



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2005

CURRENT ITEMS

This month's Parents' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2005. Information on upcoming events will be discussed. Results of recent events such as the Pancake Breakfast and OA elections will also be reviewed.

Due to meeting cancellations, the March Parents' Meeting has been rescheduled to March 22. Information on Summer Camp, Jamboree 2005/Washington DC and the Adirondack High Adventure Trip will be available as well as information for other upcoming events.

The Court of Honor will be rescheduled to May 3. 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.

There have been some recent additions to our scouting family. A group of Webelos has crossed over to Troop 523 from Cub Scouts.

Christopher Abood

Dylan Bednarz

Frank Catena

Thomas Freid

Joseph Handville

Zachary Macfie

Matthew Maciejowski

Kyle Markey

Joseph Passantino

Daniel Passarelli

Nicholas Powanda

Jameson Tisch

Mark Triebwasser

Matthew Triebwasser

On behalf of our Scoutmasters, Troop Committee, Scouts and family members, we would like to welcome our newest boy scouts and their families into Troop 523.

Please note that while it is still tentative, the June whitewater trip is scheduled for the third weekend in June.

KMSR TRIP by Joseph Massaro

On 11- 13th of March our troop went on a camping trip to KMSR. Although we had a few late dropouts we still had a good time. We arrived Friday night to a snow blanketed KMSR. We slept in lean-tos and were exposed to the wind. Just after we all went to bed the snow started. It was a beautiful sight that almost all stayed up to watch. After breakfast on Saturday we took a short hike on the Appalachian Trail. Although we got a little off track we still returned safely of course. We returned for a great snowball fight and a roaring fire created by our SPL. We then enjoyed dinner ranging from chilly cheeses dogs to chicken jambalaya. The trip was a great success and there were two Scoutmaster Conferences. A good time was had and we all stayed dry and warm.

HIGH ADVENTURE

The Troop is currently organizing a High Adventure outing in the Adirondack Mountains for this August. The trip will be for five days and four nights, **August 17-21, 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 by 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 April 5, 2005.** No deposits are due at this time. A very rough estimate of total costs per person is \$150.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Troop 523 Second Annual Pancake Breakfast was a rousing success. Our families were able to get together, have great food and raise funds to help our troop run. Our thanks go to the breakfast coordinators, Paul Hrustic and Rich Valente, as well as all of the parents and scouts who helped out. Special thanks to those dads who spent their Sunday morning in the kitchen flipping those pancakes and browning those sausages.

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 represents the full payment for scouts for lodging and transportation. Please refer to the flyer previously distributed. 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 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. The balance of \$235 is due no later than April 26, 2005. See Mike Taynor for a copy of the Parents' Guide or if you have any question. Our Scouts should be reviewing the guide with you to determine the merit badges that they plan to work on. See Bob Gill regarding the summer camp merit badge program.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 22 – Parents' Meeting

March 29 – No Meeting

April 5 – Sign Up for the Adirondack High Adventure

April 8-10 – Gettysburg

April 22-24 – Caving Expedition – Clarksville, NY

April 26 – Summer Camp Balance Due

April 29–May 1 – Snuffy Hollow

May 3 – Court of Honor

May 27–30 – Canoe Trip

June 17-19 – 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

To the Parents of Troop 523:

Troop 523 has a very active outdoor program which provides numerous opportunities for the Scouts. There are backpacking trips, orienteering trips, canoeing trips, caving trips, ski trips, biking trips, camping trips, trips to historic locations, camporees where they compete against other Scout Troops. There is summer camp, bus trips to the national jamboree, and numerous high adventure trips such as Sea Base, Philmont, Canada and other destinations for the older Scouts. The Scouts have camped in tents, and cabins, and in lean-tos and sometimes under the stars; in fair weather or foul. In addition to the various trips there are the service projects such as the soup kitchen, scouting for food, various cleanup projects, fundraisers for charity, VFW flags and also Eagle projects. There is the religious medal program where the scouts have the opportunity to learn an in depth knowledge of their respective religions. Then there are the fundraisers for the troop which currently consists of the spaghetti dinner, popcorn sale and the pancake breakfast. There are the weekly meetings, PLC meetings, JLT (Junior Leader Training) and most importantly, the August planning meeting at which the scouts establish the program for the year. Basically, if there is something that they are not doing it's because no one has thought of it yet. Additionally aside from the trips and the meetings there are the individual Scout advancements where they progress from Scout through First Class and some eventually to Eagle.

Although Boy Scouts is a scout planned, scout run, scout lead program for boys and young men, there still is a large amount of effort required of the adult leaders to provide these opportunities to the scouts. The adult leaders are willing to give their free time and vacation time, but need the parents at times to make the program work. The more parents that are willing to get involved, the greater the opportunities that will be available for the scouts and the better the program will be. This entire effort is for the benefit of the scouts and hopefully instills in them the aims of scouting.

Following is a list of positions and functions that are necessary for maintaining a successful program along with the people that currently filling the positions. If you can help in anyway please see one of the leaders. *No matter what you believe you can or can not do, any level of involvement goes a long way.*

Committee Chairperson: (Bruce Whitaker) Heads the committee and runs the committee meetings.

Secretary: (Lorie Esposito) The secretary keeps the minutes of meetings.

Treasurer (Finance/Records): (Mike Taynor) The treasurer handles all the troop funds.

Advancement Chair: (vacant) Encourages Scouts to advance in rank and makes prompt report on the correct forms to the council service center when a troop board of review is held, secure badges and certificates.

Membership Chair: (vacant) Files the charter with council once a year. Collects and submits correct forms for new scouts and leaders to council.

Training: (vacant) The training chair keeps a record of any training of the leaders such as Fast Start, Youth Protection, Safe Swim, Safety Afloat, CPR, First Aid, etc.

Youth Protection chair is responsible for the BSA Youth Protection Training within the troop. (Vacant – Bob Gill)

Quartermaster (Equipment Coordinator): (Mike Guatta / Carl Heitmeyer)

Supervises and helps the troop procure camping equipment. Works with the troop quartermaster(s) on inventory and proper storage and maintenance of all troop equipment.

Fundraiser Chair: (vacant) This position works with the treasurer, committee and troop leadership in setting up and coordinating troop fund raising activities. We have three events, we could use someone(s) for each in

the 2005-2006 scout calendar. (spaghetti & popcorn 2004/Mike Taynor, Bruce Whitaker; pancake breakfast – 2005/Paul Hrustic, Rich Valente)

The Troop Committee: The committee is responsible for the administration of the troop. You can have a specific responsibility or just come to be supportive. The committee meets monthly to discuss various issues related to the activities. Committee members can also serve on the Board of Review for the scouts that are advancing. (Current members: Bruce Whitaker, Cathleen DeStasio, Lorie Esposito, Dennis Puff, Cynthia Taynor, Michael Taynor, Richard Valente, Kate Gill, Claire Guatta, Thomas McCabe)

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters: (Bob Gill, Michael Guatta, Carl Heitmeyer, Paul Hrustic, Paul McHugh, Timothy Sprouse, John Sprowls) The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for the program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts.

Event Coordinators: (recruited as needed “and they are always needed” – see the newsletter) An adult coordinator is needed for each trip. Event coordinators are adults who help to coordinate a particular event. They work directly with a scout(s) to coordinate the details of the outing and may include securing reservations if needed, submit BSA required tour permits (fax), line up drivers, Sign-up Scouts and Adult Leadership, verify permission slips.

Health: (John Sprowls) Verifies that all the participants have a current medical form on file.

Publicist: (vacant) Advertises for the fundraisers, Informs the public of what the scouts are doing.