



Troop 615 News



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May 2015

Scoutmaster Minute



May is a tremendously exciting and busy time of year. We've just finished up the Bull-Pork Roast fundraiser, completed one of our biggest outings of the year (white water rafting), we're getting ready to recognize and celebrate two Scouts that have earned the rank of Eagle and we're getting ready for another outing next week. Whew! Meanwhile, several Scout families are celebrating high school graduation. Others are getting ready for their boys to move on to high school, and others getting ready to move on to middle school. This is a time of major transition and chance for everyone in the troop.

One of the biggest events of the year for Scouts is coming up soon: summer camp! For first year parents and Scouts, expect a great deal of growth and change to take place in your Scout as a result of the summer camp experience. For most first year Scouts, this will be the first time they're away from their parents for more than an occasional overnight. What's really remarkable to see is that the Scouts all learn how to adjust and to thrive. How? By doing it! By being active and having a good time all day. Ockanickon Scout Reservation (OSR) does a terrific job with their first year program keeping the boys engaged, entertained, and getting them learning new skills, many of which count towards rank advancement. The boys also learn to adjust by hanging out with and relying on their friends, by forging new friendships, by experiencing new things, new routines, new foods, and all sorts of new challenges. They come back from camp a bit more mature, a bit more self-assured. It is a remarkable thing to see and experience. For older boys, summer camp provides a focused time to work on Scouts. It is energizing to be surrounded by Scouts, to be working on completing merit badges, to be supporting the Troop and the camp for an intense, week-long period. Weekend outings are amazing! But summer camp experiences simply cannot be replicated in weekend outings. Many boys come back from summer camp pumped about Boy Scouts. That energy from attending camp seems to really help boys to stay engaged throughout the year. Completing several merit badges during summer camp helps them complete requirements needed to advance.

In order to help ensure that summer camp goes well, we have a number of tasks that need to be completed prior to leaving for camp. We need to have all health and medical forms complete. Please respond to messages from Ms. Cawthra to get those forms in. We need help from families with the pre-camp check in. Before leaving for camp, we meet at Mount Hebron High School to do a health check and paper work check. OSR requires that Scouts coming to camp be fever free. If anyone has an elevated temperature, they cannot stay at camp. To help make sure that no one gets to Bucks County, PA and then has to come home right away, we do temperature and medicine checks prior to departure. To have this process run efficiently, we need adult volunteers Sunday morning prior to departure. We also need adult volunteers to help drive the Scouts to and from camp. The drive to OSR takes ~ 3 – 4 hours, depending on traffic, weather and how long we stop for lunch. When the messages appear looking for volunteers to help transport boys, please support the Troop by helping with driving. On a personal note, I need to share that I LOVE summer camp! As a boy, I never had the opportunity to attend a weeklong camp. My first summer camp experience was 3 years ago at OSR with the Troop. It was AWESOME! Seeing the boys grow and change over the week is just amazing. The experience is almost as energizing for the program staff that attend as it is for the Scouts! OSR has terrific resources and an amazing program... a program that is being led this year by one of our Eagle Scout alums, Andrew Howard. I can't wait!

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 - 6/17, 7/8, 8/12 6:30 PM

PARENT MEETINGS

ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND 6/17, 7/8, 8/12 7:00 PM

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – ST.

JOHNS LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MAY DAY FESTIVAL – 5/30 1:45-

6:00PM PLEASE CONTACT DR.

ANDERSON IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

BULL PORK ROAST AFTERMATH –

6/2 – 7:00 PM DR. ALBUERNE'S HOUSE

(10309 WETHERBURN RD EC) PLEASE

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

WATER SPORTS OUTING – TUCKAHOE,

MD - 6/5-6/7

COURT OF HONOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL

6/10 – 7:00 PM – PLEASE SIGN UP -

<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck>

[/JuneCourtofHonorIceCreamSocial](http://JuneCourtofHonorIceCreamSocial)

NATIONAL PIKE DISTRICT CUB SCOUT

DAY CAMP – HOWARD COUNTY

FAIRGROUNDS – 6/22-6/26 8:00-4:30

SUMMER CAMP – OCKANICKON – 7/19-

7/25

AMUSEMENT PARK OUTING – HERSHEY

PARK – 8/28-8/30

TROOP ELECTIONS -9/2

COURT OF HONOR – 9/12 – 7:00 PM

SPORTS OUTING – TBD. 9/18-9/20

WEBELOS-O-REE – BROADCREEK –

10/16-10/18

Friends of Troop 615 4th Annual Bull-Pork Roast – 5/9/15

The Bull Pork Roast 4.0 was a great success! Thanks to everyone that volunteered their time and sold and bought tickets to this event. Your help is very much appreciated. Special thanks to **Dr. Marcelino Albuerne!** Without him, this event would not happen! He is the force behind all the great food and MANY of the ticket sales and sponsorships.



White Water Rafting Trip – 5/15/15-5/17/15

When the scouts got to the campsite, it was a clear, beautiful night. Because of the large group, including the many adults, there were 2 extra tents that were much larger than the usual ones. Because everyone was late, setting up the tents and canopies had to be done quietly. After all the tents were set up, some of them were very cramped with scouts, but most slept well. Having everyone wake up was no hassle and all of the breakfast was being cooked. After breakfast, all of the scouts got in their groups for the white water rafting part. It rained during the white water rafting, leaving the middle group with soar arms and the lower river with some very wet and cold rafts. On the lower, some people got a better view of the water, "involuntarily". Despite the rain, everyone had a good time overall. The stoves and pots were taken out, and dinner was made for everyone. The sleeping arrangements were better the second night, due to most of the 3rd years leaving due to prior commitments. After a much better night's sleep, everyone got up, with breakfast being a little different with the new no cereal rule. Even with that, there was some cooking, others with shortcuts, but in the end, everyone ate well and packed away everything.

The trip back to the church was a little different, since everyone didn't stop as a group. But everyone did make it back from the trip, and with fond memories of another outing.

Shepard Stevens
Troop 615 historian



We Remember – 5/22/15

Troop 615 had a good turnout of Scouts, adults and family members for the **We Remember** event at the **Baltimore National Cemetery**. Our scouts and families helped to place over 10,000 flags to mark every grave at this veteran's cemetery to start off the Memorial Day weekend. This year National Pike also did a collection of toiletry items to donate to local grassroots organizations. They collected 827 items! After the flag placement we enjoyed a nice ceremony to honor those service members that have made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as active military and our veterans. See the picture below with our very own veterans – **David Gattis** and **David Smith**. Thank you for your service! It was a beautiful night! After We Remember, the group headed to Uno's Pizzeria to enjoy dinner together.



The Eagle's Nest



Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts – **Xander Castle-Smith** and **Jake Norton!** Way to go Scouts! You make Troop 615 proud!



Trail To Eagle

by Greg Gough

Walk upon the trail,
that links the,
future with the past.
Take the Oath,
Live the Law.
The pathway to Eagle,
is steep and narrow.
Your journey will require,
skill and fortitude.
Your reward:
Knowledge and Understanding.
Enough to base a lifetime on.
Your challenge is to;
Take the journey,
Join the few and
Soar with the Eagle.

Ankur Holz completes his Eagle Project! Ankur led a group of adults and Scouts to construct new benches for Rockburn Park. Nice job!



Matt Vook will start fundraising for his Eagle Project!

On **Sunday, May 31st**, from 9 am to noon Matt will be holding a bake sale in the link at Church of the Resurrection to raise money for his Eagle project.

Donations of baked items or money are greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off on Sunday, or you can contact Matt at mvook@yahoo.com or 443-756-1944 and he will pick them up from you.

If you would like to volunteer at the sale itself, please contact Matt and arrive in full Class-A uniform.

Matt Jackson & Tom Hoffmeister

Will be holding their Eagle Court of Honor
Saturday, May 30th

The ceremony will be held at the **Chapel**
at the Church of the Resurrection at 4:00 PM.
(Help set up at 3:00)

Reception at the Clubhouse at the Enclave at
Ellicott Hills.

RSVP to Joe Jackson at
JoeJackson@Comcast.net.

Rank Advancements:

Life - Philemon Kendzierski
1st Class - Kevin Johnson
1st Class - Zachary Cherry
2nd Class - Matthew Harris
Scout - Jeremy Fox
Scout - Raymond Strozyk

Congratulations!

Merit Badges:

Aviation - Ethan Tucker
Family Life - Ankur Holz
Fly Fishing - Joey Peters
Personal Fitness - Ankur Holz
Space Exploration - Matthew Harris

Great Job Scouts!

“Did You Know?” – From the desk of Mr. Cho

All Scouts going to summer camp will require a tote or plastic container for their belongings and essentials at the summer camp. This container can be purchased from Wal-Mart, Container Store, or similar stores. If possible, the container without the wheels works better. The most popular color is black and also to not forget the combination lock to keep your belongings safe. For younger Scouts, it may not be a bad idea for the combination numbers to be given to adults in case they forget. This is more for the new scouts that are going to summer camp for the first time. "Dan Beard" program Scout that is.

Reminders

Health Forms

Health forms are due **Wednesday, June 10th!** Please remember that **ALL scouts must complete the Boy Scout health form annually.** Only 15 scouts have turned in updated forms so far!!

Please provide 2 copies of all pages and 2 copies of both sides of your health insurance card. Remember, dates must be included for the immunization section. Parts A & B are needed for the troop weekend outings. And Parts A, B & C are needed for Boy Scout summer camp.

If you're wondering if your health form is complete, log into Team Snap and click on **Tracking**. If there's a green check by your name, your health form is complete for the next year.

Team Snap

The end of May is here and that means we are switching to **Team Snap for Troop communications!** Wondering how to reach another member of the troop? Log into Team Snap and click on **Messages** to send an email without having to look up the recipient's email address. Or click on **Members** to find the recipient's phone number. Wondering if your health form is complete for the next year? Log into Team Snap and click on **Tracking** to see if there's a green check next to your name. Wondering when the next outing is and where the troop is going? Log into Team Snap and click on **Schedule** to view the dates for the outings through Dec 2016 (yes, that's a 6). Wondering who is going on the next outing? Log into Team Snap and click on **Availability**.

From Troop 615 Historian – Shepard Stevens

An interview with Philemon Kendzierski and Timmy Packard:

Q: How are you planning on making outings more fun?

A: By reminding every scout that there are limits on what you can bring, cook, and eat, and everyone seems to have forgotten that.

Q: What are the reminders for the rules for?

A: We have seen a lot of repetitive, uncreative meals cooked every single outing, and food that's eaten without being cooked. There are even items not on the list that are brought, and even food pre-prepared.

Q: What do you expect scouts to do with these reminders?

A: Scouts should expect to use and cook everything on the meal planning list.

Q: What about extra money? What will one do?

A: They should use any extra money to get higher-quality ingredients.

For those who forgot, the rules are:

1: All meals must be cooked. No repetitive foods! (Bacon, pancakes, hamburgers, etc.)

2: No pre-made food or drink. (Powdered drinks are fine, no chips)

3 Food that isn't on the list cannot be brought.

TroopMaster Web

Are you curious how close you are to the next rank? Or how many merit badges you have? Or your history of leadership positions? Or whether your contact information is accurate? Log into **TroopMaster Web** and click on **Advancement** and you'll find the answers. If you need help navigating the application, check out the user's guide:

<http://www.bsa615.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Troopmaster-Web-Instructions.pdf>