



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

CURRENT ITEMS

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

The Troop Committee would like to express our appreciation to all of our scouts and their families who participated in this year's Scouting for Food. Together we were able to collect approximately 700 bags of food items which were greatly appreciated by our local food bank. Our gratitude to all of our neighbors who helped our scouts achieve this goal

Congratulations to Matthew Taynor who successfully passed his Eagle Board of Review on Tuesday, November 22, 2005. Matt's Eagle Court of Honor is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2006 so mark your calendars. Invitations will be extended to all of our scouts and their families.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The annual Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner will be on Saturday, December 17. Tickets for advanced sales have been distributed. Tickets will also be available at the door for the same price. The troop is requesting that each of our families donate a dessert to be served at the dinner. Please see Cathy DeStasio for any questions on desserts.

A note for our newest scouting families and a reminder for our experienced scouting families. Scouts help set up, serve as waiters and assist in cleaning up. The senior patrol leader will solicit volunteers to help set up. All of our scouts are asked to serve as waiters. Scouts should be in Class A uniforms. Adult volunteers are needed. Please see Mike Guatta if you would like to help out in the kitchen, selling tickets at the door, setting up, cleaning up, etc. .

BACKPACKING

Six of our older scouts joined four adult leaders on a backpacking trip from Yards Creek Scout Reservation along the Appalachian Trail to Kittatiny Mountain Scout Reservation. The trip spanned 21 miles over 3 days this Thanksgiving Day weekend. It is rumored that the temperature rose above freezing by Sunday. The journey was capped off with a feast at McDonalds on Sunday afternoon. Attending the outing were Kevin Mulligan, Matthew Taynor, Nick Valente, Matthew Heitmeyer, Brett Hoffmann, John Altieri, Ryan Gillespie, Carl Heitmeyer, Mike Taynor and Tom McCabe. It truly is a season of miracles for Salamander stayed out of the water.

All of those attending this trip would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Valente and Adam McCabe for transporting the vehicles from YCSR to KMSR. Their help provided our group with enough daylight hiking time on Friday to reach our camping area and to return at a reasonable time on Sunday.

SUMMER CAMP

Although it is only December with winter just around the corner, it is time to start thinking about summer camp. The troop will be attending summer camp at the Rodney Scout Reservation in Maryland. This camp boasts excellent facilities and knowledgeable staff. It is located on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay allowing them to offer merit badges not normally found at camps such as motor boating and water skiing. We are sure your scout will have no trouble in finding merit badges to fill his days at camp in the Parents' Guides which were handed out at the Parents' meeting and at troop meetings. In fact there may be a problem in narrowing the selection

down. There is a deposit of \$25 due per scout by January 17, 2006. Please contact Mike Taynor if you have any questions or need a copy of the Parents' Guide.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 10 – Orienteering at Holmdel Park

December 17 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner

December 17 – Last Day for Dues

January 10 - \$25 Summer Camp Deposit Due

January 14-15 – Annual Shawnee Ski Trip

January 20-22 – Klondike Derby

March 5 – Third Annual Pancake Breakfast

April 30 – Matthew Taynor's Eagle Court of Honor

July 2-8 – Summer Camp at Rodney Scout Reservation

July 20-27 – Florida Sea Base Sailing High Adventure

For a detailed up to date calendar go to WWW.TROOP523.ORG