



# TROOP 523



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

### IMPORTANT DATES

**October 15-17** - Council Wide Camporee. This is our council's first Camporee organized for all of our districts to attend. Contact: Bob Gill

**October 19** – Court of Honor. Troop 523 invites all of our families and friends to honor the achievements of our scouts. Our scouts will be receiving recognition for their hard work including those earned at summer camp.

**October 19** – Popcorn money and forms are due. Contact: Mike Taynor

**October 23** – Soup Kitchen. Contact: Bob Gill.

**October 26** – Halloween Party. All scouts and leaders are encouraged to come out in costume. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. There will be candy, games and refreshments served. Parents, please contact Lorie Esposito if you can bake something for the party.

**October 30** – Orienteering. This is a one day event. Details will be available if there is sufficient interest. Contact: Bob Gill.

**November 5-7** – KMSR camping trip.

**November 9** – Parents' meeting. Our latest calendar will be available. Come hear the state of our troop. Leaders will be available to discuss upcoming outings and other scouting events. At least one parent from each of our scouting families is asked to attend.

**November 11** – PLC Meeting. Rescheduled from November 4.

**November 13** – Bicycling. This is a one day outing which will count towards the Cycling merit badge.

**November 20** – Scouting for Food. The troop plans to distribute bags the week before for pick up on this day. This is a very worthy service project which directly aids members of our own community.

**December 18** – BSA Troop 523 Annual Spaghetti Dinner at the St. John Vianney cafeteria.

**March 6** – BSA Troop 523 Second Annual Pancake Breakfast

### WELCOME BACK

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our scouts and scouting families to another fun year of outings and other activities. Our scouts met in August to plan out the 2004-2005 scout year. Although the process of working out the details is currently a work in progress, we will continue our tradition of scheduling at least one outing each month.

Since our last newsletter, Troop 523 has attended summer camp at Camp Horseshoe. The camp is located on the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Attending for the full week were 37 scouts and 4 adult leaders. We also had 4 other adult leaders attend for part of the week. The scouts enjoyed the camp's facilities and staff so much that

they voted almost unanimously to return next year. For those who like to plan ahead, we will be attending summer camp from July 3-10, 2005.

We also had 14 youths and 6 adults attend Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico this past July. This challenging event was truly a once in a lifetime experience for most of the participants. Although we were in New Mexico during an extended drought, it was noted that it did seem to rain quite a bit.

One other note for our long-range planners. Next year is the National Jamboree. This event occurs every four years and is held at Fort AP Hill in Virginia. Troop 523 is planning to visit the Jamboree and tour Washington DC. The troop normally spends one day visiting the Jamboree and one day in our nation's capital. Budget permitting, we plan to spend one day at the Jamboree and two days in Washington DC. The troop will pay for the bus as well as lodging for our scouts. Scouts are only responsible for meals and other personal expenses. Families are welcome to join us on the bus for free if space permits. Family members are responsible for their lodging costs, meals and other personal expenses. Tentative dates are July 28-30, 2005.

## **OUTINGS**

Our trip scheduled for Worthington State Forest in September was canceled by our Scoutmaster. For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with Worthington, it is located right next to the Delaware River. That area was hard hit with flooding that weekend and the Troop Committee would like to thank the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters for placing the safety of our scouts first..

Please note that 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**

Many of you may be aware that St. John's no longer has a Friday night Midnight Bingo. In the past a large amount of our budget has been funded by the donations provided to Troop 523 by St. John's in recognition of our adults helping out with the bingo games. The troop must find other sources of revenue. One solution is this year's popcorn sale. As mentioned in the flyer, a portion of the proceeds from each sale will go to the troop. In addition, 5% of each sale will go to the selling scout in the form of a credit which can be used at the KMSR Trading Post or the Council store. Every scout is encouraged to participate in this sale and support the operations of Troop 523. Contact: Mike Taynor.