

Troop 849 Newsletter



April 2009

www.troop849.org

CURRENT CALENDAR

- April 2 – Neighbor to Neighbor
- April 4-6 – **Catalina (CA States Park) Hike**
- April 4-5 – **Mt. Lowe Backpack Hike**
- April 14 – Troop Meeting
- April 16-19 – **Catalina 50 Mile Hike**
- April 21 – Troop Meeting
- April 25-26 – **Grant Ketterer Eagle Project**
- April 25 – Backpack Equipment Orientation
- April 28 – Troop Meeting
- May 5 – Troop Meeting
- May 7 – Neighbor to Neighbor
- May 9 – Advancement Day



SPL CORNER

Hi everyone. This month's SPL corner centers around this theme: Challenge yourself! Be willing to face situations outside your comfort zone. You get out what you put in. Although they apply to most things in life, these words are particularly true for scouting. If you want to become a great leader, you can't sit back and wait for responsibility to land in your lap. You have to be proactive. Challenge yourself to take on new positions of leadership that you may not be completely comfortable with just yet. The troop is full of people ready to offer their help and support, and the best way to learn is through experience.

--Ryland Miller



COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

Handling the advancement process in a troop as large as ours is a challenge. There's no question we've had some hiccups in the past regarding Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. However, we think we've now got a process in place that will work and is fair to all those involved (Scouts and the Troop Leadership).

The process starts with the individual Scout informing the senior Scout who has been designated the focal point for Advancement that he (the Scout wishing to advance) has completed all the requirements for a rank and needs a Scoutmaster conference. This conference will be scheduled and the Scout informed about the date and time.

The Board of Review (BoR) will occur within one month after the Scoutmaster conference, i.e. the third Tuesday of each month has been designated as a BoR night and there should be plenty of adults available to handle all the BoRs. A BoR may occur on another Tuesday evening, but the longest wait should be until the third Tuesday of each month.

The Scout must take responsibility for the scheduling step; parents should not attempt to schedule a Scoutmaster conference or Board of Review. Let's all try to make this new process work. If any parent has concerns about their son's advancement process, please contact me or Mr. Noda and we will discuss with the appropriate leadership folks and determine what issues exist, then work to solve them. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

--Don McLellan

So, if advancement is the responsibility of the scout, how can we as parents help? Talk to your son, read his Boy Scout Handbook, familiarize yourself with the rank requirements, ask him what skills he hopes to work on next, encourage him to ask a senior scout, Asst. Scoutmaster, or Scoutmaster for help. Then, let it happen at the scout's own pace. Each boy is different and will find the time when it is comfortable for him to proceed. It may seem not to happen quickly enough for us parents at times but it will happen when the scout is ready.

--Sally Bickel

---Catalina Tip to Tip Hike---

Join the troop for one of the most unique hikes of the year. Hike the entirety of Catalina Island, from Two Harbors and the West tip to Avalon and the East tip. The exact itinerary has yet to be planned, but it will most likely follow the route of previous years. We'll depart for Two Harbors the morning of Thursday, Apr. 16, and should be back by the afternoon of Sunday, Apr. 19. That will give us four days and three nights to cover as much of this island as we can. Unlike our troop's normal hikes to the mountain forests of the mainland, we'll be hiking either along the beaches and cliffs of Catalina's famous coastline or through the grassy hills and scrubby peaks of the Island's interior. Although the elevation gain is minimal, there are some long distances to travel, so this hike is classified as moderate; those participating should have at least some backpacking experience. However, it will be worth every mile! Those interested should sign up at troop meetings or contact **Ryland Miller** (e-mail: rmiller0320@gmail.com, phone: 310-376-1182).

--Grant Ketterer's Eagle Project--

Grant Ketterer's Eagle Project will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 & 26, 2009. The project is at the Sierra Saddle rest area and trail in the Angeles National Forest. The work will consist of trail repair, installation of picnic tables, and general brushing of the trail and rest area. Please put this event on your calendar.

When: We will meet at the Scout House at 6:30 am both mornings and should return by 6:00 pm.

What to Bring: Please come prepared with your 10 essentials, hat, sun screen, work gloves, water bottle and a yellow card.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days. Your help is needed and ALL are welcome. Come on down to Grant's Eagle Project for some work and community service hours. To sign up, contact **Grant Ketterer** in person or by phone.

---Mt. Lowe Hike---

This is a moderate hike - No prior backpacking experience is required.

We will depart Saturday morning to trailhead near Mt. Wilson and arrive in camp by lunch. Scouts need to bring their own brown bag lunch. Visit Inspiration Point in afternoon and at night. We camp at the site of the historic Mt. Lowe Resort. Hike out Sunday morning over summit of Mt. Lowe and lunch at historic Phillippe's in downtown LA. Scouts will need to bring money for lunch.

Profile: 5.3 miles, 1,450', 2.1+2.7=4.1 BPH, TH 5,125', C 4,475'.

Peaks: Mt. Lowe 5,603' [mini] and Muir Peak 4,688' [not rated]

We will plan to meet at the Scout House around 7:45 AM on Saturday the 4th so we can depart around 8:00 AM. Scouts will need to bring their "Yellow Card". If you have any questions, please let me know.

Eric Mozell

emozell@yahoo.com

--Rock Climbing--

Shockingly, we had to cancel our March Rock Climbing trip to Joshua Tree. There were two reasons, very few scouts signed up to go and more importantly, we had only one instructor who could make the event. Please, sign up to become a rock climbing instructor so we can continue to offer this fantastic high adventure outing to our scouts. Contact **Dr. Dick Rose** for more details. A class can be put together with as few as 3 participants.

--Looking Ahead--

May – Advancement Day #1

Deep Sea Fishing

Dollar Lake Hike

Little Jimmy Hike

Laws Camp Hike

Skunk Cabbage Hike

SPL Elections

Chawanakee Info Night