



## Eagle Court of Honor



On Saturday, November 30th, we celebrated the accomplishments of Michael Rycyzyn as Eagle Scout.

We had a good turnout of scouts and former Eagle Scouts from the troop. Special thanks to Jack Warnock, who once again ran a very special ceremony for Mike.



*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 Shreve, Sherri Gartner, or Michael Dernoga with requests or concerns.*

### This Month's Meetings

**Dec 10th**- Class B - BUMC - 7:30 PM  
Bring your Permission forms and money,  
Scout handbook

**Nov 17th** – Class B - BUMC - 7:30 PM  
Troop Gift exchange - Bring a gift under \$10

**December 24 and 31** - NO MEETING

**Jan 7th** - Class A - BUMC - 7:30 PM

## Introduction to Leadership Skills Training (ILST)

On Sunday, November 24th the troop held a very important training program. This training was the first in a system of training courses for Scout Youth. The ILST course is intended to help Boy Scouts in leadership positions within their troops understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities.



The scouts themselves ran the program, with presentations on leadership styles, case studies, team building and more. Mr. Piotti, our Advancement Chair, was very impressed by the scouts and their ability to prepare and execute the training. All of the scouts who presented should be commended.

If your scout missed the training and is First Class or above, he should be in touch with Mr. Piotti or Mr. Shreve. Other arrangements to take this course may be available.

## Upcoming Parents Meeting

**The next parents' meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 5th at BUMC. Please be aware that Parent's Meetings will begin at 7:30PM.** 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.

## Yearly Rechartering

Our annual rechartering process has been completed. Troop 181 has once again earned the Gold status in the Journey to Excellence Program. Troops must meet certain benchmarks in a variety of categories to earn points toward their ranking. Troop 181 consistently earns the highest status of Gold, which allows us to get free rank advancement patches through the year.

We currently have 39 scouts registered with the troop. Thanks to Mrs. Gartner for all of her work completing the paperwork for the Recharter!

## Cabin Committee Chair Needed

Ted Huck is looking for someone to take over his Cabin Chair duties. Ted will be very busy this year as our High Adventure Coordinator with the training and planning for the Philmont trip.

The troop's cabin in the Airdrie Preserve in Paoli needs to be checked on every 4 to 6 weeks. Checking for damage or vandalism is the main duty of the Cabin Chair. Also, planning a spring cleanup to clear debris and make any necessary repairs is a once-a-a-year event, which normally takes only a couple of hours on a Saturday morning. In addition, this year the Troop Historian



and Librarian may be working on updating the Cabin's memorabilia, so the cabin chair may have some input into that project.

This job requires minimal time and can be planned around your personal schedule. If you are interested in more information, please contact Ted Huck.

## November Campout - Recruiting Webelos at BUMC

Once again we had a great turnout of scouts for our November Recruiting Campout. With about 13 Webelos visiting from 5 Cub Scout packs, our scouts ran a program designed to introduce the Webelos to Troop 181 and some basic scouting skills.

The five patrol leaders each expertly ran a station, which included First Aid, Knot Tying, Archery, Orienteering and Cooking. The patrols spent 45 minutes in each station. Following the afternoon program, the scouts cooked the foil packet meals that they had prepared during the cooking station. Evan N., Raymond S. and J.T.C. were the "biscuit masters," cooking foil packet bis-

cuits for everyone on the cook stoves. Finally, Ryan N., Massy D., and Michael V. prepared a delicious Dutch Oven chocolate cake for the entire group. Even the adults were impressed!

The evening concluded with a Flag Retirement ceremony and a Campfire Program with songs and skits. Four Webelos stayed overnight with a parent, and shared a breakfast of pancakes and sausage cooked by the adults.

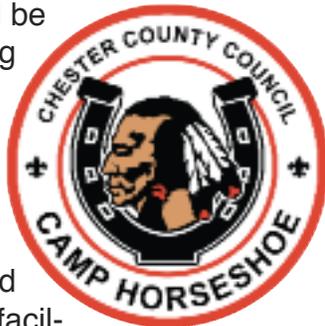
Thanks to ALL of the adults who participated in the planning and execution of this event. It was a ringing success!

## Upcoming December Camping Trip

December 13-15th will be our December camping Trip. We will be going to camp at Horseshoe Scout Reservation.

We will be staying in the Rothrock Lodge, which is a cabin heated by a woodstove. The facility holds 32, and provides a small segregated area which can accommodate any moms who would like to attend. There is no indoor plumbing however.

The program will be an "Amazing Scout Race." Patrols will compete for prizes in scout skills. An orienteering course will be completed, which can fulfill rank advancement requirements. If your scout needs this requirement, he should attend this trip!! The scouts will prepare dinner and dessert in dutch ovens. Whittling blocks will also be



available for interested scouts. Awards will be given in several categories.

There is a permission form and information sheet posted on YahooGroups. For any questions, please contact Ed Maier



## Finance Committee Meeting Report

The Finance Committee met last month to discuss and approve the budget and dues for the upcoming year. **The dues will remain the same as it was for the 2013 year, at \$300.** While the council fees have increased, the troop felt that it could absorb the additional \$9 in order to maintain the same dues. Individual Dues notices will be issued.

Other troop needs were discussed. The troop has a scholarship fund available. To fund a scout each year for dues and summer camp fees costs approximately \$500. We are currently spending more per year for scholarships than we are taking in. If you are interested in making a donation into the scholarship fund, you may send a check to Michael Dernoga, our finance director, or Ramesh Raghupathi, our treasurer.

The following **immediate purchases** were approved for troop gear:

1) New rope for knot tying @\$40

2) Portable travel grill for use by parents on camping trips @\$215

3) Upgrade cooking gear for patrol boxes, and purchase 4 portable tables for food prep on trips.

### 2014 Approved Budget Items:

1) Gear related to Philmont training - bear bags, ropes, carabiners and 2 dining flys. Estimated @\$240

2) 2 10 x 12 waterproof canopies (not the pop-up variety) Estimated @\$300

3) Eight re-curve archery bows, eight portable targets and 4 dozen arrows. Estimated @\$800

4) New tents - as needed to rotate out old tents in disrepair. Estimated at \$150 per tent

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Dernoga or Ramesh Raghupathi.

## Youth Mentoring Partnership's Friend Fitness Program

The "Friend Fitness Program" is a fitness based mentoring program that focuses on goal setting, developing mental toughness and taking responsibility for their own actions. The program matches volunteer mentors with local teenagers that can benefit from a positive role model. During challenging weekly workouts, the objective is to create a "moment of choice" where the student has the choice to give up or persevere. With encouragement and earned recognition, students learn that "pushing through" challenges, giving 100% effort and bouncing back are the keys to success.

The fitness program is held twice a week at UMLY and at Conestoga High School, and is free of charge to participants.

More information is available at the program's website:<http://youthmp.org/> or by calling 484-595-9204.

**YOUTH MENTORING  
PARTNERSHIP**

## Advancement Notes

If you have a Star or Life Scout who is looking for an Eagle Service Project, you may want to encourage him to get in touch with Mr. Piotti. Several opportunities have presented themselves: **Jenkins Arboretum** in Devon would like to discuss possible Eagle projects with interested scouts. Also, the **Willistown Conservation Trust** has opportunities available. In addition, **The Freedoms Foundation** in Valley Forge may have some outdoor landscaping and beautification projects. Also, **Surrey Services** will have landscaping projects which may be good Eagle service opportunities. Opportunities may still be available for **Berwyn Paoli Little League** as well.

As always, 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 remaining hours are performed by volunteers working under the Scout's direction.

The troop has a large number of scouts who will be looking for projects in the next year or two. If you are able to help a scout connect with a project, please do!

Finally, if your scout is having difficulty advancing in rank, please contact Vince. Often, a conversation with the scout can help to discover the reason behind the difficulty and help can be offered.

## Annual Gift Exchange

Our Annual Troop Gift Exchange will be held during the December 17th meeting. This is a fun meeting where the boys can bring a \$10 gift to exchange. Gifts should be wrapped.



## Class B Shirts

Our moisture wicking Class B shirts, long sleeve shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts 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](mailto:michele.harvey@sap.com)

## 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 an 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 Connors
- 5) Inflatable or compressible camping pillow
- 6) LED Headlamp
- 7) Fleece sleeping bag liner
- 8) Stuff sacks and compression bags
- 9) wicking long underwear or underarmor
- 10) packable rain coat

## Local Eagle Project

My name is Alim Howell I was born July 10, 1996 in Ardmore.

I started scouts at five years in Pack 243 old and presently and consecutively still in the same pack. I am 17 years old and working on my Eagle Scout rank, which requires me to do a service project. I decided to do a clothing drive for my project. I plan on making some announcements at churches, other agencies and seeking help from elected and appointed officials which includes The Township of Lower Merion's Board of Commissioners and also our states representative. Many individuals are in need of clothes and it is important that everyone is warm with the proper clothing during what may be a harsh winter. We are humanitarians that appreciate and respect help from people's generosity.

Through careful research I found that through the present economic times that we live in that there are many people without clothing. My heart, my mind told me that there is something I can do about this through pulling all human resources to help are fellow citizens who are experiencing tougher times. I am hoping and praying that through networking with the community's in Lower Merion, we will be able, through a collaborated effort, to clothe as many people as we can.

- 1 - Anyone can get involved by volunteering to have a location for a clothing drop cite.
- 2- Donating clothes for pickup.
- 3 - Pick up and deliver the clothes.
- 4 - Recommend individuals and other organizations/agencies that are in need of clothing.



This will benefit women, elderly, infants, children, and men. For all shapes and all sizes. Family's that otherwise would be without. With all due respect and no harm intended, may god bless us all.

Sincerely,  
Alim Howell (Life Scout)  
Troop 243 at (Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore)

Main Line Media News at its new location at 110 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore, will be a drop-off location from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for donated clothing through the end of the year and Howell is arranging for the items to be picked up by the Salvation Army.

Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore will also accept donations. For more information about dropping off clothing at the Main Line Media News office, contact Susan Greenspon at [sgreenspon@mainlinemedianews.com](mailto:sgreenspon@mainlinemedianews.com).

## Troop Committee

**Sherri Gartner** – Troop Committee Chair

610- 408-9384

**Scott Shreve** - Scoutmaster

610-688-3005

**Ed Maier**– Camping Committee Chair

610-725-8095

**Vince Piotti** – Advancement Committee Chair

610-296-9058

**Michael Dernoga** - Court of Honor Chair

610-647-3994

**Ted Huck** – Cabin Committee Chair

610-722-9475

**Kathy Nadel** – Newsletter

610-578-0603

**Michael Dernoga** – Finance Committee Chair

610-647-3994

**Jason Feldman**- Quartermaster

610-251-2332

**Cathy Rains** – Training Coordinator

610-254-8512

**Jack Campbell** - Charter Organization  
Representative

**Jeff Paolizzi** – Recruiting Coordinator

610-251-9308

**Jeff Paolizzi** - Friends of 181 President

610-647-8951

**Ramesh Raghupathi**- Treasurer

610-647-7022

**Susan Huck** - Summer Camp Coordinator

610-722-9475

**Ted Huck** - High Adventure Coordinator

610-722-9475

**Michele Harvey**- Registrar

610-688-0445

**Lauren Feldman** - Fundraising Coordinator

610-251-2332

Please see the troop roster for the

Youth Leadership contact information.

## Calendar of Key Events

**December 10** - Troop Meeting - BUMC -  
7:30PM

**December 13-15** - Camping at Horseshoe

**December 10** - Troop Meeting - BUMC -  
7:30PM

**December 17** - Troop Meeting - BUMC -  
7:30PM - GIFT EXCHANGE

**December 24** - NO MEETING

**December 31** - NO MEETING

**January 5th** - PLC Meeting - BUMC -  
4:00PM

**January 5th** - Parent's Meeting - 7:30PM

**January 7th** - Troop Meeting - BUMC -  
7:30PM

**January 7th** - Philmont Advisor's Meeting

**January 17-19** - Camping at Camp Henson,  
DE - Archery

**February 14 -16** - Ski Trip - Jack Frost  
Mountain

**March 14-16** - Backpacking/Hiking trip

## Adult Leadership

**Scott Shreve** - Scoutmaster

610-688-3005

### Assistant Scout Masters

Geoff DiDario

Jordan Nadel

Joe DiGiorgio

Jeff Paolizzi

Jason Feldman

Vince Piotti

Joe Franz

Scott Wilson

Ted Huck

## Mark your Calendars!



Summer Camp 2014 dates:

**Sunday June 29 to**

**Sunday July 6**