



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

March 2021

FIRST AID TRAINING

The council offers a variety of first aid training courses throughout the year including [First Aid/CPR/AED](#), [First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor Course](#), and [Wilderness First Aid](#). Click [here](#) to learn more and to register for the trainings.

SHOOTING SPORTS TRAINING

The BSA, in consultation with other organizations, has created specific guidelines for shooting sports. The shooting sports committee is providing rifle training and instructor certification to prepare those individuals who will serve in a leadership or supervisory role in the various shooting sports activities.

NEW SCOUT EXECUTIVE/CEO SELECTED

The Sam Houston Area Council is excited to announce the selection of Marvin D. Smith as our new Scout Executive/CEO. Marvin was selected after an extensive, nationwide search, completed by a Selection Committee of Sam Houston Area Council Board Members. Marvin will replace Tom Varnell who will be retiring on March 31st after a 36-year career with the Boy Scouts of America. Marvin is a warm, committed Scouter with a proven track record of success, who will be an excellent leader for the council as we navigate our many challenges in 2021. Marvin currently serves as area director for the Central Region, where he supports eight council Scout executives across Illinois and Wisconsin. Marvin began his Scouting career as a district executive in Denver in 1998. He moved to Memphis to serve as field director in 2003, and later moved to Cleveland, OH, where he served as director of field services and chief operating officer from 2008 to 2014. Marvin was promoted to Scout executive and CEO of the Tukabatchee Area Council in Montgomery, AL in 2014, and through the next four years, Marvin increased camping revenues, raised capital funds to renovate assets, and launched new fundraising events. In 2018, Marvin was promoted to his present position of area director of Area 7. In his current capacity, he has supported the delivery of Scouting's mission to more than 80,000 youth members through councils with a combined budget of over \$30 million. Like the Sam Houston Area Council, these councils span a wide range of demographics and highly diverse communities. Marvin's role as area director lent him a unique vantage point to witness different council initiatives and practices to address membership and fundraising challenges. His experience will benefit our own council for years to come. Marvin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Marvin and his wife, Danielle, have three children- their adult son, Kendrick; Javari, a college student; and Zoie, a high school student.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

This year's University of Scouting will be held at Camp Strake on April 10. Due to COVID restrictions, the formatting will be different this year. All participants and instructors will stay in one track and location during the day. Participants may come late and/or leave early but cannot change tracks during the day. In addition to all of the courses for Cub Scout Leaders, Scouts BSA Leaders, Venture Advisors, and district leaders we will be providing two tracks of six commissioner related classes at this year's University of Scouting. The first track is a great way for potential and new commissioners to take basic commissioner courses and includes three hours of Unit Commissioner Basic Training, as well as three Bachelor of Commissioner Science classes. The second track offers more advanced commissioner courses and includes five Master of Commissioner Science classes and one continuing education class. These classes will be a great opportunity to work on requirements for the various College of Commissioner Science degrees. Even if you have taken all the courses being offered, this is a great chance to support commissioner service, see the new camp, enjoy a day out in the sunshine (even if liquid), network with other commissioners and have fun! This is going to be a fun training day at camp, and we really want to get as many scouters as possible to attend. Please attend and join in the fellowship and fun with us! The Commissioner Team is planning to have participation contests, silly prizes, and other Scouting fun during the day. More details of the contests and fun will be coming soon! So register & join the fun at Camp Strake on April 10!

CALENDAR

- 3/12-3/13 NRA Basic Rifle Training
- 3/13 First Aid/CPR/AED Training
- 3/19-3/20 NRA Basic Shotgun Training
- 4/5 - 4/8 University of Scouting Virtual
- 4/9-4/10 NRA Basic Pistol Training
- 4/10 University of Scouting In Person

CONNECT, SERVE, INSPIRE!

Our mission statement for 2021 is something for every Scout leader to take to heart. Let's strengthen connections with our units, our Scouts & their parents, our chartered partners, and other Scouters. Let's look for ways to serve others, so that we are building a stronger Scouting organization each and every day. And let's serve in such a way that we inspire others to join Scouting, become leaders, and step up to positions at the unit, district, or council level. Make "Connect, Serve, Inspire!" part of your personal mission for 2021!

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email squareknotnotes@yahoo.com. We serve *you*!
Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!