



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

December 2, 2003; Volume 8, Issue 10

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A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal,
Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave,
Clean and Reverent.

December Activities

Responsible Patrol: Lakotas
Theme: Recruiting/Fundraising

Troop and Patrol Meetings

There are no troop meetings scheduled for December 16 or December 23.

Tree Lot Clean Up

Clean up and take down of the tree lot located at Super America (Hwy 212/Flying Cloud Drive) will take place on Tuesday, December 30 at 6 p.m. Scouts and adults are encouraged to assist.

December Court Of Honor

The Court of Honor is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9. This is a change from December 16. Come help celebrate our Scouts' achievements!

All Scouts are expected to be in the full Class A uniform. A sign-up sheet will be available at the December 2 meeting, requesting adults to bring beverages, appetizers and desserts.

ABC Foundation Wish List by Jase Engelhart

This is the fourth year that I am asking Troop 695 to get involved in a "wish list" drive for the ABC Foundation. The Eden Prairie ABC Foundation is a community organization that brings qualified, highly motivated minority students from all over the United States to Eden Prairie High School for their freshman through senior years.

This non-profit organization relies on private contributions and does not seek or receive taxpayer money or other forms of aid or assistance from the government. All donations made to the ABC Foundation are tax deductible.

As you can see, the wish list is made up of many necessities along with other more entertainment-oriented items. It could be a great patrol service project to buy some of the items; however, donations are not limited to patrols, feel free to donate as a family or an individual too. I will collect donations during the Troop meetings in December. Thank you for your support in this service to the community.

Laundry Detergent	Spaghetti Sauce	Frosting
Dryer sheets	Velveeta Cheese	Marshmallows
Spot Remover	Cheeses and Cheese	Cereal
Bleach	Whiz	Fun Snack Items (Fun
	Boxed Potatoes	Fruits, Chips,
Liquid Dish Soap	Instant Stuffing Mixes	PopTarts, Granola
Dishwasher Detergent		Bars,etc.)
Tabs	BBQ Sauce, Ketchup,	Jams/Jelly
	Mustard and other	
Toilet Paper	condiments	Canned Juice/Juice
Kleenex	Popcorn	Boxes
	Graham Crackers	Coffee/Hot Chocolate
Paper Towels	Snack Crackers/Bars	Mix/Tea
Napkins	Baking mixes	Powdered Drink Mixes
Paper Plates		(lemonade)
Aluminum Foil		
Kitchen Plastic Wrap		
Freezer Zip Loc Bags		
Trash Bags		

Calendar of Events

December 2	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Aluminum Can Recycling; Board of Review
December 9	Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm) – NOTE DATE CHANGE
December 16	NO MEETING -- CANCELLED
December 21	Tree Lot Closes
December 23	NO MEETING – HAPPY HOLIDAY!
December 30	Tree Lot Clean-Up (6 pm)
January 9-11	NRA Certified Rifle and Shotgun Instructor Training
January 16 – 18	Winter Survival Campout, Tomahawk SnoBase
January 25	Webelos Winter Survival @ Staring Lake (10 am - 1 pm)
January 29	District Dinner, 6:30 pm (location to be announced)
February 27-29	Merit Badge Madness
June 20	Philmont Trek begins
July 18-24	Many Point

"A Scout is Helpful.
Not just sometimes but
all the time."
Scoutmaster Brennaman



Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brennaman

The Holiday Season is upon us and many of you are already thinking about the Winter Break from school in three weeks. This is always a favorite time of year for all of us what with good food, family visits, and of all the festivities. But is it is also a time for thinking about others and looking to see what the Season really means for all of us.

As I see it... This time of year we have a chance to see others in times of trouble and need and we usually take action: give food to the local food bank, drop a few coins in the Salvation Army collection bucket, and maybe give a little extra at church or synagogue. These are good things to do and I encourage each of you to remember to give as you are able. But I challenge each of to do something a little extra.

One of life's lessons is to help others in their time of need. We can always something to do for them: bring in the newspaper for an elderly couple when there is snow and ice on the driveway, shoveling the sidewalk for the same couple without being asked, or offering to walk someone's dog on a cold day when you are outside playing. These are little things all of us can do that will bring light into someone's life.

The problem with this approach is we only do it for a short period of time then the season passes and we go back to our daily routine and really don't see the need that is still there.

That is where being a Boy Scout takes over. *A Scout is Helpful.* Not just sometimes but all the time.

I encourage each Scout to start at home this Holiday season. Look for things to help Mom or Dad or even a brother or sister, and do these things *without* being asked. Imagine the surprised and pleased looks you will get....

Let's help one another this season and going forward. The feeling will spread and maybe we can make a difference. Set the example of how to be a helpful Scout who does things for others willingly and with a smile.

I am proud to be a Scouter and an American.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES by Jason Smoliak, Troop Guide

This past month the **Bald Eagles** went camping with the troop to southern Minnesota on a very cold weekend. In the cold hills of Forestville State Park, the **Bald Eagles** came out on a very cold night. So cold, in fact, that they had to put Nalgene's full of steaming hot water in their sleeping bags every night that weekend! Two of the **Bald Eagles** distinguished themselves as very good cooks, *Julian* and *Willie*. Their skills were so good in fact that Mr. Brennaman abandoned his patrol to come eat some delicious spaghetti!

Things that they cooked include:

- Saturday MorningEggs & Sausage
- Saturday Afternoon..... Sandwiches
- Saturday Night (Famous) Spaghetti
- Sunday Morning Oatmeal

The **Bald Eagles** also took part in a very productive service project. On Saturday afternoon, with the help of the Falcon patrol, they went out in search of acorns, walnuts and other nuts that will someday create a new forest! Even though the campout was very cold, the **Bald Eagles** found ways to stay warm. Football and sword fighting were probably the best afternoon warm-ups, and at night they played games like fugitive. The campout was a blast and the **Bald Eagles** are ready for the January campout to SnoBase. But be warned, it's a lot colder in January!

FALCONS: Dan Polta, Patrol Leader

HUSKIES by Ross Sherman, Patrol Leader
The Huskies are thinking of places to visit for high adventure. Some of our ideas are the Black Hills, Glacier National Park, Oregon, Island Royal and Colorado. We are also working on advancements for scouts. I have heard good things about the people on the campouts that they were having fun.

LAKOTAS by McLeod Brennaman, Patrol Leader
The Lakotas aren't doing anything special this month, just the tree lot and going to meetings. Congratulations to David Camerino on passing his Eagle Board of Review. Taylor Nelson is next in the line for Eagle with Derek Clemmings coming in soon. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

WOLVERUNNERS: John Lewis, Patrol Leader

RAPTORS: Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader

Merit Badge Madness Is Coming by Derrick Poirier

What is it? We devote the month of February to working on merit badges. A mixture of Eagle-required and optional badges will be offered.

How does it work? Scouts will sign up for badges they want to work on (sign up sheets coming soon). We will work on requirements during the troop meetings in February and then stay at Camp St. Croix the weekend of February 27-29 for merit badge classes and skiing/snowboarding at Afton Alps.

Camping in February? We stay in heated cabins and have in door meeting space. Meals are provided by the camp and eaten in the dining hall. No tents! No cooking! No washing dishes!

How can parents help? We need councilors to teach classes and help the scouts lay out plans to finish badges with long-term requirements. A tentative list of badges follows. Please contact Derrick Poirier if you are interested in teaching or co-teaching one of these badges. Feel free to suggest any other badge that you would like to teach. This is a great opportunity to work with the boys that doesn't involve sleeping in a tent! In fact, Camp St. Croix is located in nearby Hudson, WI making it possible to "commute" to classes if you can't get away for the whole weekend.

Possible badges to be offered (* denotes eagle-required):

- 1) Snow Sports
- 2) Art
- 3) Computers
- 4) Electricity
- 5) Radio
- 6) Auto Mechanics
- 7) Law
- 8) Fire Safety
- 9) Atomic Energy
- 10) Citizenship in the World *
- 11) Citizenship in the Community*
- 12) Citizenship in the Nation*
- 13) Emergency Preparedness*
- 14) Communications*
- 15) Personal Management*
- 16) Personal Fitness*

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the January issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, January 4. You may email your articles to her at songle@mn.rr.com.

The Reconnaissance

Misplaced your copy of *The Reconnaissance* or you weren't able to attend a recent meeting to get your copy? *The Reconnaissance* is now on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "monthly newsletter".

Troop Roster Updates

~ Clemmings e-mail addresses:
Debra: dclommings@mn.rr.com
Derek: lotusrunner@mn.rr.com
John: jclommings@mn.rr.com
~ Hanson: delete Barbara's work number & e-mail address, add cell phone (612-710-4133)
~ Weegmann:
Linda: change work # to 763-504-8329 & add e-mail (lweegmann@quest.net)
Guy: delete work #, cell # & e-mail Add cell (952-212-8996)

Scout Achievements

Congratulations to:
~ Jason Engelhart and Patrick Elgin for AP Scholar with Distinction Award (for earning an average grade of at least a 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams)
~ George DeBeck for AP Scholar Award (for completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher)
~ the following scouts who were inducted into the National Honor Society last month: Ryan Bailey, David Markman, and Taylor Wegner
~ Adam Bissonette for finishing 1st (out of 200) in the elementary division (K-6) of the School Chess Association's Field Open Tournament on November 8

Wreath Sales Update

November 16 was a busy day at the Hanson house. That was pick-up day for the many 25", 36" and 60" wreaths and door sprays that were sold by our Scouts.

Many thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Barbara Hanson for coordinating this fundraiser.

Popcorn Sales Update

Thanks to all who participated. Troop sales totaled just over \$2,000. Congratulations to John Lewis II and Erik Blomgren who each had sales totaling over \$800. Prizes will be distributed to participating Scouts at the December 2nd meeting.

As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners,
be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.

Recruiting Update by Kevin Opitz

Senior Webelo recruiting is still underway. Our last recruiting event will be held on Sunday, January 25 at Staring Lake from 10 am until 1 pm. Webelos will join our Scouts for a morning of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice bowling and winter survival tips.

An open invitation has also been extended to all Senior Webelos to attend our troop meeting on December 2 and our Court of Honor on December 9. Please remember that your Class A uniform is mandatory and all visitors are potential scouts for our troop.

If you need additional information regarding recruiting, please contact Kevin Opitz (Webelos Activities Chair) (home: 952.975.0580 or email kopitz@mn.rr.com) or Don Qually: home: 952.975.0580 or email: qmcqually@worldnet.att.net)

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District News

New District Executive. Welcome to Matt Rowan, the new Mustang District Executive. Matt has been involved in scouting his entire life, earning his Eagle Scout Award. Matt is married to Ginny, a teacher, and has been working with the Three Rivers District for the past year and a half. His hobbies include spending time outdoors and everything baseball. Matt is originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, and graduated from DePauw University. He is extremely excited about serving the Mustang District and is available to answer any questions you may have. Matt is also looking for suggestions to develop positive experiences for the Scouts in Mustang District! You can reach Matt by telephone at (763) 545-4550 or by email at mrowan@bsaemail.org.



District office closed December 24 and 25 and January 1 and January 19.

Eagle Updates



Congratulations to McLeod Brennaman. His paperwork came back from the National Office and he is now officially an Eagle Scout.

Congratulations to David Camerino on passing his Eagle Board of Review.

Troop Leadership Openings

The following leadership opportunities are available in the troop:

- Chaplain's Aide
- Bugler
- Troop OA Representative
- Fire Safety Instructor
- Knife & Ax Instructor
- Camping Instructor

Please talk with Mr. Brennaman if you are interested in any of these opportunities.