



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

CURRENT ITEMS

Troop 523 will be offering all scouts and adult leaders (if space is available) to learn and be certified in CPR. The class will be in lieu of our regular meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, May 16, from 6: 00 to 9:00 PM. Class will start promptly so please be on time, if not early. The cost is \$20. The troop will be picking up half of the cost for scouts. Scouts who are interested should sign up and pay their \$10 no later than May 2. Please see Cathy DeStasio if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Robert Gill who received the Mayors Youth Volunteer Award. The award was presented by the Mayor on April 22 at the Woodbridge Community Center. Robert was one of 17 youths from Woodbridge Township who was recognized. This award was presented to the nominees for exceptionally community service. Robert was nominated for his continued community service both in scouts and outside of scouts.

VETERAN FLAGS

On May 13th there is a service project at St Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia. The scouts will be working with the Colonia VFW, placing flags on the graves of all the veterans. This is a project suitable for all scouts. We are meeting at 9:30 in the center circle of the cemetery at the statue. In the past it has we have usually spent about 2 hours depending on the turnout. After we are done, the VFW has invited the Troop back to the VFW in Colonia (across from the Inman Library) for hot dogs and soda. We encourage all the scouts to attend to show support for those who have helped keep our country free. To show respect, all scouts should be in uniform (if you have one). Please respond to your patrol leader by May 2 so we can get a count to the VFW. Let him know if you will be attending both for the flag placement and the hot dogs at the VFW.

PARENTS' MEETING

Our next Parents' Meeting is scheduled for May 9th. The remaining outings and activities through this summer will be discussed. Questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to speak with any of the adult leaders if you have a question prior to the meeting. Note that there are contact names included in the important dates section of this newsletter if you have a question regarding a specific outing or event.

SUMMER CAMP

There are currently 33 scouts attending summer camp this year at Rodney Scout Reservation. Scouts can still sign up although they will not get the discount of \$25. Total cost to sign up would be \$275 for a week of fun with hot meals delivered to your camp site. Please see Mike Taynor if you have any questions. All scouts with the exception of the first year scouts who will be in the Brown Sea Program need to fill out a tentative merit badge schedule. The form is in the book. Mike Taynor has extra copies if you need one. These should be turned in to Mr. Gill as soon as possible but no later than the end of May for his review. All scouts need a Class I & II medical form. The Class I is completed by the scout's parents with a new one needed every year. The Class II is to be completed by the scout's physician. Scouts can use a previous Class II medical form if it is less than 3 years old by summer camp. See John Sprowls to determine if the troop has a copy of your medicals. All medicals need to be turned in by June 6 so that copies can be made and mailed to camp. Bob Gill and John Sprowls will be accepting medical forms.

TROOP HISTORIAN - Caving Trip

This years caving trip was much bigger and better then the trip last year. This year we had two groups of scouts go on the trip. One group composed of older scouts explored the Ward-Christopher Caves. The scouts spent a good deal of time crawling around the dingy mud of the caves. They also waded through almost waist high water that was very cold. It was very refreshing to be out in the open air after the cramped tight spaces of the

cave. The second group that was mostly younger and newer scouts explored the Howe Caverns. They were able to experience stalagmites and stalactites without the narrow walls and low ceilings. After a long day of caving the scouts came back to camp and worked on some basic skills, like knots and worked on their Tottin' Chit and Fireman's Chip, which allow them to carry pocket knives and start campfires. The cavers in the Ward-Christopher caves were able to take showers in the newly constructed shower houses. The scouts also ate a great dinner at Mr. DeStasio's Cabin. A very special thank you to Mr. Heitmeyer who helps organize this trip every year and to the other adults that attended the trip.

HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAM

There are three National High Adventure Programs run by the Boy Scouts of America. They are the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the Northern Tier Program in Minnesota\Ontario and the Florida Sea Base located in the Florida Keys. Troop 523 tries to offer our older scouts to attend one of these programs each year. In the past, Troop 523 has attended Philmont and Northern Tier twice and Florida Sea Base once. This year the troop has twenty scouts and adults attending the Florida Sea Base. They will spend their time sailing on a schooner down to Key West and back to the Sea Base. Next year the troop will be going to the Northern Tier program in July. There are minimum age requirements depending on the specific program. Northern Tier requires scouts to be at least 13 prior to the start of the program. We ended up having enough participants for two crews scheduled to attend Northern Tier which opened up a limited number of spots. Please see Mike Taynor if you are interested in attending as soon as possible or if you have any questions regarding the High Adventure program.

EAGLE SCOUTS

Matthew Taynor's Eagle Court of Honor will be held in the St. John Vianney Cafeteria on Sunday, April 30th from 2:00 to 4:00. Please contact Mike Taynor if you have not received an invitation in the mail as all scouts in the troop and their families are invited to attend.

Life Scout Kevin Mulligan has completed his Eagle Project and is currently finishing up his final requirements before he has his Eagle Board of Review.

Life Scouts Jimmy Esposito, Wayne Lamore and Joe Massaro are in various stages of their Eagle projects. Eagle candidates are expected to provide the planning and leadership to carry out their projects but the success of their projects is not possible without the support from their fellow scouts and adults. All three scouts will be seeking volunteers in the near future. Since all three projects are outdoors, scheduling will be dependent on the weather. Not only do the Eagle projects count towards service hour requirements, they also benefit our community and fulfill the Scout Oath and Law.



Wayne Lamore's Eagle Project



Joe Massaro's Eagle Project

IMPORTANT DATES

April 28-30 – Spring Camporee (Bob Gill)

April 30 – Matthew Taynor's Eagle Court of Honor (Mike Taynor)

May 5-7 – Snuffy Hollow (Mike Guatta)

May 13 – VFW Flags Service Project (Bob Gill)

May 16 – CPR Class (6-9 PM) (Cathy DeStasio)

June 2-4 – West Point Trip (Big Mike DeStasio)

June 23-25 – Bass River Canoe Trip (Bruce Whitaker)

July 2-8 – Summer Camp at Rodney Scout Reservation (Mike Taynor or Bob Gill)

July 20-27 – Florida Sea Base Sailing High Adventure (Bob Gill or Mike Taynor)

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