



COMPASS

News of Boy Scout Troop 169



Summer Camp 2013

The troop is now in the process of planning our summer camp program for this summer. The troop will be going to Gettysburg PA for a couple of days and then spend 3 - 4 days in Washington, DC. The week for this camping experience will be June 22 - 30, 2013.

We are still in the early stages of our plans, but some of our plans include doing the following:

Gettysburg: Spend the first day visiting the visitors center and museum, a film about the "New Birth of Freedom", and participating in the Gettysburg Cyclomana. We will also be walking around the battlefield. On the second day, there are two hikes that can be walked, a ten mile hike and a 4 mile hike.

Washington, DC will feature the usual visits to the memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Institutes, possible bus tour, visiting different places of interest. We are working on setting up tours of the Capitol building and the White House.

This is a trip in which we will be in the public most of the time, so there will be some clothing requirements that will need to be met. I would like to encourage that all Scouts and leaders on this trip have at least 1 complete uniform (shirt and pants/shorts) with a second uniform shirt and we are working on having t-shirts and/or polo shirts made up for everyone on this trip.

We do not yet have a cost for this trip, but will shortly. The troop has agreed to participate in at least two money-earning projects to help defray the cost of this trip. If you have a concern about money, uniforms or whatever, please contact Tom Bassett.

Adult Leader Training

The troop is hosting an adult leader training course for Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members.

For those leaders registered as Assistant Scoutmasters, this training is known as *Leader specific training*. This training will be a two Monday night program April 1st and April 8th. Our training will take place at the Auburn Presbyterian church beginning at 7:00pm. There is also an outdoor session which will be during the weekend of April 12 - 14. It is encouraged for those Assistant Scoutmasters who are able to go to the outdoor skills session to go and participate in the program. It will be held at Camp Chief Little Turtle.

The training program for Committee members will be held on April 1st at the Auburn Presbyterian church beginning at 7:00 pm. This is the only night that this program will need to meet. There is no outdoor session.

Paul Bell and Dean Tucker will be the instructors for these courses. If you have any questions, see Tom. The troop goal is for 60% for Assistant Scoutmasters go through training and 2/3 of our Committee members.

Annual Awards Program

Our annual awards program will be held on Monday, the 18th of March beginning at 7:00pm in the dining room of the Auburn Presbyterian church.

Some of the items on the program will be the awarding of merit badges and rank advancement to those Scouts who have earned awards since December, a Friends of Scouting presentation, more updated information about our trip this summer to Washington, DC, along with our annual recognitions of the George T. Clark Personal Advancement Award recipient and the Outstanding Scout Award.

We would like to invite all Scouts and their parents to this very important Court-of-Honor and we will have refreshments following the program.

March campout

The troop will be camping during the weekend of March 15 - 17 at Camp Chief Little Turtle. Our plans are to go camping and will be working on completing the orienteering course in First Class. We will be camping in Delaware campsite. As per usual, we will leave the church on Friday evening at 6:00pm and return home sometime between 8:00 - 8:30 am. This campout will also include some of our WEBELOS Scouts in Cub Pack 3169 will be joining us for the weekend. Craig Long will be leading a 10 mile hike.

(Over)

Trail Cleanup

The troop has scheduled our annual trail cleanup of the Hague Nature trail located in Eckhart Park for Monday, the 15th of April. The project will begin at 5:00 pm and will be done when we finish mulching and relining the trail. Allen Haynes of the Soil and Water Conservation district will be leading this project. For those Scouts who need service project hours, this will be a great time to add to these hours, and there will be something to eat when we finish the work. Hope to see you at the park.

Registration

The troop has completed its registration process for 2013 and are once again rechartered with the national council. There are still a few members of the troop and committee who have not yet paid their fees. If you could get the fees to Tom Bassett we can finish and close our recharter for this year.

Website

The troop has been the process for a while to update our website. Our webmaster, Otto King-Hoffmann has been working hard to update the site and could use your help. If you have any suggestions for Otto, please let him know. It has not been easy and he has been working weekly on our site. The website is www.troop169.us. The latest newsletters are on the site along with past issues. Also, if you have any photos that would be a benefit, please email them to Otto. We are trying to have the website be the main place that our members can get up to date information.

Journey to Excellence

“Scouting’s Journey to Excellence” is the Boy Scouts of America’s new council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the

performance of units, districts, and councils. It replaced the Centennial Quality Awards Program as a means of encouraging excellence in providing a quality of program at all levels of Scouting.

That being said, this is the third year for the program and the troop has set their own goals for the 2013 program and we felt that everyone in the troop should be aware of what the troop will be striving for in way of goals for the troop.

Advancement: The troop will strive to have at least 50% of our Scouts advance one rank this year. This means 17 of our Scouts need to advance one rank this year.

Retention: We currently have 35 Scouts in the unit and we need to recharter 30 of these Scouts in January of 2014.

Building Boy Scouting: We will strive to recharter in January 2014 with 36 Boy Scouts.

Trained leadership: It is for this requirement that the troop is hosting training programs for Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members in April. It is important that everyone who volunteers to give their time to our Scouts know their position in Scouting and what they can do to help the program. The Gold level goal for the JTE is to have 60% of our Assistant Scoutmasters complete Leader Specific Training. And for our Committee Members, have 2/3 of them complete the Troop Committee Challenge.

Short term and long term camping: The troop will strive to have 9 short term campouts (weekend) this year and have at least 25 Boy Scouts attend summer camp this summer.

Service projects: One of the activities that Boy Scouts are known is performing community service

projects. The troop will strive to participate in 6 service projects this year. These projects are for all Scouts to help and participate.

Fitness: This is a new category for the JTE. We need to include activities in our meetings that have physical fitness components. We are also going to introduce the SCOUTStrong program to all Scouts and leaders. This is a fitness program that has tracking components that lasts 3 months.

These and a few other items are the goals that members of the troop has established for ourselves that would allow us to be a Gold level Journey to Excellence unit award recipient.

Washington DC update

One of the activities of our trip in Washington, DC is to visit the White House. Even though tours have been suspended in the White House, we are still going to schedule a tour. One of the requirements to set up a tour is to know who will be attending the tour. And one item that is required to our the White House is a Social Security number for all Scouts and leaders.

We need to know as soon as possible who will be planning to attend summer camp so we can complete that White House form so our congressman’s office can set up the tour with the White House. I hope that you will all help us and make a commitment to this trip for all involved.

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter or whatever about Scouts, please contact Tom Bassett.



