



Troop 81 E-Mail News

March 11, 2008

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 10

Troop Meeting March 13th, 2008

Blackhawk Patrol should arrive early and stay late this evening.

Full Class A uniform, gentlemen!



REMINDER:

Scouts should sit together by Patrol.



Adult Leaders to sit with their Patrols, please.

LOW COPE THIS THURSDAY

Blackhawk Patrol will coordinate our Low COPE evening on Thursday. "GO!"

What is COPE? COPE stands for Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. Great COPE programs provide exercises in team building, problem solving, self-esteem, trust, decision making, communication, and leadership. High COPE involves exercises high above ground. Low COPE involves exercises at ground level (or close to it).



CLIP INTO ADVENTURE

REMINDER: All Moose Scouts who need their gear checked (or rechecked, based on last week's inspection) should bring their gear for inspection (in a backpack/duffle/or similar).

Everything should be labeled with Scout's name/initials (and we don't just mean the plastic bags that you pack it in! – we mean each individual item should be labeled). 😊



MTG. CALENDAR

Mar 13: Troop Mtg.
(Blackhawk) Low COPE;
Pack Inspections cont.

Mar 20: Troop Mtg.
(Eagle) Patrol Cookbook
& Recipe Exchange Night.

Mar 27: Troop Mtg.
(Scorpion) Gear Demo.

Apr 3: **NO** Mtg. (Spring
Break week)

Apr 6: PLC Mtg. Troop
Comm Mtg 7pm.

Apr 10: Troop Mtg.
(Viking) Meal planning;
pack inspection for
backpacking Scouts.

Apr 17: Troop Mtg.
(Wolverine) Tent &
backpack packing; duty
roster.

Apr 24: Troop Mtg.
(Blackhawk)

Apr 26: Troop Work
Day, River Glen Church

TROOP 81
BOY SCOUTS
River Glen Church
Naperville, IL

WWW.TROOP81.ORG



THIS PAST WEEK'S Troop Announcements

- Wolverine Patrol held a caving demo, as well as gear/pack inspections for new Scouts. (Note that caving permission slip was due 3/6.) Thank you Chris D for an informative talk on caving. Leave no trace!
- Pecos High Adventure had short info mtg...Scouts see Mr. Maurer for details (if you missed it). He had a sample 45 lb pack to try on. Whew!
- Sign up to attend fire lighting duties for St Thomas' Easter Vigil Service, March 22. 1 hr of service credit can be earned.
- All QuarterMasters had a meeting. Next meeting will be Thurs after caving campout, so March 20 at 6 pm.
- Lost & Found: after each campout, the trailer is cleaned out. All found items are displayed at the front of the meeting for a couple of weeks. Please check this area – sometimes you don't know you've lost something until you see it in the pile.
- We had a Webelo guest from Pack 125. Thank you for making him feel welcome.

All previous announcements are in archived E-Mail Newsletters:

<http://www.troop81.org/information.htm>

*** * * MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS * * ***

CURRENT Merit Badge Counselors – it's recharter time...and it's also a great time to contact Mr. Tony Wycklendt (our MB coordinator) if you wish to continue in this role – we do not need new paperwork, but you do need to tell us so we re-register you.



PROSPECTIVE Counselors – Here is a link to provide you with a complete list of MBs – it's extensive: [Merit Badge List](#). There is surely something that many of you will find interesting. Please take this opportunity to pass along your knowledge and skills to our Scouts.

Also, a great way to be involved at Summer Camp is to become a registered MBC. (Only registered adults and leaders with our Troop are allowed on site at Owasippe.)

*** * * VERTICAL ENDEAVORS UPDATE * * ***



Booking our Patrols in at Vertical Endeavors is proving to be a challenge! Rather than publish dates here (only to have them change), we'll probably use a Troop-wide email/phone message to notify you of the rotation of Patrols for this fun event. Stay tuned.

LAST CHANCE!



The deadline is this Wed (March 12) for nominating folks to receive a Silver Acorn Award. Please see the Feb 27 newsletter for full information about this important award.



Troop 81 is one the largest, most active, and most successful Boy Scout troops in the area. Our success is largely due to the commitment and enthusiasm of the adult volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to the troop.

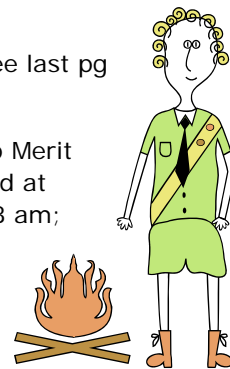


If you would like to nominate someone for the Silver Acorn Award, please contact Dan Cronin, your Committee Chair, with the name of the nominee and a brief summary of why the person deserves to be recognized. This is the last chance for your 2008 nominations.



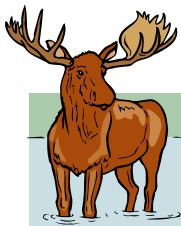
FUTURE Troop Campout & Activity Info

- **March 14-16:** Caving at Maquoketa State Park. **NEW:** See last pg of this newsletter for a gear checklist and caving tips.
- **NEW March 22:** First of 2 Saturdays devoted to our Troop Merit Badge Clinic. (Other date = April 12.) This clinic will be held at Grace Community Church, Montgomery Rd. Check-in is at 8 am; 2, 90-minute sessions follow from 8.30 onwards. We're tentatively offering Communications; Citizenship in the Nation; Personal Management; Public Speaking; and Salesmanship. Note that this MB Clinic is for Scouts ranked with 2nd Class and above.
- **NEW April 12:** Second Saturday of Merit Badge Clinic.
- **April 18-20:** Backpacking and hiking at Forest Glen Preserve, Vermillion Co. This is also a training trip for Pecos crew(s).
- **April 25-27:** Moose Basic Training (older Scouts & instructors to arrive/camp April 25; new Moose arrive/camp April 26). ALL parents to drop off/pick up Scouts at Blackwell (not Hill). Use Mack Rd entrance; sites 9 & 10.
- **May 3: Webelos "Overnighter"** (but we're going for the day only) ...and **May 4th** will be a special Committee Meeting at Mr. Maurer's house.
- **May 9-11** = Mystery Trip ... **May 16-18** = Indianapolis Time Trials... **June 6-8** = Owasippe Service Project... **June 28-July 5** = **Summer Camp!**...
- **July 10:** No Troop Mtg. After summer camp we will meet July 17th and every other week thereafter, until...
- **NEW August 24:** Tentative date for our Summer Court of Honor...**September 26-28** = District-wide Camporee.



USEFUL MOOSE NEWS

Each issue we highlight something new just for Moose Families. **BUT** – other parents might find an antler tip or two in here, too!



NOTE: If you just joined us, be sure to read thru the previous few newsletters – these come out **every** week – for info you might have already missed. Weekly newsletters are archived on our website: www.troop81.org

- ❖ If your new Scout has not yet had his gear/pack inspected, remind him to take care of this **THIS** Thursday.
- ❖ ALL Scouts are expected to wear hiking boots on campouts. Boots are checked in the parking lot at departure time. Scouts without them are sent home.
- ❖ The Basic Training Campout is a must for all new Scouts! This will be held at Blackwell Forest Preserve. We ask that parents drop off their Scouts directly at the camp (sites 9&10) on Sat April 26th.
- ❖ We'll hold a New Parent Meeting Night towards the end of March. Watch this space for details. If you have questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact an adult leader.

CAVING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Three (3) sources of light (headlight/lamp counts as one)
- ✓ Extra batteries for light sources
- ✓ Change of clothes (will be left in cars for afterwards)
- ✓ Helmet (bike helmet will do)
- ✓ Old clothes that can get wet (and that can get dirty and possibly even thrown away)
- ✓ Clothes worn in caves must be polypro (or similar) – NO COTTON!!!!
- ✓ Water bottle (filled with drinking water)
- ✓ Empty wide-mouth plastic bottle for waste: what goes in the cave, comes out of the cave, and that includes bodily fluids)
- ✓ Carabineers
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Knee pads
- ✓ Gloves (so we leave no oil from our hands on the walls)
- ✓ Waterproof bags for anything that can't get wet
- ✓ Large garbage bag for all wet gear after you're done
- ✓ Small day pack to carry your gear in

EXTRA TIPS

- Caves are dark: make sure you have easy access to 3 sources of light.
- Caves are wet: do NOT wear jeans – you must have polypro or similar long underwear. Cotton clothes/socks can cause hypothermia because they stay wet next to your skin.
- Caves are cold: wear layers – some caves will be warmer than the outside temp and some will be the same temp as the outside. We will be wandering in and out of many of the 30+ caves there, so dress warmly.
- Caves are slippery: make sure you watch your step and GO SLOW.
- Caves can be scary: make sure you have a buddy and that you both can see people in front of you and/or behind you at all times.
- Go slow, do not panic, take a deep breath.
- Bats: leave them alone!
- Leave no trace: what goes into the cave comes out of the cave.
- If you think you are lost: STAY PUT and blow your whistle 3 times, repeatedly. STAY PUT – do not wander further in or try to find your way back out. STAY PUT!