

SMOKE SIGNALS



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Troop 119
Peabody MA
www.119peabody.org



Eagle Court of Honor

After a few tense moments, and more than a few months of waiting, Patrick O. had his Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday October 22nd. Nelson Miller from Saugus was the Master of Ceremonies. Nelson was the First Assistant Scoutmaster for our Jamboree contingent.

Some of the honored guests at the ceremony were: Randy Larson—Council Executive, Tim O'Brien—Council Vice President, Ralph LeDuc—a.k.a. "Mr. Fenwick", and Kenny Ellis—President of Bishop Fenwick High School. The Troop would like to thank all the Scouts and leaders who took part in the ceremony. Some of the final plans did not fall into place until the last moment. Everyone did a great job with their parts. Chris C. made his debut as our troop bugler.

It should be noted that Patrick received his Eagle with a Gold Palm. What this means is that he has earned at least 10 merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle. After a Scout passes his Eagle board of review, he can then start earning palms. A palm can be earned for every 5 merit badges, along with 3 months of service. The palms can be worn in combinations, depending on how many badges have been earned. Of course, you can not earn any palms after turning 18, so don't wait!

So, what is next? Hopefully we will be having more Courts of Honor in the upcoming months. We have several Life Scouts, who should be finishing up soon. Now that we have had one Eagle Court, the others should be simpler to put together, as Patrick's laid a lot of the groundwork. ■

Troop 9 and 119 Eagle Honor Roll

Troop 9

Marc Richards	January 25, 1987
David Colarusso	January 6, 1990
Mathew Gailis	February. 23, 1991
Billy Aguiar	March 16, 1991
Todd Mathews	December 8, 1991
Ryan Richards	March 8, 1992
Paul Harris	July 1992
John Burwell	December 15, 1992
Edward Colbert	April 6, 1993
Scott Colbert	March 26, 1995
Jeremiah Pike	May 22, 1995
Kevin Coughlin	June 3, 1996
David Paul	May 13, 1997
Christopher Kiricoples	April 27, 1998

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Liam Stone	May 4, 1999
James Palmer	May 4, 1999
Colin Williams	April 26, 2000
James Regan	March 7, 2001
Brian Palmer	December 13, 2001
Patrick O.	January 27, 2006

Blitz to First Class

In an effort to help Scouts earn their First Class rank, a “blitz day” at Brooskby farm is being planned. So, what is a blitz day? Many Scouts need many of the same requirements to advance in rank. So, a series of activities will be set-up to teach the appropriate skill, allow Scouts to demonstrate their knowledge, and to get the requirement(s) signed-off. Some of the stations will include knots, lashings, map & compass, cooking, etc...

This event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday Dec. 9th. Over the next couple weeks, we will be looking at everyone’s handbook to see what are the most commonly needed requirements. The day will focus on what the majority of the Scouts need. You can all help by making sure you bring your book to upcoming troop meetings.

Skill sessions will be taught by a combination of adult leaders and some of the more senior Scouts. Not everyone will be First Class at the end of the day, but hopefully most of you will be a lot closer. ■

Thanksgiving Feast at Camp Nihan

The Troop will attending a camping trip at Camp Nihan in Saugus on November 18th-19th. This event is being hosted by Troop 121 of Lynn. There will be several Troops, Venture Crews, and a couple Cub Packs in attendance.

Some of the activities planned are:

- Junior Leader Training, see Mr. O’Brien
- Some advancement stuff
- Hike through Breakheart Reservation
- Campfire
- Big game of capture the flag
- A Thanksgiving turkey feast with all the trimmings
- And more.

More info will be available at Troop meetings as the date comes closer.

Those Scouts who will be taking the Catholic Schools entrance exam on that day, are encouraged to join us after the test. Good luck to all taking the test! ■

Popcorn Sales

By now, everyone should be in full popcorn selling mode! Let's get out there and sell. Remember, this is our only fund raiser each year. Approximately 15% of what each Scout sells goes towards his summer camp fund.

As an extra incentive, any Scout who sets-up a show-n-sell, will get an extra 10% of the sales for the day. See Mr. Early or Mr. O'Brien with any popcorn related questions.

Remembers, all popcorn needs to be returned by at the November 15th Troop meeting, or make arrangements to get it to Mr. Early before noontime on Monday November 27th. If you still have any popcorn after these dates, you must pay for it. ■

Leaders in the News

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Early recently completed their first time as staff members for the Aquila district Shu Shu Ga training course. The course ran for 4 weeks and concluded with a weekend training session at Camp Nihan. They both worked very hard in the kitchen all weekend feeding approximately 20 hungry staff members. They now wear the much coveted yellow Shu Shu Ga bolo. ■

News from the Pack

Things are going great with the Pack. Membership is up, the Pack is growing! This is great news, as several of our Scouts will be aging-out within a year.

Anyone interested in being a Den Chief, let Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Lynch know. The Den Leaders have their hands full, and could use some help. Being a Den Chief is a great way to help the Pack, the Troop, and yourself. This job can be counted for advancement towards Star. ■

Scoutmaster's Minute

IT TAKES DETERMINATION to never give up. True determination comes from within your heart. It is a spirit of faith and trust that gives you a hope and belief that you can accomplish what you need to do. Jim Irwin (1930-1991, Air Force pilot, astronaut) was a very determined man.

There have only been a dozen astronauts that walked on the moon and Jim Irwin was one of them. But it wasn't the fact that he had been to the moon that made him great. He was great because of the way he lived. Jim Irwin liked to meet with youth and talk to them. He would tell them to reach for their dreams, and to aim high—no matter how difficult, and no matter what obstacles were in their way. And Jim Irwin was qualified to say that.

Because of what he had gone through in his life, Jim Irwin had learned not to accept defeat, even though the odds were against him. You see, as a young pilot, his plane crashed, and though he survived, the accident smashed both of his legs. The doctors said that he would never walk again, and that he definitely would never fly again. He would be confined to a wheelchair or crutches for the rest of his life. But that did not stop Jim Irwin. He defied the odds because he would not accept defeat. He did walk again, and eventually flew again. Then, not only did he fly again, but also became an astronaut and went to the moon. ■

Take a Hike



We will be taking a hike on Saturday December 2nd in Middlesex Fells in Stoneham with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Hike will be about 7 miles. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a trail lunch (no cooking.)

We will be meeting at the Church at 8:30AM. Expect to be back around 3:30PM. Anyone who is not Second Class should make their own first aid kit and bring it on the hike. See your handbook for the first aid kit contents. ■

Month Events

November 1st
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

November 8th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

Sunday November 12th
9:00AM Danvers Fish & Game
Turkey Shoot

November 15th
7:00 St. John's
Troop Meeting

November 17th
7:00 Brooksby Farm
Hayride and Campfire

November 18th-19th
Camp Nihan (Saugus)
Thanksgiving Feast Campout

November 22nd
No Meeting
Happy Thanksgiving

November 29
7:00 Troop Meeting
Court of Honor and Webelo Visit

December 2nd
Middlesex Fells, Stoneham
Hike with the AMC

December 9th
Tentative
Brooksby Farm
Blitz to First Class

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

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KNOTS OF THE MONTH

Typically, the back page of *Smoke Signals* has been titled “Fun and Games.” Starting this month, we will be doing something a little different. Hopefully it will also be fun. For those who have been around for a while, you may remember a column in *Boys Life* called “Slide of the Month.” We will be doing something similar to that.

The idea behind “knot of the month” will be to take a basic knot, let's say the square knot, and discuss the knot. This could include where and where not to use the knot, and what some alternatives for this knot are and how to tie them.



So, let's start with the basic knot that we all learned, the humble square knot (or sometimes called the Reef Knot.). We all know how to tie the square knot, it is one of the first knots that we learned as a Cub Scout. But, what is it good for? As a binding knot, it works great to tie up packages and similar uses. According to the *Ashley Book of Knots*; “But employed as a bend (to tie two rope ends together), the Reef Knot is probably responsible for more deaths and injuries than have been caused by the *failure of all other knots combined.*” That sounds like a pretty stern warning, so what to use to tie two ropes together?

One of the easiest is the sheet bend. You can see that the sheet bend looks the same as the bowline, turned on its side. For those who really want to study this, there are right and left hand versions of the sheet bend. The right-hand is shown below, and is considered better than the left-handed cousin.



Finally, one of the best knots for joining two ropes together is the fisherman's knot:

