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Voyageur Council

Area Support Managers Report

March/April 2014

The Camp Opemikon Roadshow wants to visit you in April and May! Seasoned OPE Staff with years of program experience and knowledge would like to visit your Sections! They will be sharing excitement about Camp Opemikon's Summer programs through fun activities, science experiments and will also have some surprises up their sleeve as well! By supporting our summer camp programs that run during "off" months, we are encouraging youth to remain involved with the Scouting Method and to develop new practical skills. OPE campers love Scouting and Camp Opemikon and create lifetime friendships while learning leadership skills and discovering potential career paths. This is also an opportunity to have new activities/games incorporated into a meeting, where the leaders have a chance to sit back and be part of the audience. To book your Roadshow today please contact Program Manager – Kassi Clifford – kclifford@scouts.ca.

National Leadership Summit 2014 – One Scouts Canada – Growing Together! The National Leadership Summit – an event held every three years and open to Council and Area level volunteers as well as Groups over the size of 150 members – took place at the end of February in Toronto and brought together over 500 Scouters and Scouts Canada employee's from across the country! It was a great experience with three jam-packed days filled with valuable and informative sessions; a variety of networking opportunities; and the chance to directly contribute to Scouts Canada's organizational development. There were some very interesting sessions and moving presentations – to read all about them, view the session plans and watch some of the video's – visit the NLS 2014 microsite: <http://www.scouts.ca/nls2014/index.html>

URGENT! Push to Clear up Remaining Pending Scouters by May 1st 2014: As a Council we still have **216 Pending Members** in the myscouts system. **Unfortunately, 94 of these members have been in the system longer than 6 months (this is far longer than it takes to realistically complete the training and screening process)**, 61 have been in the system between 3 and 6 months (this is still a long time to remain Pending) and 61 of these members are newer than 3 months. While some of these members are still waiting on PRC's – NONE of them are only waiting on PRC's (i.e., their PRC is outstanding but so are one or more other screening items such as training, interviews and references.).

Once Spring Registration opens and Scouters start to register for the 2014-15 Scouting season – in the system there will be a mix of existing Pending Scouters and Scouters that are just Pending for 2014-15 as the season hasn't started yet – it will make determining who is Pending for the current year more difficult. So it is extremely important that Groups work to get their remaining Pending members cleared up in the system – whether that means just updating the system with things that have already been done but not entered yet (i.e., interviews) or pushing Scouters to complete their training ASAP! If you need assistance with any of these – do not hesitate to contact your ASM.

Spring Registration will be starting before you know it! (2014-15 Registration opens May 1st, 2014): Even though there is still snow on the ground - it's time to start thinking about Spring Registration and the 2014-15 Scouting year. A reminder to Groups that they should start the **budgeting for next year now** – these need to be complete before you can **set your Spring Registration Fee**. Here are some other tips to make your Spring Registration period successful and help you with succession planning (i.e., recruiting new Scouters):

1. Run a Bring a Friend Night in May to introduce new families to the program and allow them to take advantage of the lower Spring fee.
2. Have an ADULT Bring a Friend event and run a brief orientation for your Scouters on the best practises for recruiting new leaders. More information on Bring-a-Parent and adult recruitment can be found at this link and resources will be included in your Recruitment Toolkits that you will receive in April: <http://www.scouts.ca/nls2014/pdfs/Parents-Join-the-Adventure.pdf>
3. Plan an open house at a regular meeting in May, do an electronic media blitz with all local schools, churches and community centres - get your message into their bulletins and newsletters!