



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

May 2004

IMPORTANT DATES

May 14-16

- Canoe trip in the NJ Pinelands. The cost is \$10 per person for canoe rentals plus food which will be by patrol. All scouts attending must have previously passed the BSA swim test. Contact: Bob Gill

May 23

- Tentative date for our next bike hike. Details will be announced shortly at a Troop meeting.

May 28-31

- Philmont Shakedown – This is the last scheduled backpacking trip to gauge if you and your equipment are ready for Philmont.

June 4-6

- Order of the Arrow Ordeal at Yards Creek Scout Reservation

June 8

- Sign up deadline for the June canoe trip.

June 15

- Court of Honor.
- Last scheduled troop meeting until September.
- Medicals for Philmont and Summer Camp are due.

June 21-26

- St. John Vianney Fair – Our troop has traditionally operated one of the games for St. John Vianney. We will be seeking adult volunteers once our commitment is set. We would need two shifts of 3 to 4 adults every night.

June 25-27

- Delaware River canoe trip. All scouts attending must have previously passed the BSA swim test.

July 4-11

- Summer Camp at Camp Horseshoe

July 18 – August 1

- Philmont Scout Reservation High Adventure

SUMMER CAMP

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. The cost for adults attending for the full week is \$115.

All scouts (other than first year scouts) must be prepared to discuss with the scoutmasters the merit badges that they plan to work on at camp at the troop meeting on June 1. The list of merit badges available and the schedule are in the Parents' Guide previously provided. Leaders will be available to work with the scouts at all of our meetings prior to June 1.

Scouts need completed Class I and II medicals to attend summer camp. The Class I section is completed on an annual basis by a parent. The Class II medical is completed by your doctor and is good for three years. If you are relying on last year's Class II, please contact Tom McCabe to make sure we have a copy on file.

Adults over 40 years old need to have a Class III medical which is good for one year. Scouts attending Philmont may use their Class III medical form although it is only good for one year. **Everyone attending summer camp must have a medical form completed and submitted to the troop by June 15.**

➤ Contact: Mike Taynor

OUTINGS

Our scouts are expected to attend outings from start to finish. Each scout contributes to setting up and breaking down our campsites. Scouting's policy is to leave our campsites in the same condition, or better, as we found it. Situations may arise where your scout must arrive late or return from an outing early in order to meet a prior commitment. If that is the case, please make sure that the scoutmaster, Bob Gill, is aware of it well in advance of the trip. This also applies to our volunteer drivers. As you can imagine, it takes a great deal of planning to make sure we have rides for all of our scouts to and from our outings as well as transportation of personal gear and troop equipment. Your cooperation will allow us to continue providing a great outdoor program for our scouts.

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, contact Bruce Whitaker.

PHILMONT

Full payments are currently due. Medical forms have been distributed and are due back by June 15. Questions on amounts due or currently paid – see Mike Taynor. All other questions – see Tom McCabe.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our thanks go out to everyone who participated in our Troop's First Annual Pancake Breakfast. Special thanks go to our kitchen staff, adult volunteers, all of our crumb cake bakers and especially our scouts. We had a learning curve to overcome regarding the amount of supplies to purchase, etc. The troop earned some money and, most importantly, we had a fun time together.

Speaking of supplies, we had a large amount of breakfast sausages leftover which are currently stored in deep freeze. These sausages are available to our scouts to supplement their menus on camping trips free of charge. Scouts should contact Mike Taynor.

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.