



Issue 104

Great Trail Council

Soaring Eagle District

December 2022

Scoutmasters News

Elise and Dale

The Troop had 15 Scouts at the December campout. Scouts exchanged gifts, played games and went on a long hike.

Thank you to Joey and Douglas Knott for bringing the International Peace Light to Faith Lutheran. The congregation appreciated their assistance in sharing the light.

The next campout will be January 27-29 at Manatoc in which Scouts will work on skills for the Klondike during the day and be able to go skiing in the evening at either Boston Mills or Brandywine. Stay tuned for more details.

Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge:

Judge Jon Oldham will lead a Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge class on Sunday, January 15 from 7-8 PM at Faith Lutheran Church. Scouts who need this merit badge have been invited to attend (an email was sent to those scouts). The class is designed to kick off the badge, but a lot of the work is on the individual scout to complete. Scouts will reach out to Judge Oldham when they have completed all the requirements. There will also be an opportunity to visit Judge Oldham's courtroom for a court session on a Saturday (TBD).

Acme Receipts Cash Back Time:

Troops 7390 & 390 are collecting Acme Receipts again this year. Scouts can ask friends, relatives, and neighbors for their receipts too. If we are successful, 100% of the receipts will go into the Scouts accounts who are turning in the receipts. Please email a picture of your receipt to Sarah Eckert at sjeckert22@hotmail.com.

2023 Upcoming Fundraiser - Spaghetti Dinner:

- Save the Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023
- Susie Schultz, Sara McKee, and Lisa Blevins have agreed to Chair the annual spaghetti fundraiser. Kurt Kleidon has agreed to oversee the Advertising & Marketing.
- Stay tuned for more information and upcoming meetings.

2023 High Adventure - Sea Base Sailing Trip:

- Dates: July 25-30, 2023
- There are 10 scouts signed up and we need of two adult volunteers to join the crew.
- \$100/month payments per attendee will be due beginning in January

2023 Low Adventure – Bike Trek, Great Allegheny Passage, July 25-29, 2023:

This trek is open to Scouts of all ranks and ages. Prerequisites: can ride a bicycle and it's in good working order. The riders will carry their gear on their bikes and camp. Along the way will be a day of whitewater rafting and a train ride back up the mountain. Trek leader, Andre Porteus, promises ice cream every day. We will need adults to accompany the Scouts. Cost for the trip is estimated to be around \$500. Those interested in going should make it known and plan on paying \$100/month beginning in January.

Earn Religious Faith Emblems:

Scouts are invited to learn more about their faith by earning the corresponding religious emblem. Currently, Catholic Scouts are being invited to participate in earning their Ad Altare Dei (ideal for Scouts who are 13-14 years old) or the Pope Pius XII (designed for high school ages Scouts). Groups will be forming soon. There are faith and emblems for (almost) all religions. Please see the following link:

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/chart/>

Please let Mr. Sroka or Mrs. Nester know if you are interested.

Scout Service Hours Available:

Whether your scout is looking for volunteer hours to advance rank, to fulfill school requirements, or they just like to help other people, the Summit County Historical Society has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. They are looking for everything from lawn work and weed pulling to photographers, special event guides and assistants to researchers. Please let Mr. Sroka or Mrs. Nester know if you (or your whole family) would like to help.

Winter Camping Advice from Mr. Sroka:

October was the first month we have camped in weather below 50 degrees since April. Being prepared can make the difference between a long weekend and an enjoyable event. You cannot have fun if you're too busy being cold.

There is a cold weather camping gear list on the website under Forms/Checklists: <https://www.bsatroop390.org/forms/> The list goes back to 2005 but is still relevant.

The importance of good foot care cannot be over emphasized. Wool socks are more expensive but good quality ones keep your feet comfortable and wear like iron. My personal favorites are Smartwool and Darn Tough. (Socks are great Christmas gift ideas.) Cabin shoes also are a good item to pack. (Another gift idea.) This allows the scouts to get out of wet footwear and have protection against wood splinters and nails in the cabin floor. Boots that can be laced tightly and will not fill with snow in a knee-deep drift are preferable for Klondike. Rubber boots (like LL Bean) will not keep your feet warm when you're outdoors all day. The website has good suggestions on gloves. (A great gift idea.) I find that Thinsulate will keep hands and heads warm, even if wet.

For warmth, down is king but synthetics rule, whether it is sleeping bags or clothing. Down is the warmest but loses its ability to insulate if it gets wet. Wool is also traditional cold weather wear which will keep you warm even if wet. The cold weather best strategy is layers with a tech fabric (polypropylene) base which will let moisture evaporate yet keep in body heat. Fleece also breathes and retains heat. Great thing about fleece is you can find plenty at places like Gabe's, Salvation Army, or Village Discount Outlet. Don't spend good money on clothes that may get torn or burn holes their first time out. With clothes put names on EVERYTHING. We are always finding unclaimed clothes.

For cold weather sleeping, what is underneath can be more important than what's covering you. The ground will drain away body heat faster than cold air. An extra blanket may achieve more under than above the sleeper. Inflatable ground pads will not insulate against the ground as well as a closed cell pad.

While good quality gear is generally worth the price, if you can afford it, it is not for young Scouts. The older Scouts have developed an appreciation of taking care of gear and will need better quality gear for High Adventure outings.

Parent Volunteers Needed:

The Troop needs parents to help with the Troop and to keep it moving forward. The Troop is looking a Camping Merit Badge Counselor.

Did you know?

- This is our Troop website: <https://www.bsatroop390.org/>
- PLC Committee Meetings will be held the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6 PM.
- All parents are welcome at Troop Committee Meetings. The next meeting is Sunday, January 8, at 7 PM at Faith Lutheran.

Upcoming Events:

Dec 13 – Head Start Gift Wrapping
Jan 17 – BORs
Jan 24 – BORs (if needed)
Jan 27-29 – Klondike Warmup/Skiing Campout, Camp Manatoc, Legion Lodge
Feb 5 – Scout Sunday with COH immediately following Faith's 10:30 AM Service
Feb 16 or 23 – Pack 3390 Blue & Gold Ceremony
Feb 17-19 – Klondike Campout, Manatoc, Legion Lodge
Mar 4 – Spaghetti Dinner
Mar 14 – Troop Elections
Mar 17-19 – Scout Skills/New Scout Campout, Manatoc, Concord
Apr 21-23 – Shooting/Fishing Ashtabula Rod & Gun Club
May ? – BOR
May 7 – Fairlawn City Women's Club
May 19-21 – Hocking Hills, Logan, OH
May 27 – Western Reserve Flag Laying
May 29 – Fairlawn VFW Memorial Day Ceremony
May 30 – COH
Jun 2-4, Cedar Point Campout, Firelands
Jul 16-22 – Summer Camp, Manatoc
Jul 25-39 – Bike Trek, Great Allegheny Passage
Jul 25-30 – Sea Base High Adventure
Aug 17-19 – D Day Re-Enactment, Conneaut
Sept ? – TBD
Oct 20-22 – Tuscazoar, MB Signs/Signals/Code
Nov ? – Scouts Skills/AOL's invited, Manatoc
Dec ? – Wilderness Survival