



# State Youth Director Lynette Talasek

## SPJST Home Office



P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Office (800) 727-7578 • Fax (254) 774-7447 • Cell (254) 931-0639

February 22, 2017

Dear Youth Leaders,

On January 28, District Youth Counselors and Assistants met for their Spring meeting at the SPJST Home Office in Temple. I am happy to report that we confirmed all district camp dates and made changes to the SPJST Youth Handbook. We completed all new business on the agenda. The Fall DYC meeting is scheduled for September 22 and 23 and will be held at SPJST Camp in Ledbetter.

This year's incentive checks will be presented on March 25 at the Youth Leaders Retreat awards banquet along with the 42i allocation check. This year's Youth Leaders Retreat will be held at the SPJST Camp in Ledbetter. I look forward to seeing youth leaders accepting an awards on behalf of their youth clubs as well as themselves.



### District Youth Counselors and Assistants Meet In Temple

District Youth Counselors and Assistant District Youth Counselors met on January 28 at the SPJST Home Office to discuss Youth Achievement Days and SPJST Summer Camp. They also reviewed final changes to the 2016 - 2017 SPJST Youth Club Handbook which will be distributed in March. Pictured Left, L to R: State Youth Director Lynette Talasek, District One Youth Counselor Sharon Russell, District Three Assistant Youth Counselor Carrie Ann Jones, Fraternal Services Specialist Katy Wilganowski, District Six Youth Counselor Lisa Bubela, District Four Youth Counselor Pam Lehman, District Five Youth Counselor Barbara Linney-Gonzales, District Two Assistant Youth Counselor Amber Bartek, District Two Assistant Youth Counselor Cristy Girod, District Seven Assistant Youth Counselor Regina House, District Seven Youth Counselor Lian Pruski, Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez, District Three Youth Counselor Kay Weeks, District Two Youth Counselor Patsy Koslovsky, District Five Assistant Youth Counselor Michelle Wockenfuss, District Four Assistant Youth Counselor Laura Pospichal.

## **Live The Adventure!**

Now, let's focus on the SPJST's Live the Adventure membership drive! Keep on encouraging your youth members to bring their friends to the meetings. Keep things fresh and if you do not have a membership drive planned for 2017 please start thinking about what you can do to invite new members and existing non-active members into your youth group. SPJST has a wonderfully rewarding youth program and it is up to us to share it with others!

Please remind your youth members to use the referral cards for new members. All referral cards received by the SPJST Home Office during the month will go into a drawing for three \$25 WalMart gift cards. The person making the referral also benefits by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge! All referral cards received during the year will go into a drawing for five \$100 WalMart gift cards. Winners will be announced in the Vestinik. Please help us to ensure that the leads that your youth members pass on are quality leads. We would not want any sales representative to devote precious time to calling on unqualified leads. A good referral is someone who an SPJST member has spoken with about joining. In visiting with your prospective lead, make sure that he or she knows that an SPJST Sales Representative will call them.

## **Thanks to Our Tee-Shirt Contest Participants**

Thanks to everyone who entered! Grand Prize Winner was Jared Polly from Lodge 88, Houston who was competing in the Age 9 - 11 category. For his efforts, Jared will be receiving the grand prize - A \$100 gift card and the honor of having his tee-shirt design on the official "Live the Adventure" camp tee-shirt.

The winners of the other three age categories - and winners of the \$75 gift cards - are as follows:

Ages K-8

Camdon Bartek, Lodge 47, Seaton

Ages 12-14

Macy Narro, Lodge 17, New Tabor

Ages 15-Sr

Dillon Narro, Lodge 17, New Tabor

## **Youth Leaders Retreat**

Please mark your calendars and save the date. Youth Leaders Retreat will start on Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. at the SPJST Education and Nature Center. I would really like for all Youth Leaders to come and stay overnight with us and head home on Sunday, March 26. All youth leaders and their assistants are encouraged to attend. Spouse and guest are welcome to accompany you; if you are

planning to bring a spouse or guest, please let me know and I will work with you on making arrangements. Youth Leaders are also invited to come out early on Friday, March 24 and make a weekend out of this event. Warrenton Trade Days will be going on and you are welcome to come early to shop.

We're going to cover a lot of ground on Saturday's program, but I plan on doing my best to make it as educational, informative and fun as I possibly can. Following the day time agenda we will have our awards banquet. Afterwards everyone is invited to enjoy a nice meal and a fun filled evening. To take advantage of the incentives and really absorb what is happening within the SPJST Youth Program I highly suggest you make plans to attend. We will also be addressing any questions that you may have about the youth program.

Please be sure to fill out the registration form and return it back to the Home Office no later than March 13th so that I can complete the arrangements and focus on the program. Thank you in advance for taking care of the registration form in a timely manner. Please know that you can scan and email, mail or text me the information.

### **Decorated Rock Contest**

Please encourage your youth to attend your District Spring Meetings and participate in the Deocrated Rock Contest. All members who attend their District Spring Meeting will receive five points in the Merit Point System. All contest participants will receive a participation award, and youth club members will receive another five merit points in the Merit Point System. The first place winning rocks from each district will be featured in a display case in the SPJST Home Office lobby through the end of the youth year. The first place winning rocks from each district will also be judged on the state level.

K to 8	\$25 Gift Card
9 to 11	\$25 Gift Card
12 to 14	\$25 Gift Card
15 to Sr	\$25 Gift Card

Please make note of these spring meeting dates:

- District 1 - Sunday, April 2 at Lodge 17, New Tabor
- District 2 - Sunday, March 19 at Lodge 177, Academy
- District 3 - Sunday, April 23 at Lodge 6, Cottonwood
- District 4 - Saturday, April 1, at Lodge 49, Rowena
- District 5 - Sunday, March 19, at Lodge 88, Houston

District 6 - Sunday, April 2 at Lodge 40, El Campo - Hillje  
District 7 - Sunday, March 19 at Lodge 79, Corpus Christi

### **2017 Leaders-In-Training Retreat**

Leaders-In-Training Retreat will be at SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm on, Friday June 9 through Sunday, June 11. Registration will start at 1:00 p.m. and camp activities will get rolling. We will be covering the duties of an LIT at camp. This will give the LITs the opportunity to acquire some great skills and help them be an important asset to their District Camps. I won't give anything away, but I'll tell you some great activities are being planned. LITs must attend this event in order to be eligible to assist with their district's summer camping season. LITs will also assist their youth leaders with their youth clubs throughout the year.

Who's eligible to be a Leader-In-Training? LITs are active high school aged youth who have been approved by their Youth Leader and District Youth Counselor as responsible and mature enough to be an LIT. The youth club member may attend the LIT Workshop after completing an Leader-In-Training Contract. Forms will be made available through the online camp application system.

### **SPJST Juniors and Seniors invited to apply for 2017 LEAD Team**

A new summer youth leadership program is set to get underway this year in SPJST. The LEAD program (Leaders in Education and Development) will offer high school Juniors and Seniors with the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills while they play a supporting role throughout the month-long SPJST summer camp program at the SPJST Education and Nature Center (ENC).

The LEAD program is being offered in addition to the SPJST's longstanding LIT (Leaders-in-Training) program. For 2017, all interested LEAD program candidates will be asked to complete an application. The application process will be followed by an online Skype interview. A total of ten youth will be accepted into the program for 2017. Those who are selected will begin their leadership regimen by attending and participating in a week-long SPJST training session for SPJST summer camp personnel in June.

Participants will receive certifications in multiple areas including CPR, life-guarding and first aid. They will return to the SPJST ENC in July for three SPJST summer camp sessions during which time they will be assigned to groups and are relied upon for assistance with daily activities.

There is no cost for participating in the LEAD Program. Applications are available on the SPJST website, through SPJST youth leaders or from the SPJST Home Office. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the LEAD program, please contact State Youth Director Lynette Talasek at 254.931.0639.

### **State Wide Food Drive**

Last year's food drive was a huge success with youth clubs collecting 1376 lbs of food and \$250 cash that was donated to 14 food pantries across Texas.

Lets make this years donation even bigger! We are calling this food drive "Super Cereal". Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and cereal is THE BEST. It's also one of the most common items requested by food banks. In the spring, food banks need your help more than ever, so collect cereal boxes as part of THIS complete breakfast.

Ask your neighbors, friends, family, lodge, and even your local grocery store to help out with your efforts. Be sure and count the boxes of cereal you donate and take a picture of your super cereal pyramid to send to the vestnik. You can then donate the cereal to the food panty of your choosing. Be sure to document your efforts and send your photo and information to the Vestnik. This food drive will end on April 1.

### **April Vestnik Project**

April's Vestnik Project will give some information about Arbor Day. Please try and plan a fun activity or invite a speaker to talk about the trees and the importance of having them around us.

### **Online Camp Applications**

Please know that applications for LIT Retreat, SPJST Summer Camp and Camp Chaperone will be available on the spjst.org website beginning in March. Each camper and camp chaperone needs to fill out a separate camp application. Please be sure to fill in each blank and if it does not apply to you or your child fill in the space with "N/A". All camp applications are due June 1, 2017.

### **100 Pennies Scholarship Drive**

There's still time for youth club members to send in donations for this year's 100 Pennies Scholarship Drive. Thanks to all of the youth and youth clubs who have contributed to this wonderful project. All youth who donate at least \$2 will receive two merit points. All youth who donate at least \$5 will also receive a certificate. May 31 is the deadline to receive credit.

## **Mark Your Calendar:**

### **May 6 is Join Hands Day**

Our goal for 2017 is to have 50 or more lodges participate. What can your Youth Club do? Some of the great projects from past years included baking for the needy, cemetery clean-ups, highway beautification, assisting veterans and senior citizens programs, conducting a variety of fix-up and refurbishing projects and fundraiser for your local volunteer fire department. You've still got plenty of time to decide what you want to do in 2017. The main thing -- at this point -- is committing to doing something. When coming up with ideas for your project try to do something that will be noticed by the public. If you have any questions on this, please contact me.

Again, this year, the Supreme Lodge will offer a \$100 incentive to local SPJST lodges to be used in developing and/or promoting their project. This incentive will be for lodges who partner with youth in their community. To receive the \$100 incentive, lodges must register the event with the Home Office prior to Join Hands Day. The Supreme Lodge will then forward a check to the lodges who have registered.

### **The 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration**

Make plans to join in the fun and festivities of the 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration to be held Saturday, May 6 at SPJST Lodge 47, Seaton Star Hall. Seaton Star Hall is located approximately seven miles east of Temple, just off Highway 53.

There will be cars! And more cars! There will be Czech heritage displays, arts and crafts vendors, music and showcase entertainment. Admission is free. Donations and proceeds generated from event underwriters as well as from the silent and live auctions, will benefit the Czech Heritage Museum in Temple, Texas and the SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm.

It is no accident that the event coincides with Join Hands Day, May 7. If your lodge or youth club is still looking for a Join Hands Day event, the 2017 SPJST Car Show and Czech Heritage Celebration could be the place for you! If you would like to reserve a booth space and donate the profit to the event. Your donation will be added to the amount that will be divided between the Czech Heritage Museum and the SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm. To reserve a space for your lodge or your youth club please contact State Youth Director, Lynette Talasek at 800-727-7578 or locally at 254-773-1575.

Consistently, the SPJST Car Show has been one of the premier car show

events in the Greater Central Texas area. Based on past SPJST Car Shows, at least 36 classes of vehicles are expected to participate in this year's event. For car show information or serve as a show, please contact David Nauert at 254.534.0809 or call Melanie Zavodny at 254-534-0807. Email [melaniez@vvm.com](mailto:melaniez@vvm.com).

### **Online Camp Registration**

All District Camp applications will be open for enrollment by March 13, 2017. All camp applications are due no later than June 1, 2017. If you attended camp last year your registration will need to be updated. Please note that all shot record information is available through your school nurse. The link will be made available through the SPJST website. If you have any problems or questions please feel free to contact me any time.

### **Summer Camp Chaperone Training**

Please note that if you are or any of your parents are planning to be a camp chaperone this year and you participated in the online chaperone training in 2015 you will need to retake the course. All information will be covered at the SPJST Youth Leaders Retreat.

### **State YAD August 5 at the Temple Mayborn Center**

It looks like the hotel rooms will be in high demand in Temple again this year. We are working on blocking out Temple hotel rooms and I will have a list of those hotels for you in the next newsletter.

### **End-Of-Summer Get Away!**

Good times await you at the Corpus Christi End-of-Summer Get Away. Start making your plans now to join us on August 11 - 12 for a fun-filled weekend.

We will be staying at the Emerald Beach Hotel which is located right on the beach. There will be a lot of activities for the whole family. Additional details will be included in future newsletters and will be presented in the *Vestnik* as they become available.

Fraternally,

*Lynette Talasek*

Lynette Talasek  
State Youth Director

# SPJST March Vestnik Project - Scrapbooking

This project earns a maximum 2 points in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than **April 15, 2017** to:  
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

## Scrapbooking Preserves Memories

Scrapbooking is all about preserving memories. It is a method, an art for preserving, presenting, arranging personal and family history in the form of a book. Typical scrapbooking memorabilia includes photographs, printed media, and artwork. Memories are also held in special items such as pressed flowers from a first date, ribbons from chocolates on Valentine's Day or even an airline ticket from a fun family vacation.

Scrapbook album covers are often decorated and some pages contain extensive journaling. All that's needed is some glue, a decorated book or album, and some time to sit down and start sticking!



### *Ideal for Scrapbooking!*

2016 SPJST Leaders In Training gather on the porch of Lodge 1, Fayetteville. Scrapbooking elements can include photographs, printed media, artwork and pressed items. Use your creativity!

## SPJST Scrapbook Competition

All SPJST youth clubs are encouraged to keep a scrapbook of all their activities throughout the youth year. By sending in *Vestnik* articles about youth activities youth clubs meet the biggest demand in the Youth Achievement Day judging criteria.

Each youth club can enter a scrapbook at their District Youth Achievement Day. The first and second place winners advance and compete on a State level. The first, second, and third place winners at state will be on display at the SPJST Home Office for the rest of the youth year.

One good way to start planning your SPJST youth club scrapbook is to pick out a Scrapbook Committee. Committee members will work closely together to develop a design for their scrapbook and pages. Each book must have a fly sheet -- or cover page -- that contains the lodge name and number, district number, number of youth club members, youth club officers, scrapbook committee members by name and age, youth leaders name, and youth leader's assistant's name.

The 2016-2017 theme "Seeking The Treasures of SPJST" should be reflected on the scrapbook's cover. A scrapbook is a treasure that will last several lifetimes. **If you haven't already done so, please consider creating a scrapbook for your youth club this year!**

**Would you like to have a youth club scrapbook this year?**

**YES**

**NO**

**2017 SPJST Youth Leaders Workshop**  
**Saturday, March 25-26, 2017**  
**SPJST Education Nature Center**  
**Ledbetter, Texas**

Events Start at 10:00 a.m. Saturday and will conclude before noon on Sunday

Please RSVP no later than Friday, March 12 to:

State Youth Director Lynette Talasek

SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Fax: (254) 774-7447 • Email: [lynettet@spjst.com](mailto:lynettet@spjst.com)

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  DYC  ADYC  Youth Leader Asst.  Youth Leader  Guest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Problems: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please share any ideas you have for bringing new life and vitality to your youth club or to the youth program in general. These can be things that your youth club has done or something that you may have picked up with a school, community or church group. These will be shared at the workshop.

Ideas on fund raising: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Idea on community projects: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ideas on membership drives: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please also send me any topics or questions you would like to see addressed at the workshop.

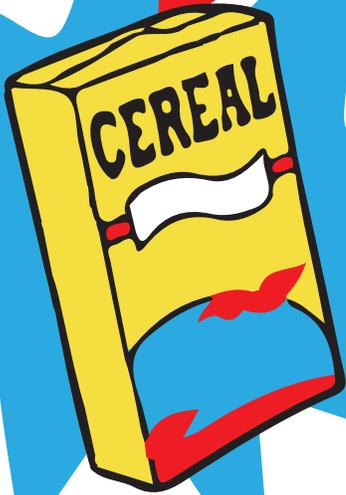
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your name and your youth club attributed to these ideas?  Yes  No

*Thanks for your input! Please feel free to attach an additional sheet if necessary.*

**Please RSVP. Thank you!**

# SPJST SUPER CEREAL FOOD DRIVE



**FIGHT HUNGER!**  
Join us in collecting cereal  
boxes for food banks!

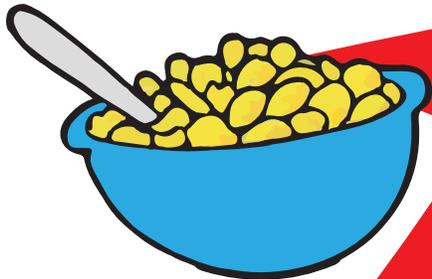
## THE PROBLEM

1 in 5 children in America don't have enough food to eat.

## THE SOLUTION

Donate to food banks! Food banks are always in need of more food. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and cereal is THE BEST. It is one of the most common items requested by food banks.

**WHAM**



Bring cereal boxes  
to your next Youth  
Club meeting or  
contact your SPJST  
Youth Leader for  
more information.

**HURRY!**  
Donate between  
now and April 1st

**BOOM**

**#spjstsupercereal**

