

# Troop 849 Newsletter



November 2008

[www.troop849.org](http://www.troop849.org)

## CURRENT CALENDAR

- Nov. 4-* Hike Preparation for Bike Trip
- Nov. 6-* Neighbor to Neighbor-  
Church of the Brethren
- Nov. 8-9-* **Bike Trip**-Location TBD
- Nov. 11-* **Veterans Day Ceremony**
- Nov. 11* – Troop Meeting
- Nov. 18-* Troop Meeting
- Nov. 25-* No Meeting-Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec. 1-* Troop Committee Meeting
- Dec. 2-* Troop Meeting
- Dec. 4-* Neighbor to Neighbor



## COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

As the holiday season approaches the Troop 849 family has many opportunities to help people less fortunate than us. The annual **Scouting for Food** drive is underway with Cub Scout packs dropping off plastic bags to homes throughout Manhattan Beach; if you received a bag please place some canned goods in it and put it outside next Saturday (11/8) for the Cubs to pick up. On Thanksgiving morning, we will have an opportunity to work a two-hour shift in the dining area of the **Union Rescue Mission** in downtown L.A. See **Mr. Tauber** for more details. Mr. Tauber and the **Neighbor to Neighbor** program will again this year be putting together bags of essential toiletry items (soap, etc.) to be given out on the first Thursday of December during our monthly Neighbor to Neighbor activity. If you have items to donate to this cause please bring them down to the Scout House at the next Tuesday night meeting.

Parents, please remember to vote on Tuesday!

--Don McLellan



## SPL CORNER

Hi everyone. The troop's annual night hike is coming up in December, and though I can't promise weather as interesting as last year's, I know we'll have a great time. Lately I've been thinking of a question: Why do we hike? There certainly is more to hiking and camping with the troop than spending time with friends in really neat places. I'll share with you a few stories of the hikes that helped shape who I am. Some of you may have shared these experiences with me, and I'm sure you got as much out of them as I did. We learn lots of skills at meetings and at merit badge classes, but there is no better way to learn than actually needing a skill in the wilderness. On long term in 2005, a man whose wife had been severely burned awakened our group in the middle of the night. Tim Breen, former SPL, learned what he could about the woman's injuries, offered advice about how to treat the wound, and provided his first aid kit to the man. Few other situations better express the importance of being prepared, and this is something I will never forget. More recently this summer, a good friend and I came down with a mysterious illness on long term. The next day we ascended a 12,000-foot pass, and I didn't know whether or not I would make it. But I pressed on, realizing that my problems were more mental than physical, and I convinced myself that every step took me closer to the top. I came away from this experience with a greater understanding of perseverance. Other smaller challenges are faced all the time on hiking trips, and from these we can learn cooperation, resourcefulness, and independence. So don't shy away from a trip just because your friends aren't going. Think of what you could be missing out on!

--Ryland Miller

## Rock Climbing Instructor Training

We are planning our Rock Climbing trip for March, and we desperately need more Instructors! We have about 10 now, but we are required to have one instructor for each 6 scouts. Since we often have 40 or so scouts go, and since not every instructor can go every time, you can understand our need to have more trained people. If you are curious about the training, talk to any of our current instructors: Greg Young, Sally Bickel, Laura Kitchen, Jim Gunderman, Dave Rolandelli, Keith Williamson to name a few. If you think you may be interested, please contact **Dick Rose** at (310) 545-0668.

## VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Each year Troop 849 participates in the Manhattan Beach Veterans Day Ceremony. It is always important for Scouts to show a presence in our community by being involved in activities such as this. We will open the program by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and then one scout will deliver a short speech. Full Class A Uniforms are a must. Meet at the Scout House at 10:30AM, Tuesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> to honor those who have served our country. Contact **Mrs. Bickel** for more information.

## UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

The University of Scouting is a council-wide extravaganza designed for adult and youth leaders. Create your schedule from a variety of course offerings. Take one class or take six; the choice is yours. This is an excellent way to enhance your knowledge of the Boy Scout Program and learn new skills.

The University of Scouting takes place at Loyola Marymount University on Saturday, December 6th. You may register on-line by going to the Los Angeles Area Council web site at [www.boyscoutsla.org](http://www.boyscoutsla.org) and opening the University of Scouting link.

For questions, contact **Asst Scoutmaster Rick Reeley**.

## Help! We need Trained Adult Hikers!

Every February, the High Adventure Team of the LA council teaches a class called "Backpack Leader Training". In order to qualify for awards for our weekend and Long Term hikes, it is required that the Hike Leader has this training. Most of the adults that hike with us have attended this class, but we are always in constant need for more. If you have not taken this class and intent to hike with us in the future, please plan to go. The class is usually taught the third weekend in February, so save this weekend on your calendar. The class starts on Friday evening at 8:00, and lasts all day Saturday, and ends on Sunday at noon. Meals are provided. There is a cost of \$50, but if you go, the troop will probably pay for it! Also, there will be many friendly faces there since 3 of the instructors are from Troop 849!! We really are the premier backpacking and high adventure Troop in Southern California! If you are thinking about going, please contact **Dick Rose, Rich Hoesly, or Tom Thorpe!**

## NIGHT HIKE

Is this the first backpack trip of the season or the last? That all depends on how you view the calendar! In any case, it is definitely one of the most fun weekends of the year. We will head out on a Friday night and hike to our campsite by the light of the moon and stars. The weekend promises to be full of activities such as patrol competitions, outdoor cooking, and advancement opportunities. We will return on Sunday in the early afternoon. Exact location has not been determined at this time but past sights have been Valley Forge and Henninger Flats. Contact **Mr. Rolandelli** for more information.