

The Bugle



Issue 16

Dec 1, 2008

December Outing

Theme: "Back to Basics"

For the December outing we will be going to Camp Tuckahoe, sleeping in cabins, working on basic outdoor skills and hiking the Gettysburg Battlefield on Sunday. Webelo II scouts will be joining us as guest campers for some or all of the outing.

Cost: \$35.00

Depart: Friday, Dec 5 @ 5pm

Return : Sun, Dec 7 @ 2:30-3pm

Parents: Be at the Church @ 2:30pm for pickup

January Outing-cancelled

February Outing

Theme: " Winter Camping"

Date: February 13-15

Venue: TBD

Wrap-up of the November Community Service Project-Outing

This month the Troop camped at Pohick Bay Regional Park as well as performed a community service project for the park. There is a small trail, 3/8 of a mile, which leads from the camp store to the Gunston Hall property line. The park manager asked us to lay mulch on the surface of the trail and re-define it. Ian, Jimmy, Ryan, Kyle, and Austin, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Kniller stayed the whole weekend, and Matthew, Andrew, and Mr. Woodhouse came on Saturday morning to help. We were able to finish almost the entire trail however we ran out of mulch. There was still a 10 yard portion of the trail left. The scouts that camped learned how to make a one match fire without the use of fire starters, and how to do it with wet wood. On Friday night we had to set up our tents and shelter in the rain. We also brought along a tarp and poles and made a makeshift shelter. Then during the

early morning hours of Saturday we experienced torrential rains. We awoke to find that our makeshift shelter survived the night. On Saturday we found ourselves taking layers of clothes off because it was much warmer than expected. We no sooner finished our work on the trail and the rain came in. It rained for much of the afternoon but stopped around dinner time. That is when wind came. I think we experienced every type of weather possible but snow. All in all we had a great time and the scouts learned a lot.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Yours in Scouting,
Mr. Kniller



Annual Troop Dues

Annual Troop registration dues are \$100 per year. Our goal is to collect all dues by December 31. Please recall that T-1257 Eagle Scouts pay no annual dues, no adult registration fees are collected, families with more than one registered Scout pay a reduced rate (half) for all Scouts after the first one, and that the Troop has a robust scholarship/campership policy. Please see Brett Gurley or John Ticer regarding scholarships

December-January Troop Meeting Schedule and Important Dates to Remember



Dec 2: Troop Meeting & personal gear shakedown for outing
Dec 7: Deadline for contacting the Scoutmaster regarding a June/July summer camp option.
Dec 9: PLC and ASM Corp meetings
Dec 15: Parents-Committee Meeting

**Dec 16: Troop Family Holiday

Party with pizza, drinks and desserts ~ \$3.00 per person.

***Scouts-children should bring a wrapped-unlabeled gift (< \$7.00) for a White Elephant gift exchange. RSVP by Dec 9th on-line or with Mrs. Julie Ward (ward1988@verizon.net)**

Dec 23: No Meeting

Dec 30: No Meeting

Dec 31: Deadline for paying annual Troop dues

Jan 6: Troop Meeting

Jan 13: Troop Meeting

Jan 20: No Meeting (FCPS closed)

Jan 27: No Meeting (FCPS closed)

Jan 31: Merit Badge Day at Camp Snyder (NCAC Counsel scheduled event)

Advancements

The following Scouts were awarded Rank Advancement during the month of November.

Eagle Silver Palm

Paul



Eagle:

Matthew W



1st Class:

Ryan G



2nd Class:

Ryan G
Jonathan V



Tenderfoot:

Daniel
Ian
Kyle



New Eagle Scout

Troop 1257 has a new Eagle Scout! Matthew Woodhouse successfully completed his Eagle Board of Review in November. Way to go, Matthew, on this great milestone!



Winter Court of Honor

The next Court of Honor will be February 3rd. Scouts are encouraged to complete the requirements for their next Rank and any merit badges in progress. Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Review need to be completed by Jan 20th. The next Court of Honor will be on June 2nd.

Need Holiday Gift Ideas for your Scout?



Check out this URL found on the Troop Website: <http://www.epiphany-herndon.org/BSA/Troop1257/Documents/TopTen2004.PDF>

Congratulations!



Order of the Arrow candidates, Alan D and Mr. Ticer, completed the Fall Ordeal November which is the first step to full membership.

Scouts are elected to the Order by their fellow unit members. To become a member, a scout must hold First Class rank. The scout must have experienced fifteen days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The fifteen days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Troop 1257 OA elections are tentatively scheduled for early March 2009.

Troop 1257 Merit Badge Fair on the Horizon



Troop 1257 will host its 1st annual Merit Badge Fair in an effort to help all the boys in the Troop with merit opportunities (Eagle and non-Eagle merit badges). For many this is the one time a year a scout can work on and complete 1-2 merit badges that they would not be able to complete otherwise. The event will be held at the Church on a yet to be determined Saturday (~8am-Noon or 1-5pm) in March. Registration will take place online in early January. More details regarding merit badge offerings, counselors, and prerequisites will be forthcoming in late December. Scouts will need to work on any prerequisites set by the counselor prior to the Merit Badge Fair.

Many Helping Hands are Needed!



A top-quality program does not exist without the dedication of numerous adult volunteers. There are numerous opportunities available. Please consider joining us and volunteering in an area of interest and passion. Speak to John Ticer-Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster. Thanks in advance for your support.

Merit Badge Counselor Alert

Many of our Scouts are now at First Class rank and above. We will be offering various forums this year for our scouts to participate in a variety of Merit Badge instruction opportunities with counselors within and outside of the

Troop. *If you are not yet a registered Merit Badge Counselor*, we need you to invest your time in this area for our Scouts. Please contact Leanne Kniller, the Committee Merit Badge Chair, (lkniller@comcast.net) or speak with the Scoutmaster. We especially need counselors for our Eagle-required Merit Badges:

Swimming	Camping	Lifesaving Emergency Prep
Personal Management	Family Life	Environmental Science
Hiking	First Aid	Communications

Scoutmaster's Corner



Dear Troop 1257 Family,

I trust everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with families and friends. While we often think and talk about the more tangible dimensions of life in Troop 1257 – weekend adventures, rank advancement, and fun activities – the intangible element of spiritual development, community service and giving remains paramount. It was genuinely inspiring to see the huge level of participation in the variety of community service projects the troop held last month. Praise for one another and signs of helpfulness, friendliness, sharing, and teamwork stood in sharp contrast to the coarse criticisms that all too often mark our youth culture at large. Thanks to all that made these events a huge success.

As we enter the month of December, may the Lord bless all of you with a restful and a wonderful Holiday Season!

Yours in Scouting,
Mr. Davis
Scoutmaster



Bugle Contributions

Contact Paul D, our Troop SPL-Historian, with any newsletter contributions at: tdavis22@cox.net