

Cub Scouts Pack 101 ready for the New Year



Pack 101 Cub Scouts backpacking in the North Georgia Mountains in June 2015

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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The Cub Scouts will be holding their first Pack Meeting of the New Year this Thursday, Jan. 21, and Cub Master Ryan Scott of Pack 101 would like to invite interested parents and their sons to attend.

Pack Meetings take place the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, and while participation has been healthy, Scott said they're always looking to add new Scouts.

"Our focus recently has been to continue to build the

program in Union County," said Scott, who has been Cub Master for four years now. "In the school system, one in four boys is actually involved in the Scouting program in some capacity or another. We've really kind of focused on that, teaching the boys not only life skills, but what we say is that we're raising the future leaders of Union County."

Cub Scouts take part in various activities throughout the year, all of which provide life lessons and practical knowledge application – and equally important, the activities are fun for the whole family.

"We do a Pinewood Derby

every year, where the boys build cars out of pine blocks, and we race the cars down a track," said Scott. "During the summer, we do a Twilight Summer Camp. There's lots of camping activities. One of the favorite things that the little ones love is we do BB guns and archery, and teach them how to handle themselves that way.

"My third graders, my Bears, just earned their whittling chips, which is basically a card that they go through that teaches them pocketknife safety, so now they're allowed to carry a pocketknife to Scouting events as long as they have their safety card with them. We're working

on teaching them how to cook using cast iron, and the boys learn budgets, how to go to the store and shop for nutritious food, and then learn how to actually cook their food."

Boys are just now beginning to build their cars for the Pinewood Derby, which will take place in April, and coming up on Saturday, Feb. 20, Pack 101 will be holding its annual Blue and Gold Banquet in celebration of the birthday of Scouting.

"For the Blue and Gold Banquet, the boys will make dinner for their parents, and serve their parents," said Scott. "That's one of those giving back type of deals. They'll make a big spaghetti dinner. Last year we had about 110 people that the boys cooked for. It's fun – you get a bunch of first graders, second graders, third graders, and they're trying to cook spaghetti."

And in March, the district will hold a big awards ceremony, which will feature keynote speaker Alan Kay, winner of the History Channel's *Alone* survival experience.

Cub Scout Pack 101 is chartered by the Blairsville Kiwanis Club, and currently has about 60 boys who are active in Cub Scouts, making it one of the more active packs in the Mountain District, which is made up of Union, Gilmer, Fannin and Towns counties.

"We feel like we run a



Building a fire is one of the lost survival arts taught to Cub Scouts

fairly active outdoor program," said Scott. "It's nice that we've got all the national forests in our backyard. We try to teach the boys the outdoor aspects along with teaching them leadership skills and how to become contributing members of society."

Generally, each Cub Scout Pack is divided into age groups or levels of completion called Dens, with the first den typically consisting of first-grade students.

"The boys start in first grade as what they call Tiger Cubs, and work all the way up through fifth grade, which would be what they call Arrow of Light," said Scott. "Once they leave Cub Scouts, they go into Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts usually picks up

at age 11 or in the sixth grade, and runs through about age 18, with the culmination of an Eagle Scout."

For Scott, Scouting is a way of giving boys a supplementary education that caters to the goals of the community within which the boys live.

"You can join at any age," said Scott. "We have boys that skip the first grade, and really dive in in second, third, fourth grades. What it does is, it really teaches them social skills, it teaches them leadership skills."

Parents who are interested in more information can attend one of the monthly Cub Scout Pack meetings, or they can call Scott at (615) 426-5668. He can also be reached at rscott@pga.com.

Milsap...from Page 1

need to do, you need to become a professional musician.' So I went back to Raleigh and I said Ray Charles says it's okay if I become a professional musician."

A Country Music success story if ever there was one, Milsap worked his way to Nashville and his lifelong fame, and he would even eventually play shows with his hero, Ray Charles.

Ending Saturday's concert on a patriotic note, Milsap performed "America the Beautiful," and called for everyone to get out and vote in this upcoming presidential election cycle.

Though counties from all over Georgia were represented among the fans who attended the show, and came from as far away as Florida and the Tri-State area, Paul and Martha Moss of Blairsville were fortunate to be both Ronnie Milsap fans and situated right next door in Union County.

"He's a plain, down-to-earth somebody," said Paul Moss, who purchased tickets for himself and his wife the first day they went on sale. "He'll talk to you, and he's just a great guy. He's a good performer. That's the reason I like his music, and I like all of his music."

Valerie Vickers of Murphy, North Carolina, said that she was Milsap's oldest groupie, having followed him and his music for more than 25 years. She attended the show with her boss and friends.

"He's the best there is," said Vickers, who previously met Milsap through his son. "Even if he couldn't sing, I'd love Ronnie. He's the greatest person in the world. I love that man and his family."

Managing The Halls' Souvenir Booth during the show, Brenda Arnett enjoyed her interactions with Milsap fans.

"It's nice to get to meet everyone," said Arnett, who has managed the booth for 19 years. "The people are very friendly, and it's nice to see everybody enjoy what's happening here, and to keep the fair going. It's a big plus for the town as well as the entrepreneurs, the restaurants."

Arnett mentioned a

need for more Fairgrounds volunteers throughout the year, and believes that the Fairgrounds is integral to the community identity of Towns County – something with which Ronnie and Hilda Miller of Jones County agree.

"We love to come here," said Ronnie Miller, who has seen Milsap perform on multiple occasions. "I bet you we've been here 20 or 30 times in our lives, just to Hiwassee in general. We've been over here a lot of times – we love it up here."

Some exciting

announcements came before and

during the concert, including the possibility of Dwight Yoakam, Travis Tritt, Chubby Checker and Gregg Allman all coming for separate shows to the Fairgrounds this year, though confirmation is still pending, and Milsap let everyone know that he was working on a brand new album.

Towns County Sheriff's Deputies and CLEA (Citizen Law Enforcement Academy) volunteers covered security for the concert, with at least four deputies and 12 volunteers keeping an eye on safety throughout the show.