

Greetings Catholic Scout Leaders, Parents and Families,

Information about these activities and events are in this month's eblast-

- **Scout Leader Retreat at Franciscan Renewal Center **March 29, 2014****
- **Quarterly Committee meeting at the DPC on **April 9, 2014****
- **Cub and Webelos Scout Religious Emblems**
- **Boy Scout, Girl Scout and American Heritage Girl Religious Emblems**
- **Emblem Boards of Review on **April 16, 2014****
- **Annual Religious Recognitions Ceremony on **May 4, 2014****
- **Religious Emblems Counselor Training on **May 31, 2014****
- **St. George Trek application info--APPLICATION DEADLINE, **July 1, 2014.****
- **Scouting in the Catholic Church Conference at the Philmont Training Center on **Aug. 3-9, 2014****
- **NCCS Biennial Conference in Irvine, CA is **April 24-27, 2014****
- **Certificates for Eagle Scouts**

Please read below for details:

>>>PLEASE JOIN US....."Fan the Flame" Leader retreat is being planned for **Saturday, March 29, 2014** at the Franciscan Renewal Center located at 5802 E. Lincoln Drive near Mummy Mountain in the Scottsdale/Paradise Valley area. The flyer and schedule can be viewed on our website at www.phxdccs.org. This should be a beautiful day at a beautiful venue...before it gets too hot. Take a load off...take a day off of your busy schedule and join us for a day of fellowship.

All Catholic Scout leaders in Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls etc., chartered organization reps, troop chaplains, diocesan religious emblems counselors, Diocesan Catholic Committee members etc...are welcome to join us for this special day.

Check in is at 8:30 am at the Tekakwitha Conference Room. Lunch and morning and afternoon snacks will be provided and the retreat will conclude with 5:00 mass in the chapel at the Franciscan Renewal Center. A donation of \$10 per person to cover the costs of the venue, food and retreat materials is appreciated and can be made at the retreat.

Don't delay! Please RSVP by **March 23 to kpolo55@gmail.com to reserve your space and plan to join us for an inspirational day!!!**

>>>Quarterly committee meeting on **Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 6:30 pm** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center (DPC), Room 104. Please join us for this important meeting. We have a number of things to discuss including the retreat theme and venue for 2015, the Bishop's dinner this fall, and our Religious Recognition Ceremony on May 4, 2014. **New members** are always welcome! We need your input and help. There is no joining fee or paperwork---just leaders and parents who are interested in helping with our religious emblems and activities and who have a sincere desire to assist our Catholic scouts learn more about their faith through the scouting program. **Please join us!!!!**

>>>Cub Scout Religious Emblems---Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei. If your Cub Scout has completed one of these emblems, you will need to send the Emblem Application form to: PhxDCCS; C/O Reverend Dennis J. O'Rourke, PhxDCCS Chaplain; St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church; 32648 N. Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ 85331-5540 Please include a check for \$15 per medal made payable to "PhxDCCS". The Light of Christ Emblem Application can be found at the back of the book on page 55-56. The Parvuli Dei form is located in the book on page 51-52. The medal should be presented at a parish mass or other appropriate venue. If this is the first emblem your Cub Scout has earned, he is eligible to wear the purple knot on his uniform. These can be purchased at the Scout Shop and should be presented at a Pack meeting. There is also a tiny pin called a "device" that can be purchased and is pinned on the purple knot to indicate that the scout earned the religious emblem at a certain level. For example, for Light of Christ the device has the Wolf symbol and for Parvuli Dei it is the Webelos symbol. A tip---put a dab of hot glue or tacky glue on the back of those device pins before putting the fastener on...they will stay more securely!

>>>Boards of Review for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls--- Boards of Review for scouts working on the Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple and Spirit Alive are on **Wednesday, April 16** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center starting at 6:30. Check in starts at 5:45. Please contact Mary Madonia at maryc525@aol.com if you have questions.

>>>Annual Religious Recognitions Ceremony on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at Church of the Resurrection in Tempe at 3201 S. Evergreen. Check in is at 1:00 with the ceremony to start at 1:30 pm. A reception will follow. Scouts who earn Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple and Spirit Alive will be presented with their religious emblems. Scouts who have earned all 4 religious emblems and units who have earned the Pope Paul VI National Catholic Quality Unit Award will be honored. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this celebration of Catholic scouting.

>>>Religious Emblems Counselor Training, Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the DPC in Room 157. The training is from 8:30 am-1:30 pm and will cover the religious emblems available for scouts-- boys and girls of all ages, additional patch programs and activities for our youth. Please consider this important role and plan to attend. Registration information will be available on our website soon.

>>>St. George Trek--APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED for the next trek, **July 8-July 23, 2015**. The Saint George Trek is the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's® high adventure Catholic leadership program for older Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members at Philmont Scout Ranch. The program brings Catholic high school youth from around the country together with selected priests, religious and seminarians for eleven days of backpacking in the context of a vocation retreat. The trek is open to Boy Scouts

and Venturers who will be at least 15 years old by July 1, 2015. An all-girl crew will be formed if there are enough registrants. Financial aid will be available. Learn more about the trek at: <http://nccs-bsa.org/ScoutUnits/StGeorgeTrek.php>. If you know of a scout who is interested, please have them contact kpolo55@gmail.com for further information and instructions on how to apply. *Applications should be submitted to Kathy Polowski no later than **July 1, 2014**.*

>>>**Scouting in the Catholic Church conference** at the **Philmont Training Center** runs from **August 3-9, 2014** and is an excellent way to learn about the programs and activities that NCCS has to offer, to realize the relationship between God's calling for us and our Catholic youth ministry within scouting, to meet other great scouters from around the country, and of course, to explore Philmont and the area—truly God's country! Take the family--there are activities for family members of all ages. Please contact Kathy Polowski for more information or visit the Philmont website for conference descriptions. <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGE.pdf>

>>>**NCCS Biennial Conference** in Irvine, CA is **April 24-27, 2014**. If you are a Catholic Scouter and interested in NCCS and attending the conference and workshops, check out the link for more information. Workshop topics include Promoting Religious Emblems of all Faiths, Footsteps of American Saints and Marian Series, Managing Websites, Vocations-the Call is for All, Integrating the Social Network, the St. George Trek and many more. The early bird registration discount expires **March 21**. <http://nccs-bsa.org/national/AnnualMeeting2014.php>

>>>**NCCS and Knights of Columbus Eagle rank certificates** are available to present at Eagle Courts of Honor. Please email kpolo55@gmail.com for NCCS certificates and Jim Moore at jmoore237@cox.net for K of C certificates.

Please visit our website regularly for updates. Goals for 2014 and meeting minutes are posted under the "Forms and Docs" tab at www.phxdccs.org.

Please send the email to other Catholic scouts and leaders you know. Spread the news! Fan the Flame!

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

Kathleen Polowski

Chair, Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting

(PhxDCCS)

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