



# SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

January 2021

Special thanks to all those stepping down from a commissioning position, especially our Council Commissioner, Forrest Bjerkaas. Welcome to all those joining the commissioner corps in 2021, including our new Council Commissioner, Debbie Rollinson.

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Scouting for Food is a council-wide service project to care for people in our local communities who are hungry and in need. In partnership with Souper Bowl of Caring, the project begins Saturday, January 30, 2021, as Scouts publicize the upcoming food drive using door hangers and social media. The following Saturday, February 6, 2021, Scouts pick up and deliver donations to their local food banks and pantries. A Scout promises to help other people at all times. There is no better way to show our Scouting spirit than by participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive! Now is the time to show our community the Scouting values of being loyal, helpful, kind and cheerful. Scouts will help make a difference to fight hunger. Scouting for Food is the leading service program for Boy Scouts of America and is a part of the national BSA program - Good Turn for America.

## KEY LEADER'S CONFERENCE & COUNCIL RECOGNITION

January 9, 2021 | 10:00 am (in-person and virtual)  
2020 Camp Strake Rd., Coldspring, TX 77331  
(for driving GPS use Latitude and Longitude: 30.608901, -95.230270)

Key Leader's Conference is an annual meeting and orientation for all district committee members and commissioners. The day will begin with council recognition to honor the recipients of the **Silver Beaver Award**. The first half of the training portion is dedicated to district committee training covering the basics of district operations and the role the district plays in supporting units and delivering the Scouting program. Conference participants will then have an opportunity to meet and interact with other district leaders during the committee breakout sessions.

## 2021 SCOUT FAIR CANCELED

Due to the ongoing spread of Covid-19, there is significant uncertainty concerning the ability to conduct mass gatherings in Harris County in the Spring of 2021. This uncertainty, coupled with the impending need to commit financially to secure the Scout Fair facility, as well as the updated schedule of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, has driven urgency in making a decision regarding whether the Sam Houston Area Council will be able to conduct Scout Fair in 2021. With the safety concerns of our Scouts and families at the forefront, the leadership of the Sam Houston Area Council has made the difficult decision to cancel Scout Fair for 2021, in consultation with our Enterprise Risk Management team and local health officials. More information about future Scout Fairs will be made available over the next several months as they are determined. The council is dedicated to helping units and Scouts earn money. It is important for Scouts to learn the values of fundraising, earning their own way, and the necessity of fundraising. Learn more about the 2021 [unit fundraiser](#) that can be completed totally online.

## ONGOING COMMITMENT TO YOUTH SAFETY

The safety of children in our programs is the most important priority of the Boy Scouts of America. [The BSA's safeguards highlighted below](#) are key parts of our multilayered approach to help keep kids safe. These measures were informed by respected experts in the fields of child safety, law enforcement, and child psychology, and are among the strongest safeguards found in any youth-serving organization.



## CALENDAR

- 1/9 Key Leader's Conference
- 1/14, 17, & 20 Spring Coupon Sale Kickoff
- 1/30 Scouting for Food: Hanger Distribution
- 2/6 Scouting for Food: Food Collection
- 3/20 University of Scouting

## UNIT STRONG

Strong units have completed the recharter process and have communicated with their members to make sure that the program is being delivered whether in person or virtually. Inactive members should be contacted and encouraged to re-engage. Their feedback may be instrumental in improving the quality of the program being delivered.

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