



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

February 2003

MEGA-DEMONSTRATION

Our Troop's 3rd Annual Mega-Demonstration is scheduled for March 16, 2003. It will be held in St. John's Cafeteria from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Another copy of the flyer and informational letter is attached. As stated in the letter, your presence at this event is very important. Stop by for a hotdog and soda and browse our vendor's wares. Lorie Esposito is hard at work adding more vendors all the time. Flyers are available for distribution. See Mike Taynor for copies.

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 March 8th which is the same date as the Caving Trip. If your scout will not be attending the outing 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 last outing was the Klondike Derby will at KMSR during the weekend of January 25th. A group of our scouts demonstrated their winter skills by camping in tents both Friday and Saturday nights. Our thanks to the brave adults who camped along with your scouts.

The Troop will be experiencing a new activity on March 7-9, 2003. We will be caving in Pennsylvania. The Troop will be traveling underground under the supervision of Carl Heitmeyer. Carl is an experienced spelunker. Hopefully everyone was able to attend his presentation at the February Parents' Meeting.

Summer Camp will be at KMSR this year from June 29 – July 5, 2003. The cost will be \$200 for each scout which includes an early payment discount. Full payment is due no later than March 25, 2003. The cost after that date will be \$225. Summer Camp will be one of the topics covered at our March Parents' Meeting.

COURT OF HONOR

Our next court of honor will be on March 4, 2003. Scouts at this time will be recognized for their achievements. A number of our scouts will be receiving rank advancements, merit badges, patches, etc. Courts of honor are an opportunity for our families to show their support for the scouts' hard work.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow is an Honor Camping organization within Boy Scouts. Membership is by election only and the elections are usually held in February each year.. In order to be eligible for election a Boy Scout must hold the rank of First Class Scout or higher and have camped a total of 15 days and nights over the last two years. Six, but no more than six of those days & nights of camping must be a long-term camping

experience, such as summer camp or a high adventure camp. The election is presided over by an election team of three OA members. At least two of the three members must be from another troop. Each youth member of the troop can cast a vote to decide whether each eligible individual will be admitted to the OA. At least 50% of the troop must be present to hold the election. A simple majority of the vote carries the election. No electioneering or campaigning will be allowed. If at least one member of the Troop is elected to the Order of the Arrow then one adult member of the troop may also be elected to the OA. The adult requirements for eligibility are the 15 days and nights of camping including long term camping, no exceptions. The committee elects the adult member. OA election dates have been submitted to the OA election team committee for this year. The tentative dates are 2/18 or 2/25.

A reminder for our current members. Meetings are held at Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.. Meetings are scheduled for February 13, April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9 and December 11. Contact an adult member if you need a ride.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Contact Mike Taynor if you need to know how much you have credited to your Florida Account or your Scout Account.

Adults attending the Massachusetts trip in June are reminded that they are responsible for the entire \$35 cost. Please remit your balance. Scouts were only responsible for the \$15 deposit. The remaining \$20 will be picked up by the Troop.

Our next Bingo is scheduled for February 21, 2003. Please plan on arriving at 10:00 PM if you are scheduled for that night. Not sure when you are scheduled for or need to make up a date you missed? Bruce Whitaker has all of the answers. See Bruce at one of our meetings or call 732-382-9015.

REMINDERS

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.

February 14-16	Winnebago Camping
February 21	Bingo
February 21-22	Trade-O-Ree
February 25	Boards of Review
March 4	Court of Honor
March 5	PLC Meeting
March 7-9	Troop Caving Trip
March 8	Soup Kitchen
March 10	Committee Meeting
March 11	Parents' Meeting
March 16	Mega-Demonstration
March 21-23	#1 Patrol Trip
March 25	Boards of Review