

# The Chachalaca

Boy Scouts of America,  
Rio Grande Council

Electronic Issue 4

Summer 2011

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## OUTER SPACE CALL TO SCOUTS AT CAMP PERRY



Its not everyday that you get to talk to an astronaut, but Scouts camping at Camp Perry did just that at 3:30PM on June 21st. Michael Fossum phoned Camp Perry from the International Space Station 220 miles above the earth specifically to talk to Scouts. Fossum, a McAllen native and Eagle Scout who attended Camp Perry when he was a Boy Scout, said that "Camp Perry is one of my favorite places on earth." Fossum arranged for the call because he wanted to encourage Scouts to set their goals and do their best, to follow their passion in whatever it may be.

The Scouts only had a 15 minute window to speak to Fossum due to the position of the orbiting telecommunication satellites relaying the call. Fossum answered questions from eight Scouts. He described how the space station is powered by solar panels, how garbage is handled (packed up and returned to earth), and how experience as an Eagle Scout came in handy when he had to tie a clove hitch knot in space. Responding to a question on training to become an astronaut, Fossum said that if a boy wants to become an astronaut, his training begins when he signs up for the Boy Scouts. When asked how many astronauts are Eagle Scouts, Fossum said that about half of the men in the NASA program are Eagle Scouts. The boys and the adults present for the call were thrilled to be a part of a historical event.

Among those working to make the call possible were Doug Brady, Tom Ball, Chris Boswell, Valley Telephone Coop, Jay Meade, and Citrus Communications. The news media were well represented and many articles were spread through the United States.



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## COUNCIL CALENDAR

### AUGUST

4 Roundtable 7pm  
23 Council Annual Business Meeting  
Executive Board Meeting

### SEPTEMBER

1 Roundtable 7pm  
5 Labor Day  
20 Executive Committee Meeting

### OCTOBER

1 Tiger Cub Day at Camp Perry  
6 Roundtable  
10 Columbus Day  
15 Commissioner Training  
22-23 Cub Adventure Weekend

### NOVEMBER

3 Roundtable  
18-20 Webelos Extreme Weekend

### DECEMBER

2-4 OA Pow-Wow Weekend  
10 Scout Day with the Vipers  
26-31 Winter Camp at Camp Perry



## From the Scout Executives Desk:

As the thermometer rises and the dog days of summer slowly inch forward; we look forward to the cooler winds of the fall and the start of School.

This summer was a very successful season. Our summer camp operations at Camp Charles F. Perry brought us a new look to our remodeled pool complex. In addition, many other repairs and renovations occurred through out the camp.

At Laguna Station High Adventure Sea Base, we had lots of changes with the addition of new modular structures, new tent pads, and a new coat of paint.

All of these facility improvements have been a result of major donations from a few donors. We continue to reinvest on our properties to enhance the Scouting experience for our youth.

Other milestones were: the Rio Grande Council continues to grow. At the end of June we had a growth of 12% in membership over the prior year. We also have doubled our retention rates and now lead councils in the Southern Region in the amount of fully trained direct contact leaders.

With all this positive movement we are looking forward to a great year end. At present time, our Journey to Excellence indicators show our Council to be a "Gold" level council by year end.

Yours in Scouting  
*Ernesto Carballo Jr.*

Check out the complete  
calendar on the Website at:  
[www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org)



## **EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2011**

Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn. A warm congratulations and best wishes to the following Scouts who have earned Eagle since the last issue of the Chachalaca:

Unit	Name
Troop 1889	Blish, Allen F
Troop 206	Boswell, Thomas C
Troop 142	Cooke, Jacob
Troop 36	Daniel, Christopher C
Troop 12	Ferrero II, Edward M
Troop 22	Fusaro, Samuel A
Troop 76	Garcia, Kevin
Troop 4	Gaslin, Jacob
Troop 1701	Gault, Thomas A
Troop 2101	Gonzalez, Gabriel
Troop 80	Gonzalez, Michael E
Troop 142	Jones II, Malcolm D
Troop 22	Jones, Jonathan
Troop 22	Kwak, Eun
Troop 1	Laurence, Austin
Troop 1889	Lewis, Richard A
Troop 22	Loos, George
Troop 11	Marquez, Ricardo
Troop 142	McGarraugh, Charles
Troop 76	Mehkri, Sohaib
Troop 583	Mittelstaedt, Joseph A
Troop 36	Rodriguez, Bernardo
Troop 11	Rodriguez, Jorge L
Troop 1889	Sanchez, Gilbert
Troop 76	Sanchez, Ricardo
Troop 1701	Sheneman, Jared C
Troop 1701	Sheneman, Taylor
Troop 604	Torres, Jose
Troop 6	Tullos, Adam
Troop 206	Uhlhorn, Hubbard
Troop 68	Weaver, Spencer J
Troop 1954	Alonzo, Roland M

## **CAMP PERRY WINTER CAMP 2011**



Winter in South Texas brings the cool winds of the north with the Warm Winds of the South. Our Winter Camp at Camp Perry provides Boy Scout Troops with a great opportunity to work on merit-badges not offered during Summer Camp programs.

The only registration access will soon become available to troops from all over Texas. Our Winter Camp Mascot invites Scouts to submit their ideas for the 2011 Winter Camp patch design and logo. All submissions must be entered before September 15th, 2011 at midnight (Via Email only) to [permit775@bsamail.org](mailto:permit775@bsamail.org). The winner will receive a free registration to the 2011 winter camp at Camp Perry. (Fees for additional merit-

## **NESA**



Are you a member of NESA? NESA is the National Eagle Scout Association and if you are not a current member right now is a great time to join!

NESA was started in 1925 and has a rich history of youth leading the charge toward what is right. NESA provides Scholarships, activities and events for members. A lifetime membership can be purchased for that new eagle Scout in your troop.

**For more information please visit**

[www.NESA.org](http://www.NESA.org)

## **THE MISSION**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

## LEADERS TRAINED = ADVANCEMENT BADGES FREE



Every Scout deserves a trained leader, so the Rio Grande Council is offering an incentive for units with all direct contact leaders trained. As an incentive, the council will pay for all rank advancement badges for units with leaders who have completed all required training. Direct contact leaders are those who interact directly with Scouts, such as: Cub Master, Assistant Cub Master, Den Leader, Webelos Leader, Scout



Master, Assistant Scout Master, Venturing Crew Leader, and Assistant Crew Leader. Rank advancement badges are those for Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and all Scout ranks. Merit badges or other awards are not covered. Unit committee members are not considered direct contact leaders. Make sure that your unit takes advantage of this opportunity. Let's get everyone trained.

### Scouting Quotes:

"Healthy living, fitness, and overall wellness have always been part of Scouting's DNA"

*Robert J. Mazzuca, Chief Scout Executive*

## RIO GRANDE COUNCIL LEADS SOUTHERN REGION



The Rio Grande Council leads the BSA's Southern Region in top leaders trained. With 55.8% top leaders trained as of the end of June, we have the most direct contact leaders trained of any council in the southern region. We are shooting for 100%, because every Scout deserves a trained leader.

The council also leads the Southern Region in membership growth and retention. Membership has increased 12% over last year, and the Rio Grande Council also leads in retention with 54.8% of our youth retained in their units for another year of Scouting.

A bright spot in the region, the Rio Grande Council is showing positive results during a time when many councils nation wide are experiencing declining membership. Our council has had its own struggles over the last several years, but due to the dedication and hard work of many volunteers We are on the road back to where Scouting can be in the Valley.



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Chachalaca is a publication of the Rio Grande Council, Boy Scouts of America. An electronic edition is planned for Summer of 2011. Comments on this electronic publication of the Chachalaca may be sent to [chacha@scouting.org](mailto:chacha@scouting.org).

## RIO GRANDE COUNCIL MEMORIAL FUND

Flowers are beautiful but fleeting; material gifts are not always fitting; words all too often fall short of the innermost feelings of the heart – but a gift to the Boy Scout Memorial Fund bespeaks the high character of him or her thus honored as well as the ultimate in noble tribute. It is a living gift, conceived in honor and accepted as a sacred trust. It touches and warms the heart of all involved. It crosses all lines of religion and wealth. It is the perfect, acceptable gift.

### **DONOR:**

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### **IN MEMORY OF:**

Charlie Ward  
 Charlie Ward  
 Robert M. Donaldson  
 Rudolph "Pito" Cantu  
 Robert Wayland Cole  
 Jean Margaret Phillips  
 Jimmy Abbott  
 Jimmy Abbott  
 Jimmy Abbott  
 Jimmy Abbott  
 Jimmy Abbott

Scout Memorial booklets are available at the Scout Service Center, or may be mailed to you on request. *Please call the Boy Scout Office – (956) 423-0250*

**RIO GRANDE COUNCIL #775, BSA**  
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**Phone (956)423-0250**  
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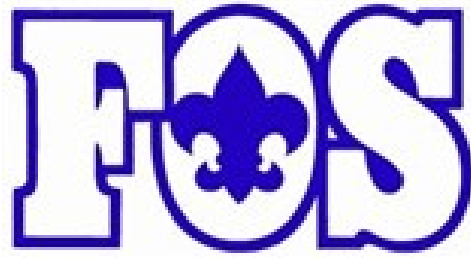
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## Rio Grande Council Endowment



The Boy Scout Trust Fund- Rio Grande Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America (the Endowment) was created on November 9, 2000 through the gifts and pledges of many generous donors from throughout the Rio Grande Valley. It was created for the purpose of providing a means of helping fund the programs and operations of the Council. Each year, the Endowment distributes 4% of its value to the Rio Grande Council for this purpose. The Endowment is overseen and managed by a group of civic and business leaders who share a love and desire for scouting to benefit approximately 4,000 Rio Grande valley youth. Since its inception in 2000, the Endowment has distributed over \$ 482,000. The principal of the Endowment is not spent so that it can provide support for many years to come.

To get more information about making a tax deductible gift to the Endowment, please contact Ernesto Carballo at (956) 423-0250 or via email [ernesto.carballo@scouting.org](mailto:ernesto.carballo@scouting.org)



Thank you to all of the families and community business leaders that have made an investment in the youth of the Rio Grande Valley through the councils 2011 Friends of Scouting Campaign. The income received from the Friends of Scouting Campaign make Scouting a reality for so many young people that would not have had a chance to be a part of the Scouting program. If you have not already had an opportunity to make a gift to the Rio Grande Council it is never to late.

The Council Vice President of Finance: Sandra Langley



**Friends of Scouting  
District Updates  
As of 7-19-2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
Tip-O-Tex	\$55,000	63.4%	Richard Abete
Arroyo	\$65,000	88.0%	Sharron Cavazos
Arrowhead	\$70,000	71.9%	Al Beltran
Rio Bravo	\$15,000	75.8%	Ashley McAllen
Soccer and Scouting	\$6,000	104.2%	Susan Rosales
Executive Board	\$39,000	128.3%	John Herrera



## BIG IMPROVEMENTS AT CAMP PERRY



Thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, Camp Perry has undergone big improvements for the 2011 summer camping season.

Camp Perry passed camp inspection with flying colors. The pool was resurfaced and the pool dressing room facilities were refitted with new plumbing, repainted, and spruced up. The water in the pool

looked clear enough to drink, especially on the usual hot days of summer. A number of generous contributors, the Ward collection auction, and sale of paver bricks covered much of the cost of the much needed pool resurfacing.

All of camp's buildings have been repainted. The mess hall, lodge, trading post and office, health lodge, and the latrines have a new look thanks to the hard work of the camp ranger and volunteer helpers.

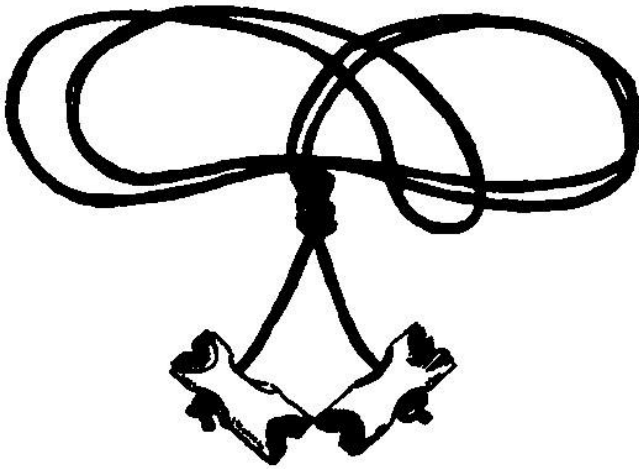


Camp buildings have been fitted with signs so that new Scouts and visitors can know where they are. The kitchen area has been screened-in (fly proof), so no extra unwanted protein in camp food. Special metal covers have been installed in the mess hall so no more tripping on uneven floors. The camp water front has been upgraded with a new screen for shade.

A general cleaning has camp looking better than it has for years. Lots of old junk has been hauled away making camp safer. The first paver bricks have been installed around the flag pole. The pavers are a way to recognize and honor Scouts, Scouters, and others who have supported Scouting and Camp Perry.



## Wood Badge 2012



Wood Badge, sometimes referred to the “PH.D of Scout Training,” is a leadership course that completes Scouting’s Basic Leadership Training program for all levels of Scout leaders (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturing).

Wood Badge is for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing leaders as well as District and Council leaders. The course content and leadership principles introduced apply to all leadership positions in Scouting. These skills provide a common leadership foundation that is beneficial for all of Scouting’s program areas.

The next wood badge course is divided into 2 sessions, a total of 6 days: 1<sup>st</sup> Session--March, 2, 3, & 4 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Session--March 23, 24,& 25, 2012. Each session begins on a Friday morning at 8:00AM and ends on Sunday afternoon at approximately 5:00PM. All sessions will be conducted at Camp Perry.

### Prerequisites:

- Be a registered member of BSA with a current Youth Protection Training certificate.
- Have completed Leader Specific Training for your registered position, and the required online training.
- Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. The BSA Health and Medical Record is required.

Mark your calendar and make your plans. Start gathering up your loose change towards the \$200 course fee for this Advanced Adult Leadership Training Opportunity.

The course director is Harsha Puttagunta, so contact him with your questions: (956)792-5992. [harshaputtagunta@hotmail.com](mailto:harshaputtagunta@hotmail.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Rio Grande Council Staff is required to take all training that we ask all our volunteers to take.

### DID YOU KNOW?

That Fort A.P.Hill served as the national Scout jamboree site from 1981 to 2010



## EAGLE & CAMP PERRY STAFF GATHERING

They came from each end of the Valley and from throughout Texas to retrace footsteps and recall memories of that special place that made a lasting impact on their lives. Many of them were Eagle Scouts come home to roost for the evening while still others were members of that singular dream of every Scout, Camp Perry Staffers. While some of them brought their spouses, all of them brought their recollections of life at camp—Camp Perry, the site of the latest reunion of Eagle Scouts and Camp Perry Staffers was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>.



It turned out to be a cool, breezy evening for those 80+ people who gathered to talk to friends, retrace some of their footsteps, and look at the Rio Grande Council collection of Camp Perry, We-wanoma Lodge, and council shoulder strip patches. A collection of OA Area and Section meeting patches from the early 1950s was also displayed.

Retreat at the new flag pole and paver brick plaza included the traditional firing of the camp cannon as the colors were lowered for the day. Although the cannon's boom of past years came out as more of a "pop," it still brought back memories.

Leading the camp fire in the bowl was Pete Moore, a veteran camp staffer from 50 years ago. A cutting edge of technology, smokeless campfire won praises from all of the women in the audience. Half the crowd in the bowl stood up when Eagle Scouts were recognized. An equal number of people stood when parents of Eagle Scouts were asked to rise. Camp Staffers present included one from last year, and several from the 1940s, quite a span of years, but all with that common bond—Camp Perry. Stories of camp were related by Sammy Coats, Rayburn MacNelly, Bob Whalen, as well as Pete Moore. Tom Ball led songs just as he did when he was on camp staff.

Don't miss out on the next gathering at Camp Perry---next year.

## LAGUNA STATION



The Rio Grande Council's high adventure base at South Padre Island is almost unrecognizable from last year. A commissary/trading post building has been installed. The modular facility also includes a first aid station. Staff quarters have

been installed with an awning between the modules which provides a shady place during the hottest part of the day for picnic table activities. Twenty-two raised tent pads have been poured for campers, getting them and their equipment out of the sand. The bath house has been rebuilt into a first rate shower and restroom facility. Other improvements are slated for later in the summer.





## ▲ Message From the Chief Order of the Arrow

### Dear Fellow Arrowmen and Scouts:

The Wewanoma Lodge was very pleased to welcome about 50 new Ordeal Candidates to our Lodge this Spring. The Summer Camp Call-out Ceremony was a great success and I would like to thank all of the Lodge members who participated. I would also like to thank all of the Camp Perry Staff for all of their help with this event.

The 2011 Summer Ordeal is just around the corner. The dates are Friday August 12th- Sunday the 14th. Check the Council website for the registration information.

Mark your calendar and make plans for the Pow Wow—December 2-4, 2011.

**Yours in Service,  
Ronald Camacho, Wewanoma Lodge Chief**



### Did you know??

The site of the next national Scout jamboree in 2013 is  
The Summit: Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

## New SR-2/3 Area Chief a Valley Local



At the July Conclave held at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas one of our local Scouts was elected to be the next Area Chief. Congratulations to Joseph Martinez of Edinburg for his accomplishment of becoming the new Chief. Joseph has been very active with the Wewanoma Lodge in the past holding the position of Lodge Chief for 2 consecutive years. We are very happy for him and his family. We all wish him the best of luck in this new position within the order of the Arrow.

### Did you know??

That Scout groups can campout on board the USS Lexington (Corpus Christi, Texas).

## POPCORN POPCORN POPCORN

It seems like it was just yesterday that we were getting ready for our Annual Popcorn Sale. Well it is that time again to start gearing up our Packs, Troops, Crews, and Posts to get out into the community and Sell Sell Sell popcorn. Last year we had total council sales of \$192,000 in 52 units. This was the combined efforts of 644 Scouts earning their way through the program. We are looking forward to beating last years numbers and making sure that every unit has an opportunity to fund their “ideal year of Scouting”. Below are some dates to remember in the sale.

District Kernel Kick-Off August 11th  
 Scout Office, For District Popcorn Chairman  
 Lower Valley Kick-Off - August 31st  
 Tip-O-Tex and Arroyo Districts  
 Upper Valley Unit Kick-Off September 1st  
 Rio Bravo and Arrowhead Districts  
 Unit Orders and Money Due November 4th  
 To Scout Office by 5pm  
 Popcorn Pick-up - November 19th  
 Must be picked up before Noon at District Location



## ADULT LEADER TRAINING

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. Do you agree? The Rio Grande Council thinks so. The Executive Board passed a resolution in 2010 that all top leaders be “fully trained.” The result is that 98% of the Top Leaders in the council are “fully trained,” and we are working on the remaining leaders to get them trained.

The Executive Board passed the following resolution at it’s last meeting: “That all direct contact unit leaders in Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Venturing Crews and Explorer Posts be fully trained.” Direct contact leaders are Top Leaders such as Cub Masters, Scout Masters, Venture Crew Leaders and Explorer Post Advisors, and all assistant leaders such as Assistant Cub Masters, Cub Den Leaders, Webelos Leaders, Assistant Scout Masters, and Assistant Venture Crew and Explorer Post Leaders.

The resolution continues: “Furthermore, we resolve that new direct contact unit leaders in new units be “fully trained” in their specific positions prior to their applications being processed. The only exception will be Boy Scout Leaders and Venturing Leaders that require specific and outdoor courses. These individuals must complete all online courses including youth protection training before their applications are to be processed.”

Trained leaders result in better program for Scouts. Better program leads to more advancement. More advancement leads to better retention in Scouting. Trained leaders are key in the mission of the BSA: “to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lives by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”



## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



*“The role of the unit commissioner is to help every unit be successful. Unit success is defined by the unit achieving Journey to Excellence status and demonstrating an improvement in the retention of its members.”*

The UVTS 2.0 works! So don't be afraid to try it out—use it. The hiccups in accessing the UVTS 2.0 have been addressed in the master Scout NET server now, so no more excuses. The UVTS 2.0 hotline for commissioners is 972-672-4389 should you need particular help.

All of the RGC districts have at least one contact/visit recorded now. The overwhelming leader in use of the UVTS is the Arroyo district, so kudos to Arroyo District Commissioner Charlie Keller and the Arroyo district unit commissioners who have made unit contacts and visits and entered them in the system.

National Commissioner Tico Perez sends a “Thank you for what you do as volunteer commissioners!” He goes on to say that “Scouting would not be here without you---our commissioners. We need you more than ever today, to help youth join our values-based program and help sustain units long term by working together with your professional counterpart and team up for Scouting!”

View the summer issue of The Commissioner by going to [www.scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter/asp](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter/asp) and then clicking on The Commissioner Newsletter.

Mark October 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Commissioner's Conference. More information on this will be forthcoming.

### Did you know??

That Troop 1889 from the Elks Lodge in Harlingen helped close down Laguna Station after the Camping Season. Thanks to all the Scouts and Leaders for the help.



## 2ND ANNUAL TRAP AND SKEET CLASSIC - SUCCESS!!!

The Rio Grande Council is happy to announce the success of the 2nd Annual Trap and Skeet Classic shotgun tournament. The Tournament was held on June 4th at Loma Alta Trap and Skeet Club, located in Brownsville. 5 person Teams were out and in action breaking clays at each station. Special thanks to the Committee Chairman, Sean Osborn and the committee of Julio Gonzalez, Richard Abete, Sergio Gonzalez, Joe Parades, Eddie Campirano Jr., Fred Hernandez and Jason Gates.



We are excited to hold our 3rd Annual Tournament in 2012 at Loma Alta. For more information please contact the Raimond Scout Service Center at 423-0250. Corporate Sponsorships available for advertising.

## CAMP PERRY PAVER BRICKS



Would you like to be remembered at Camp Perry? Do you want someone who helped you along your Scouting path to be remembered? You can now achieve both through Camp Perry paver bricks which will be seen by everybody who goes to camp.

The Rio Grande Council is soliciting dedicated bricks for the flag plaza and the area around the R.W. Liston Bowl at Camp Charles F. Perry. The first phase of the paver brick project has already started with 100 dedicated bricks installed. Each paver brick is carefully baked with the name and other information of individuals who

dedicated to time and resources to Scouting. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks go towards improvements at Camp Perry, and you could be a part of it.

Order your brick's now and be a part of the next grouping to be ordered and installed. Find an order form on the RGC website under the "Our New Stuff" section: [www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org).

## Raimond Scout Service Center

### Shop the Scout Shop

Get your back to school Scouting needs met at the Scout Shop!!!

The Scout Shop Summer Hours are:

10 AM-6 PM M-F

Sat. & Sun. closed

Come visit the Scout Shop and Stock up on all of your Scouting needs. Be sure to get your all of your uniform parts before school starts.

Store Closed:

Labor Day - September 5th

Thanksgiving - November 24-27



Rio Grande Council Web Address: [www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org)

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Web Site: [www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org)

E-mailed to all Unit Leaders, Assistants, Den Leaders, Unit Committee Chairmen, Chartered Organization Representatives, District Committee Members, and Commissioners.

#### RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OFFICERS—2011

Council President.....John Herrera  
VP Administration.....Pat Pace  
VP Membership.....Andy Hagen  
VP Finance.....Sandra Langley  
VP Properties ..... Col. R. Glenn Hill  
Council Commissioner .....Stephen M. Vassberg  
Treasurer .....Rayburn MacNelly  
Asst Treasurer .....Steven H. Shimotsu  
Asst. Treasurer ..... Lowell Holmes  
VP Endowment .....Hon. Christopher H. Boswell  
Immediate Past President.....Dr. Uvaldo Cantu  
Scout Executive .....Ernesto Carballo Jr.

RIO GRANDE COUNCIL, BSA  
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HARLINGEN, TX 78551-2424

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