



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

February 2004

IMPORTANT DATES

February 27

- Bingo – Contact Bruce Whitaker if you are not sure of the dates assigned or if you are available to work this Bingo.

March 2

- Court of Honor. A night to honor our Scouts' achievements. Family and friends are invited to attend including the families of our newest scouts.

March 3

- PLC Meeting

March 9

- Parents' meeting. An orientation to Troop 523 for the parents of our newest scouts will be included in this meeting. Additional copies of guides for this year's summer camp will also be available.
- Orientation meeting for our newest scouts.

March 12-14

- Caving Trip – Scouts can explore underground in Pieper's Cave, PA. Parents are needed to drive and attend this outing. Contact: Carl Heitmeyer

March 20

- Bike Hike Preparation Run. Scouts inform your patrol leader if you plan on participating. Contact: Bob Gill

March 26-28

- Backpacking on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Contact: Tom McCabe.

April 2-4

- Fifty Mile Bike Hike. Contact: Bob Gill.

April 25

- BSA TROOP 523's First Annual Pancake Breakfast – Mark your calendars.

April 30 – May 2

- Snuffy Hollow Camporee at Thompson Park, Jamesburg. Contact: John Sprowls.

May 21-23

- Gateway Camping Trip

May 28-31

Backpacking Trip – Details to follow. Continued on reverse

June 4-6

- Order of the Arrow Ordeal at YCSR.

June 25-28

- Canoe Trip

July 4-11

- Summer Camp – This year we will be attending an exciting camp, Camp Horseshoe, for the first time. The camp is located on the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Cost per scout is \$230. This year's camp runs from Sunday to Sunday.
 - **February 10 - \$20 deposit (Scouts & Adults)**
 - **March 16 - \$105 payment (Scouts)**
 - **April 20 - \$105 payment (Scouts & Adults)**
- Adults are \$115 and must be registered Scouters. Leaders must also have a class A uniform to dine in the dining hall.
- New scouts should bring their deposits to the March 9th meeting.
- Contact: Mike Taynor

July 18 – August 1

- Philmont High Adventure Expedition

BINGO

Our participation in Bingo continues to be successful. We are scheduled for the last Friday of every month. If you have questions on what bingo night's you have been assigned, see our Committee Chairperson, Bruce Whitaker.

PHILMONT

The previous payment of \$285 was due by January 27. This brought the total per person to \$1020. The next payment of \$280 is due on March 30. The last \$100 will be due on April 27. Questions on amounts due or currently paid – see Mike Taynor. All other questions – see Tom McCabe.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The committee has planned our first annual pancake breakfast for April 25, 2004. On the menu will be pancakes, sausage, coffee cake, coffee, tea and orange juice. Tickets will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and juniors (under 12). In addition, all cub scouts in uniform will be admitted free. The Boy Scouts will serve as waiters. We will need parents to volunteer in the kitchen, to bake coffee cake, sell tickets and to work with the scouts. Not a baker? Don't worry, we have a coffee cake recipe that takes less than 1 hour and costs less than \$2-\$3 in materials. Contact Bruce Whitaker or Mike Taynor to volunteer as soon as possible.

PLC MEETINGS

Patrol Leaders are reminded that they should contact their assistant patrol leader if they are not able to attend the PLC meeting. If neither can attend then an alternate from the patrol should be designated to attend. It is very important that each patrol be represented. All scouts are reminded that they should communicate with their patrol leader regarding suggestions, problems or any other matter that the PLC should be aware of.

TROOP TRIP POLICY

Troop 523 has always had a commitment to provide an outdoor program for our scouts. A variety of outings have been offered with at least one event scheduled in every month. As you can imagine, this takes a great deal of planning by the scouts in the PLC as well as the adult leaders. Camp sites need to be reserved, programs set, transportation of scouts and their gear arranged and sufficient troop equipment (i.e. tents, etc.) made available. In addition, the scouts need to plan their menus and purchase enough food for their patrols. While the Troop has never had to leave a scout behind due to the absence of a ride, it has been very tight on a number of trips.

The PLC has recognized this problem and proposed a policy they hope will eliminate potential problems. They have spent a great deal of time discussing and developing this policy which was presented and accepted by the Troop Committee.

The policy, outlined below, will start in March.

1. Signed permission slips must be turned in the week before the scheduled outing. For example, permission slips for the March 12-14 caving trip must be turned in by the March 2 meeting.
2. Scouts must pay \$7 with their permission slip for food. This will allow the scout designated to do the shopping sufficient time to shop and not have to use his own money. Scouts are responsible for their share of the cost of the food once they sign up for an outing.
3. Any exceptions will be specifically communicated to the scouts. For example, the canoe trip will require an earlier commitment from scouts as the use of canoes need to be arranged well in advance of the outing.
4. Scouts who do not meet the requirements of this policy will not be allowed to attend the outing.

Please submit any questions concerns or problems you may have regarding this policy to a member of the Troop Committee. We will be monitoring the implementation of this policy and ask that parents take an active role in reviewing the Troop calendar with their scout.