



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

August 2003

Another year of scouting is set to begin. We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. There is a great deal of information in this newsletter. Please review the upcoming events with your scout.

There will be an orienteering meet on Sunday, September 7 in Cedar Grove. A permission slip is enclosed. This will be a day trip with each scout bringing a brown bag lunch. Please contact the SPL if attending by September 5 so that we can arrange transportation.

The Troop Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday, September 8. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at St. John's starting at 7:30 PM.

Our first Troop meeting will be on September 9, 2003. It is very important that each scout make every effort to attend as Patrol Leader elections will be held at this meeting. This will also be the first Parents' Meeting. The scouts have developed a tentative calendar of Troop events and outings which will be handed out at the meeting.

The Troop will be working on a service project at our camp at Kittatinny Mountain Scouting Reservation (KMSR) on September 19-21. This is an excellent opportunity to complete the requirements for the SCENE patch that was started in Florida, to earn service hours and to help out at our camp. The work should only take part of Saturday with the balance devoted to advancement activities. Scouts need to indicate if they are attending at the September 9th meeting. A permission slip is enclosed. Unless otherwise stated, all trips are patrol cooking. Patrols should be checking to make sure their patrol kits are in order.

The Troop will conduct a Court of Honor at the Troop meeting on September 23. There are over two hundred awards, patches and badges to be presented. We are requesting all families to attend to support the efforts made by our scouts to earn these awards.

On Saturday, September 27, the Troop will be participating in the Walk For Life to benefit the Life Choices Resource Center. The event will be held at Merrill Park at starting at 9:00 AM. Additional details and sign up forms will be available on September 9th.

The Troop will be conducting a one-day Junior Leadership Training program on Sunday, September 28th. Details and additional information will be available at the Troop meeting.

FLORIDA SEA BASE

A total of 40 scouts and adults enjoyed a long week this summer at the National High Adventure Sea Base located in the Florida Keys. In addition to a day of sightseeing in Key West, the group spent 4 nights and 5 days on a private island living with Key deer, iguanas and hermit crabs. Everyone had a great time thanks to the efforts of our Island Mates. More good news, our expenses were lower than expected so everyone gets a

refund. A check is enclosed. For those also attending Philmont, the refund was applied to the balance due (see below)

PHILMONT

Our next payment of \$215 is due no later than September 23. This will bring the total paid to \$265 per person. Please submit the balance due to our Treasure, Mike Taynor. See Mike if you need to find out your balance due after the Florida refund.

PLANNING MEETING

The scouts had a very successful planning meeting at KMSR on August 22-24. They set goals for themselves and for the Troop. They also developed an ambitious and exciting calendar of activities for the 2003-2004 scouting year.

The scouts set four main goals they hope to achieve in the coming year.

- To provide a variety of service projects in order to offer the opportunity for each scout to earn at least 10 service hours.
- To provide a variety of outings with at least one trip scheduled for each month.
- To provide for training in order to improve the communication within the Troop.
- To provide a quality advancement program with each scout participating in two Boards of Review (BOR) each year. The BOR would be for advancement or to review the scout's current status.

As mentioned previously, a calendar with tentative dates will be distributed on September 9th.

JAMBOREE 2005

The National Jamboree will be held at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia from July 25 to August 3, 2005. Scouts must be first class and have completed the sixth grade or be 12 years old by July 1, 2005 and not be 18 before August 3, 2005. Scouts can attend the National Jamboree in 2005 only as a member of a provisional troop under the Central New Jersey Council. A provisional troop is assembled by Council and can consist of scouts from any number of troops. Any Troop 523 scouts attending will probably be in the same provisional troop. There will be up to six provisional troops with slots for 216 youths. The entire cost will be approximately \$1,150. Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis starting at 3 sign up nights in September. The first one is September 22 at the Council office. A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due with the application. The \$100 will be refunded if all slots are filled.

Applications and additional information will be available at the Parents' Meeting on September 9. Bob Gill will take completed applications and deposits to Council on September 22. Parents and scouts are encouraged to attend the meeting if you have questions we cannot answer. Directions to the meetings on the 22nd and 23rd will be available at the Troop meetings.

Only experienced registered adults may attend. Applicants must go through an interview process as there are only 24 adult slots (4 per provisional troop) for the entire Central New Jersey Council. Twelve of those slots require at least one year's experience within the three years preceding the Jamboree as a scoutmaster. Six of the slots are reserved for adult leaders between the ages of 18 and 21. Applications will be available at the Parents' Meeting.

The Troop will also be running its regular visit to the Jamboree as we did in 2001. The Troop will rent a bus to visit the Jamboree for one day and then do a day of sightseeing in Washington D.C. Lodging costs for scouts will be paid for by the Troop. Adults and other family members are welcome if space permits although they would be responsible for their share of the hotel costs. There are no current deadlines for this trip.

TREASURER'S NOTE

The Troop has three primary sources for the funds used to provide an active program for our scouts; dues, donations from Bingo and fundraisers.

It is anticipated that dues will remain at \$45 and will be collected in late October or early November. Due to our success in other activities, dues have not increased in the last 10 years.

St. John's has allocated the last Friday of each month for our scouting adults to work Bingo. That would require everyone to work two to three nights. The order will be maintained going into the following year's schedule. Our thanks to everyone who was able to work one of the three Bingos in August. Bingo assignments are enclosed. Please make arrangements to trade assignments with another family if you are unable to make one of the nights assigned to you. Inform our Committee Chairman, Bruce Whitaker, of any changes in order to insure each Bingo is adequately staffed. Our next Bingo is scheduled for September 26, 2003. Please plan to arrive by 9:45 PM if you are scheduled for that night.

Which brings us to fundraisers. There were only two fundraisers last year that were held for the Troop, the Annual Spaghetti Dinner and the Mega-Demonstration. This year's Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 20 although the date has not been confirmed by St. John's. A second event, possibly a Pancake Breakfast, will probably be held in the spring of 2004. There will not be a Mega-Demonstration.

The Troop will run other fundraisers this year where all of the profits will be allocated to the participating scouts. These funds may be used to defray the cost of trips not paid for by the Troop such as Summer Camp and Philmont. Participation in these activities is solely at the discretion of each scouting family. Fundraisers under consideration include the Popcorn Sale and candle gift items for the holidays.

REMINDERS

September 7	Orienteering Meet
September 8	Committee Meeting
September 9	First Troop Meeting & Parents' Meeting
September 20	KMSR Service Project
September 23	Court of Honor
September 26	Bingo
September 27	Walk For Life
September 28	Junior Leadership Training