



Issue 109

Great Trail Council

Soaring Eagle District

May 2023

Scoutmasters News

Elise and Dale

Scouts spread over 100 bags of mulch in the inner courtyard and at the teacher memorial garden at Faith on April 11.

It was cold and wet at the April campout at the Firelands Scout Reservation, but everyone persevered and had a great time! Scouts learned how to replace an ax handle and how to start a fire using flint and steel. Douglas cooked all the food for everyone.

The Troop had 23 Scouts take the annual swim test at Copley High School in April for summer camp. The next opportunity to test is June 11 at Manatoc from 1-4 PM. Anyone who is not able to attend will have an opportunity the afternoon of check in at Summer Camp.

Did you know Scouts can now use money in their Scout Account to purchase scout gear or uniforms? Pre-approval will be required for reimbursement. Please see Mrs. Nester or Mr. Sroka to submit a request.

Upcoming Events in May:

- May 16 Board of Review (BOR) – BOR is when a Scout completes rank advancement requirements.
- May 19-21 – Hocking Hills Campout, Logan, OH
- May 27 – Western Reserve Flag Laying Ceremony. The Troop will participate in placing flags on graves of the veterans at the Ohio Western Reserve Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Rittman. We will meet at the Church at 8:30 AM. Scouts need to be in Class A uniform.
- May 29 – Fairlawn VFW Memorial Day Ceremony. Memorial Day morning our Scouts will lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Fairlawn VFW ceremony held in Fairlawn's Bi Centennial Park. Troop 390 has participated in this event for over 20 years. Scouts can earn service hours. The ceremony begins at 9 AM. Scouts need to be in Class A uniform.
- May 30 Court of Honor (COH) – Scouts arrive at 7 PM and families should plan to arrive at 7:30 PM. Moms should wear their ribbons. Mothers of new scouts will receive ribbons that evening. Scouts should wear their Class A uniform with sashes. If your Scout does not have a sash, they will be available for purchase.

Summer Troop Meetings:

- Troop t-shirts may be worn between Memorial Day & Labor Day. Cotton t-shirts and moisture wicking shirts available for purchase for \$15.
- There **will not** be a Troop Meeting on July 4, July 18, or July 25.
- July's PLC Committee Meeting will be held on July 11th at 6 PM.

2023 High Adventure - Sea Base Sailing Trip:

- Dates: July 25-30, 2023
- \$200/month payments per attendee are due each for May & June. (The crew is full.)
- 2 copies of physical forms are due by June 6th.

2023 Low Adventure – Bike Trek, Great Allegheny Passage, July 24-29, 2023:

- Estimated cost is \$500. Payments are being collected at \$100/month.
- A gear list is available on the Troop website.
- 2 copies of physical forms are due by June 6th.
- Bike Trek practices (shake downs) occur weekly. The next one is Saturday, May 13 at 3:30 PM. We will meet at the Clinton Trailhead, 2749 North St, Clinton, and bike to Cherry Street Creamery in Canal Fulton. Riders should bring cash for ice cream.

Cedar Point Campout:

The campout will be June 2-4 at East Harbor. Admission to Cedar Point is \$35/ticket. Scouts with an annual pass can use it for their admission that day. We are recommending the optional Meal Plan/Drinks wristband for an additional \$35 which allows for a sit-down meal every 90 minutes and drink refills every 10 minutes. Arrangements for food will be made for those who choose not to purchase the meal plan. This offer is open to friends and family members who wish to join us at the park. Permission slips are due May 23.

Rubber Ducks Concession Volunteers Needed:

Scouts have been invited to participate in the Rubber Ducks Fundraising for Groups. Scouts 12+ will have the opportunity to work at the concession stands. This will entail setup, selling concessions, and cleanup at the baseball games. Parents will need to volunteer with their Scout. Each person who participates will earn a minimum of \$50 per shift to go into their Scout's account. You must stay until the game is over and the concession stand is cleaned to receive credit. Uniform requirements for both parent and scout: blue summer scout shirt, uniform-colored pants (no jeans), and close-toed shoes.

****May 26th Volunteers – Everyone will need to be there by 5:05 PM. Parking is free. Please be there dressed appropriately according to the listed requirements and weather. Text Sarah if you are going to be late.***

Future volunteer dates: June 22, June 23, July 7, August 3, August 4. Times will vary depending on the day of the game. Stay tuned for the Sign-Up Genuis emails. We will try to give a month's notice for future dates. Questions? Please reach out to Sarah Eckart 330-671-1052 or sjeckert22@hotmail.com.

Popcorn Kernel(s) Needed:

The troop is in need of 2 volunteers to be Popcorn Kernel & Assistant Popcorn Kernel this fall.

Responsibilities include:

- attending the District Kick Off meeting (usually in August)
- ordering the show & sell popcorn
- scheduling & planning the Troop Popcorn Kickoff
- scheduling show & sell locations (dates & times)
- scheduling scouts to work show & sell shifts
- preparing popcorn for show & sells and tracking inventory
- handling the take orders & placing that order
- ordering popcorn prizes for the participating scouts

As you can see it's a big job for one person, which is why we are looking for 2 volunteers. Our troop has had several very successful popcorn years thanks to the support of our families. We want to continue that tradition to help keep overall costs for families as low as possible. If you are interested, please let Mr. Sroka or Mrs. Nester know.

BSA Health Forms:

BSA Health Forms are beginning to expire. If you have a question about an expiration date please ask Mrs. Nester, Mrs. Forster, or Mr. Sroka. Parts A&B are required for weekend camping, additionally, Part C is required for summer camp and the adventure trips. Two copies of the physical forms will be required for summer camp and will be due by June 6th. Forms can be found on our Troop website.

2023 Summer Camp at Manatoc, July 16-22:

The 2023 Camp Manatoc Summer Camp Guide is available for viewing on the Troop website, Forms/Checklists page, see <https://www.bsatroop390.org/forms/>. The guide is a great resource for most questions about the summer camp program, trainings, merit badges being offered, and fees.

Summer Camp fee is \$385 if paid in full before July 6. Afterwards, the price will be \$395. There is a sibling discount of \$35 which will be applied after the first sibling pays the regular fee. Certain Merit Badges may incur an additional fee for class materials. The summer camp swim test is June 11 at Manatoc from 1-4 PM. Scouts are not allowed in the water without an annual swim test. Summer Camp gear list is on the Troop Website.

The BSA is strict on health forms. They can be downloaded from the Troop website. Tetanus shots must be current. Part C must be completed by a doctor and needs to be renewed every year. The Camp will not accept athletic/sports physicals. Please do not wait until the last minute to schedule a physical for your Scout; the Camp will not admit them without it.

There will be a First Year Parent's meeting, Monday, May 15, at 6:00 PM in the historic Camp Manatoc Dining Hall. Camp will use this meeting to answer questions and calm any nerves that new families to Summer Camp may have. We will also have a chance

to talk about some of the changes we are implementing for the 2023 season and for you to meet our senior staff. We are asking parents to register for the meeting at: <https://scoutingevent.com/433-firstyear>. If you can't make the meeting, please reach out to Mr. Sroka or Mrs. Nester with any questions.

MORE MUSINGS ON SUMMER CAMP

Scouts staying at Summer Camp this year will sleep in tents set up by Camp Manatoc. They are 2-man wall tents sitting on a plywood platform. Cots make for more comfortable than sleeping on the floor and helps alleviate the Scouts walking on their sleeping bags; it always rains at summer camp. When my son went to summer camp, we would take a piece of indoor/outdoor carpeting (5X7) to put down before setting up the cots. After camp it was hosed off, dried, and put away until the next time it was needed. Storage trunks or Rubbermaid bins are a great way to pack gear and keep everything together. If you want to use a lock, make it a combination lock because keys have a way of vanishing at camp. Some Scouts put their bins under a tarp behind their tents to have more room in the tent. A folding chair is recommended for sitting out front of the tent and around the campfire.

The Scouts will need to be in their field uniform, (sometimes incorrectly referred to as Class A) when they report to camp as well as when they march to the parade field before breakfast and to retreat at the end of the day. Otherwise, they will be wearing their Troop 390 T-shirts. At least 2 shirts are suggested though many Scouts appear to be perfectly fine wearing the same clothes all week. Shorts should be Scout-like colors: green, khaki. A length of rope and a clothes hanger is a good way to keep uniform shirts off the floor when not being worn.

There is a Trading Post so the Scouts should bring some spending money in addition to money they may need for Merit Badge supplies. Scouts should not bring their own food or snacks to camp. Skunks, raccoons, and chipmunks will not only come in for the food but will also destroy gear in their search for snacks.

Troop Website: <https://www.bsatroop390.org/>

Upcoming Events:

May 9 & 16 – BOR
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, East Harbor State Park
Jun 4 – Troop Committee Meeting, 7 PM @ Faith (All are welcome)
Jun 11 – Swim Test, Manatoc, 1-4 PM
Jul 16-22 – Summer Camp, Manatoc
Jul 24-39 – Bike Trek, Great Allegheny Passage
Jul 25-30 – Sea Base High Adventure
Aug 18-20 – Bike/Camp/Canoe
Sept 22-24 – GTC 100 Year Camporee, Manatoc
Oct 20-22 – Tuscaro, MB Signs/Signals/Code
Nov ? – Scouts Skills/AOL's invited, Manatoc
Dec ? – Wilderness Survival