



Troop 81 E-Mail News

November 14, 2006

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 10

Troop Meeting Nov 16:

1. Eagle Patrol is on set-up & take-down. Please arrive early this evening.
2. Activities: Patrol Cooking Competition; Fire Building Competition; Prep for Wilderness Survival Merit Badge.
3. Remember to wear your COMPLETE Class A's to our Troop Mtg!

COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS

The Troop 81 Committee met on Sunday Nov 12th. You will receive the minutes of this meeting separately. Lots of new info, so look for an email soon.

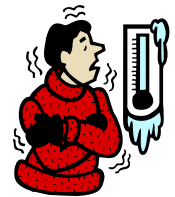


The next Committee Meeting is on December 10th, at 7 pm, at River Glen Church. ALL parents from the Troop are welcome and encouraged to attend!

BACKPACKING TRIP TO BE RE-SCHEDULED

"For the first time since taking over as Scoutmaster, and after much consultation, last weekend I made the very tough decision to cancel a campout. While disappointing to most of us, you all need to understand that this last-minute decision was made solely with the safety of the boys in mind.

"Our planned activity for Saturday was to backpack to a remote wooded location, spend the night and return on Sunday morning. Having been at this backpacking campsite in the past we were aware of the difficult terrain and that the ability to retreat from this location, if necessary, would be extremely difficult. Under normal circumstances it is an acceptable risk.



"The severe rain storm in combination with predictions of below freezing temperatures for Saturday and Sunday had us thinking about wet boys and hypothermia. This information changed that risk to unacceptable. I hope you all will understand. The backpacking campout will be rescheduled for a date in 2007." ~ Mr. Tim Maurer

FURTHER WORDS From Our Scoutmaster, MR. MAURER

Campouts aside, this is always a busy time of year for our Troop. The boys are actively working towards their Rank advancements, while the Adult Mentors are working towards the transition of our 20+ Moose & Muskie Scouts into the other, 'older' patrols.



It can sometimes be difficult for an 'older' Scout to be interested and engaged in the same discussion that is meant for 'younger', less experienced scouts.

Over the past 6 months, during PLC meetings, the Scouts in leadership positions have made a specific decision to find ways to engage all Scouts at our Troop meetings. You may have noticed some changes over the past weeks. Our Scouts have broken into smaller groups to discuss specific activities related to upcoming campouts.

This is working very well. Scouts can choose which discussion they wish to join each week. For example, our December campout features Geo-Caching and wilderness survival techniques. During the next three meetings, the boys will hold simultaneous small group discussions related to these topics and more.

I'm very proud of the way our Scouts have stepped up and found positive ways to engage *all* boys at our meetings.



CALENDAR

Nov 16: Troop Mtg
(Eagle)

REMEMBER, NO Troop Meeting Nov 23rd - Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 30: Troop Mtg
(Scorpion)

Dec 7: QM Mtg at 6pm,
Troop Mtg at 7pm
(Wolverine)

Dec 8-10: Winter
Campout, Morris

Dec 10 PLC Mtg 4.30
pm & Committee Mtg 7
pm

Dec 14: Troop Mtg
(Blackhawk)

Dec 21: Troop Mtg &
Holiday Party! (Moose &
Muskie)

TROOP 81 BOY SCOUTS

River Glen Church
Naperville, IL
WWW.TROOP81.ORG



TROOP EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

RECENT Troop Meeting Announcements

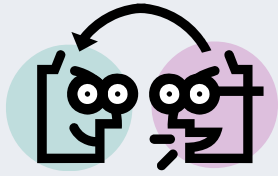
Your SPL and his assistants have sure been busy! The next few Troop Meetings will be filled with tons of activities for Scouts.

- November 16th will feature our Patrol Cooking Competition & Fire Building Competition. We'll also have a sign up for our Wilderness Survival Merit Badge.
- **NEW INFO:** November 30th will feature meal and duty roster planning for our December 8-10 campout, which includes training for our Geo-Cache activity. Scouts are also encouraged to work on any outstanding advancements this night, including ongoing Wilderness Survival Merit Badge reqs.
- **NEW INFO:** December 7th will feature further Geo-Cache training and further advancements. Older Scouts assist the younger Scouts, please.
- **NEW INFO:** December 14th will feature a Team Building exercise (low-cope). Be sure to book in your Board of Review – next week is the FINAL date for these before our January Court of Honor.
- **REMINDER:** Opportunity for Service Hours at the Naper Settlement, Dec 16 and 17. Sign-up sheet is at Troop Meetings or contact SPL.
- **NEW INFO:** December 21st is our Annual Holiday Party! Details coming on what parental involvement we may need. This is the last night for any BOR's.



FUTURE Troop Events

- December 8-10 is our Winter Campout at the Rainbow Council Scout Reservation, Morris IL. Tent camping Fri; indoor Training Center reserved Sat.
- Court of Honor: Our next one will be in January, probably at Longwood School. If you can help with this event, please contact Mrs. Sherry Nagy.
- January 26-27 (Fri night camping only; back on Sat) is Klondike Derby at the Three Fires Ranch, Rochelle IL.
- February 23-25 will be our Snow Sports and Cabin Camping at Canyon Camp of Blackhawk Council, Stockton IL. Skiing or Boarding on Sat will be at Chestnut Mt., Galena IL. (www.chestnutmtn.com)
- May 4-6 is the District and Council's Camporee.
- TENTATIVE INFO: With cancellation of Nov campout, backpacking may shift into either Mar or Apr. Mar 23-25 was to feature orienteering. Apr 20-22 was to feature rock climbing. June 8-10 is our annual Service Project Week up at Owasipee. Boys plan on holding an Eco-Challenge. Summer camp 6/23-30?



Got News To Share?

Our goal is to send this e-mail newsletter as often as information comes to hand, so if YOU have info for the Troop, please send it to Mrs. Lisa Schweitzer
JLJM@wideopenwest.com.

She aims to have each week's newsletter out on Tuesdays.

'Deadline' to include is therefore the weekend (a few days) prior.



LOST & FOUND BOUGHT & SOLD

Scouts often have items to sell or miscellaneous announcements at our regular Troop Meetings. If you or your Scout wishes to also post these items in our T81 newsletter, please send them to Lisa c/o the email address above.

PANCAKE SUGGESTIONS

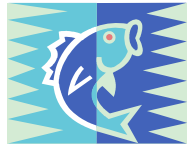


All parents are encouraged to provide feedback to Mrs. Cyndi Gorecki and/or Mr. Ed Steffek regarding our Nov 4th Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

Your suggestions are valued in *all* areas of this important annual process: from ticket sales to the event itself, and everything in between. See Cyndi & Ed at our mtgs, or email them!



Moose & Muskie Families: Mr. Geoff Dubbins and Mr. Tiger Harris will soon provide you with information about the transition from your 1st year Patrols to the more 'experienced' Patrols. Each Scout will be asked to list his preference for placement.



While we attempt to accommodate as many 1st preferences as we can, please understand that the size of our Troop (and of the Patrols) sometimes makes this difficult to achieve. We appreciate your son having a 2nd choice in mind, in case his 1st choice is not possible.

GIVING & RECEIVING

Did you know T81 is one of the few Troops which has a designated Chaplain? Mr. Bill O'Brien provides yet another unique opportunity for our Scouts to apply the lessons of Scouting to their everyday life. Each month Bill develops a specific theme for the Vespers Service at monthly campouts. Your Scout should recall that October featured the theme "Respect". November & December will focus on "Giving Thanks".



Thank YOU, Mr. O'Brien for giving so much to our Scouts each month!

HOW CAN I LOOK AT PREVIOUS WEEK'S NEWSLETTERS?



Troop 81 E-News is accessible on our Troop website homepage: www.troop81.org. Click on "View Current Newsletter". For previous issues, click on "Troop Information" and you'll find them all there by date. (Thank you, WebMaster Marineau!)

And, as always, if you wish to receive your E-News at more than one email address, send your additions to Mr. Dave Rypka or Mr. Bill Marineau, and they will sign you up.