



# Newsletter



## Upcoming Life to Eagle Informational Meeting

Scouts who are near Star rank or above should plan to attend the upcoming meeting to be held by our Advancement Chair, Vince Piotti. This meeting will address the issues that families and scouts need to think about as they approach the Life rank, when eagle projects and merit badge completion becomes critical. This meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 6:30 at BUMC (prior to the Equipment Return).

Please plan to attend if at all possible.

## This Month's Meetings

**Oct 16** – Equipment Return – BUMC  
7:30PM

**Oct 23** – Class B – CABIN - 7:30 PM

**Oct 30** – Class B – BUMC - 7:30 PM

**Nov 6** – Class A – BUMC - 7:30 PM

***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.***

## Troop Leadership Training Planned for November

Tentatively scheduled for November 11th, 2012 is our troop's Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST). The purpose of the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops course is to teach Scouts with leadership positions about their new roles and how to most effectively reach success in that role. It is intended to help Boy Scouts in leadership positions within their troop understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities. Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops is the first course in the series of leadership training offered to Boy Scouts and is a replacement for Troop Leadership Training. Completion of Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops is a prerequisite for Boy Scouts to participate in the more advanced leadership courses National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE).

NYLT (National Youth Leader Training) happens each spring for two weekends at Camp Horseshoe.

Scouts who are First Class and above should plan to attend our Troop level training.



## 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.

Boys and parents who are considering attending should be sure that they are physically prepared to complete the trip, since once we are on the trail, there is no good way to bail out.

If you have equipment questions, please contact Joe DiGiorgio or Jon VanMeter for advice. A meeting closer to the date of the trip will provide specifics on packing and gear.

Look for more details to come at the next parent's meeting and via YahooGroups.

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## October Trip Thank you

Thank you to Ed Maier and Michael Dernoga, who worked together to manage the logistics of the trip to Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County.

The troop had 25 scouts attending the trip. The boys were looking forward to the COPES rope course and having some time in camp to try out some foil packet cooking following a demonstration by our scout cooking instructor Jack Franz.

## 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](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](http://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.

## ScoutingU at Elizabethtown

Once again, a one day merit badge opportunity will be offered at Elizabethtown University on February 9, 2013.

Registration will open around October 1st, and spots fill quickly. Your scout could complete 2 badges that day. If you are interested in details or signing up for the email list, please visit

<http://groups.etown.edu/scoutingu/>

A list of merit badges to be offered is available on the website. Please talk to your scout soon so he does not miss out on the badges he needs or wants! There are prerequisites for most of the badges that the scout will need to complete at home prior to ScoutingU if he wishes to complete the badge.



## 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](mailto:paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

Remember that any e-mail sent to [paoli181@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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.

## 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, November 4th** 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.

## 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](mailto:michele.harvey@sap.com)



## 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\\_\\_\\_40000000226\\_200368359](http://www.campmor.com/outdoor/gear/SubCategory___40000000226_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](http://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.

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## 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.

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## Upcoming Camping Trips

Thanks to Ed Maier who will once again be our Camping Coordinator this year. We generally try to camp on the third weekend of the month, unless holidays prevent that, or camping sites are booked. Please take a look at the next page of the newsletter to see what has been planned by the scouts for each month's campout. Thanks to the adults who have agreed to take one or more of the weekends and handle the logistics.

## 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:

**RECRUITING:** The current Recruiting Chairperson will be giving up his position shortly, if you are interested in helping out the troop by helping to keep in touch with cub scout packs and webelos den leaders to invite their scouts to visit our troop, contact Sherri Gartner. This fall would be a good time to get involved and partner with the current chair to learn the ropes during our recruitment campout in December.

### 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.

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## No Electronics! No Cards!

It has always been a Troop policy that Scouts should not bring electronics on weekend campouts. This includes ipods, itouches, cellphones, etc. In order to keep the focus on outdoor activities that include everyone, we are asking that Scouts not bring card games. Please help us prevent these distractions on weekend trips! Thank you.

## Congratulations!

Our thanks and congratulations go out to Ted Huck, Geoff DiDario and Jason Feldman for taking the time to complete their IOLST (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Training) weekend camping in October. They will be joining our group of Assistant Scoutmasters with our sincere appreciation.

If you are interested in taking this training course, there is another session in early November. You can sign up at [www.cccbsa.org](http://www.cccbsa.org)

## 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.



## 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

**Oct 16** – Equipment Return – BUMC  
7:30PM

Life-to-Eagle Meeting  
6:30PM BUMC

**Oct 23** – Class B – CABIN - 7:30 PM

**Oct 30** – Class B – BUMC - 7:30 PM

**Nov 4** – PLC Meeting – BUMC - 5:00 PM  
Quartermasters Meeting - 5:00 PM  
Parent's Meeting - 7:00 PM

**Nov 6** – Class A – BUMC - 7:30 PM

**Nov 11** - ILST - time TBA  
(Intro to Leadership Skills for Troops)

**Nov 17-18** – Camping Trip  
Backpacking Appalachian Trail

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

## Adult Leadership

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

### Assistant Scout Masters

Bhaskar  
Joe DiGiorgio  
Joe Linderman  
Jordan Nadel  
Jeff Paolizzi  
Vince Piotti  
Scott Shreve  
Jon VanMeter  
Scott Wilson