



TROOP 523



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

CURRENT ITEMS

Troop 523's winter camping trip to KMSR was held on March 9-11. A total of 13 scouts and 6 adult leaders braved the cold of northwestern New Jersey sleeping in the lean-tos.

Important news! The April Parents' meeting will be on the 17th as SJV is closed on the 10th. This month's meeting will also be our Summer Camp meeting.

Although the Snuffy Hollow Camporee is not until the first weekend in May, the scouts need to know who is attending so that they can form and train as patrols. Permission slips are available and need to be returned with \$10 for food by April 3rd. Contact John Sprowls if you have any questions.

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.

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 24th. The full \$265 is due from any of our scouts who recently crossed over to our troop on the same date. Payments after that date may be subject to a late fee imposed by the camp. 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

Please do not forget our Pancake Breakfast which is fast approaching on March 18th. Diane Hoffmann has graciously stepped forward and volunteered to be the Coordinator for this event. The breakfast will be from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the SJV cafeteria. The tickets and world famous coffee cake recipe were sent home last month. Scouts will be the waiters and need to be in full Class A uniforms. Refer to the flyer handed out with the tickets for additional details or contact Diane if you have any questions or are available to help.

TROOP 523 T-SHIRTS

The Troop provides each scout a Class B T-shirt every year at no cost to our scouting families. There is a catch. We need the order form returned in order to order the correct size. If the form is not returned, one of our male adult leaders will guess the size for your scout. You have been warned. Additional shirts may be ordered for \$10 each. Also, adult leaders may order troop polo shirts for \$15. There is a separate order form for adult shirts. Remember, we need an order form from each scout even if you do not wish to purchase additional shirts. All order forms are due no later than April 3rd. Contact Ellen Ghiano if you have any questions.

HIGH ADVENTURE

For those attending Canada this summer, our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4 at SJV. The next installment payment due April 3rd can be made at this meeting. 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. Two spots have opened up so if you are interested in attending this trip and are not signed up, contact Mike Taynor.

DISASTER DRILL

The troop is planning to participate in a Disaster Drill at the Naval Engineering Base located in Lakehurst NJ. This is a large disaster drill involving heavy rescue units from northern NJ and New Jersey's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team called, NJ-Task Force 1.

A FEMA style USAR team has about 180 members with training from dog handling to medical doctors. They are specially trained and equipped to do things that most fire departments are not capable of. The team's mission includes, Building collapse, tunnel and shoring, Trench rescue, Swift-water rescue, and much more. NJ-TF1 was the 1st USAR team to respond to the WTC collapse. The team has also responded to, the Bound Brook flooding, the Trenton NJ flooding, Katrina flood, Atlantic City Tropicana parking deck collapse and the Eatontown PetCo collapse.

The disaster drill site will include simulated building collapses, a tunnel rescue with multiple vehicles involved, and a train crash. The boys will get to "play victim" and be found by search specialist, rescued and medically treated. This drill meets one of the boy's requirements for the Emergency Preparedness merit badge and is an unique opportunity to see the best rescuers from NJ perform under almost real conditions.

We will be leaving St. John Vianney's lot at 4:30 pm on Monday April the 23rd. We should arrive at Lakehurst before 6pm. After briefing, the boys will be moulaged (make up, and fake injuries) and planted for rescue by 7pm. Rescues should be completed by 9:30. Dinner for leaders and the boys will be provided by NJ-TF1. We should be returning to St. John Vianney parking lot at approximately 11:30pm that same night. Contact Carl Heitmeyer (CaverCarl@aol.com 908 420-4969) if you have any questions.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 18 – Pancake Breakfast (Contact: Diane Hoffmann)

APRIL 3 – Scout Shirt Order Forms Due (Contact: Ellen Ghiano)
Snuffy Hollow Permission Slips & Food Money Due

APRIL 4 – Canada Meeting (Contact: Mike Taynor)

APRIL 17 – Summer Camp Money Due (Contact: Mike Taynor)
Parents' Meeting & Summer Camp Meeting (Contact: Cathy DeStasio)

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

APRIL 23 – Disaster Drill (Contact: Carl Heitmeyer)

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