Issue 72

The Great Trail Council

The Signal Tree District

April 10, 2020

## **Scoutmaster News**

Jim Horvath

This is a difficult time for all of us and Scouting is suffering, too. We are doing our best to stay in touch with our Scout Families by having Virtual Merit Badge Classes and Virtual Scout meetings. This has been fairly successful, but not all of our Scouts are participating, nor have we heard from some families during this time. We would like to know whether the times we have the classes or the meetings do not work for some Scouts due to school work or other things. We have heard from only 3 Scouts that 2:00 and 4:00 sometimes conflict with school or family. If evenings are preferred please tell us.

We are offering most of the merit badges we are doing to all Scouts but then the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting notices go only to those who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> one. Other merit badges like the Eagle required are being offered to small groups, typically the older Scouts first and will be done again for the next level down, etc. Some Scouts have found Merit Badge Classes online at other Scout Councils. Scouts should get the approval of their Scoutmaster before they register for those classes.

## Summer Camp Update

I just got an update from Council. Summer Camp is still planned and they may make changes to several things to improve sanitation and effectively create social distancing. A for instance is the dining hall may go to cafeteria style rather than the family style feeding that they have done for almost 100 years. Meals may be done in two shifts.

The Earlybird Payment Rate Deadline has been extended to 10 days before each week of Summer Camp and refunds will be available for Scouts unable to attend. For us that means July 9 is the last day for Summer Camp Earlybird fee of \$295.

#### Bike Trek Update

The Troop Bike Trek is still planned for June 21 –June 28. Scouts wanting to attend can still sign up by emailing me at <a href="mailto:jhorvath99@aol.com">jhorvath99@aol.com</a>. We are holding the fee at \$400. We will start warm-up rides when the social distancing if lifted, but Scouts can and should start riding in their neighborhoods as soon as they can. Remember Scouts BSA rules require each youth and adult to wear a bike helmet on any unit cycling event.

If any of our Troop families need help, please let me know.

# **Upcoming Campouts & Events** *Ed*

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March 14 – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser-Postponed

March 28-29 (New Date) Wright Patterson Air Force Museum-Postponed

April 24-26 Manatoc Campout - Scout Skills-Cancelled

May 16-17 Laurel Caverns - Geology Merit Badge-Postponed

May 19 Court of Honor & Last Day to pay Summer Camp Early bird fee of \$295- Postponed

May 25 VFW Memorial Day Service 9:00 to 10:00 am-Not known

June 21-28 Bike Trip Great Allegheny Passage & C&O Canal Trail- Still on currently

July 19-25 Summer Camp @ Camp Manatoc- Still on

August –Possible Allegheny National Forest Backpacking Campout- In planning stage

#### Scouts BSA Medical Form

Each Scout and Adult Leader is required to have a Scouts BSA Medical form annually. To attend Summer Camp and the Bike Trek, the physical (Part C) must be dated within 12 months of the last day of Summer Camp. However, these are important to the Troop all year long. If a Scout or Leader is hurt or becomes ill on a campout or other activity, we have them to reference and provide to medical professionals as necessary. The parent completes Parts A & B of the form and Part C should be completed by Medical Professional such as a doctor or a physican's assistant. Copies of sports physicals are not accepted.

Here is a link to the <u>new physical form</u> required for 2020.

## **Troop Website**

Elise Nester

Check out our website at:

http://www.bsatroop390.org