

Eagle Bound

Troop 85 Newsletter – October 3, 2010

Scoutmaster Minute

Hello Scouts and parents,

We embark on another Scouting year and this one is a milestone: the troop is 65 years old. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating our history in many ways. It's pretty amazing that our unique beginning with the orphans of the Methodist Home for Children has blossomed into the troop we have today.

This will surely be a year to remember.

Once again, the boys have put together a year of diverse activities from hikes to whitewater, cycling to skiing and a few cultural events as well. Also, the Venture Patrol has worked on an equally impressive list of events. Older Scouts, this is your opportunity to get out and do some amazing things! Take advantage of our high adventure program; not all troops have this and it's another facet of why we are successful.

So far, we have had an outstanding start to our camping program: hiking through the Black Forest in Pennsylvania. The Forest Cathedral is a national landmark and an incredible sight to behold. Towering trees, lush ferns, and fungi were sprawled in all directions. After the hike, we stopped to see the Kinzua Bridge disaster site. In 2005, a tornado ripped the bridge apart, and, instead of rebuilding it, they turned it into a memorial. Scouts went to the edge and could walk over a glass floor that was the only thing between them and the ground over 300 feet below.

Next month is Allegheny State Park and it will also provide some incredible natural sights.

I am always excited to start a new year with the new leadership - the boys who run their program - so we are out of the gate running and I am only expecting great things!

Steve Dubois, Scoutmaster

SPL Second

Hi everyone! The patrol leaders, ASPLs, and I have planned a great year focused on rank advancements and filled with exciting campouts and trips. One of my main goals is to advance the rank of every Scout in the troop by at least one. To achieve this, at every meeting, the patrol leaders will review the advancement of the Scouts in their patrol and help/encourage them to complete their requirements. We will be using a tracking chart developed by Mr. Tirone. In addition, I intend to have the troop work on several merit badges during our Monday meetings.

We will be spending a lot of time outdoors, and we have selected a diverse range of activities to make it fun for all and offer learning opportunities. In September, we went on a great hiking trip to the Black Forest in Pennsylvania, one of the finest forests of old trees in the country, and also saw the Kinzua Bridge overlook for some breathtaking views. In October, there is a great hiking trip in the Allegheny Forest – we think that this will coincide with the peak fall colors. In November, we plan to go to Mt. Nemo (Canada) where we will stay in cozy cabins, explore a unique cliff

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ecosystem, and visit an American Indian village – Scouts 16 and older will need passports for this trip. December is “Wright Stuff Day” when we will visit two world famous Frank Lloyd Wright houses. In Jan, we will be skiing at Peak & Peak – a great chance for everyone to enjoy our snow. In March, we will have our Fellowship dinner at our usual spot - Don Miller Park. April is a month of high adventure - we will be white water rafting on the mighty Cattaraugus in Zoar Valley – not to worry, safety is our first concern. Later we will be doing the bike trip of a lifetime on the Pine Creek Rail Trail – voted by USA Today as one of the top 10 in the country. We round out the year with a day trip to one of the largest living history museums in the country in Mumfords, NY. All in all, we expect this to be an incredible year! I also have many other goals this year. I want every Scout to feel welcome in our troop and want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly. I want Scouting to be a fun and learning activity for all of us and I want to hear everybody’s input so we can get the very best ideas. ALT has taught us the value of planning and time management – we will be emphasizing it this year. The senior patrol will lead by example - I will try to have a plan to accomplish something useful at every meeting. I will try my best to make this year the most enjoyable and memorable for all of you and I hope you will work with me to achieve our goals. This is your troop – let us work to make it the very best.

Kiran Prasad, SPL

Meetings and Patrols

Meetings are from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. and we request that Scouts arrive at 7:10 sharp so that our meetings can begin on time. A reminder to everyone – there is no troop meeting on the Monday after a campout. The Junior Leaders meet on that night to review the campout and to plan the following month.

The **Senior Patrol Leader** (SPL) this year is **Kiran P.** and his assistants (ASPL) are **Cornell O.** and **Matt E.** The Senior Patrol gear color is Blue and will be known as “The Scout Cows”.

The **Patrol Leaders** and assistants are:

Alex C. and Nick W. –

Electric Panthers (gear color is Orange)

Max W. and Ryan S. –

Sneezing Pandas (gear color is Green)

Jesse R. and Rob T. –

Flaming Caskets (gear color is Red)

Our Quartermaster this year is Mat D., Historian is Max W., Librarian is Jack R., Scribe is Carter W, and Webmaster is Alex H. Jacob A. and Mike S. will be the 2011 Troop Guides.

Each patrol is required to meet at least once a month on their own time to discuss campouts and plan events.

PHOTOGRAPHER – We are looking for an interested Scout to take over as Troop Photographer – please see Steve regarding this special assignment.

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Venture Patrol

Troop 85 has a vibrant venture patrol with a busy schedule. The objective of the venture program is to provide our older Scouts with challenging outdoor activities that are age appropriate.

Venture Patrol activities are additional activities and are not to replace regular troop meetings and camp outs.

In order for the Scouts to be a member of the patrol, they must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a First Class Scout and at least 14 years old
2. Active in the troop activities.
3. Continued participation in troop activities. Venture Patrol activities are additional activities and are not to replace regular troop meetings and camp outs.

Alex C. has accepted the position of Venture Patrol Leader along with his Patrol Leader position.

The boys have planned many exciting trips including a just completed 36-mile bike ride, fishing weekend, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing camp out, a survival campout, and two backpacking trips in the spring.

They are also planning on a spectacular 50-mile backpacking trip around Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks. This trip will be open to all boys who are 14 year old or older. The boys must qualify for the summer hike by attending successfully at least one of the spring backpacking trips.

The patrol is also entering a lottery to attend Philmont in the summer of 2013. There will be a parent meeting about this in the next few months.

Assistant Scoutmasters Aaron Slosman, Glenn Gordon, and Ravi Prasad will be providing uniformed adult leadership for the outings but we will need and depend on the help of the parents of Venture-aged Scouts to assist and chaperone as needed.

Recently the venture patrol has returned from High Peak of the Adirondacks. They hiked/backpacked about 35 miles. The change of elevation was about 18,500 feet in total. They climbed four of the 46 high peaks summiting Mount Marcy, which is the highest point in New York. The boys also had some down time to swim in cool mountain streams and at Heart Lake. Alex C. did a great job as leader and the group grew both individually and as a team.

Drivers

Scout campouts and outings would not be possible without the help of parents as drivers and chaperones. The troop appreciates the support you have all given in the past. Look at each of the campouts and choose a few that you would like to drive to, and then tell Mr. Slosman. Most importantly, **please respond to the Evites**, even if it is a maybe. It's the only way we know who is planning to attend an event and we need this information to plan for drivers.

Troop Communication

E-mail – after each Junior Leader meeting, the Troop Scribe (Carter W.) will send an e-mail to everyone letting us know about upcoming events and meetings. Please check your e-mail often during the Scouting year so you are up to date on Troop 85 news.

Evite – Before each camp out, Steve will post an Evite to each Scout family. Information about the trip will be provided along with a map and a response section. **Please respond to the Evites, even if it's a maybe.** It's the only way we know who is planning to attend an event. We need this information to plan for drivers and food for our camping trips.

Website – Alex H. is our webmaster. Please put www.bsatroop85.com in your Favorites or Bookmarks and check it periodically, especially as events draw near. Our webmaster also posts pictures from troop outings, so you can see what the Scouts have been doing. Every Scout is encouraged to take pictures for the troop.

Advancement

Scouts are responsible for keeping track of their own progress, setting their advancement goals and designing their own course and pace. The adult leaders are here to encourage them, but success or failure is theirs to control. Questions regarding advancement should be directed to Mr. Tirone. For more information, refer to the *Advancement Handbook* that can be found on the troop website.

Fundraising

Along with the beginning of the Scouting year comes popcorn sales. Last year we had an unbelievable popcorn fundraiser. As you know, the Troop keeps 1/3 of the money collected from popcorn sales and this is our main fundraiser of the year, so it's important for all Scouts to make this a successful sale. All Scouts are required to sell \$300 of popcorn (\$225/Scout for 2 Scouts+ in family). Scouts selling \$450 will earn 10% of total sales in Troop Bucks. Scouts selling \$900 will earn 12% of total sales in Troop Bucks. **Troop Bucks must be used before Sept 1 of the following Scouting year.** After this date, unused Troop Bucks are moved into the general troop treasury. Scouts not selling the \$300 minimum in popcorn will be required to pay an additional \$125 (this is in addition to yearly dues) to the troop - failure to pay this fee will result in delayed receipt of merit badges and rank advancement.

POPCORN DATES:

Mon. October 24 – deadline to return unsold *Show & Sell* popcorn to Mrs. Cerra (1694 North Forest Road; Email: kdca3119@aol.com). All *Show & Deliver* money due. After this date, you have bought the unsold popcorn – it cannot be returned!

Sat. October 29 – deadline to return *Take Order* forms. Mrs. Cerra will be at the Oct. 24 troop meeting to collect popcorn order forms. Do not send order forms to Scout Council!

Sat. November 19 – pick up popcorn orders between 1-5 PM at the Cerra's house.

Mon. December 5th – all *Take Order* popcorn sale money handed in at this troop meeting. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Checks payable to “BSA Troop 85”.

Uniforms

Uniforms are required at all Scout meetings and some special events (e.g. summer camp, Court of Honor). Troop 85's uniform is the BSA-approved Field Uniform with all patches sewn on, troop neckerchief and Boy Scout slide. If you are purchasing a shirt, make sure it's the new style. We have never required official pants; the boys may wear either khakis or jeans for the meetings. A troop appears uniform when all its members look the same. Please wear your Scout shirt and neckerchief to every meeting so your patrol looks the best!

Our troop also has an Activity Uniform; this is a navy blue T-shirt with an emblem of an eagle with an "85". This shirt is worn at some campouts, outings and at summer camp. All Scouts should have an Activity Uniform. T-shirts are currently in stock and may be purchased for \$15 each – see any adult or Junior leader.

Dues and Registration

Troop dues and registration are collected at the beginning of the Scout year usually in September. This year, we got started on this particular aspect a little late and will be expected by Oct. 17. Our dues and registration fee will be \$65 per Scout. Dues help pay for camping fees, wood for campfires, troop equipment, and supplies.

Please make a check payable to Troop 85 and bring it to the next troop meeting.

You can also mail it to:

Mark Hager (h) 816-5913
60 Miller Rd
Gettysville, N.Y. 14068

Camping

All troop activities have been planned with a list included in this newsletter. Please use it to mark your calendar now. **Make Scout outings your first choice this year!**

Before almost every campout, we gather at the Williamsville United Methodist Church parking lot. Departure times may vary a bit due to driving distance, so look for announcements before every trip. Monday after each campout, but **elected Scouts are required to attend the Junior Leader meeting** on those days.

Our camping fee this year will be approximately \$20 per Scout per event. Chaperones don't pay for campouts.

2011-2012 Calendar of Events¹ – Boy Scout Troop 85

September 23-25: Black Forest, Pennsylvania

We kick off our year with a great camping and hiking trip to the Cook Forest State Park in northwestern Pennsylvania. Once called the Black Forest, the area is famous for its stands of old growth forest. Cook Forest's "Forest Cathedral" of towering white pines and hemlocks is a National Natural Landmark. If the weather permits, we plan to do some great stargazing.

October 14-16: Allegheny State Park, New York

We will be camping (site to be determined) and hiking in the Allegheny State Park. If we are lucky, we will hit the peak fall foliage.

November 18-20: Mount Nemo, Canada

On this exciting trip we will stay in shelters or cabins, do great hiking and visit a nearby American Indian village. Mt. Nemo near Burlington, Ontario has one of the best cliff ecosystems on Ontario's Niagara Escarpment. Crevice caves and ancient cedars, a thousand years old, can be seen along the meandering cliff edge trail. Everyone 16 and older will need passport or enhanced driver's license.

December 17: The "Wright Stuff" Day

We will be visiting two world famous Frank Lloyd Wright houses in our own backyard: the Darwin Martin House (a National Historic Landmark) and Graycliff (a New York State Historical Landmark). This promises to be a unique, fun, and educational event.

January 20-22: Skiing at Peak and Peak

There is no better way to enjoy Western New York winters than to ski in our great snow! We will stay warm in cabins and ski at Peak and Peak. Are you new to skiing? This is your chance to learn. There are many trails for beginners and intermediates. Don't worry if you don't own skis; they can be rented.

February 10-12: Patrol Outing

February is patrol outing month. Each patrol decides on a campout or day activity to do together. The planning is entirely up to the patrols for this one. Be creative and have fun! **March 17 (tentative): 65th**

Anniversary Banquet

Location and times TBA

March 23-25: Don Miller Park (Fellowship Dinner)

You can't find a camp any closer to home than this one! It is located in North Tonawanda near Robinson Road. Each patrol will contribute to the Fellowship Dinner that we'll share.

April 21: Rafting in Zoar Valley

This will be a most exciting and adventurous 1-day trip. White water rafting on the mighty Cattaraugus, through Zoar Valley, is the perfect springtime activity. You'll view rugged cliffs hundreds of feet high, waterfalls and, if lucky, nesting bald eagles. The Zoar Valley Canoe & Rafting Company will arrange for all the rafts, safety equipment, and wet suits etc.

May 20: Mumford, NY

Our last outing will be a day trip to one of the largest living history museums in the country located just outside of Rochester in Mumford, NY. Step back into a living, working nineteenth century country village. You'll hear the clanging of the blacksmith's hammer, smell the aroma of fresh baked pies and bread, \roll the hoop with the stick, and otherwise truly experience life in a nineteenth century American country village.

June 8-10: Pine Creek, Pennsylvania

This promises to be the bike trip of a lifetime! The Pine Creek Rail Trail was voted by USA Today as one of the "10 great places to take a bike tour." This over 57 mile long trail slopes gently downhill over its entire length and travels through the Pine Creek Gorge (aka the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania) starting in Ansonia and ending in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania. We plan to camp at the beginning and along the way with sites yet to be determined.

¹ This schedule was developed, discussed, and agreed upon entirely by the Junior Leadership of Troop 85.