

TROOP 175

NEWSLETTER

Troop 175
Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Holden, MA

Newsletter Date
October 2009

Introduction

Welcome to the four new families who have joined the Troop this year. I don't have email addresses for all of you yet, so I'll hand deliver copies for the new boys at the October 13th meeting as. If you're reading this from a paper copy, let me (Mr. Wood) know your email address and I'll add you to the distribution list. Steve Jones is our new Troop Scribe. I'll be asking Steve to review what I write, but also contribute some articles and solicit articles from other scouts. If you'd like to write an article for the newsletter, just get it to Steve or myself by the time of the monthly PLC meeting. Since we have some new boys, some short articles on how the troop works, what terms like "PLC" mean etc. would be really useful. If anyone has aged out or left and wishes to be removed from the newsletter distribution, please let me know, including which email addresses should be removed and I'll be glad to do that.

News

Tent Policy

Boys may bring their own tents to Troop campouts or they may use the Troop tents. If you use a Troop tent, you must sign the tent in and out from the Quartermasters (Sean McLaughlin and Brian Lindberg). In the past, we've had a number of tent parts go missing, which costs the Troop - and consequently the members of the Troop. The hope is that with the sign-in and sign-out policy, boys will take more ownership of the Troop tents, knowing that they will be responsible for the cost of replacement parts. If you borrow a tent for a trip, you are expected to take the tent home afterwards and ensure that it is dried and properly packed. Usually two boys share a tent, so you'll only have to take it home every other trip. If the boys want, we could also log who takes the tents home to make sure this task gets distributed fairly among the boys.

Printer Cartridge Recycling

Immanuel Lutheran Church currently recycles used printer cartridges. They would like to partner with the Troop on this effort, so please bring in your used printer cartridges, and we'll see how many we can collect in a month. Please bring them in to Dave Wood. He will collect them and we'll add them to church's cartridges at the end of the month, so we have some idea of how many we're collecting through the Troop.

Religious Awards

If any boys are interested in working towards their Lutheran religious award, please see Mr. Wood. I will try to get together a group from our Troop and other Scouts who are members of Immanuel but at other Troops. Mr. McLaughlin has details of the Roman Catholic religious awards. If boys of other religions or denominations are interested in other religious awards, please see Mr. Wood and I'll try to help with those too.

Popcorn Sales

Please remember that boys should be trying to sell popcorn. If you don't yet have a form, please see Mr. McLaughlin. Forms are due back at the November 3rd meeting. One third of the sales come back to Troop 175, while this also helps support the Mohegan Council.

Merit Badges

A significant part of Scout advancement involves the earning of Merit Badges. We are in need of new Merit Badge Counselors to replace some of the parents whose boys have left in the last few years. The Mohegan Council does have a large list of adults that the boys can call on for assistance, but sometimes a familiar face makes the work a little easier. To find more about becoming a Counselor, go to www.Mohegancouncilbsa.org. On the left hand side of the home page click on Advancement and then download and fill out the necessary forms. You can either give them to one of the Scoutmasters or take them to the Council office at 19 Harvard Street in Worcester. There is no charge for any of this, so if you have a specialty or an interest in any of the 121 Merit badges, please consider becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. To view the Merit Badges, go to www.meritbadge.org and there is the complete list of the badges, including those which are Eagle required.

2009- 2010 Schedule

Monday, October 19th 7 p.m. Troop Committee Meeting

All adults in leadership positions, along with any adults who would like to get involved (we need all the help we can get!!) are invited to attend. The meeting is at the church.

Tuesday, October 20th 7 p.m. Troop Meeting (Lead – Sean Blood)

Sean Blood from the Mohegan Council will hold a Leave No Trace presentation. Sean's Leave No Trace presentations are excellent. He presents this topic for leaders at ScoutMaster training.

Tuesday, October 27th 6:30 p.m. Troop Meeting

This will be our traditional pumpkin carving night. In order to give a bit more time to roast pumpkin seeds and do carving we'll start 30 minutes early at 6:30. Boys should bring their own pumpkin and carving tools.

Tuesday, November 3rd PLC Meeting

All boys in leadership positions should plan on attending.

Tuesday, November 3rd 7 p.m. Troop Meeting (Lead – Dave Wood/Jon Staruk)

Popcorn forms due back at this meeting.

Dave and John will provide First Aid training, which will help boys with advancement requirements as well as progress towards the First Aid merit badge.

Weekend November 7th – 8th . Adult Wilderness Solo First Aid

If any adults are interested in attending this course during the weekend of November 7th/8th, please see Mr. McLaughlin for details.

Tuesday, November 10th 7 p.m. Troop Meeting (Lead – Adam Pacenka)

Dress warm for this meeting as we'll be practicing tracking techniques behind the WTAG towers

November 13th – 15th

Turkey Cookout at Trout Brook

December 18th -20th

Mystery Quest

January 15th -17th

Junior Leadership Training @ Bonnie Brae Campsite

January 23rd – 24th

New England Scout Show at the DCU Center. The Troop is planning on running a High Adventure Trip booth presenting details about our trips to Scotland and Alaska and possibly earlier trips.

February 19th -21st

Skiing (tentative location – Waterville Valley)

March 19th -21st

Biathlon and Leave No Trace Presentation at Treasure Valley

April 16th -18th



Horseback Riding

May 14th -16th

Boston Harbor Islands Camping or Charles River Kayaking



June 18th -20th

City Ghost Tour

July 11th -16th

Scout Summer Camp at Treasure Valley.

July 24th – August 1st

National Jamboree High Adventure Trip in Virginia. The tentative plan is to camp at a military base in Virginia.

Family Helper Schedule

The schedule is available on the website at:

<http://holden175.com/forms/>

As many of you know we're trying to get one family each month to help with some additional responsibilities, such as coordinating the can and bottle pickup at St. Gobain.