

Troop 849 Newsletter



November 2005

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Nov. 8 – Troop Meeting – SPL Elections
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day Ceremony
- Nov. 12-13 – Desert Hike
- Nov. 15 – Troop Meeting
- Nov. 22 – Troop Meeting
- Nov. 29 – Troop Meeting
- Dec. 1 – Neighbor to Neighbor
- Dec. 3 – University of Scouting
- Dec. 6 – Troop Meeting
- Dec. 9-11 – Night Hike

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY



Troop 849 will lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Veteran's Day Ceremony held at Veteran's Parkway at 15th Street in Manhattan Beach. Scouts who wish to participate should meet at the Scout House in full Class A Uniforms at 10:45 AM on Nov. 11th. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in Joslyn Center. Contact **Kaye Sherbak** for more information.



SPL CORNER

Days may be shortening and temperatures may be dropping, but things are just heating up for our troop. The **newly established patrols** will play a very important role in our upcoming scout skills-oriented outing – the Night Hike. Patrols will compete against one another in a variety of activities.

Each meeting this month will be devoted to preparation of **scout skills** for this hike. Nov. 8th will focus on map reading and orienteering. Nov. 15th will feature tent set-up and physical measurements. Nov. 22nd will cover woodcarving and storm shelter construction. Finally, Nov. 29th will be devoted to open fire and grill cooking and the tying of essential knots and lashings.

Given the wealth of material that will be covered, we need as many scouts to attend the meetings as possible, especially the older scouts to help give instruction. These are exciting times, and the only way we can create a rewarding experience is to have this kind of participation.

Finally, don't forget to come and vote for the new SPL on Nov. 8th. Happy Scouting!

Sam Mullin

Lost and Found: Aviator style sunglasses, one work glove, a pair of climbing gloves, 2 hats, and a long sleeve t-shirt were left at the campsite at the Rock Hike. If you are missing these items, please contact **Dr. Rose**.

DESERT HIKE



On Saturday, Nov. 12th, we'll meet at the Scout House at 5:30 AM and drive to the Joshua Tree National Park Museum. We'll then drive to the trailhead and backpack across country to camp, about 3 miles. After dropping off our packs we'll climb Queen Mountain, a "mini peak." That night, if the scouts are interested, we may look for Desert Giant Hairy Scorpions with a black light. On Sunday there's an optional hike up Ryan Mountain. Since we'll carry 1 gallon of water per person across country, this is an intermediate hike. For more information, contact **Mr. Slocum**.



NIGHT HIKE

Grab your headlamp and join the troop for our annual Night Hike Dec. 9th-11th. Weekend activities include a night hike (naturally!), patrol competitions and a service project. Traditionally, this outing has been held at Henninger Flats, but will likely take place at Valley Forge this year due to closures at Henninger. Details will be available at November troop meetings.



COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

You will soon be receiving our **annual Troop 849 re-registration letter**, asking you to confirm participation in the Troop in 2006 by returning your annual scout registration fee to me in a timely manner (and, optionally, a donation to the Troop).

The Troop Committee has decided to raise the basic annual registration fee for Scouts in Troop 849 to \$60 per year (adults are still \$10, and each younger Troop 849 sibling will be \$30). There were several reasons for this increase: Changes in the Hometown Fair have resulted in reduced fundraising from the Troop's efforts at this event; a desire by the Committee to focus the Troop's leadership on our busy Scouting events calendar (vs. additional fundraising events); and the belief that \$60 per year is still a tremendous bargain in today's world for Troop 849's quality, year-round program.

As always, if this fee (or any Troop 849 expense) creates a financial hardship for your family, PLEASE discuss it with me on a confidential basis and we will strive to work something out. Our policy remains that no boy should be denied a Scouting experience because of money.

Also note that any adult that drives Scouts to Troop 849 events/outings must be registered with the District. Adult registration forms will be available at the Scout House during November. Please take this opportunity to register if you have not already done so.

Thank you all for your tremendous support during 2005 and we look forward to another great year in 2006.

Don McLellan

MERIT BADGES

Cabrillo Beach Youth Waterfront Sports Center offers classes for many of the most popular Merit Badges. Check out their website at www.cabrilloyouthcamp.org for classes offered in January, February, and March of 2006. Register early as many classes fill up quickly.



Troop 849 parent, **Mr. Schnuckel**, is now a Counselor for the Cinematography Merit Badge. Please contact him if you have an interest in earning this badge.

Congratulations to Asst. Scoutmaster, **Mr. Reeley**, for earning **Pacifica District's Award of Merit 2005**. Mr. Reeley will be presented this honor at Pacifica District's 12th Annual Recognition Dinner on Nov. 17th.



ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Andrew Vandenberg** for recently earning the rank of Life Scout. Formal recognition of all rank advancements will be at the March 2006 Court of Honor.

TROOP ELECTIONS



Elections for Senior Patrol Leader will take place at the November 8th Troop Meeting. The Senior Patrol Leader is the highest position of scout leadership in the troop structure. To qualify for this position a scout must be Star Rank or above, be active in the troop, and demonstrate strong leadership ability. **Tim Breen, Jason Civaleri, Gavin Filarsky, John Gunderman, Sam Mullin, and Matthieu Shuler** are all considering running for this position. All scouts who attend the November 8th meeting will vote for the candidate of their choice. The SPL holds the position for a term of approximately six months and, with consultation of the Scoutmaster, appoints the Asst. Senior Patrol Leaders.



UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

The Los Angeles Area Council is holding its annual **University of Scouting** on December 3, 2005 at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester. The University of Scouting has courses designed for Leaders, Committee Members, parents, and scouts. Log on to the Los Angeles Area Council website at www.boyscoutsla.org for more information and a registration form. Registration is due no later than November 23rd.

LOOKING AHEAD

- December – University of Scouting
 - Night Hike
 - No Meetings 12/20 or 12/27
- January – Rocket Hike
 - Snow Trip Prep Hike
 - Summer Camp & Long Term Deposits Due
- February – Winter Camp
 - Cross Country Skiing
 - Santa Cruz Island Kayak Trip
 - Adult Backpack Training