



# PACK 115 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

September 20th 2010

## Pack 115

## SNAKES Alive!!

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During August and September, both Webelos Dens began working on the Naturalist activity pin.

This pin describes, among other things, how to identify poisonous snakes. This couldn't have come at a better time, since the snakes are on the move this time of year.

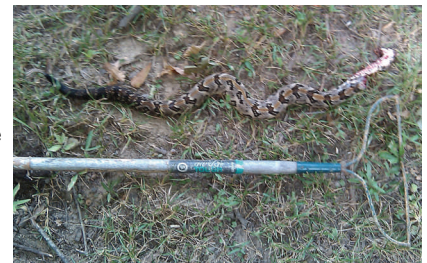
All scouts and parents should be on the watch for potential dangerous snakes. This time of year is when scouts are out in nature the most and the last thing we want is for someone to get snake-bit. We also need to realize that

these creatures are just animals doing what they do. Unless they pose a real threat to us, we should

leave them alone. Don't approach them, don't harass them, and don't kill them. Above all else, DON'T PICK THEM UP!!

Mr. Justin found a Timber Rattlesnake beside his house and Ms. Susan found a king snake inside the house. This proves that they can be anywhere and everywhere so keep your eyes open!!

If you see a snake, take a slow, large step back and walk away from it. Don't make any sudden movements. If walking in the woods, stomp the ground as you walk and the vibrations will most likely scare them away.



Timber Rattlesnake found at Mr. Justin's House. Would be hard to spot in a bunch of dead leaves.

### Special points of interest:

- \* Sept. 23—Pack Meeting
- \* Oct. 2—Akela/Cub Campout
- \* Oct. 23—BALOO Training
- \* Oct 29—Oct. Pack meeting & Halloween Party
- \* Oct 31—Halloween
- \* Dec. 3—Christmas Party
- \* Dec 4—Christmas Parade
- \* Dec 18—Polar Bear Campout

## Wolves practice First Aid

Ms. Susan's wolf den had grown by leaps and bounds. Where she only had 2 active scouts last year, she now has around 9 scouts!! They have been very busy lately. They made wooden calendars out of kits provided by the Home Depot, worked on the Bobcat badge, and most recently

learned First Aid.

The boys learned how to treat a cut on their fingers, which is part of achievement 3 in the wolf handbook. Mrs. Moore, Jeff Moore's mom, is studying to become a nurse practitioner and talked to the boys about keeping injuries clean to prevent infection,

and how to stop the spread of colds.

Of course, boys being boys, they decided they needed to treat not only cuts on their fingers, but also snake and vampire bites and several other nonstandard injuries that are bound to happen to boys while scouting!!

## Akela/Cub Campout

The Akela/Cub Campout is the first council sponsored campout of the year. It will be held the weekend of October 2nd at Camp Warren A. Hood near Hazlehurst. This is usually the biggest of the 3 council sponsored campouts because there are many new scouting families and the council wants to make a good first impression. If you can only make one campout, this is the one to make!! There will be many, many, many activities during the day and you can bet that your boys will be ready for bed at the end of it.

There will be two groups traveling down to the campsite. One group will leave at 4:30 P.M. October 1st from South Park and the second group will leave South Park at 8:00 A.M. October 2nd. The choice is yours to camp either 1 or 2 nights. The pack will be collecting \$10/family for food. This will provide hot dog lunches and hobo pack suppers Saturday night and cinnamon roll breakfast Sunday morning. More information will be provided at the upcoming pack meeting.

Also, keep in mind how we camp. Please DO NOT bring any of the fol-

lowing items: Generator, Guns, Video Games, Alcohol, etc...

We have been asked by the Andrew Jackson Council to only build fires in the provided fire rings. There are two in campsite 8, where we camp. One is located behind the outhouse and the other is in the center of the campsite. This is to cut back on the potential of forest fires and to keep in the tradition of the Leave No Trace Front Country Guidelines which as scouts and scouters we should all be following.

## It's Popcorn Time again, Time to shave a head????

As an incentive for the boys to sell more, Mr. Justin has decided that the one boy who sells the most popcorn will get to shave Mr. Justin's head!! So sell, sell, sell, and get a chance to make him BALD!!

Our popcorn kernel this year is Susan White. She is the go to person for all your popcorn questions, concerns and

needs. But remember, she is also a den leader so go easy on her, plus she is my wife and if she gets upset, I'll pay for it!!

With this being our only fund raiser, we need to make sure to work extra hard on this. I will be handing out popcorn forms at the first weeks den meetings. Hit all your relatives,

neighbors, friends, etc... Parents can take a sheet to work for co-workers to look over. Above all else though, the other reason for doing this fund raiser is to teach the boys to become salesman. Let them make the sale's pitch. Have them take responsibility for earning money for their pack.

And...Have fun with it!!!

## New Youth Protection Requirements

Youth safety is the No. 1 concern of the BSA.

To increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting, the Boy Scouts of America is implementing several important changes to further enhance its Youth Protection policies.

### Effective June 1, 2010:

- **Youth Protection training is required for all registered volunteers.**
- **New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before they submit an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins.**
- **Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.**

### To ensure these policies are fully implemented, please take the following steps:

- If you have not taken Youth Protection training within the past two years, please log on to [MyScouting.org](http://MyScouting.org) and take the training. Be sure to have your member ID number. The number can be found on your Boy Scouts of America membership card.
- If you do not know your member ID number, contact your unit leader or committee chairman. Your council can also assist.
- A person does not have to be a registered volunteer or have an ID number to take Youth Protection training. To take the training, log in to [MyScouting.org](http://MyScouting.org) and create an account. From the MyScouting portal, click on ELearning and take the Youth Protection training. Upon completion, print a certificate and submit it with an application or submit to the unit leader for processing at the local council.

-- If you have taken Youth Protection training online but did not input your member ID number, please log on to [MyScouting.org](http://MyScouting.org) and input your member ID in the My Profile section so the training will be linked to your records.

-- If you have taken Youth Protection training within the past two years but did not take the course online, log on to [MyScouting.org](http://MyScouting.org) to ensure your records are up-to-date, or contact your council for verification that your Youth Protection training records are accurate.

-- Finally, please share these important changes with other Scouters.

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the *Parent's Guide* in any of the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting handbooks, or go to <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>.

## New fees for Pack 115 Scouts

In April 2010, the Pack Committee voted to institute a Pack Fee of \$100/year/scout. This was announced at the May Pack Meeting.

Starting in August 2010, Pack 115 will start collecting \$100/scout/year. This is being done to offset the rising costs of running the pack and to relieve the stress of countless fundraisers. Rather than doing year round fundraisers, we will only do one per year, popcorn sales.

This fee can be paid in monthly installments between August and May at \$11/month. The extra \$1 per month will be used to pay for items purchased for your son before all monthly payments have been made.

If you add up all that the pack provides, patches, awards, activities, etc..., the total cost per boy comes to well over \$100 per year. Fundraiser profits have started to decline drastically due to the amount of fundraisers

done each year, not only by the scouts, but also by PTO, schools, day cares, etc...

The \$100 fee will cover the following items:

- All required patches (den numbers, world crest, council strip, etc...)
- All awards and participation patches (\*excludes religious award metals though Patches will be provided)
- Beltloops and pins
- Webelos colors and Activity pins
- Neckerchief and slide (new ones at end of each year)
- Handbook (new ones at end of each year, including Boy Scout book when scouts bridge up)
- Class B T-Shirt (one per year)
- 3-Council sponsored Pack Camp-outs

Summer activities and special pack meetings such as Blue & Gold, Hallow-

een, and Christmas parties will be covered by the Popcorn Fundraiser.

The \$100 fee WILL NOT cover the following items:

- Yearly \$16 registration fee
- Class A shirts
- Belt
- Hat (optional)
- Den activities (crafts, den parties, special projects)
- Special pack outings (i.e. USS Kidd trip, Day Camp, Resident Camp)

We understand that this will make it difficult for some families, especially those with multiple scouts in a family. If you have a genuine hardship with this, then talk to the Cubmaster to try and work out a reasonable arrangement.

Thank you for understanding the need for this. We look forward to another great year of scouting!!

## Webelos 1 Den visits Museum of Natural Science

The webelos 1 den got a chance to visit the museum of natural science as part of their Naturalist activity pin. The boys got a chance to check out the Megalodon exhibit, WOW that's a big shark!!

They also saw many cool fossils of prehistoric animals. John David found a fossil Placoderm, a giant fish that lived millions of years ago, that he said he would have thrown back because it was too small.

The boys were greeted by a very special guest soon after entering the museum, a baby alligator. They were allowed to pet him and learned some interesting facts. They saw his big brothers in the alligator exhibit along

with a HUGE snapping turtle.

Many of the boys wanted to go fishing



Josh points out a Megalodon tooth.

in the aquarium but weren't allowed. They also did bird watching and

counted the rings on a tree that was over 600 years old!!

After hitting the nature trail and almost losing Ms. Jessica in the aMAZEing Ocean maze, it was time to end the day with a trip to the gift shop!!



The boys pose in front of the big tank.

## Pack 115

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DO YOUR BEST

Do you know of a scout parent who isn't receiving this newsletter? Just have them send their name and email address to [justinwhite115@gmail.com](mailto:justinwhite115@gmail.com) and request to be added to the email list.

Also, do you know of a boy who wants to join? Have their parents contact your Cubmaster. The contact information is to the left.

## Badge & Patch Placement

Ever wonder where that Tiger Badge goes? How far down on the sleeve does the Quality Unit award go? These are legitimate questions and you are not alone in asking them.

There are exact placements for each and every patch, but BSA only enforces that they should be done neatly, not perfectly.

To help with these questions, there is a link on the pack's website at:

[www.pack115vicksburg.org/placement.htm](http://www.pack115vicksburg.org/placement.htm)

This link will show you exact positions for many of the most common patches and awards. There is also a link on the same page to the Official BSA Insignia Guide Online.

The screenshot shows the Pack 115 homepage with a navigation menu and a section titled "As a den leader, the first thing people ask is, 'Where does this patch go?'" Below this, there are four diagrams illustrating the placement of various patches on a uniform shirt:

- World Crest:** A purple crest with a fleur-de-lis and the letters "JW" is shown on the left chest.
- Council Strip and Pack Numbers:** A strip with the council number "115" is shown on the left sleeve.
- Left Sleeve:** A patch with the American flag is shown on the left sleeve, with a 4-inch measurement from the shoulder seam.
- Right Pocket:** A patch with the text "BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA" is shown on the right pocket.