



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005

CURRENT ITEMS

The dates for the Gettysburg trip have been confirmed for April 8-10. Due to the distance, sign ups will be requested early to make sure we have adequate transportation for our scouts and equipment.

This month's **Parents' Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, **March 8, 2005**. Information on the Florida Sea Base High Adventure, Summer Camp, Jamboree 2005/Washington DC and the Adirondack High Adventure Trip will be available as well as information for other upcoming events.

Order of the Arrow elections will be held on March 15. Eligible scouts must be first class and have the required number of nights camping during the last two years. See Bob Gill if you have any questions.

Troop 523 will be holding a Court of Honor on March 22. We hope all of our scouting family and friends can come out to honor our scouts achievements. Scouts will be recognized for their achievements including rank advancements, merit badges, community service and other accomplishments.

Our special thanks to John Sprowls and the Schering Corporation for their recent generous donation to Troop 523 and our scouts.

HIGH ADVENTURE

*The Troop has been successful in reserving a spot at the Florida Sea Base for a High Adventure in 2006. We requested a sailing adventure which will run from July 20, 2006 to July 27, 2006. The trip is limited to a maximum of 22 participants, including adult chaperones. Scouts must be first class and 14 years old by September 1, 2006. Decisions must be made quickly as a **\$100 deposit** per person, youth and adult, is required to be returned to the Sea Base. The deposit must be received by the Troop no later than **March 11** so that it can be forwarded to Sea Base. See Mike Taynor for details and questions as well as the attachment to this newsletter..

The Troop is currently organizing a High Adventure outing in the Adirondack Mountains for this August. The trip will be for four days, **August 18-21, 2005**. Details are being ironed out and will be made available as soon as possible. Anticipate 3 days of backpacking and 1 day of white water rafting. Due to the nature of the trip, there will be an age restriction. This activity is limited to scouts who are age 14 and over by the date of the trip. Scouts who are 13, first class and with backpacking experience will also be considered on a case basis. Please see Mike Taynor if you are interested so that we can prepare based on the number of crews required. We need this information by **March 31, 2005**. No deposits are due at this time. A very rough estimate of total costs per person, which is on the high side, is \$200.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for our second annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, **March 6th** in the St John Vianney Cafeteria. Remember midnight bingos have been eliminated so fund raisers like the pancake breakfast are very important. Each family was given 10 tickets for presale, please do your best to sell as many as you can. Adult volunteers will be needed, scouts will be servers. See Paul Hrustic or Rich Valente. Also, each patrol was asked to supply materials for a theme basket for raffle; information about specific themes was communicated through the patrol leaders. Thank you in advance for your support!

JAMBOREE 2005

The Troop's visit to the Jamboree and Washington DC is scheduled for July 28-30, 2005. In order to plan the logistics for the trip and to allow the participants confirmation for their vacation plans, the Troop is requesting those interested to sign up and submit a deposit of \$45 per person. This amount will also be the full payment for scouts for lodging and transportation. Payments were to be submitted by February 22, 2005. Late sign ups will be accepted if there is space and then a waiting list will be formed. See Mike Taynor if you are interested and have not signed up yet.

SUMMER CAMP 2005

The Troop will be spending summer camp at Camp Horseshoe from July 3-10, 2005. We reserved the two sites used last year in order to accommodate the size of our group. The camp requires the Troop to forward a deposit for each scout next month in order to maintain our reservation for the two sites. A \$10 deposit was due by February 22, 2005 if your scout is interested in attending summer camp with the Troop. The full cost of summer camp this year is \$245 for scouts and \$122.50 for leaders. The cost for scouts paying after the due dates is \$255. Parents' Guides are available. See Mike Taynor for a copy or if your scout is interested but has not turned in the deposit.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 6 – BSA Troop 523 Second Annual Pancake Breakfast

March 8 – Parents' Meeting

March 11 – Florida Sea Base Deposits Due

March 11-13 – Backpacking Trip at KMSR

March 15 – Order of the Arrow Elections

March 22 – Court Of Honor

March 29 – No Meeting

March 31 – Sign Up for the Adirondack High Adventure

April 8-10 – Gettysburg

April 22-24 – Caving Expedition – Clarksville, NY

April 29–May 1 – Snuffy Hollow

May 27–30 – Canoe Trip

June 10-12 – White Water Rafting (tentative)

July 3-10 – Summer Camp at Camp Horseshoe

July 28-30 – Jamboree 2005 and Washington DC.

August 18–21 - Adirondack High Adventure

TROOP 523

HIGH ADVENTURE 2006

FLORIDA SEA BASE

NOTHING TO DO IN THE SUMMER OF 2006? WHY NOT JOIN THE TROOP IN SAILING ON AN 83-FOOT, GAFF-RIGGED TOPSAIL SCHOONER. THE SHIP IS FULLY EQUIPPED AND PREPARED TO PROVIDE AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE SNORKELING THE BEAUTIFUL KEYS' REEFS, FISHING, AND HANDS-ON SAILING. TROOP 523 HAS RESERVED A SHIP FOR JULY 20-27, 2006 WITH THE FLORIDA SEA BASE. THE ACTUAL TRIP IS 8 DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS. WE HAVE COMPILED INFORMATION OFF OF THE SEA BASE WEBSITE TO DESCRIBE THE ADVENTURE WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

SCOUTS MUST BE 14 YEARS OLD BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2006. A DEPOSIT OF \$100 PER PERSON WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM OUR RESERVATION. THIS DEPOSIT IS DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 11, 2005. THE SEA BASE FEE IS \$600 PER PERSON. ADDITIONAL COSTS WOULD BE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM NEWARK AIRPORT, TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN MIAMI AIRPORT AND SEA BASE, AIRFARE AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUCH AS PHOTOS AND PATCHES. A ROUGH ESTIMATE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 TO \$1,100 PER PERSON.

WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE THAT IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE SIGNS UP. WE NEED AT LEAST TWENTY PEOPLE TO SIGN UP BUT NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-TWO INCLUDING ADULTS. WE WILL MAINTAIN A WAITING LIST IF WE GO OVER THE MAXIMUM. THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO ALLOW YOUR SCOUT TO EXPERIENCE A SAILING ADVENTURE THAT MAY NOT OTHERWISE BE AVAILABLE TO HIM.

PLEASE CONTACT MIKE TAYNOR (METS@COMCAST.NET, 732-381-3552) IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



The Florida Sea Base

Sea Exploring

Upon arrival at the Sea Base you will be greeted by your Program Mate and given a tour of the Base, a swim review, snorkel lesson, and take an optional crew photo. Your first meal will be dinner at the quarterdeck, after which you will meet with the Mate of your vessel. You will prepare for a 6-day and five-night adventure of exploring the Florida Keys on a large sailing vessel. You will sleep the first night in a Sea Base bunkhouse. The next morning your crew will have breakfast and provision your vessel with gear and food. By 10 a.m. you should be off and sailing on your journey to Key West and back. You and your fellow members will take turns cooking in the Galley and cleaning the boat, along with sailing and providing a nightly anchor watch. Because the sea never sleeps, we use a watch system not only to keep an eye on our vessel, but also to run it smoothly. You will drop fishing lines in the water as you travel to hopefully catch a meal.

The week's schedule depends on the weather and the crew's ability. On your first day towards Key West you will stop to snorkel some of the best coral reefs in the Florida Keys. On your first night aboard your vessel, you will be at anchor in a safe harbor. When you arrive at Key West you will be granted shore leave to explore the historic town. On your last day, you will return to Sea Base around 2 p.m. to unload gear and clean the vessel. This is the night of your big Luau dinner and closing program. Your crew will perform skits and receive the Florida Sea Base patch. Your last night will be spent in the bunkhouse before your a.m. departure.

Try to travel light and bring only what you need. Remember, these sailing vessels can be cramped for space. This is not a pleasure cruise, but rather it is a working vessel. The quarters can be cramped and hot, so be prepared to sleep on deck. This will be a great adventure that you will remember for a lifetime. You will be doing actual hands on sailing, including navigating with charts, raising and lowering of the sails, taking turns on the helm, and swabbing the decks.

Because of the number of people involved and the close quarters in ship board living, you need to ensure that all of your gear fits into one small duffel bag with crushable sides...definitely no larger than a pillow case. While you are under way on your vessel you will troll for many types of large fish. If you are a gung-ho fisherman, you may want to try your hand at bottom fishing in several of the anchorages. The Florida Sea Base supplies all the necessary rods, reels and tackle.

SWIM TEST AND REVIEW

The Florida Sea Base is the premier aquatic High Adventure facility of the BSA. The programs involve strenuous activities that tire even those who are in the best physical condition. You must complete the standard BSA swim test prior to your arrival. If you cannot pass this test without problems, you may want to reconsider participation. Upon your arrival to the Sea Base, you will participate in a swim review to assess your swimming skills. The heat and physical activities can tire you out fast, so arrive at the Sea Base in good physical condition.

BEING PHYSICALLY FIT

Every participant in the Florida Sea Base High Adventure program needs to be physically fit for the strenuous demands that will be placed on their body. Get in shape! Stay in shape! You will be in the water a great deal, so to prepare, go swimming often with your crew at your local pool. Do some light exercises to increase your stamina. You will be frequently lifting your body in and out of the water to boats and docks. You have dedicated a lot of your personal time and resources to come to Sea Base. Get the most out of your experience by being ready - physically and mentally.

Persons weighing over 300 pounds are ineligible to participate in Florida Sea Base High Adventures.

All participants **must** meet eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Requirements

Please read carefully as the age requirements have changed for 2005. The age requirements on this page supersede any others; expressed, implied or written.

1. Each participant must be a registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venturer, or Adult Leader.
2. Participants must be Fourteen (14) years old by September 1 of the year of participation. **AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SEA BASE CANNOT BE RELAXED. PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST OR EXPECT EXCEPTIONS!** All youth participants are required to present proof of age before participating in our programs. (Appropriate ID includes one of the following: 1. School photo ID and copy of birth certificate. 2. Passport 3. Valid state issued ID.) Those individuals who do not meet the minimum age requirements will be sent home. No exceptions. Prevent a tragedy by adhering to the age policy and by bringing proper proof of age.
3. The ability to swim 100 yards (official BSA swim test), and stay afloat for one (1) minute. Those participants unable to complete the swim test will be required to wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) during all water activities.
4. Must be in good health evidenced by a SEA BASE Class III medical form filled out and signed by your doctor within the past 12 months.
5. No participant may weigh in excess of 300 pounds. Please refer to height/weight chart on Sea Base Class III Medical for recommended weight limits. Participants not meeting this requirement will be sent home at their own expense.
6. All participants must know and use the scout Oath and Law as their guide to appropriate behavior at Sea Base.