

SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

Hello Catholic Scout leaders and parents,

Please take a few moments to read through this monthly "eblast" to discover pertinent information about upcoming events, activities and programs.

**Catholic Scout Religious Emblems**-Religious emblems classes are forming for our youth. If you are a Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Venturing leader, please present information on the Catholic emblems available to your youth and encourage them to earn the appropriate emblem for their age. If you are a Girl Scout or American Heritage Girl leader please reach out to the girls and plan on working with them to earn the appropriate Catholic emblem. Girl Scouts can also earn the GSUSA My Promise, My Faith pin annually. Information about this pin can be found at the following link: [http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/faith/Faith\\_Handout\\_EnglishDescription.pdf](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/faith/Faith_Handout_EnglishDescription.pdf).

Please visit our website at [phxdccs.org](http://phxdccs.org) for information on all of the Catholic religious emblems, patch programs and to find trained counselors in your area.

If you are a trained Diocese of Phoenix Religious Emblems Counselor and plan to counsel or facilitate Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII in your area, please register your group with Nancy Welton, our diocesan Religious Emblems chairperson by emailing [ngwelton@gmail.com](mailto:ngwelton@gmail.com) or calling [623-202-1184](tel:623-202-1184). We need to know the type of group you are forming, who will serve as counselors or facilitators, the location and days of the group meetings and if there is room for scouts from surrounding areas to attend.

**Safe Environment Training**-the Diocese of Phoenix requires this training for all volunteers who work with youth...so if you are a troop leader or volunteer, a religious emblems counselor or assist with any of our retreats or activities, you need to be *current* in this training. For more information and to clarify the requirements, please visit our website at [phxdccs.org](http://phxdccs.org) and click on the Forms and Docs tab. Safe Environment training guidelines can be found under the Documents section. Please join in Diocesan efforts to keep our youth safe.

**"Walk in the Sun"** is the title of the 2014 scout retreat sponsored by our committee to be held February 7-9, 2014. Join us at the Heard Scout Pueblo overnight or enjoy the day retreat! Activities include "faith hikes" in South Mountain, presentations by park rangers and AZ Dept. of Game and Fish, Mass and an evening campfire. The service project will be to build a prayer labyrinth in the camp. Registration information can be found on the attached flier. Please register early to take advantage of the "early bird" registration fees.

You are invited to join the **retreat planning committee!** Many volunteers are needed to make this retreat a success and your help is needed and appreciated. Please join us on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:45 pm at St. Theresa's Parish office, 5045 E. Thomas Rd. in Phoenix. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Gina Keating at [gkeating@sttheresaphx.org](mailto:gkeating@sttheresaphx.org)

**Pope Paul VI Catholic Quality Unit award**-this is a program sponsored by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and is for BSA units chartered by a Catholic institution such as a parish, Catholic school, Knights of Columbus Council etc. This award is earned for the "calendar" year. For details of what is required to earn this award, please go to the following link at <http://nccs-bsa.org/ScoutUnits/CatholicQualityUnitAward.php>. If your unit qualifies for this award by December 31, 2013, please complete the application and forward it to Kathy Polowski.

#### **Certificates for Eagle Scouts--**

Do you have a young man who has attained Eagle rank and will be celebrating his Eagle Court of Honor soon? The Knights of Columbus have certificates that can be presented to recognize this achievement. The "Servant of God Frank Parater" certificate can be presented by the Arizona State Council and a Supreme Council certificate is also available. For questions or to "order" a certificate(s), please contact Mr. James Moore, the Knights of Columbus State Scouting Liaison at [jmoore237@cox.net](mailto:jmoore237@cox.net). Please provide the Eagle candidate's full name, the Eagle rank date and the date of the Eagle Court of Honor.

In addition, our committee has a certificate from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) that can be presented by our local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. Please contact Kathy Polowski and provide the same information as listed above.

We hope to have certificates to present to **Gold Award recipients** as well so please advise Kathy if you know of potential candidates.

**Messengers of Peace program**--BSA and the GCC Interfaith Committee is promoting unit participation in the Messengers of Peace program. This program is about scouts spreading peace around the world and involves doing a service project. Project ideas and information about the program can be found at the following link:  
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/international/pdf/130-042\\_WB\\_spreads.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/international/pdf/130-042_WB_spreads.pdf)

**Anza Trek**--sponsored by the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Committee on Scouting, will be held October 12 at Mission Tumacacori south of Tucson. This is a very special 5 mile hike that will include stations to learn more about the rosary. Mass and an evening campfire are included. Please see the attached flier for more information. The registration deadline is *September 28, 2013*.

**Arizona Rosary Celebration**--Sunday, October 13 is the date for this annual celebration held at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. 3rd Street. The rosary celebration starts at 2:00 pm and goes to about 4:15 pm. This year Mary will be honored under her title as Our Lady of Fatima. Your scouts are invited to join BSA Troop 204 in their procession from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish at 909 E. Washington to the Convention Center. Please contact Abe Arvizu for more information at [vizuboy@yahoo.com](mailto:vizuboy@yahoo.com).

**10 Commandment Hike**--this hike is sponsored by the Grand Canyon Council Interfaith Committee and will be on Friday, November 29, 2014 in the Arcadia area of Phoenix. The hike begins at St. Theresa Parish at 5045 E. Thomas Rd.. Check in starts at 7:30 am and the hike will begin at 8:00 am. Participants will walk about 5 miles and make 10 stops along the way to hear presentations from different faith-based organizations, one for each of the "10 Commandments". The hike will finish back at St. Theresa Parish. Participants bring their own lunches. Cookies, soda and water will be provided. The cost is \$5 and includes a patch. Registration for can be accomplished through the Doubleknot system at <http://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/event/1388969>. The flier with more information is attached.

The next **quarterly meeting** for our Catholic Committee is Wednesday, October 23 at 6:30 pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 400 E. Monroe. Please join us! We welcome new leaders and parents to learn more about our programs and join in our efforts to spread the Gospel through scouting.

Please visit our **website** at [www.phxdccs.org](http://www.phxdccs.org) for information about our committee and upcoming events.

Thank you for support of Catholic scouting! Please forward information to other Catholic leaders and scout families. Please contact me if you have any questions about the items in this bulletin.