

SMOKE SIGNALS



September 2005
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Troop 119
Peabody MA
www.119peabody.org

Welcome to Smoke Signals

This is the first issue of *Smoke Signals*, the monthly newsletter for Troop 119. In the newsletter, you will find information relating to troop meetings, trips and trip planning, advancement etc... There will be monthly columns of general interest and whatever else we can think to add.

Like the website, this is meant for you (and your parents.) We want you to read this, so we will try to make it useful and interesting. Let us know if you like the newsletter or not, what you may want to see more of or less of.

Smoke Signals will be distributed at the last meeting of each month, and will have the calendar of events and meetings for the next month. We will also archive issues on the web site. ■

National Jamboree Update

For two weeks in July and August, some of our Scouts and Leaders

attended the National Jamboree in Bowling Green Virginia. Those attending were Mr. O'Brien (Scoutmaster of Troop 118), Mr. Lynch (Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 118), Patrick O., Patrick L., Kory and Kyle D., Rob A. and Morris M.. Ask any of those who attended about all of the good times that were had. The council sent three troops with a total of about 108 Scouts and 12 leaders.

This Jamboree started off on a very somber note. Four of our fellow Scout Leaders were killed in a very tragic accident while setting up a tent. The tent was being set up under power lines. When one of the tent poles touched the overhead power line, the four men holding the pole were killed instantly. The boys of those killed were very well taken care of on their long trip back to Alaska. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Scouts and Leaders in the Western Alaska Council.

After traveling though the night, the contingent arrived at Fort A.P. Hill bright and early (ok it was raining) and fairly quickly set up the tents, stoves, carpports, tables, and gateways. By mid-day on Monday, most of the Scouts were ready to go exploring the Jamboree, and boy was there a lot to see. For 10 days, the Scouts could pretty much do as they pleased when exploring the acres and acres of jamboree events. Some of the activities included;



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Welcome Back!

With the Scouting year starting up again, there are a few matters of housekeeping that need to be addressed. Mr. O'Brien will be discussing dues. Please bring your dues as soon as possible, and give it to either Mr. O'Brien or Mrs. Lynch. Without paying dues, you will not be allowed to go on any activities nor receive awards.

In an effort to keep the troop records up to date, Mr. Lynch will be distributing a form with your personal information on it. Please take the time to review this info such as address, phone number, e-mail etc...

One feature of our web site is a photo gallery. Currently we have pictures on the site, but they are not available. In order to protect Scout's privacy, there will be an opt-out form distributed. The

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National Jamboree Update

scuba diving, snorkeling, rappelling, mountain boarding, pioneering, buckskins games, archery. Everyone walked, and walked, and oh yes, walked some more.

A big pastime was patch trading. Patrick O. was on a quest to get a council strip from each state, and he finally did collect them all! While seeking out patches, he and Mr. O'Brien got to meet Scouts from all over the country and a few foreign countries as well.

It was very hot for most of the trip, so the cold showers felt real nice. The food was edible for the most part, pretty much what you would expect when trying to feed 45,000+ people each day.

On the way home, the Troops stopped at Gettysburg, Hershey Park, and the Springfield Armory.

Would we go again? In a minute, well, maybe we will wait a little bit to relax! ■

form will discuss the guidelines that will be followed regarding publishing of photos on the web site. The opt-out form will give you and your parents the option to not have your picture on the internet. Please expect to see this form soon after the first meeting. After reviewing the form, please return it even if there were no changes. ■

PLC Meetings

What are PLC meetings? PLC, or Patrol Leaders Council meetings are held to plan out the troop meetings, themes, and activities for the month. As Scouts is a boy lead program, it is the Scouts who are supposed to set the program under the watchful eye of the Scoutmaster and other leaders. For example, if the major activity for the month is a winter camping trip, the activities at the troop meetings for the month would focus on the upcoming trip. Skill sessions may need to be planned, menu planning, etc... At one meeting, the overall plan for the whole year can be planned; what activities are we going to do when, how much will they cost and how can these activities be tied to weekly meetings and advancement.

Who Attends? All Patrol Leaders, SPL, ASPL, Scoutmaster and Assistants typically attend. The Quartermaster should attend to make sure any needed equipment is available and in good working order. The Scribe attends to take notes

Why are they important? Without proper planning for the weekly troop meetings, and other events, the troop will loose focus. Meetings can become "now what do we do?" These meetings are also a great way to communicate information to and from the patrols.

When are these held? Mr. O'Brien will be scheduling PLC meetings during the year. ■

September Events

Sept 14th
7:00 St. John's Troop Meeting
Welcome back to Scouts for the year!

Sept 21st
7:00 St. John's Troop Meeting
Meeting agenda TBD

Sept 28th
7:00 St. John's Troop Meeting
Meeting agenda TBD

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

www.119peabody.org

Important Phone Numbers

Mr. O'Brien	532-5036
Mr. Desmond	977-3282
Mr. Lynch	531-1206
Mr. Regan	531-1385
Mrs. Lynch	531-4042
Jeff Serre	977-9396

Elections

At the last meeting in June, elections were held for new leadership positions. The results of these elections are as follows:

Rob A.	SPL
Chris A.	ASPL
Jonathan N.	Patrol Leader
Andrew R.	Patrol Leader
Morris M.	Patrol Leader
Patrick L.	Quartermaster

Other positions such as Librarian, Scribe, OA Rep, still need to be filled. Mr. O'Brien will be discussing this once the weekly troop meetings get under way. ■

Scoutmaster's Minute

Typically, a Scoutmaster ends a meeting with a short thought. This usually takes no more than a minute to relay, hence the name. Each month in this column, a Scoutmaster's minute will be featured.

What happens to a Scout? For every 100 boys who join Scouting, records indicate that:

- RARELY will one be brought before the juvenile court system
- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 17 will become future Scout volunteers
- 12 will have their first contact with a church
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 5 will earn their church award
- 18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life
- 8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge system

- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save his own life
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person

Scouting's alumni record is equally impressive. A recent nation-wide survey of high schools revealed the following information:

- 85% of student council presidents were Scouts
- 89% of senior class presidents were Scouts
- 80% of junior class presidents were Scouts
- 75% of school publication editors were Scouts
- 71% of football captains were Scouts

Scouts also account for:

- 64% of Air Force Academy graduates
- 68% of West Point graduates
- 70% of Annapolis graduates
- 72% of Rhodes Scholars
- 85% of F.B.I. agents
- 26 of the first 29 astronauts ■