

# Troop 181 Newsletter

www.paoli181.com



## April Camp at Pocono Plateau

Please mark your calendar for the April camp out during the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> at [Pocono Plateau](#) in Cresco, PA. Pocono Plateau is a campsite owned by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. This weekend is planned as a mix of service and fun. Scouts will put in four hours of service as directed by the camp staff, such as trail marking, brush clearing, etc. In return, we will have use of a [climbing tower](#) as well as other facilities. Plan to tent camp. Thank you to **Scott Wilson** for planning this trip!



## Beach Jam

In May our camping trip will be to [Beach Jam](#), an annual scouting event held in Wildwood, NJ at More's Pier over the weekend of May 21 – 23. Scouts will camp on the beach and have the opportunity to work on two merit badges, Oceanography and Aviation. An optional dolphin watching trip is available, for an extra fee. In addition, Scouts will have access to the amusements on More's Pier. This should be a fun-filled weekend.

The Troop is paying a portion of the registration for this trip. The cost to each participant is \$34. Dolphin watching is \$17 additional. Beach Jam is held rain or shine and there are no refunds. If you commit to go, you commit to pay.

**Russ Levin** is coordinating this trip for the Troop. If you are planning to go and have not yet registered for merit badges or the dolphin watching trip, contact Dr. Levin to see what is still available.

## June Family Day



Mark your calendars for our Troop sponsored family picnic scheduled for **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at noon at Valley Creek Park, off Route 29, in East Whiteland.** Meet at the lower park area, by the pavilion. All Scouts and their families are invited. The Troop will supply a grill, burgers and hot dogs. Families with last names ending A-H bring a snack food/salad to share, I-P bring a dessert to share and Q-Z bring drinks to share. There will be something for everyone to do – bring your bike, frisbees, whiffle bats and balls, jump ropes, a deck of cards, a board game, etc. Thanks to **Sherri Gartner & Joe Linderman** are coordinating this event.

## National Youth Leader Training Conference



NYLT is an exciting, action packed program designed to provide youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops. The leadership skills taught can be used in any other situation demanding leadership of "self" and "others." Training is conducted by the Council Leadership Training Committee using an outline developed and approved by the Boy Scouts of America. **Colin Weissman** will be part of the training staff for this year's NYLT.

Scouts who are First Class, Star or Life are encouraged to sign-up for this Conference which will be held at Camp Ware on the weekends of **May 7 - 9 and May 14 - 15.** Scouts **must** commit to both weekends, from 5:30 pm on Friday until 3:00 pm on Sunday, to participate. The cost is \$185 before March 31<sup>st</sup> and \$210 thereafter. The

Troop will reimburse \$93 to the family of any participating Scout. [Register](#) online now as registration will close when the Conference is full.

Scouts must ask Mr. Wilson for permission to attend NYLT before registering. This is a program requirement.



### High Adventure 2010 Update

The Scout-led High Adventure Committee has voted to travel the length of the C&O Canal, from Cumberland, WV into Washington, D.C. The crew will bike and canoe the canal from **July 17 - 25**. The cost is yet to be determined; much planning remains to be done. Any Scout who will be 14 years old by next summer and who will hold a rank of at least First Class can participate. An important planning meeting was held on **Saturday April 10th**. **If you missed the meeting and plan to go on the trip, see Mr. Harris immediately.** The crew must be finalized so that planning can be finalized. Important decisions about campsites, activities (canoeing, tubing, biking), food, emergency alternates, back up car scheduling, etc. must be made. Every crew member will have some planning activities to work on. **Mr. Harris** is overseeing this trip with help from **Mr. DiGiorgio** and **Mr. Wilson**.

### Science Camp



Registration is open for Chester County Council's Science Camp to be held from **June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Camp Ware. This is a fun and educational camp where the boys can earn science related merit badges that may be difficult to otherwise complete. The camp is open to boys who have been active with a Boy Scout Troop for the past year, have already attended a week of summer camp, and have attained the rank of Second Class. This year, **Mr. Bhaskar** will be teaching the Computer merit badge.

Don't wait to sign up as camp closes once full! Registration for Science Camp is done by individual families, and not by the Troop. For more information about Science Camp, including a list of all the merit badges offered

and registration information, visit [Science Merit Badge Camp and Radio Camp for Boy Scouts](#).



### Summer Camp

Summer is just around the corner and so is our week of camp at Camp Horseshoe. Now is the time to sign up for a week of fun while learning and strengthening scout skills. The Troop will be at Roberts Campground from **July 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**. The cost of summer camp is \$315, if paid by May 4<sup>th</sup>, and \$350 if paid later. Summer camp is a great opportunity for our Scouts to work on advancement and to earn merit badges. Everyone leaves summer camp with stories to tell. Let **Jane Harris** know if you plan to attend summer camp. A non-refundable deposit of \$35 is due to Mrs. Harris by March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Medical forms are due to Mrs. Harris by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Every scout must have a [medical form](#) signed by a doctor within the last year. If you are taking your son to have a physical in the near future, you may want to take this form with you for the doctor to sign.

**Adult leaders are needed** for summer camp. We must have 2-deep leadership at all times and this means having 3 leaders on-site in case someone must leave. Leaders are called away from camp for a variety of reasons, so we must plan for this contingency. Please let Mrs. Harris know if you can be an adult volunteer. Adult volunteers for one-night are gladly accepted, but we are thrilled to have adults who can stay over for more than one night; the continuity helps the Scouts and the adults.

The Troop believes that no scout should be excluded from summer camp because of financial considerations. We have a fund that can help with this issue. If you require further details, please contact Scott Wilson, Linda Bravacos or Joe DiGiorgio.

### Adult Leadership Positions

As Scouts age, adult leadership transitions. Mike Harris, who has served the Troop for many years as Quartermaster, has decided that it is time for him to move on from this position.

The Quartermaster oversees the Troop's equipment, making certain that the Troop has the proper equipment and that it is maintained in good condition. The Quartermaster works with the Scout Quartermasters, helping them to gain the knowledge and skills needed to properly inventory, store and maintain equipment and plan and pack for trips. The Quartermaster makes recommendations to the Troop Committee for equipment purchases and makes purchases as they are approved. If you are interested in filling this important position in the Troop, please see Linda Bravacos or Scott Wilson. If you need additional information about the position, please speak with Mr. Harris. Without adult volunteers, the scouting program could not exist. Please consider whether you have the time and talent to fill this job.

### Friends of Scouting

Please be generous in supporting Chester County Council; Council supports all of our Scouts directly and indirectly through program and training. Return your FOS Pledge Cards with your donation or pledge as soon as possible to **John Bravacos**, our FOS chair.



### Eagle Projects

The troop has decided to archive our Scouts' Eagle Project proposals and we will start with Ben Levin's project. Here's what he has to say:

*"My Eagle project will be to organize a group of volunteers to remove invasive species in the Jenkins Arboretum, located in Devon, Pennsylvania. I will coordinate with the head horticulturalist at Jenkins to delineate plants to be removed and determine areas in which this work is to be conducted. I also will lead an effort to remove small trees in the same area that have been identified by the head horticulturalist as ones that are diseased or not properly developing. I will instruct volunteers on the problems of invasive species, how to identify them, and how best to remove them. I will organize a series of workdays during which volunteers will remove and dispose of on-site invasive plantings and non-developing small*

*trees, and oversee proper and safe plant removal and disposal on-site."*

If you are working on your Eagle Project, please submit a short description to Jayashree Bhaskar for publication. If you have completed an Eagle Project, you may also submit a description to Mrs. Bhaskar for publication. The Troop Committee has decided to use our Newsletter as a permanent record of the Troop's Eagle Projects.



### Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to the following Scouts who have advanced in rank between March 22 and April 3, 2010:

**Bryce Gartner – Scout**

**Lewis Winnemore – Scout**

**Congratulations** to **Joseph DiGiorgio, Mike Ryczyn and Mr. DiGiorgio** who have all earned their 50-Miler Award!



### Fundraising Committee News

The Fundraising Committee, co-chaired by **Sue Morris** and **Cassie Jamison**, has outlined a program for 2010. Scouts will have an opportunity to earn money to put toward Scout related expenses this year by participating in a car wash, the Paoli Hospital evacuation exercise, and the Barnes & Noble gift wrapping. All of these have been successful fundraisers in the past. Scouts can choose to participate in as many fund raisers as they wish.

In addition, the Troop will sponsor one sales type fund raising activity. The Troop will choose one from the following – a popcorn weekend sale blitz, a Joe Corbi pizza sale, a battery sale, or a seed packet sale. A poll of the Troop will be posted soon – watch your e-mail for more information.

The Fundraising Committee has also arranged for our participation in the eScrips program with Genuardi's. To participate in the eScrips program or for additional information about any

fundraising activity, contact either fundraising co-chair.

### **Counselor in Training at Horseshoe**

Looking for a way to get more out of Scouting? What about serving as a Counselor in Training this summer at Horseshoe? Council is looking for Scouts, ages 14-15, to take advantage of this leadership opportunity. For roughly four weeks, CITs rotate through four different department areas and in each area they help run the daily operations. Duties might include helping a counselor teach merit badges, prepping for merit badges, and other work around the department area. For more information, click [here](#), and then choose the button on the right "2010 Summer Staff Click Here" From the next menu, choose the Parent's Information Sheet. Still have questions? Camp Director John Lukowski can help: 610-917-9313



### **Class B Shirts**

**Donna DiGiorgio** is the keeper of the Class B shirts. If anyone needs a shirt, see Donna. Cost is \$10.

### **Got Photos?**

Do you have photos from an event to post on the Troop 181 website? Scott Wilson will take care of uploading the photos. Please save your photos to a memory stick/flash drive and deliver to Scott. Any questions, need to borrow a memory stick, other problem? Contact Scott.

### **Roster and Calendar Updates**

The most up-to-date Roster can be found in the Files section of our YahooGroups website. The most up-to-date Calendar can be found on the Troop website.

### **PLC News**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> – Class A – Cabin**



- Admission: brown bag with kindling
- Fire safety, fire building
- E-Prep presentation

### **April 13<sup>th</sup> – Class B – BUMC**

- Admission: Scout handbook, bottle of water to drink
- Fitness stations for Tenderfoot (Requirement 10a)
- Transportation of an injured person (First Class, Requirement 8c)

### **April 18<sup>th</sup> – PLC meeting – BUMC**

- Admission: recite the Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan
- Patrol meetings (bring Handbook to make off advancement)

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> – Class B – Cabin**

- Admission: recite Outdoor Code
- Plan for the Pocono Plateau camping trip
- Review poisonous plants, nature hike

### **Next Parents' Meeting**

The next parents' meeting is at **7:00 pm on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at BUMC**. Parents of families new to the Troop will meet with the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair the same evening starting at **6:25 pm**.

### **Troop Website**

Need information about the Troop between parents' meetings and Newsletters? Check the Troop website: [paoli181.com](http://paoli181.com) Our website is kept updated with Scout Leadership positions and other important news and information.



### **BSA's new rank requirements**

A new Scout handbook has been issued for 2010. All Scouts with earlier handbooks have been given an envelope containing a handout of the new rank requirements, plus two stickers to attach to their handbooks. The envelope should be kept by the Scout with his handbook. When a boy becomes an Eagle, he will be

required to have fulfilled the new rank requirements for each rank he achieved in 2010 and going forward. Any boy who already held Life before 2010 does not need to worry about the new rank requirements for himself but he does have to be aware of the new requirements so that he can help younger scouts advance. The new rank requirements can be found in a Word document posted at the YahooGroups website, [click here](#).

### Youth Protection Training

Every other year, the Troop as a whole participates in Youth Protection Training which entails watching a video on the topic followed by discussions. Youth Protection Training is a mandatory program for all Scouts with the requirement being set by the National Council. The program will take the place of a regular Troop meeting; however, the specific Tuesday has not yet been set. Further information will be provided at the next parents' meeting.

### Adult Youth Protection Training – Online!

**All adults/parents who participate in troop outings and trips must take Youth Protection Training once every two years. This is a BSA requirement and protects you and our Scouts.** It is easy and quick since you can take it online in 30 minutes. Go to [BSA Online Learning Center](#) and click on the Youth Protection Training tab. This will take you to the E-Learning Portal. If you have a MyScouting account, just sign in as usual. Otherwise, register for a MyScouting account so that you can access the online training. Please follow the instructions on [CCCBSA Adult Leadership Training Courses](#) on how to print your certificate after the completion of the online course and how to have it recorded. If you are a registered leader and need your BSA number, e-mail the request to Counsel at [scouting@cccbsa.org](mailto:scouting@cccbsa.org) and the number will be e-mailed back to you promptly.

Let **Cindy Sharo**, our training coordinator, know that you have completed the Adult Youth Protection Training.

Another great online course is the **Troop**

**Committee Challenge** which Cindy recommends for those families whose sons joined the troop in the past two years. This, as well as other great courses that might interest you can be found at the [BSA Online Learning Center](#). They are quick and free and will help the Troop and you!

*Every Scout deserves a trained leader. Please do your part to oblige him.*

### Troop Yahoo Groups Sign-Up

The beauty of Yahoo Groups is that all email sent through Yahoo Groups will be forwarded to you directly at the email you have registered. If you are having trouble with this feature, please contact KS Bhaskar for help at [bhaskar@acm.org](mailto:bhaskar@acm.org).

If you haven't already signed up for the **Yahoo Groups for Troop 181**, please do so. Send an e-mail to [paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Having trouble with sign up? Contact KS Bhaskar at [bhaskar@acm.org](mailto:bhaskar@acm.org).

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.



### Troop Adult Leadership

**Linda Bravacos** – Troop Committee Chair  
610-647-8951, 610-316-7902 cell

**Scott Wilson** - Scoutmaster  
610-964-8467

**A.B. Maynard**– Camping Committee Chair  
610-578-0493

**Vince Piotti** – Advancement Committee Chair  
610-296-9058

**Donna McCarty**- Court of Honor Comm. Chair  
610-644-0255

**Susan Morris, Cassie Jamison** – Fund Raising Comm. Co-Chairs  
Susan 610-889-7497; Cassie 610-725-0628

**Mike Dixon** – Cabin Committee Chair  
610-827-1991

**Jayashree Bhaskar** – Communications Comm. Chair  
610-296-7332

**Joe DiGiorgio** – Finance Committee Chair  
610-688-1126

**Mike Harris**- Quartermaster  
610-647-0808

**Cindy Sharo** – Training Coordinator  
610-293-9177

**Mike Brown** - Charter Organization Representative  
610-688-2853

**Mike Ryczyn**- Recruiting Coordinator  
610-240-7769

**John Bravacos**- Friends of Scouting Chair  
610-647-8951

**Donna DiGiorgio**- Treasurer  
610-688-1126

*Please see the troop roster for the Boy Scout Youth Leadership contact information.*

#### **2009-2010 Calendar of Key Events**

**April 23-25** – OA Ordeal & Work Weekend - Horseshoe

**April 30-May 2** – UMC Camping and Service Weekend – UMC Poconos campsite

**May 7-9** – NYLT Weekend #1 - Ware

**May 14-16** – NYLT Weekend #2 - Ware

**May 21-23** – Beach Jam – Wildwood

**June 4-6** – OA Ordeal & Work Weekend - Horseshoe

**June 12** – Family Outing – Vally Creek Park

**June 12-13** – Jamboree Shakedown (location TBD)

**June 27-July 4** – Science Camp - Ware

**July 4 – 11** - Summer Camp – Roberts at Horseshoe

**July 17 – 25** – High Adventure – C&O Canal

**July 25 – August 4** – Jamboree – Fort Hill, VA