



Newsletter



Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 12th is our designated Scout Sunday. This is the day that we participate in the morning services at Berwyn United Methodist Church as a troop, to thank the church for sponsoring us throughout the year. The church provides us with space for our regular weekly meetings, a place for our parent's meetings, shed space for equipment storage and conference rooms for PLC meetings and Boards of Review. This is our chance to publicly show our gratitude, so all scouts and their families are strongly encouraged to attend.

THIS IS A CLASS A EVENT. Please arrive at 10:00am. Some scouts will participate in the service as ushers, handing out programs, etc. The service will begin at 10:30.

The theme of this year's service will be "Eagles." All of the Eagle scouts in attendance will be recognized.

A Pioneer's Journey

April 13 - 15, 2012

This "old school" pioneering weekend at Horseshoe is an outstanding merit badge combined with outdoor program opportunity! The entire program will be completed outdoors. Participants will tent camp and cook their own meals. The goal is for all Scouts to leave with their pioneering merit badge complete. Participate in the a leader's "hot" chili cooking contest. Fee: \$7 per camper (includes patch) plus \$35 per unit campsite (registration) fee. Visit <http://www.cccbsa.org/events> for details.



Winter Court of Honor

Date: Tuesday, February 7th

Time: We will be starting dinner at 7:00, so everybody is invited to arrive at 6:45.

Bring: A dish to share! The troop provides cake, paper and plastic goods and water.

Don't forget to bring your Parent's Ribbon if your scout has received a rank advancement since summer camp!

IMPORTANT

Help is needed both to set up and to clean up afterwards. Please contact Chris Linderman if you can help. Special thanks to Christine Linderman for organizing this event!



POTLUCK DINNER

This Month's Meetings

February 7th— Class A — BUMC
Winter Court of Honor/ Potluck Dinner
PLEASE ARRIVE AT 6:45

Feb 14— Class B — BUMC
Admission: Permission forms and food \$\$

February 28— Class B— BUMC
Admission: How to treat burns (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

March 6 — Class A — BUMC
Admission: Make a Neckerchief Slings

National Jamboree 2013

Sign up now if you plan to attend the 2013 National Jamboree in West Virginia. Chester County Council has the opportunity to send 6 troops (36 youth and 4 leaders each) and 1/2 of a Venturing crew (18 youth and 2 leaders).



Why is it important to sign up now? Because in March 2012, we must "lock-in" our commitment to a number of troops. If we have not filled 6 troops by then, we will "lock-in" only the number of troops that have been filled, capping the opportunity for Chester County Scouts at the lower number.

The cost for the Jamboree is approximately \$1,200 if you register before the end of January. After that, the cost will increase to about \$1,300. A deposit of \$150 is due at registration with the balance paid in installments through the year. Go to <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Pages/default.aspx> to register and for more information.

From Linda Bravacos:

Jamboree runs from July 15 - July 24. My guess is that our Council will tack a day or so on to the beginning for travel. For the last Jamboree in Fort AP Hill, our Council took the boys on a tour of Gettysburg and some other Civil War battlefields for a day and they camped that night close to Fort AP Hill so that they could be properly staged for arrival.

The registration page on the summit.scouting.org website has registration for youth, leader and staff. Each family registers individually, not as part of T181. Council will assemble provisional troops, keeping boys together from the same region. So, you can expect that your son will be in a provisional troop made up of other T181 scouts, plus those from local troops

such as Devon 50 or T78. When my son attended Jambo in 2010, he was the only scout from T181 to sign up but it made no difference. The boys will have some meetings with their provisional troop before they go to get to know each other, assemble themselves into patrols and elect leaders. JB had no trouble feeling a part of the group, ran for a leadership position and ended up as quartermaster. The adult leaders were very experienced and skilled at working with the boys within the patrol method. As a parent, I was reassured that my son would be safe and well looked after, after I had met our SM and ASMs.

Once you are signed up, you will begin to receive mail from Council about important dates and informational meetings. Everything that you need to know - what to bring, how to make sure they have money, keeping in contact, etc. - will be told to you.

Age restrictions for youth: "Must be at least 12 years of age by the first day of the jamboree or an 11 year old that has graduated the 6th grade, but has not reached their 18th birthday by the last day of the jamboree." JB was 14 when he made the trip. Did I think he was too young? Yes. Was he too young? No. The entire Jamboree is set up to make sure ALL the youth, no matter what age, have an awesome experience. They will have grown when they come home.

At Fort AP Hill family could visit any day and there were some evening events that family could stay for as well. We did go for one (HOT) day to visit JB and were reassured by what we saw. I don't know what the rules will be for visiting at the Summit but I'm sure there will be a plan for family visits.

Finally, Jamborees are held every FOUR years. So, if your son is 14 in the summer of 2013, this will be his only chance to go to a Jamboree as a scout.

Can you tell that I would highly encourage every family to send their scout to Jamboree at least one time? It's an amazing adventure for the boys. If anyone has questions, please see me/email me/call me. I'd be happy to fill you in more about my family's experience.

-- Linda Bravacos

February Ski Trip

A ski trip to Jack Frost Mountain in the Poconos is being planned for **Sunday, February 19 and Monday February 20.**

This is President's Day so schools are closed. We will be meeting early on Sunday to drive to Jack Frost (1 1/2 hours). There will be an opportunity for those scouts who would like to work on their Snowsports merit badge to do so. Both snowboarders and skiers can participate in this badge.



Details and permission forms have been posted on YahooGroups. **PLEASE NOTE: Jack Frost rental and waiver forms are required to be filled out for each day you are skiing.** Please be sure your scout has two of each form if he is participating both Sunday and Monday. We will be getting a group discount and group lessons are available. All scouts **MUST** wear a helmet (available as a rental) to ski or snowboard. This is a BSA rule!

Layered clothing is a necessity. Waterproof gloves, snow pants and heavy socks are also essential. Boys may wish to bring a scarf, bandana or neck gaiter and a pair of sunglasses or ski goggles as well.

Following skiing on Sunday, the troop will be staying overnight at the Arrowhead Lake Clubhouse, which is about 15 minutes from Jack Frost. **Any Moms who would like to attend the trip will be staying at the Nadel's house in Arrowhead Lake.** We will ski/board again on Monday, and leave from the mountain to arrive home around 6pm.

Thanks to Jordan Nadel and Dirk Soutendijk for planning this trip.

March Camping Weekend

Shawn Rock is our Adult Coordinator for the March Camping Trip to Washington, D.C. Plans are in the works for camping at Greenbelt Park in Maryland the weekend of March 16th-18th. Saturday will be spent in D.C. The specifics of the itinerary are still being decided, but the hope is to do something a little different than past trips.

There will be a limit of 36 people for the campsite. If you think you and/or your scout will be going on this trip, please let Mr. Rock know so he can get an idea of numbers for his planning.

If you have any questions, please contact Shawn directly.



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 Wilson, Sherri Gartner or Joe DiGiorgio.

Annual Friends of Scouting Campaign

Friends of Scouting is the annual fundraising campaign to raise the operating funds necessary to provide a quality Scouting program in our Council. This campaign is divided into two

separate efforts: Family Friends of Scouting, which solicits contributions from Scouting families, and Community Friends of Scouting, which seeks contributions from business and community leaders as well as Council Board members.

Every year there is a need for financial support to maintain existing programs, to develop new programs and to ensure Council camps remain open. The essence of the Family Friends of Scouting campaign is to raise money to help the Chester County



Council defray the actual cost of delivering and running the Scouting program. Special events and fundraisers pay only a portion of the cost. Your FOS pledge supports your son, your unit, your District and your Council.

Only through your support can we keep the Scouting light burning brightly into the future.

Why should you support Scouting with a FOS pledge? Because your financial support is needed to deliver on the Scouting promise and to guide the youth of this generation as they grow to become the leaders of the next.

Adventure, learning, challenge, responsibility - the promise of Scouting is all this and more.

Voice of the Scout (VOS)

Council is set to collect the Voice of Scouts, Parents & Volunteers in March

As part of a national Boy Scout of America program, our Council is participating in the Voice of the Scout (VOS), a survey program to improve upon the delivery of a high quality scouting experience to all of our members.

Beginning mid-March, parents, Scouts & Venturers over 14, volunteers and chartered organizations will begin seeing surveys delivered into their email inboxes for Voice of the Scout. The surveys have been designed to be very brief but will give needed insight into the variety of experiences at the unit and district within our council.

Surveys will stay open for three weeks, then information will be referenced for mak-

ing key decisions to drive Scouting forward, as guided by the people that matter most - you! It will be a continuous program. Surveys will be launched twice per year, with no household receiving more than one survey every six months and not every household will be surveyed every time.

Email addresses as supplied to Council on applications for membership are being used for the surveys. Voice of the Scout is how we will help guide our decision-making for our future programs and operational delivery. If you receive an email, please take a few minutes of your time to participate!

Linda Bravacos

Upcoming Parents Meeting

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

Annual Dues

The annual dues invoices have been sent out. Please send your payments to Donna DiGiorgio ASAP. Please contact either Donna or Sherri Gartner if you have not received your invoice or if you have any questions. Thank for your prompt attention to this matter.

Get Trained!

One area where the troop was lacking for the 2011 Journey to Excellence was in Adult Training. We would like as many parents as possible to take the following courses online in addition to Youth Protection :

- **This is Souting**
- **Boy Scouts: Fast Start**

These two courses should only take you about an hour to complete on www.myscouting.org. Please use the Council's code #539 so that the verification appears in the Chester County Council's records. Also, as a back up, please print out the certificate and get a copy to Kate VanMeter or Sherri Gartner. While you are focused on getting trained, feel free to take any of the other courses available, such as:

- Trek Safely
- Weather Hazards
- Safety Afloat
- Safe Swim Defense
- Climb-on safely

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Van Meter.

Advancement Notes

New Eagle Scout paperwork will be instituted in 2012. Please see Mr. Piotti for details on what requirements are changing and how to comply.

Attention Life Scouts!

If you are looking for ideas for your Eagle project, please contact Mr. Piotti. As always, Mr. Piotti will be able to answer any question regarding the process of progressing from Life to Eagle ranks.

Also, if you know of a project that may interest one of our Life scouts, please let Vince Piotti know about it!



Car Insurance Information Needed ASAP

In order to simplify the tour permit application process for troop trips, please provide your car insurance information, car make and model, and number of seat belts to our Camping Coordinator, Ed Maier. We need a complete list of updated information to comply with Council's tour permit requirements, and to be properly covered by the BSA insurance.

Please remember to be safe and obey speed limits when driving with our scouts in your car. You are carrying the most precious cargo!

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Maier directly.

Leftover Popcorn

Kate VanMeter has some popcorn in stock that is available for the scouts to sell. Please contact Kate directly to find out what items she still has.

From the Scoutmaster

With a number of new parents participating during our troop Board of Reviews, there have been questions about what should go on during the review. I am attaching a link from the Boy Scout Trail website where you will find a very helpful description of how a Board of Review process works:

<http://www.boyscoutstrail.com/boardofreview.asp>

Here are some key points:

1. The Board of Review is a time for parents and scouts to get to know each other. BOR members should ask questions about the non-technical aspects of a scout's life. This might include areas such as favorite camping trips, hardest requirement for this rank advancement, suggestions on how to improve our scouting program, etc.
2. The Board of Review is **not a retesting of requirements** - the Scout has already been tested on the skills and activities required for the rank by his Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Scoutmaster

or Assistant Scoutmaster.

3. The Board of Review is a time to determine the Scout's attitudes, accomplishments, and acceptance of Scouting Ideals.
4. **A Board of Review should take from 15 to 30 minutes**, with shorter time for lower ranks.
5. This website provide typical questions that might be asked for each rank.

Hopefully, this will help everyone and demystify the BOR process. Lastly, this is a great opportunity for parents to get to meet our scouts in the best of circumstances and for our scouts to get to know you. Please volunteer to help with Boards of Review.

As always, if you have any questions, please call me directly.

YIS,
Scott Wilson
Troop 181 Scoutmaster

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@yahogroups.com

Remember that any e-mail sent to paoli181@yahogroups.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 Sharmon Prialux (610-647-3620 or sharmonp@comcast.net) if you want to place an order.



Get Connected

Chester County Council has a Facebook page! Sign up for our new Facebook page and keep up with the latest activities and information in the Chester County Council.

Troop Adult Leadership

Sherri Gartner – Troop Committee Chair

610- 408-9384

Scott Wilson - Scoutmaster

610-964-8467

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

Joe Linderman – Cabin Committee Chair

610-722-9914

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.

Mark your Calendars!

Summer Camp 2012 dates:

**Sunday July 22 to
Sunday July 29**



Calendar of Key Events

February 7 - Winter Court of Honor
BUMC - 6:45pm

February 11 - Scouting University
Elizabethtown College

February 12 - Scout Sunday - BUMC -
10:00am - Class A

February 14 Meeting Class B - BUMC

February 19 - 20 - Ski Trip to Jack Frost

February 28 Meeting - Class B- BUMC

March 4 PLC Meeting 5:00pm

March 6 Meeting - Class A - BUMC

March 16 -18 - Camping Trip to
Washington, DC

April 13-15 Camping /Deep Sea Fishing
Cape May, NJ

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

Troop Website

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