



Newsletter



Recruiting Campout a Success

On December 1st and 2nd, we hosted 18 local Webelo Scouts at BUMC. During the day on Saturday our boys led activities in a stations format for the Cub Scouts. Patrols cooked dinner and then there were night time activities and dessert. Seven of the Webelos stayed overnight with a parent. 30 of our scouts participated as well as 10 adults.

Thank you to Mr. Weissman for once again agreeing to set up the archery equipment. This was a big hit as always!

Also a special thank you to our Eagle Scouts Joseph DiGiorgio, John Bravacos and Andrew Weissman for participating, talking to the prospective parents and telling some stories around the campfire.

Thank you to Jeff Paolizzi for all of his hard work coordinating this event for Troop 181.

This Month's Meetings

Dec 5 - EQUIPMENT RETURN 7:30PM

Dec 11 – Class A — BUMC - 7:30 PM

Dec 18 – Class B — BUMC - 7:30 PM
\$10 Holiday Gift Exchange

The Troop believes that no scout should be excluded from activities because of financial considerations - this includes Summer Camp, High Adventure, Jamborees and monthly campouts! We have a fund that can help with this issue. If you require further details, please contact Joe DiGiorgio with requests or concerns.

January Ice Hike

On January 11th-13th, the troop will be taking our annual Ice Hiking trip. This year, the scouts will be staying at Camp Lavigne in Benton, PA and hiking at Rickett's Glen State Park (<http://www.rickettsglen.info/>). Camp Lavigne provides a nice heated cabin with two rooms, which would allow for moms to attend as well.

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. The troop owns crampons, but participants will be required to provide a helmet of their own. BSA requires a helmet for this activity. Bike helmets, skiing and skateboarding helmets would all work. This hike will be limited only by the troop's crampon supply.

Jon VanMeter is the adult running this trip. Look for detailed information to come via YahooGroups in the near future. Please contact Jon with any questions.

Upcoming B&N Fundraiser

On December 16, the troop will be staffing the Gift Wrap table at Barnes & Noble in Devon. This event is Class A.

Boys will wrap gifts purchased by the customers, and donations will be collected. All scouts who take a shift will be given a portion of the proceeds to be deposited into their scout account. Their scout account can be used for any scout related activities, including yearly dues or summer camp fees, as well as purchase of personal gear.

Lauren Feldman is running this fundraiser again.

Thanks Lauren for organizing! Scouts and parents are still needed for the shifts in the evening!



Dues Notices Sent

Troop dues notices have been sent out. If you did not receive one, please contact Sherri Gartner ASAP.

Scholarships are ALWAYS available! If you would like more information, do not hesitate to contact Joe DiGiorgio for details. Scouts should not be excluded from activities for financial reasons.

Holiday Gift Exchange

The scouts will be having a gift exchange at the Troop Meeting on December 18th. Any scout who wishes to participate should bring a gift that has a value of \$10 or less.

Backpacking Trip on the Appalachian Trail



On November 17-18, the troop offered a true backpacking trip to the Appalachian Trail. 14 scouts and 6 dads went on the trip. Everyone did a really great job carrying their heavy packs and there was no complaining! There was some difficult terrain, which the scouts carefully navigated by using teamwork. The hike on Saturday ended up being around 10 miles, and the return trip on Sunday morning was about 3 miles.

The scouts made camp and had the opportunity to use "real scout skills" like purifying water, finding firewood and cooking dehydrated meals.

The boys all enjoyed the trip and should be proud of their accomplishment!

If your son participated, and is interested in completing the Hiking or Backpacking merit badge over time, please encourage them to write up a few notes about this trip and store it away in a safe place. This hike could count as a 10-miler toward one of those badges.

Changes to Troop Permission Forms and Adult Medical Forms

In order to have more of the critical information needed in the case of an emergency medical treatment, we will be making a small change to the troop permission form. We will ask that you provide information on any medications your child is currently taking prior to each campout. Please understand that providing this information is always at your discretion, but is being requested for safety reasons, and in the best interest of your child.



In addition, we will now require that adults traveling on the campouts also complete the same permission form. These forms are carried on the trips and could help EMT/medical personnel care for our members in case of an accident or emergency.

Also, in compliance with the BSA, all adults should complete a Part A of the medical form. Link below:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>
Part A does not require a doctor's visit. It is basically a health history, which the troop should keep on file for adults as well as scouts.

These changes are for your safety. Please help us by providing these documents!

Private Donation Received

Mr. and Mrs. Luigi DiFillippo have made a private donation to Troop 181 in the amount of \$100. Mr. DiFillippo was Andrew Weissman's contact at the Chesterbrook Duportail House for his recent Eagle Scout Project. Obviously, Andrew's hard work impressed the DiFillippo's. Congratulations, Andrew and thank you to Mr. and Mrs. DiFillippo.

Upcoming Parents Meeting

The next parents' meeting is 7:00 p.m. on **Sunday, January 6th** 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.

2014 Alternate High Adventure Option

Since we have a large number of boys who will be eligible for high adventure by the summer of 2014, we are considering the option of running a trip that could accommodate those scouts who are either not interested in going to Philmont, or who are unable to go because we may not have enough spots.

If you think your son might be interested in an alternative trip, or if have any ideas about other trips which could be considered, please contact Scott Shreve, our High Adventure Coordinator.

Know of a Service Project?

We will have a large number of scouts that will need a service project for their Eagle Scout rank in the upcoming year or two. If you are involved with a church, community organization or non-profit that would be able to provide a service project involving approximately 100 hours of work, please contact Vince Piotti. Approximately 1/3 of the hours are typically completed by the scout. The other 2/3 of the hours are completed by others being managed by the scout.

Youth Protection Training

As an adult involved in the troop, we ask that everyone take the Youth Protection Training (YPT) that is offered as an online course through myscouting.org. If you are going to attend a campout, this is MANDATORY! Please take the 20-30 minute e-course now and print out the certificate at the end. Then please provide a copy to Kate VanMeter our Training Coordinator, or Sherri Gartner, our Troop Committee Chair. If you filled out the Adult registration form, please enter your ID number when you take the course so it gets linked to your account.

If you are a veteran parent, please remember to keep your YPT current. It is required to be retaken every 2 years. Please see Kate VanMeter's recent Yahoo Groups email with attached training spreadsheet for more information about when you are up for renewal.

Jamboree 2013 Troop Meeting this Sunday

If you are signed up to attend Jamboree 2013, you should have been notified of the first informational meeting to be held this Sunday, December 9th at the East Goshen Township Building at 7pm. The address is: 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester 19380.

This is a meeting for both parents and scouts.

Please contact Chris Mulhull, the Scoutmaster for Jamboree Troop A407 with any questions. CDMulhall@gmail.com or cell phone is (610) 350-8419.



Parent Participation Needed

As our troop has grown, we are seeing that the monthly campouts typically have 20-25 scouts attending. We are pleased to see that the scouts are excited about our activities. We would strongly suggest that one parent from each family plan to attend at least one campout a year! It is very instructive to see the scouts in action when they are out on the trail or doing their camp activities.

OPEN POSITIONS:

ADULT EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR:

Mr. VanMeter has been our Adult Quartermaster for the past 3 years. He is looking to transition out of that job shortly. Anyone interested in the position can contact Jon for more information about what it involves.

PLEASE Donate!

Before you get rid of those stained kitchen towels or any old cooking utensils, please consider donating them to the troop! The Quartermasters routinely inspect all of the Patrol Box contents and do their best to replace items that are getting badly worn or are broken. We like to have a supply of items for those times when something goes missing as well. Our most common items that require replacement are:

- Kitchen towels
- Potholders and Oven mitts
- Cooking utensils

We would be very happy to accept your items at any meeting! Please see the Troop Quartermaster or the Adult Equipment Coordinator. Thanks!

Parent Contact List

Please add your contact information and cell phone numbers into the form available on YahooGroups. This list can be printed out for campouts so all drivers will have other adults phone numbers in case of emergency.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Photos Wanted!

We are looking to update the photos on our website. If you have pictures from any scouting events from the last two years, please contact Jordan or Kathy Nadel.

Troop Gear Policy

(1) As a general rule, Troop equipment is not available for use by Scouts or parents for activities that are not Troop or Boy Scout related.

(2) For Troop activities, all Troop equipment is available for the Scouts and parents who are accompanying them on the activity, with the priority of use for the Scouts. This typically will involve the use of tents.

(3) Parents who use Troop equipment for Troop activities should make sure that a record of the equipment borrowed is given to the Troop Quartermaster at the time the equipment is taken. The equipment must be returned clean (hang or set up to dry, but do not machine wash tents) and in good condition at the time established by the Troop Quartermaster for return of Troop equipment.

(4) A parent who is attending a Boy Scout activity (i.e. IOLST) may use Troop equipment after first notifying the Troop Quartermaster. The equipment should be returned in good and clean condition as soon as possible after the event.

Equipment List on Yahoo

Please feel free to peruse the list of Troop Equipment available on our YahooGroups site. The list is stored in the database area. We are also working on putting in an updated Patrol box contents list.

Purchasing Personal Gear - Get a Discount!

Jon VanMeter has posted a list of Gear Vendors and their contact information on YahooGroups in the database area. Jon's list also details any special discounts available to Scouts.

If you have questions about the information or vendors, please contact Jon directly.

Camping Trips - New Ideas

Large groups of scouts trying to get in and out of a restaurant or rest area quickly on a Friday night can be a nightmare. When possible, on future camping weekends, we will be asking the Scouts to pack a bag dinner or eat prior to arrival at the church. This should save parents on the cost of dinners.

In addition, we will be asking each Scout to provide a \$5 cash contribution that will be offered to the drivers to help pay for their gas and tolls. This should be brought with their \$15 food money the Tuesday before a trip.



IMPORTANT: Training Information for all parents

“Scouting’s Journey to Excellence” is the BSA’s new council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is replacing the Centennial Quality Awards Program as a means of encouraging excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA.

See the requirements by visiting:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/mission/pdf/2013_JTE_Troop.pdf

Our goal is to once again earn the Gold Level in the Journey To Excellence, which requires parents to have taken the “Troop Committee Challenge” e-course offered on www.myscouting.org. This is a simple course that only requires only about 20 minutes of your time. Once you have completed the course, please provide a copy of the certifi-

cate to Kate VanMeter or Sherri Gartner so your completion can be properly recorded and counted toward our troop’s Journey to Excellence.

Please also take a look at the other on-line training and complete as many of the courses as you can. Certain camping trips require that we have adult supervision with specific training. For example, water based trips require the Safe Swim Defense course, and/or Safety Afloat. We are unable to submit the Tour Permit without the proper training. Other good ones to complete are Weather Hazards and Trek Safely.

Please do your part to help out Troop 181 and take these courses. If you have any problems or questions, please contact our Training Coordinator, Kate VanMeter.

Need Holiday Gift ideas?

I thought it might be the time to start making a list of scouting-related items that you might consider purchasing for your son this holiday season! These are just a few of my thoughts, and I am sure that you can come up with a few others by visiting the Scout Shop or Outdoor Gear store.

- 1) Wool socks (for winter hiking and skiing)
- 2) Ski Goggles (Good for our February trip)
- 3) Battery operated fan for Summer Camp
- 4) Scout or campfire cookbooks such as:
 - The Scout’s Outdoor Cookbook*
by Christine and Tim Conners
 - Fix it in Foil* by CQ Products
- 5) Inflatable camping pillow
- 6) tripod stool for camping
- 7) Headlamp
- 8) Fleece sleeping bag liner
- 9) Stuff sacks and compression bags
- 10) long underwear or underarmor

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.

Class B Shirts

Our moisture wicking Class B shirts are available for purchase. The price varies according to the type and size. Please contact Michele Harvey if you want to place an order. michele.harvey@sap.com

High Adventure 2014

Believe it or not, we already need to think about planning our High Adventure for the Summer of 2014! Troop 181 would like to go to Philmont Scout Ranch. The following information was provided by Scott Shreve, who will be coordinating this High Adventure. Please contact Scott if you or your son is interested in participating.

Trip Summary:

- Rocky Mountain - remote back country, back packing and camping trip
- Location - Philmont Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico
- Level of activity is described as strenuous - both physically and mentally
- 12-Day Expedition dates - Every Day from June 8 through August 9 (last trip departure) - park closes on 8/22/2014
- Fly through Denver - trip duration including travel time to and from New Mexico is approx. 14 to 15 days
- Full cost estimated at \$2,100 to \$2,300 per person including hiking/trip fees, air and ground transportation and meals
 - additional costs include personal gear and training weekends
 - scholarships are available through BSA
- Physical training schedule begins 12 months prior to trip
- Space limits - maximum crew size is 12 (up to 4 adults and 8 boys) We MAY be able to get more than one crew. Recommended minimum is 3 adults per crew.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 2014 Philmont participants must be 14 years of age (by date of arrival) OR
- Have completed 8th grade AND be at least 13 years of age prior to participation
- Physical limitations - Published height and weight restrictions based on USDA and Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines
- Twenty-eight scouts in Troop 181 appear to meet the age requirements

Reservation Timeline:

- Online reservation dates:
 - Northeast region is Week Two (November 5-11)
 - Week 5 : Open week (Any Region) November 26-December 2
 - Email confirmation will be received by the middle of December 2012
- \$100 deposit due from each participant by 2/28/2013 - NON-REFUNDABLE
- 10 Chester County Council spots (Crews) are available on a first-come first-served (additional deposit of \$300)

Online reservations will not be assigned in the order that requests are made. Reservations will be picked randomly by computer beginning December 3, the close of the reservation request period. History shows a 33% chance of selection in round 1. 600 crews were put on waiting lists for 2013. First 100 on the wait-list has a high chance of selection in March 2013 for the 2014 season. Preference is given to crews after four years of registration.

Questions about the 2014 registration process or the trip in general may be directed to Philmont Scout Ranch by email to campaign@philmontscoutranch.org or by phone 575-376-2281.

Troop Committee

Sherri Gartner – *Troop Committee Chair*
610- 408-9384

Joe Franz - *Acting Scoutmaster*
610-644-1049

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

Ted Huck – *Cabin Committee Chair*
610-722-9475

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

Dec 5 - Equipment Return - Shed - 7:30PM

Dec 11 - Troop Meeting - BUMC - 7:30PM

Dec 16 - B&N Wrapping Fundraiser - All Day

Jan 6 - PLC Meeting - BUMC -5PM
Quartermaster Meeting - Shed - 5PM
Parents Committee Meeting - 7PM

Jan 8 - Troop Meeting - BUMC - 7PM

Jan 11-13 Ice Hiking Trip

Jan 15 - Equipment Return - 7:30PM

Adult Leadership

Joe Franz - *Acting Scoutmaster*
610-644-1049

Assistant Scout Masters

Bhaskar	Jeff Paolizzi
Geoff DiDario	Vince Piotti
Joe DiGiorgio	Scott Shreve
Jason Feldman	Jon VanMeter
Ted Huck	Scott Wilson
Joe Linderman	
Jordan Nadel	