



Troop 615 News



Volume 3, Issue 9

September 2015

Scoutmaster Minute



Good day Scouts and Scout families!

As you might imagine, I'm someone that really enjoys Scouting. I LOVE that Scouts have the opportunity to learn how to take care of themselves and their Scout-mates. I love seeing the boys evolve from energetic former Webelos into fine young men of character. I love seeing the characters evolve on outings. I also love that the boys have so many opportunities in Scouting. What opportunities, you ask??

Service: Through Scouts, there are a number of opportunities to serve others. That can everything from helping out with Cub Scout Day camp to Scouting for Food to supporting the Church with their health fair and the new Fall Festival, to helping out other Scouts completing Eagle projects. Serving others is an important foundation of Scouting and is part of who we are as individual citizens. What is really remarkable about serving others is that it not only helps those you serve, it also helps the individual providing service. It's a pretty amazing feeling to know that you helped someone out with no expectation of anything other than the opportunity to serve.

Activities: After a quick review of outings over the past several years, it's pretty amazing to see all of the different activities that the Scouts have had a chance to do. There are some activities that seem to have become traditions in the Troop... things like wilderness survival, white water rafting, and going to MazeQuest. We've also done shooting sports, canoeing, military history, archery, gaming outings, COPE, hiking/backpacking, biking, a Civil War tour lead by Mr. DeWeese, a summer fun outing at Patuxent River, and more. And these are just some of the activities for the monthly outings. In addition to the "regular" outings, we've also had crews go to National BSA High Adventure outings like Philmont, Northern Tier, the Boy Scout National Jamboree, and we're now getting two crews ready to attend Sea Base next summer. These high adventure activities are fabulous opportunities for the Scouts to experience something completely different than usual monthly outings.

Philmont is a backpacking experience where Scouts work together as a team to achieve a 7 – 14 day hike in the wilds of Cimarron, NM. And, wilds is an understatement! The park covers 137,000 acres of mountain wilderness....remote wilderness that includes a fairly hefty number of bears, snakes, and other local hazards that can potentially ruin your day. The overall miles covered on this experience varies, depending on the route chosen by the crew, but generally involves somewhere between 50 – 100 miles total hiking. Depending on the path chosen, the boys could end up spending some of that ~ week long excursion doing things like black powder shooting, horseback riding, climbing, archery, rappelling, and more.

It would be pretty difficult to be successful on this type of adventure without a lot of planning and preparation. In order to prepare for this experience, the Scouts work together for around 8 months on building their experience and teamwork. They do this by going on several "shakedown" outings. These outings provide the Scouts with the opportunity to figure out how to successfully backpack AND how to work together with their partners.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLC (PATROL LEADERS CONFERENCE) MEETINGS

ALL PATROL/ASST PATROL LEADERS, AND THOSE WITH A TROOP POSITIONS NEED TO ATTEND - 10/14, 11/11, 12/9 6:30 PM

PARENT MEETINGS

ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND 10/4, 11/11, 12/9 7:00 PM

SERVICE PROJECT – FALL FESTIVAL AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION – 10/3

OCTOBER OUTING - WEBELOS-O-REE – BROADCREEK – 10/16-10/18

POPCORN ORDERS DUE – 10/21

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

SERVICE PROJECT – CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CRAFT SHOW – 11/21 & 11/22

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

END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION – 12/16 POT LUCK

JANUARY OUTING – SKI OUTING – SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT – 1/29-1/31



At the SPC on 9/23, the scouts decided on the outings for the next 18 months. Their decisions are reflected in the calendar in Team Snap!

Check it out!

Scout Master Minute Continued...

For many of the Scouts (and the adults that attend), this is their first real backpacking experience. Figuring out how to take care of oneself with just the stuff that you are able to carry with you is a pretty major challenge. Now add to that, the challenge of working together, following the principles of Leave No Trace while always staying safe as a team. This team building experience is incredibly important to the overall success of the high adventure activity. It's also the stuff of memories that will impact boys for the rest of their lives.

Northern Tier is the nation's oldest BSA high adventure base. In the summer, there is a canoeing experience on the boundary waters between the US and Canada. That area includes almost 6 million acres of remote, canoe access only wilderness. Like Philmont, the course the boys take can vary a good deal. Like Philmont, being successful in the Northern Tier experience means having canoeing shakedown outings taking place several months prior to the actual experience. Those shakedown outings help prepare the boys for the rigors of canoeing for days at a time, bringing only select gear with you and portaging all of gear and canoes across the numerous beaver dams that exist along the way. BTW: In the winter, there is a cold weather camping experience at Northern Tier that sounds like a blast! Unfortunately, I don't believe there have been any folks from Troop 615 that have attended the winter experience. If anyone is interested in this cold weather experience, please let me know.

For those interested in a slightly less, ummm, active experience, there is the opportunity to attend Sea Base. Sea Base is the Florida high adventure experience that includes several different options (or, in Sea Base terms, Adventures!). There are adventures involving sailing around the Keys or the Bahamas on a tall ship. There's an adventure involving fishing, snorkeling, and swimming around several cays in the Bahamas. There's an adventure that offers camping on Big Munson, a 100+ acre island. You have to carry your food with you and set up in a rugged island setting. There are other adventures available. Our Troop will be doing the Eco Adventure, which will take place on an ~ 40' sail boat around the Bahamas. The other adventure is the St. Thomas excursion that will involve snorkeling around Virgin Islands National Park, a 7,000 acre facility.

Finally, there's Jamboree. Jamboree is an every four year experience that brings together ~ 50,000 Scouts from all over the world. The new, permanent home for Jambo is the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia. Jambo moved to the Summit in 2013. The Summit has amazing facilities to support Jambo, including shooting sports, skateboarding, BMX riding, mountain biking, white water rafting, the longest zip line in North America, climbing, and more! Like the other high adventure activities, there is a requirement to participate in shakedown outings. These shakedowns have been organized by the Troop designated by the National Pike District. In 2013, the Boy Scout leaders for our District were coordinated through Troop 944. The next Jamboree is coming up in summer 2017. It will be here before you know it! There are three boys currently active in the Troop that attended Jambo 2013. If there are boys that have questions about the Jambo experience, please see Scott Anderson, Aaron Luther or Isaac Luther for more details. Yours in Scouting,

Dr. Anderson

Scout Merit Badges:

Nick Benner - Energy
Zach Cherry - Weather
Garrett Currie - Family Life
Garrett Currie - Scholarship
Tyler Hart - Metalwork
Aaron Luther - Family Life
Aaron Luther - Personal Management
Liam MacKinnon - First Aid
Gavin Moore - Graphic Arts
Michael Peter - Citizenship in the Community, First Aid
Joey Peters - Family Life
Leo Schafer - Railroading
Zach Vook - Weather

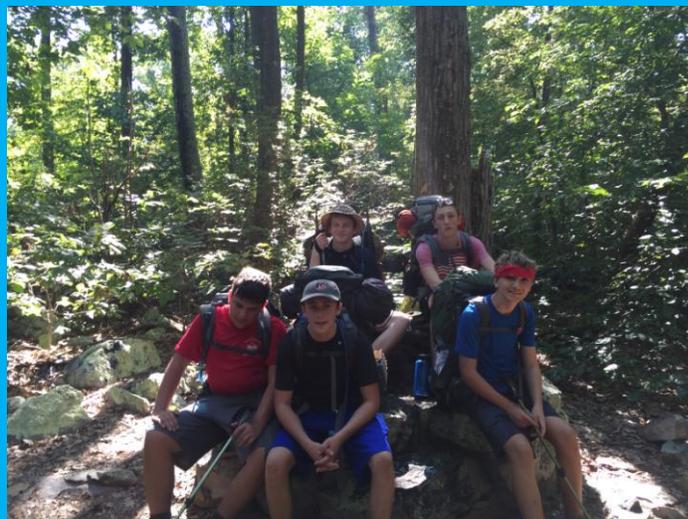
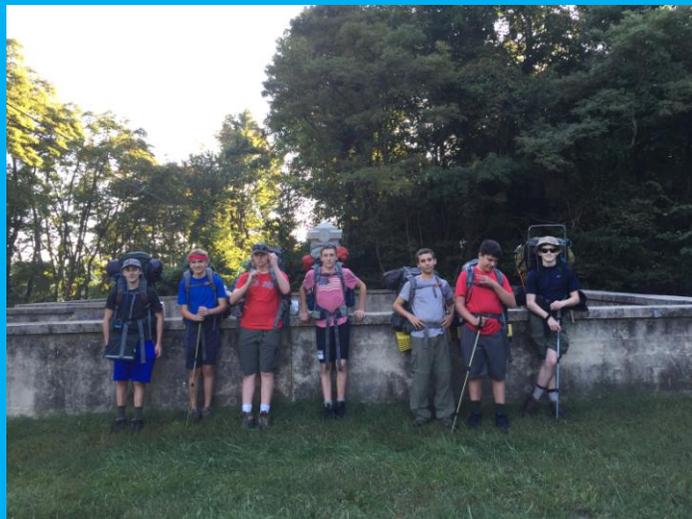


Other Scout Awards:

Ryan Gattis - National Outdoor Badge - Camping
Leo Schafer - National Outdoor Badge - Camping

Philmont Shakedown – 9/18/15-9/20/15

The Philmont crew hiked a total of 16.5 miles on the AT from the Dahlgren backpacking campground to Harper's Ferry the weekend of 9/18. They had some difficulty finding the hostel where they had left the cars. The weather was gorgeous though!



Eco Adventure



The Troop 615 Eco Adventure crew has an immediate opening for 1 scout!

What is Eco Adventure? It's a unique Scouting program available at the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, located in the beautiful Florida Keys.

If you are looking for an up-close, hands-on educational adventure, then the Eco Adventure is for you. The crew's home and base of operation for the week will be two 40' – 45' sailboats. From there, the crew will launch into an undersea world of exploration by means of snorkel, mask and fins; kayak; fishing pole and glass-bottom viewer. It is here that the crew will discover and explore the wildlife and ecosystems of the four major marine habitats of the Florida Keys, study the plant and wildlife, and understand their delicate balance.

Here are the details:

- **Crew Size:** 6 scouts, 6 adults
- **Dates:** August 12-18, 2016 (Yes, just less than a year from now)
- **Cost:** \$941.67 (per person) for the Eco Adventure plus the cost of air & ground transportation (BWI to Sea Base in the Florida Keys)
 - \$520.84 due by Sep 9, 2015
 - \$420.83 due by March 2016

Eligibility:

- Must be currently registered with the BSA
- Minimum age is 14 years old - as of August 11, 2016
- Must be under 295 lbs.
- Must pass a BSA swim test in a strong manner
- Sea Base can accommodate food restrictions

Contact Maureen Schafer or Jennifer Cawthra if interested in joining the crew.

Re-chartering – You Can Run, but You Can't Hide!

What is Needed:

1. Payment - \$144/Scout (\$120/Sibling), \$36/Adult
2. Completed Scout and Adult Re-Chartering Forms
3. Every registered adult must re-do their Youth Protection and turn in the certificate of completion. This will be required annually.
4. Every registered adult must log into www.shieldthevulnerable.org and consent to the background check required to volunteer. Your background check will come back completed via mail. STAND training is good for 5 years.

Forms:

They are attached at the end of the newsletter.

Questions:

Contact Eileen Gattis (Troop 615 Membership Coordinator) with any questions. eileen.gattis@gmail.com

Deadline:

November 4th

September Outing – Hiking at Washington Monument State Park – 9/18/15-9/20/15

This past September outing was a fun one. After setting up Friday night and sleeping soundly, Saturday started off with a great breakfast. After a bacon and pancake breakfast, the scouts prepared to set out on the 6 mile hike. They saw the Washington Monument before starting their hike of the Appalachian Trail. On the hike they saw birds, squirrels, and a snake. They walked all the way to the footbridge across Route 70. Then they took pictures, ate a snack and headed back to camp. Once they were back at camp they rested until dinner which was burgers and fries. After that was a campfire that ended out the day. On Sunday morning the scouts packed up their gear, ate a breakfast sandwich breakfast and left around 9 o'clock. After the scouts unpacked the trailer there was a quick troop formation. No stoves or checkboxes were assigned that weekend. All in all this last outing was fun.

- Zack Cherry – Troop 615 Historian



Scout Re-Chartering Form

Please complete only if you are "re-chartering." Please complete **ALL** information.

2015 Scout Fee: \$144 per scout \$120 (each additional sibling)
Please make your check payable to "Troop 615" and attach to this form.

Name: _____ Patrol _____

DOB _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Health Form on File: Y / N Insurance: _____ Policy #: _____

Emergency Contacts(s) _____

Father _____ Mother _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Cell _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Email _____

Adult Re-Charter Form

Please complete **ALL INFORMATION BELOW** if you are "re-chartering. Youth Protection is required for re-chartering purposes and to attend all Troop 615 outings/trips. Please submit this form with a copy of your Youth Protection Certificate to confirm your current status, along with the necessary membership fee (check made payable to Troop 615). **2016 Adult Fee \$36.00.**

Name: _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____ DOB _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Health Form on File: Y / N (**required for outings**)

Insurance: _____ Policy #: _____

Emergency Contacts(s) _____

Car Insurance: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE EVERY ITEM BELOW

<u>Vehicle(s) - year/make/model</u>	<u>#/Seat Belts</u>	<u>Lic Plate #</u>	<u>Insurance (in thousands)</u>		
			<u>Per Person</u>	<u>Per Accident</u>	<u>Property</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

For returning volunteers registering for the first time

1. As a returning volunteer, please register as a volunteer at www.shieldthevulnerable.org.
2. Though you are a returning volunteer, you are new to Shield the Vulnerable. Select: **First-Time Signup**.
3. Select **Catholic Dioceses**.
4. Select **Baltimore Archdiocese**. Then select **Confirm**.
5. You will then see a letter from Archbishop Lori. After reading his letter, select **NEXT**.
6. User Login Data section: You will create your own login-ID and password. Please try to retain this information. You will need it when you need to be rescreened. Once all requested information is completed, select **Next Step**.
7. Affiliation section: Select **Volunteer** as User Type.
8. User Type: **Parish**, Where Located: **Ellicott City**, and Location Name: **Resurrection parish**.
9. If you are working with children (or with a ministry that enters the school like SVDP), select **Substantial contact w/children**. However, if you also will be driving children as part of your volunteer service, then select **Drivers with contact**. If you choose **No Substantial Contact**, you will not see the screens for steps 14-17 below.
10. You will be asked, "Do you volunteer at another location?" If you will be serving at another location, repeat steps 6-8 for that location.
11. Application Info section: You will be asked, "Are you a new volunteer?" Select **No**.
12. Answer the three questions for volunteers/employees and provide three references. Since your references were checked previously, they will not be checked at this time. However, you must complete this field in order to move to the next step. Select, **Next Step**.
13. Summary/Confirm section: Review your information. If it is correct, select **Accept** and then **Confirm Signup**.
14. Background Check Registration/Criminal History Screening: Once you have registered, you will be asked for the date of your last criminal history screening. If you have been screened within the last five years, you should not be rescreened at this time. For your date of screening, please enter the date on your STAND card.
15. If you have not been screened within the past five years, complete the background check form and authorization. Enter your electronic signature, then choose **I Consent to the Background Check** or **I DO NOT Consent to the Background Check**. (If you do not consent to the renewal of the background check, you may no longer serve as a volunteer who will have substantial contact with children.).
16. Protect the Children: STAND online training: the new policy requires that volunteers with substantial contact with minors, all employees, and all clergy renew this safe environment training (Protect the Children: STAND) every five years. Volunteers who completed training prior to 2009 are required to complete the training by March 31, 2015. You will be required to take the training again when you are scheduled to be rescreened and then once every five years thereafter.
17. Read and answer questions about the newly revised *Code of Conduct for Church Personnel* in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and *A Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth*.

Any questions, contact Beth Bennett, STAND coordinator, at 410-514-2031.