

EXPLORER NEWS

SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL— Exploring Newsletter

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A CENTURY OF SERVICE

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the Sam Houston Area Council! Please join us in celebrating the past century of service to Houston and its surrounding communities!

Scouting For Food

Each year our Council organizes a post-holiday food drive to help restock the shelves of nearly 100 Houston area food banks and pantries. This year we'd like to give our Explorers the opportunity to add their individual food drives and collections to our total, and recognize them for their ongoing public service to our community. You can help us reach our 2014 Goal of 325,000 pounds of food by reporting the following by Friday, January, 31st.



SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA[®]

- ◆ Lbs. of food recently collected/donated?
- ◆ Total service hours collecting/delivering?
- ◆ Names of Explorers & leaders that participated.

Thank you so much for your hard work, dedication, and for making this a great success!

Weekends at Cima

Looking for that special activity to wrap up the school year? Our premier camping facility, El Rancho Cima, offers a Weekend Camping Experience that may be just what you're looking for! Whether you like shooting sports, water sports, horseback riding, zip-lines, rappelling, hiking, or just enjoying the great outdoors, Cima has the staff & facilities for an unforgettable adventure!

Discover more at

www.samhoustonbsa.org

Scout Fair Coupon Pack Sales

On Saturday, April 12th, 2014, Explorers and Scouts from sixteen counties will unite at the Reliant Arena from 10am to 3pm to showcase their skills. This is a great chance to see what our other groups have been up to, as well as share the things that make your Post unique!



To promote this great event, we encourage all of our Explorer Posts to participate in our Scout Fair Coupon Pack Fundraiser. These \$10 packs offer over \$600 in savings, sustain the Scout Fair Event and Council operations, AND provide an excellent fundraising opportunity for Explorers to 'earn their own way'. All units receive a 30% Base Commission, with bonuses for early turn in—plus, maximize your Post's commission by serving as a Service Unit or Booth Participant and earn an additional 10% on total Post sales!

Contact your Council for more information on Coupon Packs or [Scout Fair Registration](#).

A Commitment to Serve

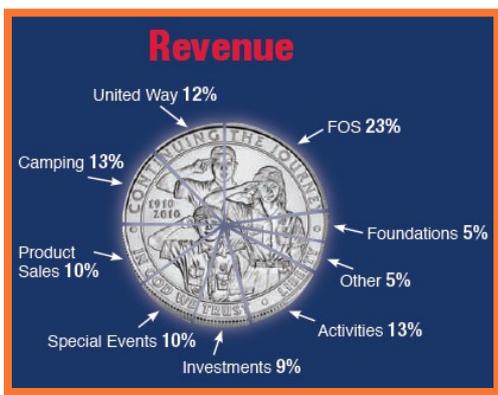


As part of our continued commitment to our Posts, we are in the process of recruiting a Service Team to be a personal resource to you throughout the year. These volunteer men and women will serve as mentors to your advisors and leaders, dropping in from time to time to see and hear about what your Post is up to, and even help solve any difficulties you might be facing.

If you know of any professional, present or retired, with a little extra time on their hands who might like to learn more about the Exploring program, please refer them to your Council Executive.

Friends of Scouting

Exploring makes a direct and positive impact on our community by teaching career skills, values and leadership training to youth. This program is only made possible by the generosity of the businesses and individuals who believe in the Exploring experience. As part of our strategic plan to grow the Exploring program and its support structure, it is our goal to provide all Explorer parents or guardians the opportunity to support our program with a monetary gift. The best time to do this is generally at an awards ceremony or end of year family dinner, where we can arrange for a community member to briefly share the Exploring story, offer their testimonial, and ask the families to pledge their support, all in about 15 minutes. As you plan your next big event or end of year dinner, please show your support by adding this essential component into your program. Contact your LFL Representative to schedule your FOS presentation today!



Student Interest Surveys

We did it! Our Career Interest

Survey is now available online!

This tool ensures that we continue to connect the right youth with

the right programs as we roll our

survey out to the major school

districts. You can check it out at

www.exploringyourcareer.com

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

This March we'll introduce you to our national best practices guideline, Journey to Excellence, to help strengthen and coordinate the Exploring experience on a national level. JTE focuses on ten separate measures, all aimed at ensuring the very best for our Explorers by assessing essential components such as Open Houses, Program, Leadership, Super Activities and Community Service.

Texas Ranger Academy

We recently asked ourselves, what one profession combines the skills and training of the widest range of Exploring programs? Our answer: a Texas Ranger. We'd love to hear your input on creating a first-class Exploring opportunity at one of our Council camp facilities, such as a Texas Ranger or Explorer Academy. This 3 to 6 day camping experience could include Medical, Law Enforcement, Military, and Fire Fighting Training, in addition to Survival tactics, rope skills, as well as recreational activities such as shooting sports, water sports, rock climbing and ropes courses. Let us know if your Post would consider attending such a program, or what your suggestions might be. Please send your thoughts, ideas and interests to daniel.gildersleeve@scouting.org



2014 Learning for Life National Conference

21st Century Essentials: Impact Student Success

March 5-7 • Key Bridge Marriott • Washington DC

Don't forget, early bird registration ends February 7th for the upcoming national Learning for Life Conference. Designed for Post leaders, as well as educators, youth organization professionals, and business leaders, this is a great opportunity to learn from and share your ideas with some of the nation's best! Keynote speakers include the US Dept. of Education, the US Secret Services and the US Chamber of Commerce. For more details visit: <http://www.learningforlife.org/2014-conference/>