-4437 for more information.

### **Council Calendar:**

If you are not already doing so, please get online and use the Council Calendar. Although it is not always perfect, the professional staff and our volunteers update it constantly.

You can find the Council Calendar here: <http://www.rtcbsa.org/> and click on the **COUNCIL CALENDAR** tab located about 1/3 way down the page.

You can also find the link to the latest “Scout Wire” right underneath it. If you are not getting this valuable online publication, please call the scout office, give us your e-mail address and we will sign you up right away!

### **District Committee Meetings:**

We meet the first Monday of the month unless it is a holiday. The meeting then shifts to the next Monday (and the Roundtable also gets pushed back) All meetings are held at the same centrally located Reese Road Elementary School...

All are welcome to attend as ad hoc members and bring to the committee’s attention any items that need action, suggestions for events, opportunities for fundraising or just to listen.

The District Committee meets at 6 PM followed by the commissioners meeting at 7 PM.

### **Newspapers and the local media:**

*“Extra, extra...read all about it...”*

If your troop, pack, unit or crew does an event, outing or some activity that is nice, fun, helpful to the community or if you are holding a fundraiser (or any other activity)...it may be newsworthy and we'd like you to tell us about it so we can share it with our neighbors via the media!!

We ask that you submit it to us so we can get it to our District publicist Jim Gemza...please e-mail all submissions to the following address: [jgemza@roadrunner.com](mailto:jgemza@roadrunner.com)

Please include a couple of digital pictures and a “who, what, where, why, when and how” description of the event or a short summary and we will try to get you and your youth the recognition you deserve.

So...**Promote, Promote, Promote** ...all the great things that our young men and women do for our community...and all that you as adult leaders do for both our youth and the community...

### **Volunteers:**

We need help, plain and simple. Many of us are doing two or three jobs for the program and I fear that I may lose some of you and your very valuable assistance because of burnout...I don't want this to happen.

You must know somebody we can ask for assistance...you don't even need to do the direct asking...I just need a name and an introduction from you...

My initial plan is to gain volunteers for events...they need not commit year round...but chair an event...run a station at the Klondike Derby...teach a skill at an upcoming camporee...then...they are done! Unless they find out how important it is to pass on the ideals and skills taught in Scouting to our young men...and how much fun it can be!

Know someone like this?

I ask that each of you provide me with the name and contact information for someone that you know who can help out once in a while...please send it to my e-mail address above and I will contact you so that we can work together to enlist this person...

So in closing out this first letter, thank you again for all that each and every one of you do for our youth!

Yours in Scouting,

*John*

John F. Devlin, *Eagle '82*  
District Chairman  
Adirondack Foothills District