



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007

CURRENT ITEMS

Mark your calendars. February 27 will be our next Court of Honor. We hope all of our scouting families and friends can come out to show their support to all of our scouts who have worked hard to earn merit badges and achieve rank advancements.

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout, Matthew Maia. Matt successfully passed his Board of Review. Matt, Mr. Maia to our scouts, is also our newest Assistant Scoutmaster having turned 18 in January. Welcome to the Old Goat Patrol!

Troop 523's annual trip to Camp Winnebago was held on February 2-4. A total of 23 scouts and 6 adult leaders had a great time in a snow covered cabin. Our scouts were able to work on advancements including a five mile hike, rope work, maps and compass, etc. The results will be evident at our next Court of Honor. Our special thanks go to our older scouts who worked with the younger scouts on their advancement requirements.

Speaking of trips, are you interested in just what goes on during our camping trips? If you are, we will be distributing photographs (free) at our April Parents' Meeting. There will be photos from all of our camping trips as well as other events such as our Courts of Honor.

The Troop's next outing is our Winter Camping Trip at KMSR on March 9-11. A permission slip is attached. Please return the signed permission slip along with \$10 for food no later than February 27.

SUMMER CAMP 2007

Our thanks to all of our scouts who have timely paid their deposits for summer camp. Our payment has been made and we have the same site reserved for this year. We anticipate having a total of 35-40 scouts attending Rodney Scout Reservation for what has always been a week of fun and opportunities. The total cost for the week is \$265. The balance of \$240 is due by our meeting on April 17th. The full \$265 is due from any of our scouts who recently crossed over to our troop on the same date. No money is due at this time from any adult leader planning on attending summer camp. See Mike Taynor or Bob Gill if you are an adult leader planning on attending, if your scout is interested in attending and has not paid a deposit or if you have any other questions.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our annual Pancake Breakfast is fast approaching. Diane Hoffmann has graciously stepped forward and volunteered to be the Coordinator for this event. This year's breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 18th from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the SJV cafeteria. The tickets and world famous coffee cake recipe were sent home this month. We are asking for donations of two items per scout towards any of the baskets. The basket themes are Family Night, Automotive, Just for Mom, Outdoors\Camping, Just for Dad and Miscellaneous. Refer to the flyer handed out with the tickets for additional details or contact Diane if you have any questions.

PARENTS MEETINGS

Parents' Meetings are generally scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. The March Parents' meeting will be held on March 13th and will start immediately after the Troop's opening ceremonies. In addition to providing current information on upcoming trips and events, there will be an information session for all of the parents of our newest scouts who crossed over into our troop in February. The April Parents' meeting will be held on April 10th. It will be our annual summer camp meeting where more detailed information will be distributed. We will be distributing photographs taken at our outings and events since the Florida Sea Base trip. The photographs are free to any of our parents at the Parents' Meeting.

HIGH ADVENTURE

The troop is planning to attend the BSA Philmont High Adventure Camp in New Mexico during the summer of 2008. We were successful in obtaining reservations for two crews for a trek from July 22 – August 3, 2008. There was enough interest to keep the two crews we originally requested so there is space available if you would like to sign up. Contact Mike Taynor (metsr@comcast.net) if you are interested or if you have any questions. Scouts must be 14 by January 1, 2008 or 13 and completed the 8th grade by the start of the trip.

For those attending Canada this summer, our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4 at SJV. If you have not already done so, please start the process of obtaining a passport to facilitate our crossing the Canadian border. Also, please bring in any completed medicals. Contact Mike Taynor if you have any questions.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

Do you have any special skills or talents? Everyone has at least one and we are sure there is a merit badge that matches up to your strengths. If you would like to volunteer to be a merit badge counselor or would just like some more information, please contact our Chairwoman, Cathy DeStasio. Her contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

EMAIL

If you have not been receiving our newsletters or other notices by email, it means we do not have an email address for you or your scout. We would like to have an email address for every scout and at least one parent. Note that any emails to our scouts will also be sent to their parents' email addresses that are in the troop's files. Please forward your email address to Mike Taynor (metsr@comcast.net) as soon as possible. Additional emails are also sent out as a supplement to our Patrol Telephone Chain so that everyone has an opportunity to participate in events or get notified of any last minute changes.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 27 – Court of Honor (Contact: Bob Gill)

KMSR Permission Slips and Food Money Due

MARCH 5 – Committee Meeting (Contact: Cathy DeStasio)

MARCH 9-11 – KMSR Winter Camping (Contact: Bob Gill)

MARCH 13 – Parents' Meeting – Troop Orientation Meeting for New Parents

MARCH 18 – Pancake Breakfast (Contact: Diane Hoffmann)

APRIL 4 – Canada Meeting (Contact: Mike Taynor)

APRIL 10 – Parents' Meeting & Summer Camp Meeting (Contact: Cathy DeStasio)

APRIL 17 – Summer Camp Money Due (Contact: Mike Taynor)

APRIL 20-22 – Valley Forge Historical Trip (Contact: Mike "The Elder" DeStasio)

MAY 4-6 – Snuffy Hollow Camporee (Contact: John Sprowls)

JULY 20-30 – BSA Northern Tier High Adventure Camping Trip (Contact: Mike Taynor)

JULY 22-AUGUST 3, 2008 – Philmont Scout Camp High Adventure Camping Trip (Contact: Mike Taynor)

Scoutmaster, Bob Gill: (732)-388-9076 - rjgill@menloeng.com

Committee Chairperson, Cathy DeStasio: (732)-549-2698, MDIron@aol.com

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