

The Troop Scoop



Elections 2009

On Monday, April 27th we held our elections. Our new Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders will assume duties on July 1st.

Patrols were also reorganized to reflect the changes in membership. The Archers and Rattlesnakes dissolved; their remaining members joined one of the other existing patrols. These changes leave us with three regular patrols (Stags, Bats, and Sharks) and one New Scout Patrol, each with 10 members.

Following this reorganization the patrols elected their new patrol leaders.

Our SPL-elect will work over the next couple weeks to assign the remaining troop level leadership positions. Consider how you would like to support the troop and communicate your interest and preferences to the SPL-elect or the Scoutmaster.

Court of Honor

We are planning to gather as a Troop Family to celebrate the achievements or our scouts and recognize the many gifts of our volunteers on Monday, May 18th.

Please plan to join us in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church at 7 PM for this special occasion. Bring along the whole family.

(This is a Class A evening, so scouts should come looking neat and smart in their uniform.)

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.



Wilderness Weekend

We're heading up to Gerber May 29th-31st for this Four Season Award weekend. If you're working on the Four Season Award you won't want to miss this spring opportunity and if you haven't started the four season award this may be the perfect opportunity to get things underway. You're required to do a hike and some service work during each of the four seasons. It's pretty simple, really fun, and you get a cool patch!

This outing has something special for those of you with an adventurous spirit. On Saturday, scouts will have the opportunity to build a shelter for a special overnight.

Check out the registration form on the bulletin at the church. Registration closes on May 8th.

District Camporee

The PLC nixed participation in the District Camporee given the demands that Tulip Time places on our families. Mr. Wagner said, "Between marching and parking our scouts and parents will surely be busy enough." Everyone agreed the pioneer-skill focus of the event sounded like a great time so we'll hope for a future opportunity.

Guide Lines

This month we have some organization tips to share.

You'll probably be in scouts for years and you'll accumulate lots of papers and cards. Keeping these things together will help you accomplish your goals. You could use a notebook with those "baseball card" pages to slip your cards into, or you could find or make a special box for this purpose. The important thing is you need to put the stuff where it belongs or you will be full of regrets when you sit down to fill out your Eagle Application.

It's also good to use a folder for each of your merit badges. Put your name and the merit badge you're doing on the front. It makes things a lot easier when the work is all together.

You're sure to start collecting patches and pictures from the many outings and events you participate in. It's fun to collect these. Some scouts keep the patches in folders and others like to put them on a vest or blanket. You could even sew them to the backside of your sash.

Lots of our new scouts were able to participate in one of our recent outings. I encourage you to be sure and record your participation on page 75 of your handbook!

The Troop Guides

Sleeping Bear #7

Thirty-three scouts, 21 scouters, and 1 National Park ranger was a great recipe for the perfect weekend.

We enjoyed skits and songs around the campfire Friday, and called it a night after a very ample cracker barrel. On Saturday morning we got things started with the sound of the kudu horn: Our Committee Chairman drove up to join us for the service work! After breakfast and raising the flag at the ranger's station we headed off in two teams. Scouts spent time cutting down Scotch Pines and removing old fencing before heading back to camp for lunch. In the afternoon we divided up for a beach sweep for litter, cleaning the ranger's firing range of leaf debris, and polishing off the last of the Scotch Pines. That evening we enjoyed another fine campfire program with more skits and songs, as well as a solemn flag retirement ceremony. The Ranger came and shared slides of his year as a back country ranger in the High Sierras, which was really neat. We scaled back the Saturday cracker barrel because so many of us were tired enough to crawl right into our tents. On Sunday morning it was nice that the rain quit a bit so breakfast could be enjoyed and camp could be packed up. It was a great weekend!

Mackinac Honor Camp

Five scouts from our troop will be attending the Mackinac Honor Camp in June. These boys will participate in daily flag ceremonies, serve as guides, and maybe find some time to eat fudge. They will sleep in the barracks at the fort - the same place President Ford slept when he was a member of the Honor Camp. This is a special opportunity. Bring back some pictures to share!

Summer Camp

On Monday, June 15th we will meet at the church at 7 pm to go over camp details, allow the boys to create activity plans, and work out some of stuff like tenting, transportation, and the Parent Night supper. It's an important meeting for those attending camp and their parents.

