

Troop 181 Newsletter

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Philadelphia Rock Gym

The December trip was an outing to the Philadelphia Rock Gym on **December 13th**. We received instruction on climbing from the staff at the gym and had plenty of time to practice old and new skills. All in attendance had a great time! Thanks to **Linda Bravacos** for organizing this trip.



Ice Climbing at Ricketts Glen State Park

Scouts are gearing up for the upcoming ice climbing trip. **Mike Harris** is once again organizing this very popular camping trip the weekend of **January 16th – 18th**. We will be staying at the Program Shelter at Camp Lavigne. Currently there are ten scouts and four adults who have signed up to go and room for a few more. E-mail Mr. Harris as soon as possible to let him know if you are going.



Skiing at Elk Mountain

Stay tuned for details about our next camping/skiing trip which will be on the weekend of **February 20th – 22nd**. We'll be camping at **Camp Minsi**. **Mike Dixon** is organizing the trip.

Spring 2009 Camping Trip

The Scouts voted to go to Washington, DC **March 20-22, 2009** as a camping trip which **Jack Warnock** is organizing. We will stay at the [National Park in Greenbelt, MD](#). It will be a no-cooking camp out with meals to be taken in DC. Stay tuned for details.

Reminder about Monetary Contributions for Food on Camping Trips

Generally, during the Tuesday meeting before a camping trip, the Scouts plan menus and two Scouts from each patrol are assigned the responsibility of shopping for food. All Scouts going on the camping trip contribute \$15 to the cost of food. If you have signed up to camp and cancel after menus are planned, you must still contribute your \$15 to the cost of food because the Scout who is shopping will have shopped for you! Please be proactive and seek out your fellow Scout to whom you owe money so that he doesn't have to chase you.

New Patrol Leaders

As we have done for the past several years, at mid-year the Scouts have an opportunity to re-elect patrol leaders. Congratulations to the following Scouts who were selected at the January 6th meeting: **John Bravacos, David Siah, Vince Smith and Colin Weissman**.



Klondike Derby

Mark your calendar for the annual **Klondike Derby** to be held at **Valley Creek Park** in

Malvern on Saturday, February 7 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Troop has 2 sleds ready to go for the event. Meet at BUMC at **8:30 am** and plan to be home by **4:30 pm**. **Hiking boots are required – NO sneakers will be allowed on the course.** Bring permission slips and lots of energy. Lunch will be provided.

Court of Honor & Friends of Scouting



The **Winter Court of Honor** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 10**. We will also kickoff the annual **Friends of Scouting** fundraising event. Please come out and support our hardworking Scouts and the Chester County Council of Boy Scouts of America. Sr. District Executive **Bob Brown** will attend our Court of Honor on behalf of Chester County Council. Please encourage your boys to complete their rank and merit badge requirements, get tested and approved, and submit their completed documentation to **Kathy Warnock** by the **February 3** troop meeting for Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. The last opportunity for a Board of Review before the Winter Court of Honor will be Sunday, **February 7**. Thank you to **John Bravacos** for volunteering to serve as Friends of Scouting Chair for Troop 181.

Scout Recruiting

With **Jack Warnock** taking the lead, Webelos recruiting is in full swing.

Several Webelos dens have asked to join us at regularly scheduled Troop meetings. So, don't be surprised if our ranks swell a little over the next few weeks as we are joined by Webelos considering joining Troop 181.

Scouts, earn the **BSA Recruiter Patch** by recruiting any of your friends and Webelos Scouts to **join the troop**. In fact, simply pitching Boy Scouting to a friend is a requirement for First Class rank. **A very easy way to do this is to copy the tri-fold handout about the troop and give it to your friends.** To find the tri-fold go to: [Troop 181 Brochure](#)

Parents can help too. **Please promote Troop 181 and recruit a new Boy Scout today.**



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following scouts who recently earned merit badges:

- **Andrew Sharo** – Aviation
- **Vince Smith** – Scholarship



2010 National Jamboree Application information

The centennial National Jamboree is scheduled to be held from **July 26th-August 4th 2010** at **Ft. A.P. Hill** in **Virginia**. The application for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree is now available at the [Chester County Council website](#). If you have already completed an application, don't forget to go back online to update it to include any new leadership positions.

[To see a promotional video and Jamboree map, visit the Jamboree Website](#)



Fundraising Committee News

Four fundraising events will be held over the course of the year, and Scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in as many as they can but at least one at a minimum. Of course, Scouts are welcome to participate in all four events. To make our Troop budget, each scout's annual contribution is **\$125**. These fundraising activities are designed to enable any Scout who wishes to do so to raise his entire contribution.

The first fundraising event for this scout year was the **Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble** which was held on **Sunday December 21st**. There were nine scouts who volunteered, each

for a two hour time slot. It was a great learning experience for the boys and each of them was quite adept at wrapping by the end of his shift! They collectively raised \$155.45 and we hope to do better next year. Here are some [pictures](#) of the scouts in action. Thanks to **Jayashree Bhaskar** who coordinated this event.

Stay tuned for news on upcoming fundraising events from **Scott Wilson** and his fundraising committee.

Scouting for Food

We used the holiday party as a "Food Raiser" to help restock the food pantry at Wayne United Methodist Church with great success. Thanks to all the families who contributed. We will have another food drive in February to help replenish the food pantry at the WUMC as well.

On a related note, the parents agreed that we need to focus more attention on showing compassion to others in our local community who are experiencing financial and personal difficulties. With that in mind, we are going to explore if groups of our Scouts could volunteer/serve in shelters and food kitchens in the area on an ongoing basis. More information will follow.

Class B Shirts

Donna DiGiorgio is the keeper and distributor of the Class B shirts. If anyone needs a shirt, see Donna. Cost, as in the past, is \$10.

PLC News

January 6th – Class A – BUMC

- Knot – Two Half Hitches
- Patrol meetings
- Elections
- Klondike Derby prep

January 13th – Class B – BUMC

- Knot – Taut Line
- First Aid
- Winter camping preparation
- Klondike Derby prep

January 20th – No meeting

January 25th – PLC meeting at Harris' at 7:30 PM

January 27th – Class B – BUMC

- Knot – Timber Hitch
- First Aid
- Patrol Project
- Klondike Derby prep

Next Parents' Meetings

The January parents' meeting is rescheduled for **Sunday, January 11th at 7:30 PM at BUMC.**

The February parents' meeting will be held on **February 8th at 7:30 PM at BUMC.** Again, this is a change from the previously set date of February 1st.



BSA's new rank requirements

Please refer to the following link for updates:
[2008 Rank Requirement Changes](#)

It's time to renew!

Merit Badge Counselors: It is time to verify and renew your membership with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America requires all merit badge counselors to renew their registration annually. If you are currently registered as a MB counselor, within the last couple of weeks communication has been sent out, either by mail or email asking you to renew your membership for 2009.

If you do not respond you **WILL** be dropped from the roster of registered merit badge counselors members and will have to re-register if you want to continue.

If you **DID NOT** get an email or a letter and you think you should have, please call the Registrar at Chester County Council or your district advancement chairman to make sure

that your name is on the Merit Badge Counselor master list.

Youth Protection Training Video

We **require** every Scout to view "A Time to Tell" once every three years as part of the Boy Scouts of America comprehensive program to prevent child sexual abuse in scouting. **Every boy in the Troop must view this DVD this year.** If a parent does not wish for their son to view "A Time to Tell," complete a Request for Absence form. Please see **Linda Bravacos** for the form as well as the list of scouts who are yet to watch the video.

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. It shouldn't take you more than 30 minutes. Please 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.

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

If you haven't already signed up for the **Yahoo Groups for Troop 181**, please do so by subscribing to the group. Send an e-mail to paoli181-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Having trouble with sign up? Contact KS Bhaskar for help: bhaskar@acm.org. Please note that any e-mail sent to paoli181@yahoogroups.com will be forwarded to everyone who is a subscriber to the group. **IMPORTANT:** If you are **NOT** signed up to receive Yahoo Groups mail, let Linda Bravacos know immediately so that you will continue to receive e-mail. All announcements, notices, etc. are now being sent only through Yahoo Groups.

Search Committee

A search committee consisting of **Mike Harris, Joe DiGeorgio, Mike Ryczyn, Cindy Sharo** and **Dave Miller** has been formed to find replacements for the positions of **Scoutmaster, Treasurer** as well as **Advancements Coordinator**. Those positions are currently held by **Dave Miller, Ron Bellamy** and **Kathy Warnock** respectively, who would all like to step down. The committee has met twice so far and has made progress. Attend the parents' meeting in January and be among the first to learn of the results.

Co-Scoutmaster Assignments

The following adult leaders have committed to be Co-Scoutmasters of the Month to support the troop:

January – Mr. Ryczyn

February -- Mr. Bhaskar

March -- Mr. Weissman

April -- Open

May -- Open

June -- Open

July -- Open

Please call the Co-Scoutmaster if you have a "Mr. Miller question" and he is not home.

Please remember to support our boys by attending the troop meetings to which you have been assigned (check your troop calendar for your commitment) so we always have at least "two-deep leadership" at each meeting.



Troop Adult Leadership

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

David Miller - Scoutmaster
610-213-3188

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

Scott Wilson – Fund Raising Comm. Chair
610-964-8467

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

Jack Warnock– Recruiting Coordinator
610-722-2673

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

Ron Bellamy- Treasurer
610-644-0879

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

2008-2009 Calendar of Key Events

January 16-18 – Camping – Ice Climbing

February 1 – Scout Sunday (tentative)

February 7 – Klondike Derby – Valley Creek

February 20-22 – Camping – Skiing

March 14 – First Aid Meet

March 20-22 – Camping – DC

April 4 – Webelos Woods – Archery Range, cookout, campfire & skits

April 17-19 – Camping – Backpacking TBA

May 1-3 – Philmont Crew Training Weekend

May 15-17 – Camping – Bike trip

May 30 – Family Outing TBA

June 19-21 – Camping-- Fun in the Sun Cape Henlopen

June 27-July 11 – High Adventure Trek— Philmont

July 26-August 02 – Summer Camp – Court of Honor, family picnic at Camp Horseshoe

Aug. 16 – *PLC Annual Planning Meeting for 2009-2010*