



Newsletter



Congratulations Eagle Scouts

We have two scouts who have passed their Eagle Boards of Review. Congratulations to John Bravacos and Stephen Christner! Their families will be planning their Eagle Court of Honor to occur after the new year.



This Month's Meetings

Nov 13 – Class B — BUMC - 7:30 PM
Bring Permission forms and \$15 food and gas money

Nov 20 – Equipment Return —
BUMC Shed - 7:30 PM

Nov 27 – Class B — BUMC - 7:30 PM
Bring Permission forms and food \$\$ for Dec Campout

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.

November Campout Backpacking Trip on the Appalachian Trail

On November 17-18, the scouts will have the opportunity to take a true backpacking trip. They will be doing an overnight trip to the Appalachian Trail. Approximately 5 miles of hiking will take the troop to its campsite and they will make the return trip the next day. The boys will learn how to cook on the light-weight backpacking stoves and will be using freeze-dried backpacking meals. Scouts will require a backpack that will be expected to carry approximately 25% of their body weight, including their own personal gear and a portion of a tent, cooking equipment and water. Also required is a good pair of hiking boots, hopefully well broken in.

It is important to eat a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, and pack a good lunch and trail snacks. Each person should carry 32 ounces of water.

Permission forms and information has been posted on YahooGroups. Please bring your completed forms and \$15 for food and gas to the November 13th meeting,

If you have equipment questions, please contact Joe DiGiorgio or Jon VanMeter for advice.



December Recruiting Campout at Berwyn United Methodist

On December 1st and 2nd, the scouts will host local Webelo Scouts at BUMC. During the day on Saturday our boys will be planning activities in a stations format for the Cub Scouts. Dinner and a night time activities will also be planned. Webelos are encouraged to camp overnight with their parent, but can participate in only the day events if they prefer.

Thank you to Mr. Weissman for once again agreeing to set up the archery equipment. The boys always enjoy this activity!

Should you have any questions regarding this weekend event, please contact Sherri Gartner or Jeff Paolizzi.

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

Equipment Return Night



On the Tuesday Evening following the monthly campout, an Equipment Return is scheduled instead of the regular meeting. At 7:30 pm, ALL SCOUTS WHO ATTENDED THE CAMPOUT and ALL APLs/ QUARTERMASTERS are required to meet at the shed to be sure gear is dry and in good order before being stored.

If your scout took home a tent to be cared for, he should have already aired it out until it is dry. THIS IS A SCOUT'S JOB, NOT A PARENT'S JOB! This can be done by setting up the tent in the sun, or by hanging it to dry over a clothesline. In wet weather it can be hung in your basement or garage. The tent should be checked for any damage and your scout should have swept any dirt/leaves off of the ground tarp. Tents are NEVER to be washed! This removes their waterproofing!

If your scout has brought home a patrol box, he should bring it to the equipment return with all of its contents having been thoroughly cleaned. This is a SCOUT job! Your scout should also clean the box itself.

If you have any questions about tent care, or Patrol boxes, please contact the Troop Quartermaster, A.J. Nadel, or the Adult Quartermaster, Jon VanMeter.

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.

Congratulations and Thanks!



Congratulations to Jason Feldman and Geoff DiDario who have both completed all of the training required to be an Assistant Scoutmaster. Thank you to these dads for taking the time to become fully trained!

We are always open to have more of our parents take this training. Please feel free to talk to any of our adult leaders to get more information on what is required and how to sign up. Our Scouts deserve trained leaders! Please do your part!

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

Packing Notes

As our troop has grown and has gotten younger, we have noticed that the boys are bringing more personal gear than is really needed for a weekend campout. The scout's personal gear should consist of a sleeping bag in it's stuffsack, a sleep mat, and a school sized backpack or SMALL duffel bag. Please do not place all of these items in one large duffel bag. It is easier to pack the cars with smaller individual items.

Scouts should use their sleeping bag's stuffsack filled with clothing or their jacket as a pillow, or you can purchase a small compressible or inflatable backpacking pillow. See the links at the bottom of this page for options.

The scout should pack his own personal gear. Please allow them to pack only what they think is essential. They really do know what they need!



Upcoming Parents Meeting

The next parents' meeting is 7:00 p.m. on **Sunday, December 2nd** 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.

Troop Dues

We will be sending out dues notices in the near future and we have a few families with outstanding dues from this scout year. Please check with Sherri Gartner or with Donna DiGiorgio if you are unsure of your status! We need to get all accounts up to date.

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.

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.

GEAR WEBSITES for Camping Pillows:

CAMP MOR http://www.campmor.com/outdoor/gear/SubCategory___4000000226_200368359

REI <http://www.rei.com/search?query=pillows>

BACKCOUNTRY <http://www.backcountry.com/Store/catalog/search.jsp?q=pillows>

ALPS MOUNTAINEERING <http://www.alpsmountaineering.com/alps/products/bags/sleeping-bag-accessories>

or search Amazon.com or your other favorite sites for travel pillow, camping pillow etc.

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.

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 will be running this fundraiser again.

Thanks Lauren for organizing! More details and sign up information will follow.



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.

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. With the upcoming Backpacking trip, please look over the list for possible sources for a backpack suitable for your son.

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.



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

Nov 11 - ILST - 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM
(Intro to Leadership Skills for Troops)

Nov 13 – Class B – BUMC - 7:30 PM
Bring Permission forms and
\$15 food and gas money

Nov 17-18 – Camping Trip
Backpacking Appalachian Trail

Nov 20 – Equipment Return – BUMC Shed
7:30 PM

Nov 27 – Class B – BUMC - 7:30 PM
Bring Permission forms and food \$\$

Dec 1-2 – Camping/Recruiting Weekend
Camping at BUMC

Dec 2 – PLC Meeting – BUMC - 5:00 PM
QM Meeting – BUMC - 5:00 PM
Parent Meeting - BUMC - 7:00 PM

Dec 16 - B&N Wrapping Fundraiser - All Day

Jan 11-14 Ice Hiking Trip

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