



Troop 615 News



Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2017

Scoutmaster Minute



Good day Scout families! It's now Feb 8 and the temperature is almost 70 degrees...which of course makes me think of summer camp! Believe it or not, the window is now open for early pricing for summer camp attendance. Summer camp will take place July 16 – July 22. Sign up now to get the best price for camp.

This month, we're going to be doing two day trips instead of the usual weekend outing. We made a choice to change the annual ski trip from a full weekend experience to a one day event in an attempt to decrease costs. The previous ski trip was a really good deal! However, the cost per person was \$130 (and did not include the costs for renting equipment or for lessons). So, we're doing a day trip instead. The cost for that outing is \$56(tubing) or \$84(skiing). Since we're not camping this month, we're also planning a trip to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy National Air and Space Museum. This day trip is an absolute hoot! The history and the machines that are housed at the Air and Space Museum are incredible!

Since we won't have a chance to go camping in January and February, it's an excellent time to conduct gear checks. Mr. Stevens will be organizing a group to go over tents and other gear to ensure everything is in good working order. This group will also be setting up a system inside the shed that will allow us to hang up tents and other gear if we happen to be camping on a wet weekend and don't have an opportunity to dry out gear on our return on Sunday. Please be on the lookout for notes from Mr. Stevens to help with this project.

While the troop will be going through troop gear over the next couple weeks, this is an excellent time for families to go through their gear as well. Perhaps you inadvertently put away a sleeping bag that wasn't totally dry and is now a bit funky. Or, maybe your Scout has grown several inches since the last time they used their rain gear. Or maybe the batteries leaked in your head lamp and it now doesn't work. This is a terrific time of year to go through all of your gear, make sure it's totally clean, it fits, and is in good working order before the March outing.

Speaking of the March outing, we'll be heading back to the U. S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. We haven't done this outing in the past several years, but it's a very cool experience. There are full scale reconstructions of various military battle scenes, including a WWI trench system, the Normandy Bocage scene from WWII, Viet Nam era helicopters, Civil War winter encampment, and more. Camping will be at Tuckahoe in PA. Please be on the lookout for forms from Mrs. Strozyk.

I'm going to include a section of the Scoutmaster Minute from March 2016 because we're still looking for folks to help out.

From March, 2016: Recently, the boys have been working on several merit badges during weekly meetings. For those that don't know much about merit badges, these are areas of focus that a Scout can study/investigate/learn that have specific accomplishment requirements. Those requirements vary depending upon the merit badge.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLC (PATROL LEADERS

CONFERENCE) MEETINGS

ALL PATROL/ASST PATROL LEADERS NEED TO ATTEND – 2/8, 3/15, 4/12 @ 6:30 PM

PARENT MEETINGS

ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND – 2/8, 3/15, 4/12 @ 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY DAY TRIP #1 – UDVAR-HAZY

AIR & SPACE MUSEUM – 2/18

SCOUT SUNDAY – 2/19 12:00 MASS, BRUNCH

EARLY REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER

CAMP – 2/24 – FORM ATTACHED

FEBRUARY DAY TRIP #2 – SKI/SNOW

TUBING DAY TRIP – 2/25

CHILI COOK-OFF – 2/26 11AM-2PM

SCOUTING FOR FOOD – BAG

DISTRIBUTION – 3/4.

BLUE & GOLD DINNERS – PACK 874 –

2/24 & PACK 461 – 3/4.

COURT OF HONOR – 3/8

MARCH OUTING – 3/10-3/12 - US ARMY

HERITAGE & EDUCATION CENTER

SCOUTING FOR FOOD – BAG

COLLECTION – 3/11

CHILI COOK-OFF FINAL – 3/19 12PM-

3PM

APRIL OUTING – 3/31-4/2 - GENESEE

VALLEY

EASTER VIGIL BONFIRE – 4/15

MAY OUTING – 5/19-5/21 – WHITE

WATER RAFTING

WE REMEMBER – 5/26

JUNE OUTING – ROCK CLIMBING – 6/2-

6/4

Scoutmaster Minute Continued...

There are specific merit badges that are required for Scouts to obtain in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout as well as merit badges that intended for general interest. In short, merit badges are an integral part of the Boy Scout program.

In order for Scouts to successfully complete the process of earning merit badges, they need merit badge counselors. Unfortunately, we have relatively few merit badge counselors for the number of boys that are in the Troop. In addition, there are a few individuals that are counselors for a large number of badges and a lot of individuals that have not signed up to serve for any. If those few individuals are not available when the Scouts need counselors, the Scouts can't complete the merit badge. It's really hard to help the boys complete the requirements for advancement when we don't have enough merit badge counselors available.

So, what is a merit badge counselor? Does that individual need to have an advanced degree in order to be a merit badge counselor? Do they need to have specific certification? Does one need to have 20 years of experience in order to serve as a merit badge counselor?

The answer is no! To be a merit badge counselor, you need to have an interest in an area for which there is a merit badge, be STAND/Youth protection trained, you need to fill out a very basic application form (see Ms. Lizzo for the document), and have the interest and desire to work with the boys in the Troop. That's it.

I KNOW that there are adults in the Troop that have interests in a wide range of areas... both professionally and personally. For example: Many of families have pets. Excellent! There's a merit badge for Dog Care and a merit badge for Pets. Many of you have interests in things related to computers. Terrific! There are merit badges for Digital Technology, Programming, Movie Making, and more. Many of you like to cook. Outstanding! Cooking is an Eagle required merit badge and one where we only have 6 people registered as merit badge counselors.

I understand that not everyone can go camping with the Troop on a regular basis. Personally, I think that's a bit sad because getting out in the woods is a pretty amazing thing to do, but I understand that's not everyone's idea of a good time. I understand that not everyone can attend every Eagle Scout service project or contribute to every bake sale, or drive to outings, or participate by updating the troop website, or help processing Scout applications, or dealing with health forms, or any of the other many, many activities that take place in the troop. One area where I know for certain that ALL parents can provide support for the Troop and to help allow all the boys to advance is serving as a merit badge counselor. My challenge to all of the registered adults in the Troop: become merit badge counselors for at least 5 different badges and have at least one of those 5 merit badges be an Eagle required merit badge.

Still not sure what this merit badge thing is all about? No problem! Just ask! Or, go to the BSA site for general information on merit badge counselors:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/MBCounselorGuide.aspx>

Interested in serving, but not sure for which merit badges you could serve as a counselor? Here's the list of available merit badges:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>

Still not sure about what merit badges to take on? No problem! I'd be happy to chat with you about what might be a particular need that fits in with your background and interest.

YIS,

Dr. Anderson

Rank Advancements:

Brandon Fox - 2nd Class
Jeremy Fox - Star
Trevor Moore - Star
Jack Cumming - Eagle
Garrett Currie - Gold Palm

Merit Badges:

Zach Cherry - Citizenship in the World
Anthony Ellis - Citizenship in the Community
Philemon Kendzierski - Family Life
Shepard Stevens - Family Life
Ray Strozyk - Soil and Water Conservation

Congratulations to our Newest Eagle Scout!

Jack Cumming



Scout Sunday – 2/19/17

Troop 615 Scouts and Families-

Please note Scout Sunday is on February 19, 2017.
You are invited to attend Scout Sunday 12 Noon
Mass at RESC followed by a Potluck Brunch in the
cafeteria to recognize scouts for their service and
celebrate religious emblem awards. All faiths are
welcome!

We appreciate your donation of brunch items to make
this gathering a success!

Questions? Call Mrs. Botticelli, Hospitality

Please click on the link below to view the online sign
up sheet.

[http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca4a623a13
-scout1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca4a623a13-scout1)



WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for a few good men or women!

Positions Available:

- ✓ Chaplain (Shadow Sylvia Pugliese this year)
- ✓ Membership Coordinator (Shadow Eileen Gattis this year)
- ✓ Popcorn Coordinator (work with Denise Borgert)
- ✓ Secretary
- ✓ Training Coordinator

December Outing – Gaming/Iron Chef – 12/2/16-12/4/16

This outing is one of the Troop's most unique outings by far. Scouts, instead of challenging the fierce cold of the wilderness, kick back and relax in a warm cabin while competing in either an occasional game of Frisbee, a head-to-head competition of cooking, or most of all, the heated battles that can only take place using video game systems. It comes only once each year, and yours truly often has a huge role in the setup, games, and cooking that takes place.

The first night was bittersweet. As the heaping mounds of food and extra supplies were loaded into the trailer, scouts had to battle a fearsome 15 minutes of chilly temperatures before they finally could take off. Once cars were assigned, scouts dashed as fast as they could to avoid the ever growing cold that surrounded the parking lot. The ride up for the most part was smooth – except for one BIG problem. Any trip the troop takes to Broad Creek is usually characterized by a hot meal at a Burger King along the way. Much to our dismay, our classic restaurant was closed for renovations. But that was OK – after all, the weekend had only just begun.

We arrived at the campsite a little after eight. Thankfully we didn't have to set up tents, so all there was left to do was a tiny bit of setup for tomorrow morning and then it was straight to bed. The next morning is when the gears started turning, and the cooks got cooking. One patrol was able to crank out around 30 chocolate and vanilla sprinkled donuts in less than an hour. This proved to be enough to feed not only the original patrol, but also the other patrol, the adults, and a whole other troop which camped next to us!



The other patrol wasn't half bad either – their hash browns, eggs, and sausage also were quite delicious. Following Breakfast and the tedious clean up associated with it. Scouts dashed back inside to play video games on a Wii U and projector setup. The first game busted out was Mario Party; scouts divided into two small teams to play this board-game challenge, and ultimately hinged the entire outcome of the game on a single mini-game. It was later followed on by numerous matches in Super Smash Bros, a few duels in Wii Sports, an attempt at Pokémon Battle Revolution, and an endless amount of struggle playing Super Mario 3D World.

These games and their simple button presses were by far exhausting! And so, while the gaming went on in the background, snacks were readied outside. Only the finest of snacks however were permitted to our *delicate* scouts. If we were to consume Mountain Dew and Doritos like any other gamer, it couldn't be the disgusting fake stuff you buy in a store. No, we scouts made several pitchers of Mountain dew and one ginormous bowl of Doritos all from scratch. It was amazing.



Later on in the day, while we all were in the midst of our 7-player-battle in *Super Smash Bros. for Wii U*, we were paid a visit by a Cub Scout Pack which was also staying in the area. Their eyes lit up seeing the amazing food and gaming antics we pulled off so far. We even let the pack play some video games for around fifteen minutes to get a feel for the troop – though it seemed that none of them had played the game much before. On their way out, we made sure that every Cub Scout could sample the troop's homemade Doritos if they wanted to.

After a whole day of gaming, night soon fell, taking scouts almost all by surprise. Madness arose as scouts struggled to cook with their Dutch ovens in the dark, and food appeared to all be cooked never at the right time. Yet, in the end, the cooking still got done one way or another. One Patrol had cooked up fried Chicken wings that were sauced in a way that they appeared to come from a restaurant, alongside a side dish of pepperoni pizza. The other patrol crafted a heaping mound of Cheese Alfredo Angel Hair served with sausage-stuffed biscuits. Both meals were good, but it was up to the adult judges to decide the true winner.

After dinner came a light desert, with one patrol frying up some authentic Italian Zippoli, whereas the other patrol aimed for simple and sweet Jell-O. However, by the time these were done, the majority of scouts had almost finished their meals and clean up, and were already blasting away on video games.

After the agitating clean up in the dark was over, Scouts found solace inside the cabin. Jack Cumming, the SPL, brought a Laptop along with a Jetpack to supply Wi-Fi. Doing so allowed him to stream Netflix through the projector. We were treated to one of the earliest movies ever created – “A Trip to the Moon”, made in 1902. Although weird in style, it was nice to see a little piece of history in action. We followed up that movie with *The Giver*, though we only made it 30 minutes in before it was necessary to get sleep.

Morning came, but Breakfast was nothing noteworthy. More or less, it appeared to be a rash experimentation of what things can be fried. The experiment ended up horribly, creating cinnamon rolls which sponged up a cup of oil. Thankfully, there were leftover uncooked donuts that could be utilized instead. The other patrol played it safe, eating cream of wheat and some nice Hot Chocolate instead. We packed up and left shortly after people were done eating.

The “Gaming” Outing is by far my favorite outing this troop hosts. Scouts are able to express their creativity though a constant opportunity to cook new foods. The scouts who may not be the most adept with the outdoors can find solace in a change of pace. It’s one of those things that you’d just never think would happen, but it does. Just another surprise from the never ending experience of scouting.

Doritos

You will need:

- 60 Corn tortillas (small size)
- 2 quarts of vegetable oil
- Popcorn Seasoning (Nacho Cheese Flavor)

Heat the oil in a large pot on high.

While heating, slice the corn tortillas in eighths.

Put one triangle in the heating oil.

When the triangle has become crisp and fried, place one quarter of the sliced tortillas in the boiling oil.

Let fry until light and crisp, but not brown or soggy (~3 minutes).

Remove from oil, and dry on several layers of paper towels.

Once dry, place in bowl and add Popcorn Seasoning.

Shake bowl to spread seasoning evenly.

Repeat for the rest of the tortillas



Mountain Dew

Taken from:

<http://homemadesodaexpert.blogspot.com/2011/10/recipe-14-homemade-mountain-dew-sun.html>

Makes a little more than 2 quarts

You need:

- 2 cups invert sugar*
- 2 oranges
- 2 lemons
- 2 limes
- 2 Liters Seltzer Water

Juice the oranges, lemons, and limes to obtain ½ cup orange juice, ½ cup lemon juice, and ¼ cup lime juice respectively.

Combine the juices with the invert sugar and seltzer water. Stir. Serve and enjoy

*Inverted Sugar:

Combine 2 cups of sugar, 1 cup water, and ¼ tsp of Cream of Tartar and bring to a boil. Once to a boil, simmer around 15-20 minutes or until mixture turns a very light gold color (NOT BROWN).

Mixture may not look gold in pot, but color will show in a transparent container.



Rocketry Day Trip - 1/28/2017

Have you ever wanted to see things launch hundreds of feet up in the air? Or maybe watching them explode and gently flutter down to the ground? If so – this was the outing for you. This rocketry was a quick event where scouts got their hands dirty shooting various model rockets up in the sky.

Scouts met up at the Howard County Conservancy with the assembled model rocket kits they were given at the prior meeting. The weather was nice: cold, dreary, and moderately windy. Regardless, the scouts' blood started boiling upon the thrill of combusting a rocket engine to hurl cardboard into the sky.



There were around 10 different rockets assembled and launched that day. Some were miniatures which did not deploy a parachute (and never were found after launch either), a handful were as thin as a large expo marker yet a meter long, and there were a few large rockets much larger – one even came with its own mini gliders that deployed during flight.

Launched in addition to the prevailing wind, several rockets were lost. Some fell in the trees, while two other fell on telephone lines. Given the size of the launch site, it was impractical to hunt down every last rocket

Launched them was the easy part – all it took was a press of two buttons and a little bit of patience. However, retrieving them was nowhere near as easy. Due to the altitude that some of these rockets



After we ran out of rocket fuel (and could no longer stand the freezing temperatures), we rushed to the inside of the Howard County Conservancy's multipurpose building. We were met with a lunch feast from Mission Barbeque; the tables were lined with more than enough pulled chicken, pork, and beef brisket to feed the troop twice over. There were also ample amounts of baked beans, greens, corn bread, and rolls, but those fall in shame to the amazingly delicious Barbeque sauce supplied with the meal. That stuff should be considered one of the main food groups! After the meal, we packed up our stuff and left the Conservancy.



Overall, despite this outing only lasting around 3 hours, the troop enjoyed themselves fully - not wasting a single minute. Its pleasant experience to see rockets fly away without a care in the world, and more importantly, comforting to see it with others.



2017 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

***** Camp Dates: July 16 (Sun) – July 22 (Sat) *****

Troop 615 will be going to summer camp at Ockanickon Scout Reservation
in beautiful Bucks County, Pennsylvania. www.ockanickon.org

Complete the form below, and then mail the bottom portion along with your payment
(Check payable to BSA Troop 615) to
BSA Troop 615 C/O Yung Cho 4509 Tulip Way Ellicott City, MD 21043

Please make sure you allow enough time for the US Mail delivery time to arrive by due dates below. If the form and payment do not arrive by due dates, you will be paying next higher rate. No exceptions, so please mail early.

Scout Health forms will be due in early June 2017 – so get those physicals scheduled NOW.
Camp T-shirts will be ordered at a future date for an additional (small) fee.

Payment Type	Amount
Cash	\$
Check # _____	\$
Total =	\$

Scout: _____

Please cut at the dotted line and retain this upper section for your records.

Please mail this lower section along with your payment (payable to BSA Troop 615).

2017 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

***** Camp Dates: July 16 (Sun) – July 22 (Sat) *****

Scout: _____

Summer Camp Fees

Rate	Camp Fee	Due Date
Special Discounted	\$425	02/24/2017
Regular	\$450	04/28/2017
Late	\$475	05/26/2017
Webelos Crossover	\$425	05/26/2017

Payment Type	Amount
Cash	\$
Check # _____	\$
Total =	\$