

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

SECTION C

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Scouts learn life lessons



Cub Master Ronald Buchanan instructs members of his pack in archery at Bo Gilliam's Farm in Yadkinville, NC.

Local troop earns honors and skills

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COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The members of Cub Scout Pack 916 are on a roll.

For the last seven years the pack, which is sponsored by United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, has been named a quality unit.

Ronald Buchanan, the Pack's Cub Master for seven years, has led his pack to victory on many fronts. With the help of his assistant Marcellus Sunday and the 13 registered parents who assist him with the 50 cub scouts in the pack, Buchanan has led his members in winning recognition and awards.

Tracie Hunter, a senior district executive of the Old Hickory Council, and leader of minority scouting and Explorers program, oversees the units in East Winston. She says Buchanan's troop is exemplary.

"Mr. Buchanan has done an outstanding job," Hunter said. "He is our most experienced cub master in the African American community. I've watched his pack grow to more than 50 boys."

One element that makes Buchanan so successful, according to Hunter is that when the Council offers training programs for the leaders and scouts, his unit is always in attendance.

Buchanan is currently working on his doctorate in Boy Scouting at Rockingham Community College. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree at Commissioner College, and is currently working on this thesis.

The problem he plans to explore is why so many young men stop short of pursuing the Eagle Award.

"The parents don't give them that extra push to encourage them to complete this goal," Buchanan said.

He says he believes in completing goals and setting new ones to achieve - which he does.

In 1995, Buchanan was named District Scouter of the year after being nominated by one of his peers.

"It was a real shocker, I had no idea anyone had submitted by name," he said.

In 1997, Buchanan was nominated for the Piedmont District Pack Scouter of the Year, and he won because of his outstanding service to the Piedmont District.

Hunter is impressed by Buchanan's work because it makes scouting a viable program for African American males, and because it "prepares our young men to be the leaders of tomorrow."

Under the leadership of Buchanan, the pack has produced 30 Arrow of Light Award winners. This is the highest award in Cub Scouting, reserved for those who earn the activity badges required. In 1995 and in 1998, the unit was identified as the Top Popcorn Salesmen in the district.

In addition, 16 scouts have received their Religion Award. In order to earn this distinction, the scout has to go through a three-week process with the pack counselor and his pastor in order to complete a church project.

"Scouting is about being reverent," Buchanan said. "Being able to do for your church as well as your community is a part of goodwill service. We do believe in going to church."

The Rev. J. D. Ballard distributed the awards during the Sunday morning service, and the scouts were an integral part of the order of service on that day.

Another award that the pack has won for the last five years is the National Summertime Award which is reserved for those units that remain active during the summer. During the summer, the group participates in camp outs

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Members of Cub Scout Pack #916 raised the flag during the dedication ceremony of the new Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) bus station.



Cub scouts from Pack #916 take to the ski slopes at Appalachian Ski Trail in Boone.



Members of Cub Scout Pack #916 pose during a trip to the nation's capital.

