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Troop 119  
Peabody MA  
www.119peabody.org

# SMOKE SIGNALS



## Web Site Makeover

Mr. Lynch has been hard at work updating the troop web site. Why does the Troop have a web site, information! The intent is to provide a steady supply of information about the troop, and whatever else makes good content.

A web site is only useful if people go to it. One sure way for people to not go to a site, is for the content to never change. A stale site will never get visited, which is a waste of time to create and maintain the site.

The first change with the site is the look and feel. Some esthetic changes were made to make it easier to read. A photo gallery has been started. Pictures will be added as time goes on. On every page in the site, a thumbnail of a random picture from the photo gallery will be shown in the lower left corner. Clicking on the thumbnail will open the photo gallery with that picture.

Some of the other changes are:

- Advancement page
- Archives of *Smoke Signals*
- Scouts in the News: A page of news articles related to boy Scouts gathered from all over the Internet.
- Automatic Update notification: Methods to let you know automatically know when the site has changed (either e-mail or rss.) Talk to Mr. Lynch if you want to know more about updates.

Be sure to check out the web site and tell Mr. Lynch what you like (or don't.)



## Partial Merit Badges

Okay, you came back from summer camp with a stack of blue cards. Well Mr. Lynch is actually holding the cards for the time being. What do you do now? You want to finish the badge. Hopefully you only have one or a couple requirements to finish.

What needs to be done to finish a badge is largely a matter of how many requirements are left to complete. If there are only one or two requirements, Mr. O'Brien *may* opt to allow you to finish the requirements and he will approve them. Depending on the badge, he may ask you to find a registered merit badge counselor to finish the badge. Talk to Mr. O'Brien to see where you stand.

If you only completed a couple requirements and still have a lot to do, it is probably best to find a counselor for the badge and work with them. Check out the Troop web site for a list of counselors within our Troop. If there is not a counselor listed for the badge, check with Mr. Lynch to find a counselor to work with.

There is no official time limit on finishing a partial badge. But it is up to the counselor you work with as to how much of the partial work can be used. It is best to finish up any partials as soon as you can.

Several Scouts got a partial on Emergency Preparedness and First Aid at summer camp, missing only the same couple requirements. We will discuss how to finish these for everyone. ■

# Web Site Photo Gallery

One of the new features of the web site is the photo gallery. This is still in the process of being built. Anyone with digital pictures, get them to Mr. Lynch if you would like to see them in the gallery.

One thing that has kept the gallery from being completed is the question of Internet safety and personal privacy. The Leaders of the Troop take Scout safety very seriously.

There are two ways to safely post pictures on the Internet. The first is to require a user name and password to access the gallery. This is not the best option as it takes work to manage, and no one outside of the Troop can see our great pictures. The second way is to make the pictures fully accessible, and to follow certain guidelines. The second option is the best. The following guidelines will be followed before posting pictures to the gallery:

- All pictures will be reviewed by the webmaster to ensure they reflect well on the BSA and Troop 119.
- If a caption is associated with a picture, only a Scout's first name will ever be used. This is the same rule that used throughout the entire web site.
- Parents and Scouts do have the option to request that an image is not included in the site.

Instead of having each Scout return a release for to allow photos to be used, there will be an "opt-out" form available. Unless Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Lynch receives the completed "opt-out" form, photos of Scouts may appear in the gallery.

The "opt-out" form can be found under the "Forms" link on the web site. ■

# Where Does My Dues Go?

With the beginning of the Scout year, every Scout needs to pay his dues. Our dues are \$60 per year for each Scout. Scouts (and their parents) often ask where does the dues money go, and what is it used for?

Here is a breakdown of where the dues money goes:

\$24 goes to Council. This pays your registration and insurance, your subscription to Boy's Life, and registration for the adult leaders.

The rest is used by the Troop to fund its operation. Some of what gets paid for:

- Activities – Typically Scouts do not pay for activities such as swimming, camping fees, Klondike Derby, etc...
- Advancement – The Troop spends about \$1.50 - \$2.00 for every merit badge/rank patch.
- Camping – The Troop pays for all of the food and equipment for camping. Scouts rarely have to bring their own food.
- Supplies for activities at Troop meetings, stationary supplies, merit badge books, etc...
- Web site hosting ■



# Scout Recruitment Fair

On Saturday, Sept 24, the Aquila District held a recruitment fair at the James St. park. This was a fair to help promote interest in Scouting, in order to get new Scouts to register. Although aimed primarily at Cub Scouts, there was certainly a Boy Scout presence.

Some of the activities included:

- Pinewood Derby races
- Rain Gutter Regatta
- Model rocketry and helicopter
- Police K9 Demonstration
- Med-Flight Helicopter
- Swat Team
- Mr. Anderson ran a Scout shop selling Scout handbooks, neckerchiefs, belts and slides to new Scouts.

Many Scout Troops and Packs had displays. Troop 119 showed a typical campsite with personal camping gear. Troop 88 had a large display complete with Dutch oven cooking, and cooking in cardboard box ovens.

Thank you to all members of Troop 119 who participated:

Mr. Lynch – set up the camp site and answered questions.

Mr. Early and Mr. McGinn – ran pinewood derby races.

Rob A., Kory D., Christopher E., Patrick L., Morris M., Jessie S. were also there to help out. They helped run the races, set-up and broke down the camp site, answered questions, etc.

The day was a great success. We will wait to see if our Troop/Pack got any new recruits. Let's keep our fingers crossed! ■

## New Patrol Assignments

At a recent meeting, the new patrol assignments were made. Here are the new patrols and their members. The patrol names will be added later.

### Senior Patrol

- Rob A. – SPL
- Chris A. – ASPL
- Kory D.
- Kyle D.
- Patrick O.

### Morris M. Patrol

- Morris M. – PL
- Chris C.
- Billy H.
- Patrick L. - Quartermaster
- Joe M.

### Jonathan N. Patrol

- Jonathan N. – PL
- Jessie S.
- Joey O.
- Robbie Z.

### Andrew R. Patrol

- Andrew R. – PL
- Christopher E.
- Chris G.
- Cameron H.

■

## Rifle Shooting Merit Badge

The rifle shooting badge will be held at the Danvers Fish & Game Club on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 12.

See Mr. Lynch for details if you have registered for the badge. ■

## Scoutmaster's Minute

We often hear the phrase, "Moving on the Scouting Trail". What do people mean when they talk about the Scouting Trail. That's right, it's the path that leads from Scout rank through First Class up to the Eagle Scout badge.

Very few guys make it all the way. The only ones that do are guys who can set a goal and then work hard to achieve it. One way to get started toward the goal is to set yourself a more modest goal. If you're a Tenderfoot now, make up your mind that you're going to earn Second Class in time for our Court of Honor in a month or so - or at least by the Court of Honor in later in the year.

The Chinese have a saying that is appropriate here. They say, "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step."

That's a good thing to remember, not only in Scouting but in life, too. You can't progress if you never get started.

You're going to have plenty of chances to pass advancement requirements in our troop meetings this month - and every month.

Take advantage of those opportunities. We're also going to concentrate on advancement during upcoming camping trips. That's another chance to get moving on the Scouting trail.

It's our hope that by time our Court of Honor rolls around later in the year, every one of you will be a rank higher than you are today. ■

## October Events

**Theme is Emergency Preparedness**

**Oct 5th  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting**

**Oct 12th  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting**

**Oct 19th  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting**

**Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Popcorn pick-up**

**Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Popcorn Show & Sell Blitz!!**

**Oct 26th  
7:00 St. John's  
Troop Meeting**

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

[www.119peabody.org](http://www.119peabody.org)

X	N	O	B	S	U	M	M	E	R	C	A	M	P	E	M	M	T	X	W
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	Z	O	I	C	G	J	N	Z	J	A	E	X	O
Y	H	T	F	H	L	I	F	E	Z	W	I	Y	N	D	F	Q	N	K	W
A	S	Q	U	A	R	E	K	N	O	T	D	K	H	C	E	U	D	N	V
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C	H	X	T	G	U	V	O	F	I	R	S	T	C	L	A	S	S	K	J

- |                |              |                   |                |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. BadenPowell | 7. Life      | 13. YankeeClipper | 19. summercamp |
| 2. Scout       | 8. Eagle     | 14. squareknot    | 20. hiking     |
| 3. Tenderfoot  | 9. dutchoven | 15. rope          | 21. blisters   |
| 4. SecondClass | 10. stove    | 16. tent          | 22. cooking    |
| 5. FirstClass  | 11. backpack | 17. sleepingbag   | 23. compass    |
| 6. Star        | 12. Aquila   | 18. fire          | 24. bugjuice   |