



Issue 118

Great Trail Council

Soaring Eagle District

February 2024

Scoutmasters News

Elise and Dale

Although the January campout was cancelled due to the weather, we had scouts who went skiing and had some fun.

Thank you to all the families that attended our activities at Faith Lutheran last weekend. We had four Scouts who ranked up and many Scouts who earned Merit Badges. Congratulations to all!

February Campout:

The February 16-18 campout brings the Klondike Competition at Camp Manatoc. We will be staying in the Eagle Lodge. This year's theme is Nordic Exploration. The sooner we get permission slips in, the sooner we can get our Troops registered for the event. As in the past few years, adults will prepare breakfast and dinner for the Scouts so they can focus on the competition. Preparing a hot lunch out in the field is part of the competition and they will be graded on the meal they present.

2024 High Adventure - Philmont Trip:

- Dates: June 20 - July 3, 2024
- The crew has been set.
- Payments are due monthly in the amount of \$300. Please make sure you are current on your payments.

2024 Low Adventure Survey:

We are looking for feedback regarding the alternate adventure this summer for the Scouts not old enough to go to Philmont. At this point in time, we have two tentative options: ACE Adventures in Oak Hill, WV and The Mountaineer Program at Blue Ridge Mountain Council in Pulaski County, VA. Please take a moment to respond to the survey monkey questionnaire at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZDFFM8>.

This will give some feedback on which direction we should proceed for our 2024 "Low Adventure" activity. It would be helpful if you could respond even if your Scout does not plan on attending.

February 20th Meeting:

- ❖ Faith Lutheran will be unavailable for the February 20th meeting. Instead, the Troop will meet at Appalachian Outfitters at 6:30 PM to discuss gear.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:

- Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024
- Spaghetti Dinner Chair: Caroline Davis
- Parent and Scout involvement is crucial to our 2nd biggest fundraiser's success.
- Each family was given two fliers along with 10 adult tickets and 4 child tickets. Please try and sell the tickets before the dinner.
- Volunteers can sign up to help before and during the dinner at:
<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1630043680100/false#/invitation>
- Raffle basket donations can be posted at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094AA8A62CA5FA7-46187662-spaghetti>.
- The Spaghetti Dinner Committee is preparing to start assembling raffle baskets. Please consider the following for the next few weeks:
 - **February 13** - Please drop off raffle basket donations during the Scout meeting. You can drop off complete baskets or individual items for a basket that we will assemble for you.
 - **February 20** - Since we cannot be at the church for the meeting this week, whomever is available to help assemble baskets will meet at 1849 Akron-Peninsula Road beginning at 6:30 PM or whenever you can get there. If you have donations that you have not already dropped off, you can drop them off that night or call/text me at 330-697-7277 and we can make other arrangements.
 - **February 27** - Anyone who is available to assemble baskets will meet at the church during the troop meeting to finish arranging baskets.

2024 Scout Summer Camp:

The 2024 Summer Camp will be at Camp Manatoc from July 14 – 20. Registration is now open. This year's early bird fee, due by April 19th, is \$415. Afterwards, the price rises to \$425 through July 5th and then the price will be \$440 per Scout. The Troop would like to get commitments for summer camp as soon as possible. **A \$100 deposit per Scout is required for us to honor a commitment.**

Financial Update:

With the passage of time a combination of factors has led us to situation that needs to be addressed. The covid pandemic immediately impacted the Troop's two biggest fundraisers. Our popcorn sales fell, and the annual spaghetti dinner almost disappeared. Although the urgency of the pandemic has dissipated, we are still dealing with its aftereffects. Costs have risen considerably. Food, propane, camping supplies, camp site rentals. Despite these increases the Troop has kept the cost of the typical weekend campout at \$10. We have knowingly, gladly, proudly, subsidized campouts and activities with the belief that Troop finances is not about having a large bank account, but rather the money is for the benefit of the Scouts. Unfortunately, after a good run, it is becoming apparent that continuing the subsidy is not sustainable. The Troop Committee is beginning to look more closely at this, and the concern has been shared with the youth leadership. We are discussing ways to tighten our belts, control costs. At the Committee level, the plan is to develop an annual Troop budget. At the Patrol Leaders Council, we discussed being mindful of how we use our resources and the concept that the Scouts who shop for the food for campouts will be given a budget which is a change from just reimbursing all receipts. Scouts contributing some portion of their concession sales earnings to the Troop fund and identifying other fundraising opportunities. We discussed raising the cost of the weekend campout, (it's been \$10 since at least 2017). At the last Troop meeting we emphasized the importance of selling those spaghetti dinner tickets to help raise funds! Thanks to our Treasurer, Todd Blevins, for his efforts in putting together the overview of our finances.

Acme Receipts Cash Back Time:

Troops 7390 & 390 are collecting Acme Receipts again this year. The Troop collected Acme's required amount of \$2,000 in receipts; therefore, 100% of the receipts will go into the Scouts accounts for those who have turned in the receipts. Acme has also extended the program until February 15, 2024. **To be counted, all receipts need to be turned in by the February 13th Troop meeting.** Scouts can ask friends, relatives, and neighbors for their receipts too. Please give the paper copies of receipts or text a picture of your receipt to Sarah Eckert at (330) 671-1052.

Service Chair Needed:

The Troop is looking for a Service Project Chair. This position would entail scheduling service projects for the Troop on a quarterly basis. Please consider volunteering.

Troop Reminders:

- ✓ The next Troop Committee Meeting will be on March 3, 2024. All are welcome.
- ✓ The next PLC Committee Meeting will be March 5, 2024, at 6 PM.
- ✓ Troop sweatshirts can be purchased for \$23. Please see Mrs. Forster if you would like to purchase one.
- ✓ Troop Website: <https://www.bsatroop390.org/>

Upcoming Events:

Feb 16-18	Soaring Eagle Klondike, Manatoc, Eagle Lodge
Mar 2	Spaghetti Dinner
Mar 8-10	Backpacking, Raccoon Creek State Park, Sioux Campsite
Mar 12	Troop Elections
Mar 23	Scout Leadership Training
Apr 19-21	Observatory Park Campout
May 3-5	COPE Course, Firelands Scout Reservation
May 4	Fairlawn City Rummage Sale
May 25	Western Reserve Flag Laying
May 27	Fairlawn VFW Memorial Day Ceremony
May 31-Jun 2	Kelleys Island State Park
Jun 20-Jul 3	Philmont
Jul 14-20	Summer Camp, Concord, Manatoc
Aug 16-18	D Day Re-enactment, Conneaut
Sept ?	Pirate Ship, Camp Independence
Oct ?	Cedar Point Halloweenweekend