



## ***March 2021: Pack 55 Monthly News***

Wow, what a few weeks here in Houston! The Cub Scouting Motto is, “Do Your Best,” and the Scouts BSA Motto is, “Be Prepared.” Both mottoes most certainly applied during Winter Storm Uri (yes, it had a name). Despite best preparatory efforts, many people found themselves facing challenging living conditions during and immediately after the winter storm. In some cases, people are still in recovery mode due to burst pipes and other water-related problems that stemmed from the cold weather and lack of electricity. Look around and see if any of your neighbors are still in need of help even as the weather warms and we march inextricably toward summer. The residual effects of the storm will be with us for some time.

Being “Helpful” to others is a key element of the Scouting program. Pack 55 wants to take a moment and recognize the past, present and future service of all of our tremendous adult leaders. Notably, we recognize our Cubmasters, Lauren Burke and Neil Kelly, who are stepping down from their roles this spring. We are very excited to announce that Houston Lane (currently a Webelos Den Leader) has volunteered to serve as the Cubmaster for Pack 55. Tony Beebe (currently a Tiger and Bear Den Leader) will serve as Houston’s Assistant Cubmaster for Pack 55. Please join us in thanking Lauren and Neil for their years of dedicated service to Pack 55, and in congratulating Houston and Tony as they start their important roles for Pack 55. Please also thank our Arrow of Light Den Leaders for their contributions to Pack 55. Thank you Billy Bragan, Neil Kelly, Alejandra Creixell, Mary Tysor, Matt Franke, Lauren Burke, Shannon Petrick and Stephanie Willinger for your service, and best of luck to you and your scouts as you move up into the troops. Finally, we are pleased to announce that Mitchell Fuller (Wolf Den Leader) will work with Bradley Dennison over the next year to assume the responsibilities of Campmaster for Pack 55 - we look forward to continuing our great tradition of family camping with Bradley’s and Mitchell’s help.

**Important: The recent decision by Governor Abbot to rescind many of the statewide mask and occupancy limit executive orders, as well as the ongoing rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines, suggests that we might be seeing some light at the end of the long COVID-19 tunnel. However, we are not there yet. All current Pack 55 and St. John the Divine protocols related to COVID-19 self-health checks, mask wearing and social distancing remain in effect for all pack and den in-person events. Please continue to remain vigilant.**

Pack 55 runs on the energy of its parents and adult leaders. We encourage all of you to look for ways to serve in your den or at the pack-level. Find volunteer opportunities that are right for you by contacting your den leader or [pcc@pack55.org](mailto:pcc@pack55.org). We want your feedback and your ideas for how to make scouting great even in these challenging times. All scouts should be continuing with their rank advancements as a family/individually, or as a den, or in some other small group setting. RSVP for events and record all your rank advancements in Scoutbook. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date so you don’t miss out on any of our fun virtual and in-person activities. Let’s keep “Scouting On” in 2021.

### **March:**

**Contribute today to our Pack 55 Friends of Scouting Campaign before March 27!** Your generous, voluntary contribution will help make our great Sam Houston Area Council even stronger and better suited to serve our youth. We are only part way toward our goal of \$3500 to be raised as a pack. Please help us reach our pack’s fundraising goal: <https://p2p.onecause.com/supportshac/pack-55-committee-chair/donate>

**Saturday March 27, 2021, 11 AM - 1 PM; Blue and Gold (Lunch) Banquet and Bear Carnival:** Come join us for a fun socially distanced, outdoor gathering on the North Lawn at St. John the Divine. Families will bring their own picnic and seating, our Wolf scouts will provide a fun banquet program, and the Bears will provide some games to play. All ranks are invited to attend. Please RSVP today using the the link here:

<https://forms.gle/F1fuNfUMoPGYjDeB8>

**Pack 55 Class B T-Shirts and Face Masks are available for sale online!** Support Pack 55 and get some cool Class B T-Shirts for you and your scout(s). Use the links in the attached .pdf to order shirts in different styles and sizes. Quantities are limited. You can pick up your orders at the next in-person pack event.

**Recruitment is in full swing!** Are there families in your neighborhood or scout's school who might join Pack 55 if they knew more about it? Share information about upcoming den and pack events and encourage them to attend. We want to share the fun of scouting with as many families as possible. Share this link with your friends:

<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-576paa0055>. Questions? Contact [registrar@pack55.org](mailto:registrar@pack55.org).

### **Looking Ahead to April and May:**

**April 10, 2021, Pinewood Derby:** Start planning your derby car! This event will consist of a drive-thru car weigh in on Thursday/Friday evening (April 8/9), and then a day of outdoor, socially distanced racing on Saturday (April 10). Event details are subject to change as we work to finalize details with our charter organization. If you need your pinewood derby kit, then reach out to your den leader. RSVP for this event by **Friday, March 12** by filling out the Google form: <https://forms.gle/ix84Effwdc8WXW9V7>

**April 23-25, 2021, Spring Campout at Double Lake Recreation Area:** Mark your calendars for this overnight family campout! Our ability to hold this event will be dictated by COVID-19 conditions on the ground at that time. We have booked 9 large group sites that will allow us to promote social distancing. Additional details will follow. Find more information here: <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232430>. In order to get an accurate headcount and to make logistical plans, please register your family before **6 PM, Thursday, April 8** at the link here: <https://pack55.doubleknot.com/event/2021-double-lake-pack-55-family-campout/2795119>

Watch for more details later this month. RSVP today so we can get an accurate headcount and adjust site reservations as needed. You will also be required to submit a hard copy of your Part A/B Health Form for each campout participant (adults and kids). Forms are attached.

**Overnight Adventure Camp is back at Camp Bovay!** Individual families are welcome to register for one of several overnight offerings. This is a council-sponsored event, and it is not planned or administered by Pack 55. Direct all questions to Geno Aguilar ([geno.aguilar@scouting.org](mailto:geno.aguilar@scouting.org)):

<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/adventure-camp>

• April 16-18, 2021

**May 7, 2021, STEM Field Day at St John the Divine, North Lawn:** Sign Up for 1 Hour Time Slot on SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4DAC62BA0FA7-pack3>. Join Pack 55 for a fun, socially distanced, outdoor Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) themed Field Day. The Houston Museum of Science will provide two stations (Sunshine and Shadows, Water Cycle), with presentations held every 30 minutes. Participants will be able to do both stations. Use the link below to sign up for a one-hour time slot (30 minutes at each station). You will be assigned the order of your stations upon arrival. Please sign up all participants (adults, scouts, siblings) to ensure balanced group sizes. This is a recruitment event! Share this invitation with friends of your scout and have them come check out Pack 55. Attendees should bring blankets/chairs for your comfort.

**Virtual Events:** Pack 55 encourages all dens to remain connected and engaged while observing social distancing. The Pack supports regular, YPT compliant den communications via email, phone or video chat. Scouts may complete any remaining required adventures or electives as a family. Dens may coordinate periodic virtual meetings to discuss advancement activities. Please do this at least monthly. Even as we begin to offer some in-person gathering options, virtual events will still be a part of our scouting program.

**Youth Protection:** In order to protect the health and well being of our youth members, we must ensure 2 adults are present at every in-person gathering, on each call and on any form of digital communication at all times. Two deep leadership must be maintained in the virtual world as well as the in-person world. Stay engaged virtually or in-person, but remember that our scouts' safety is of paramount importance. Your den leaders are being provided guidance on rules for virtual engagement and best practices for video conferencing. If you have questions or concerns, or ideas for how best to navigate the potential need for virtual meetings or our return to in-person gatherings, please reach out to your den leader or [pcc@pack55.org](mailto:pcc@pack55.org). **ALL PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE BSA's YPT TRAINING, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A REGISTERED ADULT LEADER.** Online course takes approx. 1 hr. <http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>

**Key Volunteer Opportunities:** *Popcorn Co-Chair, and Training/Friends of Scouting Chair.* Join the fun!

**Popcorn Co-Chair:** Sean Smith stepped forward to serve in this important role for the fall, and for that we say thank you. We want another volunteer to assist Sean. Are you looking for a way to make a difference? Email the Cubmaster ([cubmaster@pack55.org](mailto:cubmaster@pack55.org)) or Committee Chair ([pcc@pack55.org](mailto:pcc@pack55.org)) and join the Pack 55 popcorn team.

**Training and Friends of Scouting Chair:** Enjoy giving adult leaders the tools and training they need to be successful? This volunteer will help promote and manage leaders' training. You will also serve as our lead on our annual Friends of Scouting donation campaign.

Contact the Cubmaster ([cubmaster@pack55.org](mailto:cubmaster@pack55.org)) or Committee Chair ([pcc@pack55.org](mailto:pcc@pack55.org)) for more information.

## **Pack Information:**

**New Scout Coordinator and Registrar:** [registrar@pack55.org](mailto:registrar@pack55.org) Encourage interested new scouts and families to submit an application online at:

<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-576paa0055>

## Adult Training / forms for all registered adults:

<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Data/Sites/1/media/forms/adult-disclosures-and-authorization.pdf>

**Youth Protection Training:** **ALL PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THIS TRAINING, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A REGISTERED ADULT LEADER.** Online course takes approx. 1 hr.

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>

**Cub Scout Leader Training:** online course takes approx. 3 - 4 hrs. <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/cub-scout-leader-training>

**Youth Training / Advancements:** Parents can mark their scout's advancements as Completed in Scoutbook. Den Leaders please mark as Completed and Approved for all advancements/awards for your dens before each month's pack meeting. **Ensure all completed requirements are recorded before the 3rd Thursday of each month for inclusion in the Awards Purchase Order for that month.**

**Scoutbook:** Make sure your scoutbook email is active and up to date to receive all Pack communications.

## Pack 55 Communication & Training Tools

**Pack Website:** [www.pack55.org](http://www.pack55.org)

**Scoutbook Advancement Tracking** and Email updates: [www.scoutbook.org](http://www.scoutbook.org)

**All Scouts BSA training** website: [www.my.scouting.org](http://www.my.scouting.org)

**Monthly Pack Newsletter:** sent to all Pack emails registered in Scoutbook.

- During the school year, the newsletter is usually published on the Monday after a committee meeting. Please send your proposed short entry to our email address: [pack55news@pack55.org](mailto:pack55news@pack55.org).
- **Monthly submission deadline is by noon the Friday after each committee meeting.**

## About the Pack 55 News

The Pack 55 News is a volunteer effort and is not an official communication of the BSA. Please consult the Sam Houston Area Council website for official BSA communications.

In an effort to consolidate pack wide messages and information into regularly scheduled communications, this newsletter will be circulated monthly in order to keep you apprised of **key pack news** and **upcoming events**. Time sensitive messages will still be sent via Scoutbook as a "News Flash" from adult leaders. Monthly Den meeting info and den specific messages will still come directly from your Den Leader.

If you **have an item you want included** in the monthly news, please send a short summary with key information (e.g., time, date, place, cost, contact info) to [pack55news@pack55.org](mailto:pack55news@pack55.org) no later than noon the day after the monthly scheduled Pack Committee meeting (generally the first Thursday of the month). Newsletters will typically go out via Scoutbook email the Monday after the monthly Pack Committee Meeting. Thank you.