



# TROOP 523



## NEWSLETTER

September 2002

Welcome back to another year of scouting. Our scouts' Patrol Leaders Council has met twice so far this year. They have planned an active fun filled program for this coming year. A calendar of events is attached.

One important date to mark on your calendars is October 8, 2002. Our first Court of Honor will be held on this date. Our scouts have worked very hard on merit badges, rank advancements and other special achievements and we hope all of our families can come out and show our support for their efforts. The ceremonies will begin at 7:00 PM in the Gym.

Last year was a great year for the Troop. We capped the year off with week of summer camp at Resica Falls Scout Reservation in the Poconos. Thirty-eight scouts and ten adults enjoyed a week in the woods earning merit badges, swimming, boating, fishing, competing with other troops in water polo, softball and soccer plus other fun activities. Three days later 18 scouts and adults journeyed to Canada for an eight-day canoe trek through the wilderness of Ontario.

### FLORIDA SEA BASE

Our next National High Adventure outing will be to the Florida Sea Base from July 22-29, 2003. We have 40 spots of which 38 are filled as we prepared this newsletter. If a scout is interested in the trip and will be 13 by July 22, 2003 contact Mike Taynor at 381-3552. Our next payment of \$250 per person is due by October 8, 2002. There is a large waiting list for the Sea Base and our spots will be lost if we are late in getting the next payment in. Please submit payment to Mike Taynor at one of the troop meetings or call for other arrangements. The Sea Base will provide additional literature once our next payment is received.

### FUNDRAISERS

The Troop is able to provide an active program for our scouts using funds from basically four sources; Dues, the Spaghetti Dinner, Bingo and the Mega-Demonstration. Dues are discussed below. While the Troop makes a profit from the Spaghetti Dinner, it is a tradition in Troop 523 going back many years. It is the Troop's main social event of the year where all of our scouting families can get together for some of the best spaghetti in town. The date has not been confirmed but will be on a Saturday in December. Bingos have been very good for the Troop and we are signed up to do 12 this year. A schedule of assignments was previously mailed out. Contact Bruce Whitaker at 382-9015 if you have any questions. A new tradition appears to have been started with our third annual Mega-Demonstration which will be held in March of 2003. Merchandise from a large number of vendors will be available as well as food and prizes.

This year we will participate in the BSA Popcorn Sale. There is a major difference between this sale and the old candy sales we did away with a couple of years ago. Any money earned by your scout will be credited to his individual account that can be applied to costs such as summer camp or the Florida High Adventure. The percentage earned on each scout's sales will be determined by the total sales of the troop.

The committee will seek other fundraisers to defray your scout's costs in the future if this event works out.

## **DUES**

Dues for 2003 will be \$45 and are due by December 10, 2002. Dues have not increased in at least the last 7 years thanks to everyone's efforts during our Spaghetti Dinner, Mega-Demonstration and Bingos.

## **SENIOR PATROL LEADER**

Congratulations to Tim Lamore who will be the Troop's Senior Patrol Leader for the next year. Tim has been an active member of the Troop while holding a number of leadership positions, most recently as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Tim has earned this spot and has the full support of the Scouts, Troop Committee and Scoutmasters. Our thanks go out to our departing Senior Patrol Leader, Ryan Gillespie, for a great year. Ryan will continue with the Troop as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

The second Tuesday of each month is our Parents meeting. The meetings are held during the regular Troop meeting in one of the classrooms. The meetings provide an opportunity to get details on upcoming events, provide feedback, offer suggestions and get answers to any questions you may have. It is vital to the success of our Troop that parents come out and participate.

The second Monday of each month is the Troop Committee meeting also held at St. John's. The meetings start at 7:30 PM. Parents are always welcome and you do not have to be a member of the committee to attend.

This has been a great year for Eagle Scouts. Three scouts from our Troop have earned this honor with a fourth scout in the process of completing his service project. Eagle Courts of Honor have been held for Jeff Botti and Ross Guellnitz. Another will be celebrated in the near future for Brian Whitaker. Congratulations to all three for a job well done.

There are mixed emotions when one of our scouts turns 18 and goes off to college. Sadness that the years of camping, hiking and fun weekends together may be coming to a close. Happiness that our scouts have developed into young men of character leaving to further their education. With that in mind we would like to congratulate and say thanks to Adam McCabe (Loyola), Albert Knapp (Montclair) and Ross Guellnitz (Ramapo).

We are still trying to get an email address for each family. If we do not have your email address or if you are not sure that we do, just send a note to [metsr@comcast.net](mailto:metsr@comcast.net) and we will add you to our contact list.