



# Troop 615 News



Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2015

## Scoutmaster Minute



It's hard to believe that summer camp is almost here! This is one of the most exciting and comprehensive experiences of the year for the Troop. We're expecting 47 boys to attend along with 5 full week adults and 4 other adults that will split the week. Just getting that many people to do all of the activities that are required for summer camp is a challenge! Things like submitting the paperwork to sign up for camp, sending in and processing checks, completing swimming tests, getting health forms completed, getting the boys to sign up for merit badges, communicating with the camp about all of those attendees and their merit badge requests, getting health checks prior to camp, getting boys to and from camp, and more. Summer camp is a big enterprise! Thank you to the folks that help make everything happen to allow us to GET to summer camp!

Once we get to camp, the fun really begins. During this week, the boys will complete ~ 150 – 200 merit badges, check off requirements for advancement; some may actually advance in rank! The boys will also complete at least one service project at camp, they'll serve and clean up from meals, and they'll build and strengthen friendships and much more. Most importantly, they'll be together, learning, growing, supporting each other and leading. It's a pretty incredible thing to see.

YIS,

Dr. Anderson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PLC (PATROL LEADERS CONFERENCE) MEETINGS

ALL PATROL/ASST PATROL LEADERS, AND THOSE WITH A TROOP POSITIONS NEED TO ATTEND - 7/8, 8/12, 9/9 6:30 PM

### PARENT MEETINGS

ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND 7/8, 8/12, 9/9 7:00 PM

**SUMMER CAMP – OCKANICKON** – 7/19-7/25 – PLEASE TURN IN HEALTH FORMS ASAP

**AUGUST OUTING** – 8/28-8/30 – SPORTS – CAMP SPENCER

**TROOP ELECTIONS** -9/2

**STEM DAY @ ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND** – 9/12 9:00AM-3:30PM

**COURT OF HONOR** – 9/12 – 7:00 PM

**SEPTEMBER OUTING –BACKPACKING**  
TBD. 9/18-9/20

**WEBELOS-O-REE** – BROADCREEK – 10/16-10/18

**NOVEMBER OUTING - MAIZEQUEST** – 11/6-11/8

**DECEMBER OUTING – IRON CHEF, GAMES** – 12/4-12/6

## Rank Advancements:

Brandon Knox - Scout

## Merit Badges:

Kyle Amend - Emergency Preparedness  
Drew Benson - Family Life  
Wyatt Currie - Dog Care  
Ankur Holz - Citizenship in the Community  
Shepard Stevens - Citizenship in the Nation  
Matt Vook - Family Life

## Congratulations! Great Job Scouts!



Please be advised that the Yahoo group list will be disabled on JULY 6.

To send an email to the **whole troop** you can send to:  
[team@bsatrop615.teamsnap.com](mailto:team@bsatrop615.teamsnap.com).

To send an email to the **only adults** you can send to:  
[nonmembers@bsatrop615.teamsnap.com](mailto:nonmembers@bsatrop615.teamsnap.com)

## June Outing – Tuckahoe, MD - 6/5/15-6/7/15

The outing was terrific! We didn't have specific things to do at specific times, so the boys played. They checked off some accomplishments. We had a full outing game of ultimate frisbee in the morning. After lunch, we went canoeing/kayaking for a couple hours, then thunder, rain brought the group in. We stayed at the park after dropping off the canoes/kayaks and the boys practiced volleyball and then played on the tire park playground until it was time to go get dinner ready.

The boys did an awesome job cooking! John Parks really helped get the boys to step up. They did chicken cordon blue for Sat dinner, along with steamed broccoli and French fries.

During roses and thorns, the boys all said that the food was terrific. Nearly all the boys spontaneously offered that they really enjoyed the smaller outing format.

YIS,  
Dr. Anderson



# Summer Camp Packing List

## Personal Hygiene (avoid fragrant items if possible as they attract insects)

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Shaving Needs (if any)
- Towel (may want two; one for showering, the other for swimming)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush

## Clothing

- Complete Field/Class A uniform for dinner and retreat consisting of Scout socks, shorts, and khaki shirt
- Troop or Scout shirt for Activities/Class B uniform for retreats during high heat
- Swim Suit
- Close Toed Shoes
- Rain gear
- Sufficient clothing for 7 days (coin operated laundry facilities are available at camp, detergent is available at the Trading Post)
- Water-proof boots or hiking shoes
- Jacket
- Sleeping pad
- Sleeping Bag
- Bed sheet for hot evenings
- Pillow or bag to stuff with clothing to use as pillow
- Spare shoes
- Extra socks

## Outdoor Protection

- Hat
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Non-aerosol insect repellent

## Other

- Flash light
- Extra batteries
- Pencil
- Paper
- Money for extra activities/Trading Post
- Items required for specific activities (see Leader Guide)
- Review the pages of the [Merit Badges](#) you are planning on taking, and bring any pre-Req's required.

## Optional

- Compass/GPS unit
- Camera
- Playing Cards
- Fishing Equipment

## 2015 STEM Day at Aberdeen Proving Ground

**When:** Saturday, 9/12 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

**Where:** Aberdeen Proving Ground – 2 Halls Cross Roads, Aberdeen, MD

**Who:** Boy Scouts will have the opportunity to earn **ONE Merit Badge OR ONE STEM NOVA Award** (Final Merit Badge selections will be made/informed during the week of August 17) \*\*Please note pre-requisites will be required.\*\*

**Cost:** \$19

**Registration:** Is open now. Go to the link below.

<http://www.baltimorebsa.org/event/2015-stem-in-scouting-at-apg/1720892>



## Join the fun at the 2015 National Pike Fishing Tournament



**When:** Saturday, July 11, 2015  
8:30am—1:30pm

**Where:** Centennial Lake in Columbia  
(Boat Ramp Area)

**Bring:** Your own bait, rod, & bucket

**Cost:** \$8 in advance or \$10 at the event

### Schedule:

REGISTRATION: 8:30 - 9:00 am

RULE REVIEW: 9:00 - 9:15 am

TOURNAMENT FISHING: 9:15 am - 12:30 pm

AWARDS CEREMONY: 1:00 pm

Questions? Contact Michael Katz at [michaelfkatz@verizon.net](mailto:michaelfkatz@verizon.net).

**Please register online in advance through Doubleknot at [www.baltimorebsa.org/npfishing](http://www.baltimorebsa.org/npfishing)**

# Why I like camping with Troop 615

## By Brady Shafer ~ Troop 615 Activities Coordinator

Yes, this is an unabashed plea for more parents (and scouts) to participate on outings.

As a 20-year, US Military retiree, I've certainly had my share of 'camping'. Beginning with the time when my Drill Sergeant told us we were going on a week-long 'camping trip' in basic training, complete with a wonderfully potent gas chamber and the opportunity to crawl through a barbed wire field while other soldiers fired live rounds over my head, seemingly unaware of the apparent danger to me. My exposure to 'camping' continued with a month long stint atop a frozen mountain top along the Demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, and more, another extended-time residence in a tent near the Arctic Circle in Alaska, and also including a great time in the woods while Mt. St. Helens erupted, quite nearly literally underneath my feet. My 'camping' career was rounded out by numerous other occasions, not quite as significant, but each nearly as memorable as the events described above.

Yes folks, I'd been on my share of camping trips. And, when I hung up the spurs (Cavalry speak for retiring), I anticipated an occasional (nay, rare) jaunt 'into the woods', envisioning myself styling in a camper, replete with hot and cold running water, 'facilities' and a nice, soft, comfy bed, upon which to rest my aged bones.

Then, along came Leo, (my son) and his decision to continue on in scouting after WEBELOS with Troop 615.

You see, I was never a big 'scouter' while growing up, & my oldest son (the Rock Star) was not in scouts, either. Albeit, we did camp together at the Chiricahua National Monument, near the Cochise Stronghold in South East Arizona. Ask me, sometime, about the time a Javelina (Collared Peccary; the only wild, native, pig-like animal found in the United States) came trotting through our campsite while we were roasting hot dogs.

My daughter is not deeply into camping, either, My wife, the Lieutenant, had her share of 'camping' during her time in the military, as well. So, until Leo joined Troop 615, we were not strongly 'drawn to the woods' as a family.

Others, in the past in this forum, more eloquently than I could ever hope to wax poetic, have made strong, clear, convincing cases on the merits of scouting for the boys of Troop 615. These points are not in dispute. Indeed, scouting has an irrefutable positive influence on the lives of our boys. But, here, I'd like to, as the title suggests, share with you my reasons for being drawn 'back into the woods' with Troop 615.

In order to understand my rationale, one must first understand the different roles that adults play on outings. I will, first and foremost, state that the prime adult role on outings is safety. While the boys plan, prepare, implement and recover from outings, the adults ensure all is done in the most safe, sure and rational manner possible, ALL Adults, regardless of whether one is 'program staff' or 'committee' are 'safety officers' while in the company of scouts. Which brings me to the roles of 'program staff' and 'committee' and the "pie`ce de re`sistance" of my little essay.

In the grand scheme of 'division of labor' and pursuant to their BSA training, program staff are on the front line of guiding and assisting the boys on outings. Program Staff respond to the little emergencies in the middle of night, Program Staff assure that scout duties are fairly and equitable distributed among the scouts, Program Staff teach and guide our scouts in the course of progression through the ranks.

Program Staff, through overt direction and through calm, measured patience, lead by example and form competent, young men, right before our very eyes on outings. Program Staff are ever present, just within earshot of nearly every scout on an outing, assuring that the scout Law & Motto are at the forefront of all tasks and thoughts on an outing, but not so as to be intervening at every turn, but in such a manner as to remind scouts that, even when no one seems to be aware, it makes sense to adhere to the ethos of the Scout Law and Motto. Program Staff often go on outings even when their scouts do not or have long since 'aged-out' of scouting. Some Program Staff are several years removed from having a scout in Troop 615.

"When do they have time to do all this and have sustenance and refreshment?" you ask. Well, that's why there is such a great need for non-program staff to attend outings and provide such support and assistance as can be given. Non-program staff can help in a great way on outings by cooking, cleaning up, but, more importantly, by sharing in the camaraderie and fellowship with the program staff, by sharing the joy and fun of simply being out of doors. I like camping with troop 615 because it allows me to become better acquainted with the men and women who have a strong positive influence on my son's life.

I like camping with Troop 615 because it enables me to give back to these men and women, in support of their duties as program staff. I like camping with Troop 615 because I did NOT NEED 20 years experience in the military to come camping with Troop 615, all will be helped, all are welcome. I like camping with Troop 615 because, I know, firsthand, that my scout is cared for, safe and in good hands. I like camping with Troop 615 because the culinary experience is incomparable to the 'field cuisine' I'd grown accustomed to in the military.

So, please join us on outings. I promise you no gas chambers, no live rounds will be fired over your heads, no volcanoes will erupt near you and you will enjoy the experience.

Brady Schafer

A retired army guy who thought he was done with 'camping' (but glad he ain't)