

SMOKE SIGNALS



December 2005
Volume 1, Issue 4
Inside This Issue

- 1 Court of Honor
- 1 Future Eagle
- 2 Turkey Shoot
- 2 Popcorn Sales
- 2 Leader's Knots
- 2 Holiday Party
- 3 PLC Meetings
- 3 Upcoming Activities?
- 3 First Aid Merit Badge
- 3 Scoutmaster's Minute
- 4 Fun and Games

Court of Honor

The Troop held a Court of Honor on November 16th. We handed out all of the merit badges that had been earned at summer camp. Other Scouts have been hard at work working on badges either on their own or at a special week of camp. Fourteen Scouts earned a total of 33 badges. The badges earned are as follows:

Athletics	1
Mammal Studies	5
Nature	1
Painting	1
Personal Management*	2
Woodcarving	1
Reptile/Amphibian	1
Family Life*	2
Journalism	3
Rifle Shooting	2
Swimming*	2
Sculpture	3
Camping*	2
Environmental Science	3
Fishing	1
Electricity	1
Farm Mechanics	1
Personal Fitness*	1

* Denotes and Eagle required badge.

Let's finish up those partials for the next Court of Honor.



Future Eagle Almost Ready to Sprout Wings

Patrick O. recently completed his last required merit badge for his Eagle rank. Having already completed his service project, Patrick is on the home stretch for earning his Eagle.

He is now finishing up his application process. The application is quite lengthy. Every badge and rank earned has to be recorded, along with the date earned. Five letters of reference are required. These have to include; one from school, and one from a religious leader. The others come from persons who believe in the Scouting movement, and feel the candidate would be worthy of the Boy Scout's highest rank. Patrick also had to write two essays as part of the application.

After the application has been filled out, Patrick will have a Scoutmaster conference and board of review with the Troop. Then (he is almost finished) a board of review will be held by the Aquila District. Typically, the Scout will not know anybody on this board. One friendly face (or advocate) will be in the room for moral support and to answer any questions on the application. They will not take an active part in the board of review though.

It is quite clear that earning you Eagle is not something to be taken lightly. Only about 4 percent of boys who join Scouting will go all the way to Eagle. It is an achievement that will be with a Scout for the rest of his life.

We all wish Patrick the best of luck as he finishes up his Eagle and look forward to his Eagle Court of Honor.

Troop 119
Peabody MA
www.119peabody.org

Turkey Shoot

Recently the Troop went to the Danvers Fish and Game Club for the annual turkey shoot. For those not familiar with this, it is fairly simple. Shooters use 22-caliber rifles and shoot at “lucky” targets until there are three shots on the paper. The targets are scored and the winner brings home a turkey.

Once again, the Robbie Z. and his family ate turkey courtesy of the DF&GC. Robbie took home his third bird in two years! The winners from the Troop were:

- Robbie Z.
- Chris G.

All of the Dads and some sisters also shot. Also winning were:

- Stephanie L.
- Robbie Z’s Dad., another winner in their house.

Popcorn Sales

Hurray, popcorn selling is over. No more show-n-sells or walking the neighborhoods. Everyone should have returned any unsold popcorn to Mr. O’Brien a couple weeks ago. You also should have paid for the popcorn that you sold. If not, please talk to Mr. O’Brien now!

Overall the Troop did well selling this year. As always, a portion of the monies earned by each Scout will go towards his summer camp fund. Those going on the high adventure canoe trip can use their earnings towards that or summer camp. The choice is yours.

Thank you to all for all of the hard work selling popcorn. We realize that standing in front of Artie’s Place of McKinnon’s Meat Market on Sunday mornings selling popcorn may not be fun, but this is our only fundraiser all year. The money earned goes a long ways to help the Council and the Troop alike.

Holiday Party and Yankee Swap

Our party will be on December 21st. Your Patrol Leader will let you know what to bring for food.

We will be having our traditional Yankee Swap again. This year, the limit has been raised to a maximum of \$15 for the gift. Participation in the swap is optional. This is always a lot of fun.

Leaders Knots

Have you every wondered what the square knots are that the leaders have on the uniforms over the left-hand pocket? These are awards that they have earned over the years. Some for work done as youth scouts, and others for work done while Cubscout or Boy Scout Leaders. Some of the knots you may have seen on Mr; O’Brien and Mr. Lynch’s uniforms are:



Red and Green on Kaki—Webelo Arrow of Light



Red White and Blue on Kaki—Eagle Scout



White on Purple—Religious Award (earned as youth)



Blue on Yellow—Cubmaster Award



Blue and Gold on Blue—CubScouter Award



Green on Kaki—Scouter’s Training Award



Green and White on Kaki—Scoutmaster’s Key



White on Kaki—Scoutmaster Award of Merit

Each of these awards has a specific set of requirements. Most take several years to earn. The work that the leaders do to earn these awards help to build a better program for all.

PLC Meetings

Attendance at the monthly PLC meetings continues to be less than great. It is expected that the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and all Patrol Leaders attend these meetings.

It is at these meetings that we plan the theme for each month, and the activities related to that theme. Without good representation and participation, it makes it difficult to plan a good program. By not coming to meetings, you can not make your opinions heard.

We realize the everyone's life is quite busy between school, Scouts, sports, family commitments, etc... When a meeting is scheduled (usually the second Monday of the month) if you can not make the meeting, please have the courtesy to call Mr. O'Brien. Remember a Scout is **Courteous**. If you are a Patrol Leader, and can not make it, maybe your Assistant come in your place, call and ask him.

Upcoming Activities?

At the last PLC meeting, several ideas were discussed for activities. These are just possibilities and are still in the discussion or planning stage. No dates have been set:

- Rock climbing wall at Dick's Sporting Goods
- Friday night swim at Paul Lydon Aquatic Center
- A program given by Eastern Mountain Sports
- Cabin camping trip
- Space Exploration merit badge

First Aid Merit Badge

Mrs. Regan has been working very hard with several Scouts in finishing up their First Aid merit badge. Everyone who started First Aid at summer camp received a partial. Mrs. Regan will continue to work with Scouts until they finish the badge. Scouts can help this along by studying the requirements and practicing their skills during the week.

Once that has been completed, we will work on finishing up Emergency Preparedness. There are only a couple requirements for E-Prep.

Scoutmaster's Minute

At the 1968 Olympics Bob Beamon set a long jump record that many thought would never be broken but eventually it was. A young boxer named George Foreman won a gold medal and paraded around the ring with an American flag, instilling pride in many Americans. One athlete named John Stephen Akhwari from Tanzania, a marathon runner, probably made the longest lasting impression on people though. While he was running he stumbled and fell, severely injuring his knee and ankle. After receiving first aid he did what no one expected and he got back in the race. Long after everyone else had finished and left, he limped into the near empty stadium to the cheers of a small crowd that was still there and he finished his final lap. When asked why he continued the race after he was so badly hurt with no chance to win he replied: "My country did not send me 7,000 miles to begin a race - they sent me to finish the race".

Do each of you accept responsibility to finish a task when you start one or do you take the easy way out when the going gets tough? Do you keep your promises when you make them, even the ones you make to yourself? A man who doesn't keep his word will not be respected and will not be trusted. What kind of man does each of you want to be remembered as?

Month Events

Dec 7th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

Dec 14th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

Dec 21st
7:00 St. John's
Christmas Party and Yankee swap

Dec 28th
NO Troop meeting (school vacation week.)

Always look to the calendar on web site for the latest schedule!

www.119peabody.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS

