



### Scoutmaster News

*Jim Horvath*

We may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel! I think everyone is ready for it! Summer Camp and the Bike Trek are rapidly approaching... It is time to take action on both of them. All our Scouts are anxious to be able to meet and camp again. Please see the section regarding Summer Camp and the Bike Trek.

We have been having a Virtual Troop Meeting every Tuesday evening at 7:00 and Virtual Merit Badge Classes twice a week usually in the afternoon. Most of the merit badges we are doing are offered to all Scouts but then subsequent meeting notices go only to those who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> session. 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.**

### High Adventure 2020 Bike Trek

The Troop Bike Trek is still planned for June 21 –June 28. Scouts wanting to attend can still sign up by emailing me at [jhorvath99@aol.com](mailto:jhorvath99@aol.com). We are holding the fee at \$400. We will start warm-up rides using social distancing when the weather improves, 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.

### Bike Trek Warm up Rides Starting

The weather is not cooperating for this Saturday and Sunday is Mother’s Day. HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY! So we are looking at starting our rides Wednesday evening May 13. We also need to do a bike inspection to see whether a bike needs maintenance before we start. Please make sure the bicycle tires are inflated to the proper pressure as shown on the tire. Place and time will be sent this weekend.

**All Scouts and Parents are invited! But Bike Helmets are required!**

### Summer Camp Update

I expect to get more information on May 14th about Summer Camp but it looks like it will happen, in a safe and slightly different fashion.

The Early Bird payment deadline has been extended. For us early bird payments will be due by Thursday, July 9. However, it is important for Scouts to sign up for classes sooner than that. After May 18 the fee payments must be paid to hold the classes selected. Class sizes are being reduced to achieve social distancing. I will send an email with the modified class schedule and the Merit Badge prerequisites. I ask that each Scout print it and circle the classes they wish to take, then return it to me either by scanning it or photographing it then send it to my email [jhorvath99@aol.com](mailto:jhorvath99@aol.com)

Mrs. Pszonowsky and I must approve the classes selected by our respective Scouts in the hopes of maximizing the benefit of Summer Camp to the Scouts. For Scout working on Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Ranks, some ST21 classes may be appropriate and Environmental Science and Swimming Merit Badges should be considered for all Scouts that do not have them. These are Eagle required and Summer Camp is the best place to earn them. If a Scout is not ready for Swimming MB they should take the swim lessons which are usually offered at 2:30 in the afternoon.

The format of the Class Schedule is substantially different from prior years. Classes are listed by location and are separated by 1 hour classes and 90 minute classes. If there are any questions, please ask.

Some things I hope are in the update we get on May 14<sup>th</sup> are Swim Tests, BSA Medical reports, meals at camp, social distancing and sanitation. It has already been announced that there will be no Wednesday Family Night.