



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

December 2002

FLORIDA SEA BASE 2003

The following is a copy of an email sent out on 12/16/02. Contact Mike Taynor if you did not receive it.

Hi everyone,

(SCOUTS - PLEASE PRINT A COPY FOR YOUR PARENTS)

We have received additional information from Sea Base. Copies are being made. We will be having a meeting on Monday, January 13, 2003 at St. John's. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. All scouts should be represented by at least one family member. Participant's Guides, Medical Forms and other information will be handed out.

We also have additional information on costs. Airfare will be just under \$230 including all taxes and fees. A block of tickets has been reserved. However, we need a deposit of \$40 per person to keep the reservations open and the price set. I need the deposit no later than our Troop meeting on January 7, 2003. Payments can be made sooner. All checks should be made out to BSA Troop 523. We will be flying on American Airlines leaving Newark at 6:28 AM on July 22, 2003 arriving in Miami at 10:30 AM. A bus will then bring us to the Brinton Center which is a four hour trip including a stop for lunch. We will be leaving Miami at 7:35 PM on July 29, 2003 arriving back at Newark at 10:45 PM. The cost of the bus from Miami will be approximately \$60 per person round trip. We will probably hire vans to take us to and from Newark.

Call me if you have any questions.

Mike Taynor
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732-381-3552

PHILMONT 2004

As mentioned in the November newsletter, we were able to reserve 24 spots (2 crews) to attend the high adventure camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The trip will be from 07/20/2004 to 08/01/2004 unless a side trip is added. The fee for just the scout camp will be \$475 per person. The total cost to Troop members who went in 2001 was approximately \$1150 which included two additional days of site seeing and white water rafting. To be eligible, "the minimum age to attend Philmont is 14 by January 1 of the year attending (2004) OR have completed the eighth grade and be at least 13 prior to participation, without exception." Philmont has also implemented a height/weight limitation that applies to scouts and adults. We will be hiking with 35-50 pound packs at elevations of 6,500 to 12,500 feet. As

mentioned previously, several of our scouts and adults attended in 2001 and had a great time. We are sure they will be glad to recount their experience with you.

If you are interested in attending this trip, please let Tom McCabe, Bruce Whitaker or Mike Taynor know as soon as possible. A non-refundable reservation fee of \$50 per person is due no later than January 7, 2003. Please submit all payments to Mike Taynor.

Contact any of the individuals listed above if you have any questions on eligibility, projected costs, etc.

FUNDRAISERS

There are no Troop fundraisers at this time! Our next event is our Third Annual Mega-Demonstration set for March 16th. Please mark your calendars. Additional information will be coming out soon..

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Popcorn Sale and the Evening of Giving. While the Troop did not profit financially, our scouts were able to add to their accounts to defray the cost of Florida or Summer Camp. In addition, \$240 was raised for the Simon Youth Foundation.

SOUP KITCHEN

Every six weeks a group of scouts with adult leadership lends a hand at the soup kitchen operated by Food for Friends out of Rahway. The next one is scheduled for January 25th which is the same date as the Klondike Derby. If your scout will not be attending the Klondike and is able to help out, contact Tom McCabe. We are looking for 4-6 scouts to help set up and serve lunch.

OUTINGS

Our next outing is the Shawnee Mountain Ski Trip scheduled for January 11-12, 2003. See the attached flyer for details.

The Klondike Derby will be at KMSR during the weekend of January 25th. Scouts can make this a day trip or a camping weekend. Contact Tom McCabe for further details.

REMINDERS

Dues for 2003 are \$45. If you have not paid yet then the dues are overdue. See Mike Taynor for payment.

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. January's meeting will start at 7:00 PM and will cover details of our Florida 2003 Adventure.