



Newsletter



Geology and Spelunking



The November trip to Lincoln Caverns allowed the scouts the opportunity to earn the Geology Merit Badge. A full day of classroom learning was followed by a night time flashlight tour through both Lincoln Caverns and Whisper Rocks. This gave the scouts the chance to see many of the things they had discussed earlier in the day and experience COMPLETE darkness.

The nights were cold, with Friday night dropping into the mid 20s, and Saturday night at approximately 38 degrees.

Thanks to Jason Feldman for planning this trip!



The Troop believes that no scout should be excluded from activities because of financial considerations. We have a fund that can help with this issue. If you require further details, please contact Scott Wilson, Sherri Gartner or Joe DiGiorgio.

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

We are participating in Barnes & Noble's Holiday Gift wrapping. We are staffing the gift wrap table on Sunday, December 18th during their regular store hours (10:00 am to 9:00 pm). During the day, the scouts will wrap gifts for donations. The funds raised will be divided between the scouts who worked and deposited directly into their scout accounts. **ALL SCOUTS MUST WEAR THEIR CLASS A UNIFORMS.**

An online sign up is available or contact Lauren Feldman for open time slots.

Special thanks to Lauren Feldman, Cathy Dernoga and Jayashree Bhaskar for organizing this opportunity.



This Month's Meetings

Dec 13th – Class B – BUMC

Admission: Name local plants and animals

Dec 20th – Class B – BUMC

Admission: Bring a gift \$15 or less for the gift exchange (please make it something someone would like to receive)

Jan 3rd – Class A – BUMC

Admission: New Year's Scouting-related Resolution

Scouting for Food Wrap Up

The food was collected at the regular Tuesday night meeting on November 22nd. Our boys brought 547 items, which was an increase over last year.

The scouts sorted the donations that evening and were distributed to two local food pantries, one at Trinity Presbyterian church, Berwyn and the other at Wayne United Methodist Church.

Thanks to all for supporting this important service project for our community. Also, thank you to Mrs. Reindel for organizing and delivering the food.

From the SPL



IMPORTANT

Packing for Campouts

We have found that many of the scouts are overpacking for weekend campouts and bringing huge bags with them. All of their clothing and gear should fit in one small duffel bag or backpack. Big bags that hold everything (including their sleeping bag and sleep pad) are difficult to get into the cars.

Your scout should be packing for himself. AT MOST, two changes of clothes should be taken on a weekend trip. One pair of boots should be sufficient, unless there is a long hike planned and they wish to bring camp shoes. Most of the boys come home wearing exactly the same clothing they wore on Friday, so deodorant is **mandatory**. Also, be aware that scouts are always required to bring their mess kit, and a flashlight or headlamp.

Michael Ryczyn
Senior Patrol Leader

January Camping Trip

The January trip is scheduled for the weekend of January 27th. The trip will be an ice hike at Rickett's Glen State Park (<http://www.rickettsglen.info/>) and cabin camping in the Poconos. Rickett's Glen is a park that contains 22 waterfalls, which are frozen up in January. This hike has always been a favorite among the boys!

The hike is a minimum of 4-5 miles and covers an elevation change of 700-800 feet. Please take into consideration that a certain level of fitness is required for this trip. Adults and scouts should be prepared for a challenging day. Layered clothing will be critical for staying comfortable and safe.

Crampons (metal spikes that fit over your boots) are required for safety and there is a \$10 fee to use them. Due to the troop's equipment supply, this hike will be limited to a total of 19 adults and boys. Thanks to Mike Harris, who has planned and run this trip for many years. Please contact him directly with specific questions.

This trip will be first come, first serve. Approximately 12 spots remained at the publication of this newsletter.

February Ski Trip

A ski trip to Jack Frost Mountain in the Poconos is being planned for February. There will be an opportunity for those scouts who would like to work on their Snowsports merit badge to do so. Both snowboarders and skiers can participate.

Specific details on the trip are still being worked out. Look for more information to come via YahooGroups.

Thanks to Jordan Nadel and Dirk Soutendijk for planning this trip.

Upcoming Parents Meeting

The next parents' meeting is 7:00 p.m. on **Sunday, January 8th** at BUMC.

We encourage at least one parent from each family to attend the meeting and be part of the planning process to put together the best possible program for our scouts.

From the Adult Quartermaster

We had a productive Shed Day at the beginning of the month with 4 parents and 5 scouts participating.

I have loaned the troop an open trailer that can be used for camping trips. We prepared it for strapping down equipment such as cook stoves and patrol boxes.

Several of the boys re-configured the tent shelves and cleaned up the overhead storage for easier access.

Fire wood and old boards were hauled away from the exterior of the shed to make it look better. Thanks to parents Joe DiGiorgio, John Bravacos, Steve Gartner and Kathy Nadel and scouts Michael Van Meter, Bryce Gartner, Ryan Nadel, A.J. Nadel and John Bravacos.

John Van Meter
Adult Quartermaster



December Trip Review

December's trip was a day trip to French Creek State Park on Saturday, December 3rd. The scouts hiked approximately 5 miles, followed by an afternoon game of "Hounds and Hares" which includes clues, pursuit and candy prizes. The "hounds" were able to find all of the prizes and worked well as a team.

Please work with your scout to practice tying their boots tightly and with a double knot. At the December 6th meeting the boys had a demonstration on this topic. Hiking boots should provide ankle support, and will not do so unless they are tied properly.

Thank you to Joe Digiorgio for planning this trip.

Car Insurance Information Needed ASAP

In order to simplify the tour permit application process for troop trips, please provide your car insurance information, car make and model, and number of seat belts to our Camping Coordinator, Ed Maier. We need a complete list of updated information to comply with Council's tour permit requirements, and to be properly covered by the BSA insurance.

Please remember to be safe and obey speed limits when driving with our scouts in your car. You are carrying the most precious cargo!

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Maier directly.

Attention Life Scouts! If you are looking for ideas for your Eagle project, please contact Mr. Piotti. As always, Mr. Piotti will be able to answer any question regarding the process of progressing from Life to Eagle ranks.

Also, if you know of a project that may interest one of our Life scouts, please let Vince Piotti know about it!



Leftover Popcorn

Kate VanMeter has some popcorn in stock that is available for the scouts to sell. Please contact Kate directly to find out what items she still has.

Advancement Notes

Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts! The Court of Honor was an impressive event for all. A special thank you to Jack Warnock and Christine Linderman for all of their work in making the Court of Honor run smoothly.

New Eagle Scout paperwork will be instituted in 2012. Please see Mr. Piotti for details on what requirements are changing and how to comply.

Recommended Adult Training

It is **MANDATORY** for any adult going on a trip to complete the Youth Protection Training through BSA. (www.myscouting.org) Please let Kate VanMeter know when you have completed the course.

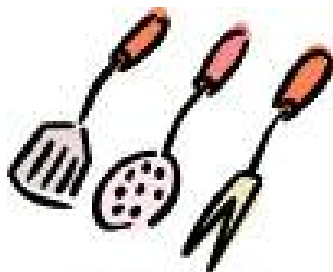
Other training courses that the troop recommends are:

- Trek Safely
- Weather Hazards
- Safety Afloat
- Safe Swim Defense
- Climb-on safely

All of these courses can be completed in a short period of time online at myscouting.org

Do you have these items?

The troop is always interested in any used cooking utensils, large pots or pans that you may be ready to get rid of. Also, game items such as frisbees or footballs will be happily accepted for the "Troop Game Box." Bring items to any meeting!



Annual Dues

The annual dues invoices have been sent out. Please send your payments to Donna DiGiorgio ASAP. Please contact either Donna or Sherri Gartner if you have not received your invoice or if you have any questions. Thank for your prompt attention to this matter.

Troop Website

Need information about the Troop between parents' meetings and Newsletters? Check the Troop website: **paoli181.com** Our website is kept updated with Scout Leadership positions and other important news and information.

Class B Shirts

Our moisture wicking Class B shirts are available for purchase. The price varies according to the type and size. Please contact Sharmon Prialux (610-647-3620 or sharmonp@comcast.net) if you want to place an order.



High Adventure 2012

Plans are underway for High Adventure 2012 to **Florida Sea Base!** Joe DiGiorgio has reserved August 3-9 for the Coral Reef Sailing Adventure which is fully subscribed. Watch for e-mails from Joe DiGiorgio for further information.

Troop Yahoo Groups Sign-Up

If you haven't already signed up for the YahooGroups for Troop 181, please do so. Send an e-mail to:

paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Remember that any e-mail sent to paoli181@yahoogroups.com will be forwarded to everyone who is a subscriber to the group.

IMPORTANT: You must be signed up to receive Yahoo Groups e-mail. If you are not signed up, you will not receive Troop announcements, notices and other important information about the Troop. All of these are now being sent only through Yahoo Groups.

Got Photos?

Do you have photos from an event to post on the Troop 181 website? Scott Wilson will take care of uploading the photos. Please save your photos to a memory stick/flash drive and deliver to Scott. Any questions, need to borrow a memory stick, other problem? Contact Scott Wilson.

Roster and Calendar Updates

The most up-to-date Roster can be found in the Files section of our YahooGroups website. The most up-to-date Calendar can be found on the Troop website

Get Connected

Chester County Council has a Facebook page! Sign up for our new Facebook page and keep up with the latest activities and information in the Chester County Council.

Friday Night Dinner Option

At the recent Troop Committee Meeting, the option of having scouts pack a bag dinner for some trips was explored. It was determined that it will be left up to the adult planning the trip to decide whether it would be best to have scouts pack a dinner on Friday night to save time and be able to get to the campsite in a more timely manner.

If you are scheduled to plan one of the upcoming trips, know that this option is open to you.



Upcoming Scouting University

Date: February 11, 2012
Registration OPEN NOW

Scouting University is a day of learning and fun for both Boy and Girl Scouts from various regions to earn two merit badges in one day and to visit a college campus.

Classes are held at Elizabethtown College. The badges are taught by students and faculty during morning and afternoon sessions. Scouting University sessions cover a wide variety of badge topics, from first aid and self defense to computers, crafts, science, business, and ethics topics. It is an excellent chance for scouts to earn up to two badges in one day and meet fellow scouts from surrounding areas.

Spots are filling quickly, so register NOW:
www2.etown.edu/sife/scoutinguniversity.asp

Sign-up to receive up-to-date information about Scouting University 2012:
ScoutingU@etown.edu



Troop Adult Leadership

Sherri Gartner – Troop Committee Chair
610- 408-9384

Scott Wilson - Scoutmaster
610-964-8467

Ed Maier– Camping Committee Chair
610-725-8095

Vince Piotti – Advancement Committee Chair
610-296-9058

Christine Linderman - Court of Honor Chair
610-722-9914

Joe Linderman – Cabin Committee Chair
610-722-9914

Kathy Nadel – Newsletter
610-578-0603

Joe DiGiorgio – Finance Committee Chair
610-688-1126

Jon VanMeter- Quartermaster
610-247-8889

Kate VanMeter – Training Coordinator
610-247-8889

Jack Campbell - Charter Organization
Representative

Mike Ryczyn – Recruiting Coordinator
610-240-7769

John Bravacos - Friends of Scouting Chair
610-647-8951

Donna DiGiorgio- Treasurer
610-688-1126

Evelyn Shreve - Summer Camp Coordinator
610-688-3005

Christine Linderman- Registrar
610-722-9914

Lauren Feldman - Fundraising Coordinator
610-251-2332

Please see the troop roster for the Boy Scout
Youth Leadership contact information.

Calendar of Key Events

December 13 - Meeting - BUMC - Class B

December 20 - Meeting - BUMC - Class B
GIFT EXCHANGE \$15 gift

December 18 - Barnes & Noble
Giftwrapping Fundraiser

January 3 - Meeting - BUMC - Class A

January 8 - PLC Meeting 5PM - BUMC

January 8 - Parent's Meeting 7PM - BUMC

January 10 - Meeting - BUMC - Class B

January 27-29 - Ice Hiking Trip to
Rickett's Glen

February 7 - Winter Court of Honor

February 11 - Scouting University
Elizabethtown College

February 24-26 - Tentative Date
Ski Trip to Jack Frost

Mark your Calendars!

Summer Camp 2012 dates:

**Sunday July 22 to
Sunday July 29**

