

Fort Vancouver eNotes #3-12 (Oct 8, 2012)

Hellooooooooooooo Ft Vancouver!

All Leaders

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Roundtable- All leaders are invited! This Thursday, Oct 11th, 7pm, at Kingsway Christian School (3300 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA). What to do at Roundtable?

- Merit badge counselor training offered by the excellent Bob Ellingwood
- Charter renewal packets and orientation (please have someone there who will be working on your charter!)
- Cub Leader breakout with the savvy Sara Metcalf
- Boy Scout leader breakout with the dynamite Dennis Roberts
- Varsity/Venture leader breakout to discuss Winter Warrior ideas
- OA Chapter meeting
- Lots of great info about district and council events, and fun fellowship with scout leaders
- Need something from the scout office or scout shop? Super-FedEx-Girl to the rescue! DE Kate can grab the stuff for you and bring it to roundtable- just be sure to let her know what you need via phone or email before 1pm on Thursday.

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Program and Training Conference- there is something for all levels of scout leaders at this annual council event. Classes range from den discipline to Backpacking for women, from crafts to trail to eagle, and lots of stuff in between. You can register today at www.cpcbsa.org/register. We're looking forward to seeing you there! (and- BONUS!- it's not on top of the Veteran's Day Parade this year☺)

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Training- offered by the Columbia Gorge district- did you miss the classroom training offered by our district last month? Have no fear- another opportunity is being offered by our neighbors in east Vancouver, Columbia Gorge district. They'll be offering training on Saturday, October 20th, at the LDS Church at 13600 SE McGillivray Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98683. The doors open at 7:30 am, classes start at 8 am sharp and run to mid-afternoon or so. For more information contact Robert Stuart at rstuartsd@gmail.com.

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Scout Day with the Vancouver Fire Department- Saturday, October 20th, 9am-noon (show up before 8:45 am to check in). The Van FD is opening up one of their stations to scouts for some great programming that morning. Cub Scouts can look forward to a bicycle rodeo, a trip through the EDITH trailer, and some other neat activities with some firemen and fire cadets. Boy Scouts can do partials of three merit badges- emergency prep, fire safety, and first aid. Registration is limited to 150 scouts. To register your scout (or den or troop) email DE Kate with the number of scouts that will be in attendance (kbenson@cpcbsa.org). Boy Scouts will need to have blue cards opened for their merit badges, and cub scouts will need to bring their bicycle and helmet. *We're over halfway full, so be sure to sign up your group soon!*

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Youth protection training- 2 years ago, national mandated that every registered leader take youth protection training. This training is valid for two years, so (no surprise) the training is expiring for a significant chunk of our leaders. Please take a moment to ensure that your youth protection is up to date, and have a certificate ready to go for the lucky soul in your unit who will be doing charter renewal. You can take the training online at www.myscouting.org. If you have a number of adults in your pack/troop/crew/ward who need the training, I can also arrange a live face to face training opportunity at your meeting place- which has the added bonus of allowing for more questions.

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Charter packets going out in October- speaking of charter renewal, packets will go out at the October roundtable (Oct 11th). There will be a turn in for completed charters at roundtable on November 8th and one on November 13th. On October 11th, there will be an orientation/training/"trust-me-this-will-make-your-life-easier-and-keep-this-from-dragging-into-December-meeting" for the folks responsible for charter renewal in each group- please encourage/beg/bribe them to attend.

Cub Leaders

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Follow up roundup- Have you turned in all of the new cub scout apps and reg fees from your join night? Now is the time to get them in! Do you have a full Tiger den- and full dens throughout your program? If not, Membership chair Maxine Davison and DE Kate Benson are ready to provide support for a follow up join night. Fliers, stickers, packets, even some help with the event itself- we'll work with you to make it happen!

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Pinewood derby incentive deadline- OCTOBER 15th!- How close is your pack to the pinewood derby incentive growth goal? Several packs are within reach- but the deadline is coming up quickly. If you're not sure where your pack falls, check in with DE Kate to find out. Make sure that all unregistered youth are registered soon. Apps (with reg fees) that are in the office- or in DE Kate's hands- by October 15th count towards your goal.

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Roundtable survey- all cub leaders are invited to take a short survey in regards to the Cub Leader breakout at Roundtable. The com'r, Sara Metcalf, wants to know what is working for you, and why you do (or don't) attend. She wants to make sure that Roundtable night is a good use of your time, and supports your efforts in leading our cubs. Please take a moment to take the survey! You can find it at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CH6CTHC>.

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Webelos Woods- October 26th-28th- Registration is LIVE at www.cpcbsa.org/register. You can find more info, the leaders guide, and registration there for the Ft Vancouver Webelos Woods. We're looking forward to seeing all the 4th and 5th grade cub scouts out there along with their leaders (parents are encouraged to come out too!).

Boy Scout/ Varsity/ Venture Leaders

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Special Venturing training opportunity- Did your new Venturing Crew Advisor and Associate Advisor

miss new leader training in September? Please encourage them to join us at the the Fort Vancouver Venturing training day. The date is Saturday, October 27th, and the location is the Ridgefield LDS Church at 21720 Northeast 29th Avenue, Ridgefield, WA 98642. Your youth crew leaders are encouraged to participate too. For more information contact Ron Murphy at captainron_14@yahoo.com.

Kate's Learning Curve- Cyber-bullying

Last week, I had the unfortunate experience of being “flamed” by some anonymous facebook user after I commented on a posting by my cousin. Both my cousin and I made reference to our faith, and this individual thought it would be appropriate to rant about our foolishness, naiveté, and closed-minded redneck tendencies. I was surprised by how much the comments from an anonymous user could impact me (they replayed in my mind for several days). The good news is that both my cousin and I are able to hit “report” and “delete” and move on, but it brought to mind how deeply this new avenue of bullying can impact our current tweens and teens- many of whom don't yet have a deep emotional resilience and frame of reference for how far out of line this is. There is no immediate feedback when a bully attacks someone online, so they have no visual clues to the impact their words have. Some of them wouldn't care anyways, and the speed that false and hurtful comments can make the rounds put truth to the words that “bad news can circle the world before good news can get its pants on”.

In an effort to combat this, national BSA has come up with a program called “Cyber Chip”. Just like the Totin' Chip is designed to give scouts a framework for safe handling of sharp knives, the Cyber Chip is designed to help scouts learn about safety online- including cyberbullying, cell phone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identity theft. There are different programs for different ages, including two for cub age, one for scout age and one for venture age scouts.

You can find more info at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip.aspx>. I encourage all of our leaders to check out this new program. Even if you're not able to incorporate it into your den, pack, patrol, troop, team or crew meetings, be sure to share it with the parents of your scouts.

Warmest regards to all,

Kate Benson