

Troop 849 Newsletter

December 2006

www.troop849.org



CURRENT CALENDAR

- Dec 5 – Hike Prep (Night Hike)
- Dec 7 – Neighbor to Neighbor
Distribute Holiday Gift Bags
- Dec 8-10 – **Night Hike – Valley Forge**
- Dec 12 – Troop Meeting(Greenbar)– Troop Fun Night
- Dec 19 – No Meeting – Happy Holidays
- Dec 26 – No Meeting – Happy Holidays
- Dec 28 – Troop Committee Meeting
- Jan 2 – Troop Meeting
- Jan 9 – Hike Prep (Rocket Hike)
- Jan 13-14 – Rocket Hike
- Jan 16 – Troop Meeting
- Jan 23 – Troop Meeting
- Jan 30 – Troop Meeting(Greenbar)



SPL CORNER

Hi everyone, Tim Breen here. Something I would like you guys to think about is participation. This is an important concept we don't really talk about anymore. We want you guys to all have the opportunity to participate. However, if you show up to a meeting, we *expect* you to participate. If you show up and fool around, then you're definitely not participating. Even if you just show up and sit around, you're not necessarily participating. You can participate by listening actively, answering questions and helping to instruct others, and, most importantly, by setting a *good example*. So, if you come to a meeting, come ready to be at the meeting; participate. Be a good role model, even to your fellow Scouts.

"We never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it." -- Robert Baden-Powell



COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNER

The troop's annual re-registration process has gotten off to a late start this year. You will soon be receiving the usual letter with a short form to complete and return with your check. I would really appreciate a quick turnaround this year by everyone who is re-registering for 2007. You can either have your son bring the form and check to the Troop meetings of Dec. 5 or 12, or you can mail them to me in the return envelope provided. Thank you in advance for handling this quickly.

And thanks also goes out to those of you who have donated to "Friends of Troop 849, Inc." If you didn't recently receive a separate letter on this subject, let me know as our mailing data base may need some tweaking.

Have a great Holiday season!

--Don McLellan

ROCKET HIKE

The Rocket Hike is a yearly event when Troop 849 invites the Senior Webelos to come along and participate with the troop in an overnight camping event. On Saturday, Troop 849 scouts will teach the Webelos various scouting skills including orienteering, rock climbing, knot tying, backpacking, campfire building, and football. If you would like to lead an event, contact Ted Andreas. The highlight of the weekend will be the launching of model rockets on Sunday morning. We will leave the scouthouse at 7:00 am 1/12/07. Hope to see you there!

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR GIFT BAGS

The holidays are around the corner and Troop 849 is going into its fourth year of participating in the **Neighbor 2 Neighbor** program. Our scouts, parents and siblings make this event a success in our community, by helping and providing meals to those in need. This is an ongoing yearly program, meeting the first Thursday of the month.

This year, our gift bag program will begin by collecting toiletries at our upcoming scout meetings **until November 21st**. At that time the scouts will package the bags for the gift giving at community service dinner on **Thursday December 7th**. We will need to collect the small sample bottles of shampoo, tooth paste & brushes, lip balm, soap, gym socks, small combs and shaving razors; these will all be placed in a baggie. Thanks for your participation and showing the meaning of scout spirit. If you have any questions please call **John Gunderman** or **Asst. Scout Master Michael Tauber**.

ADVANCEMENTS

1st Class – **Ricky Hoft**

Tenderfoot – **AJ Shoemaker**

Scout – **AJ Lovetere, Peter Simonsen, Mitchel Trainof**

TRAIL TIPS

In this column I'll pass on a few tips to make your hiking experience a little more pleasant. This month the focus is on your backpack.

Tip #1 - Reduce the weight of your pack. We'll have more to say on this later, but for now use lots of plastic bags and take only what you need.

Tip #2 - Be consistent in where you put things in your pack so you'll be able to find them. This is especially helpful after sunset.

Tip #3 - Pack the heaviest items near your body and at the top of the pack. This will help keep the pack from falling "backward". It will also reduce the pressure on your shoulder straps and help you keep your center of gravity where you can more easily control it.

-Tom Thorpe

NEW EAGLE SCOUTS

This month Troop 849 acquired two new eagle scouts! Sean Ortega and Ryan Williams have succeeded in reaching the end of the path of achievement.

For his eagle project, Sean traveled to Madrona Marsh, where he and his team cleaned trash and weeds. For Ryan's project, he beautified some gardens at Pacific Elementary.

Congratulations to these two scouts for their major accomplishments.

NEW MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Bernard, father of scout Tanner Bernard, has just become an approved merit badge counselor for Environmental Science, Lifesaving, Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, and Architecture.

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 **Friday, December 8th** and hike down to Valley Forge campground 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, December 10th in the early afternoon. Contact **Mr. Rolandelli** for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

January – Rocket Hike

February - Winter Camp

March - Rock Climbing Hike
Eagle Court of Honor