



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

November 4, 2003; Volume 8, Issue 9

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

November Activities

Responsible Patrol: Wolverunners Theme: Spelunking

Troop Campout

November's campout will be held 11/7-9 at Forestville State Park in southern Minnesota. In addition to hiking, there will be a tour of Niagara Cave. For those attending, please bring along something orange to wear! See article on p. 4 regarding suggested winter camping gear. There is no school on Friday so we will be leaving early and attendees need to be at Prairie Lutheran at 2:15 p.m. Refer to the campout permission slip or contact John Lewis or Derrick Poirier with any questions.

Troop and Patrol Meetings

Spelunking is the theme for November with the Wolverunners providing activities for the Troop. A few items planned will be presentations on cold weather camping (Mr. Haggerty) and cave formations (Mr. Tinucci). On November 18, guest speaker, LeRoy Pomraning, will share winter camping adventure stories with the Troop and will also bring along gear he uses for skiing/camping treks in the BWCA. Mr. Pomraning is an expert winter camper.

Tree Lot

Set up of the tree lot located at Super America (212/Flying Cloud) will take place on Friday, November 21 beginning at 6 p.m. All scouts are encouraged to assist. The lot will open on November 22 at 9 a.m. Weekend shifts are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 1 to 5 p.m.; and 5 to 9 p.m. The weekday shift runs from 6 to 9 p.m., with the exception of Friday, November 28 which will operate as a weekend shift. Each scout is responsible for working several shifts. Shift sign-up sheets will be available at each troop meeting beginning in November. The lot is open through December 21. Scouts are again encouraged to assist with clean up of the lot on Tuesday, December 30. The troop meeting on Tuesday, November 25 will take place at the tree lot for training.

Wreath Pickup/Sales

Scouts who turned in wreath orders are reminded that all items will be available for pick up between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 16 at Barbara Hanson's house (6445 Grand View Drive). Maps are available in Eric Hanson's ship. We have a few extra items available: 25", 36" and 60" wreaths and door sprays. Please call Barbara at (952) 937-5905 if you would like to purchase any or if you need to make alternative arrangements for pick up.

Popcorn Pickup

Scouts who turned in popcorn orders are reminded that their order will be available for pick up between 9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 15 at the Smoliaks (15019 Village Woods Drive, Eden Prairie). Please contact Marthy at (952) 937-0379 if you have any questions.

Calendar of Events

- November 4 SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Aluminum Can Recycling; Board of Review
- November 7-9 Troop Campout to Forestville State Park
- November 15 Popcorn Pick-Up at Smoliaks (9 to 10 a.m.)
- November 15 Shed Inventory and Repair (9 a.m.)
- November 16 Wreath Pick-Up at Hansons (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- November 17 Webelos Wall Climbing @ REI (6 to 8 p.m.)
- November 18 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- November 21 Xmas Tree Lot Set-up (6 pm) Super America (212/Flying Cloud)
- November 22 Tree Lot Opens
- November 25 Troop Meeting (6:30 pm) at Super America Tree Lot
- November 30 Reconnaissance Articles Due
- December 2 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Aluminum Can Recycling; Board of Review
- December 9 SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Committee Mtg. (7 pm); SM's Mtg. (8 pm)
- December 16 Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm)
- December 21 Tree Lot Closes
- December 30 Tree Lot Clean-Up (6 pm)
- January 16 - 18 Winter Survival Campout (tentative)
- January 25 Webelos Winter Survival @ Staring Lake (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- February 27-29 Merit Badge Madness
- June 20 Philmont Trek begins



SDL Report by Derek Clemmings

October was a fun and involved month. The scouts had a great time at the Carly Campground/ Whitewater State Park. Everybody who went enjoyed eating food prepared by a few of the Falcons and Bald Eagles. We also went on a hike on some of the trails in and around the park. We encountered some rain but overall it was a fun trip. Another thing that happened during October is Lakota, Taylor Nelson held his Eagle project over a span of three days. He put in water jugs and equipment bins. I hope all went well and will continue to go well for Taylor on his eagle project.

Committee Chair Chat by Mark Jennen

Things are going well for troop 695 as we head into another year. We are settling into our new home at Prairie Lutheran Church. We had a very successful campout in September. We were fortunate enough to get two crews for Philmont next summer.

To help get the equipment up-to-date for the coming year, we need some volunteer help. On November 15 we will be painting and reroofing the troop shed, as well as checking and inventorying our equipment. Please join us on Saturday, November 15 at 9:00 a.m. at Prairie Lutheran Church.

Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brenneman

First snow today!!!! Pretty soon most of you will be out at the snowboard park trying your rusty skills out as you brave the winter elements. McLeod tells me snowboarding is great but that I would kill myself if I tried it. I believe him....

As I see it......being brave is not just an idle line in the Scout Law. You can be brave in many ways without risking life or limb in mortal combat with an enemy or flying downhill on a snowboard. Bravery comes in many forms and not always easy to do even if you are not at risk.

Physical bravery is just that, doing something that makes you uncomfortable or even a little dangerous. Good judgment on your part, following rules put down by your parents, teachers, coaches, or adult leaders will make most of your challenges easier and make being brave a cinch. But, just understand your limitations.

There are other kinds of bravery that are more difficult to do than running with scissors or jumping over a deep creek on a campout. I am talking about the bravery needed to do the right thing when everyone around you is putting pressure on you to do something that is wrong or not what you want to do. Being able to say NO! can be the bravest thing you do or say since it may mean that your friends may think you are judging them. You are not judging them; you are just making a better decision based upon your values and beliefs.

Let's be brave together. Set the example for others to follow rather than follow a less capable individual whose values are "less" brave than yours.

I am proud to be a Scouter and an American.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES PL: Kyle Kronlokken
FALCONS PL: Dan Polta
HUSKIES PL: Ross Sherman
LAKOTAS PL: Kevin Elgin
WOLVERUNNERS PL: John Lewis
RAPTORS PL: Eric Gatto

Geology Merit Badge

Did the presentation on cave formations peak your interest. You can learn more by earning your Geology Merit Badge. Geology is the science that studies the earth and the rocks it is made of and the changes and processes the earth has had and is now experiencing. Geology Merit Badge Counselors are Dan Segersin and John Tinucci.

ATTENTION PATROLS –

Patrols who participated in the Scouting for Food program on November 1 should submit a summary of their service hours for credit

Troop Leadership Reports

Quartermaster Report by Josh Isaacs

Hi, my name is Josh Isaacs, and I'm your new quartermaster. I would like to be the best Quartermaster you've ever had. If you have any questions, just ask me, email me at dtei@mn.rr.com, or call me at (952) 941-4270. I will make this the best six months I can. I would also like any suggestions for new equipment we may need this coming year.

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.

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the December issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, November 30. 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".

No Troop Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of Each Month – There is no troop meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Troop leadership will use that Tuesday for their meetings. **No troop meeting on November 11.**

Scout Account – All scouts have the opportunity of earning money by working the concession stands at Flying Cloud and Staring Lake. This past summer, scouts earned an average of \$8.50 an hour at Staring Lake and \$12 at Flying Cloud.

Reconnaissance is a monthly publication (no issues July and August) of Boy Scout Troop 695 chartered at
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Make A Difference

Merit Badge Counselors Needed by Barbara Hanson

We still have many opportunities for *Merit Badge Counselors*. Qualifications for being a merit badge counselor include being at least 18 years old, having an interest in helping scouts earn their badges and having at least a passing interest in the topic. You do not necessarily have to be an expert in the area. Benefits of being a counselor include working with scouts and maybe learning a something.

If you have already signed up to be a counselor, you will need to complete a Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet and be registered with the council. If you would like to be a merit badge counselor, please let Barbara Hanson (937-5905) know. We are currently listing up to three people per merit badge. There is no limit to the number of badge topics you may counsel.

Thank You

Many thanks to the following individuals who have taken on new roles in the troop:
Marthy Smoliak ~ popcorn sales
Barbara Hanson ~ wreath sales
Dan Polta ~ web page (in transition) and Eagle Boards of Review
Lisa Songle ~ Reconnaissance
Julie Sherman ~ Committee Chair (in-training, term officially begins in April)
John Wolfgram ~ Treasurer
Don Qually ~ Webelos Recruiting

AND

Many thanks to our outgoing *Reconnaissance* editor, Betsy Elgin, who served our troop cheerfully and tirelessly for many years. Thank you. You have been wonderful!!!!!!

Recruiting Update by Kevin Opitz

Senior Webelo recruiting is well underway. Troop 695 participated in two Eden Prairie Troop Information Nights in October that provides Webelos the opportunity to visit several troops in one evening and at one location. Thanks to the following scouts and adults who helped make these events successful: Jake Brown, Derek Clemmings, Don Qually, Dan/Joe Polta, John/John Lewis, Jake/Derrick Poirier, Brett/Greg Williamson and Tyler/Kevin Opitz. Special thanks to Derek Clemmings and Tyler Opitz for representing our troop. A Webelo who attended came up after the meeting and made the comment that while all troops indicate they are "boy-run", ours was the only troop that had the scouts doing the talking!

Our first solo event of the year to showcase our troop was the Fall Outdoor Warm-Up on October 25. Several Webelos joined us for games and outdoor activities. Thanks to the following scouts and adult volunteers who participated: Ben Cooper, Andrew Songle, Scott/Mark Jennen, Jase/Becky Engelhart and Kevin Opitz. Special recognition to Junior Assistant Scoutmaster Jase Engelhart who planned, organized and ran most of this event.

Our next event will be held on Monday, November 17 – an evening at REI for wall climbing. Here Webelos will learn how to wear a harness, belay, and rappel under qualified supervision. Contact Kevin Opitz (home: 952.975.0580 or email kopitz@mn.rr.com) or Don Qually (home: 952.975.0580 or email: qmcqually@worldnet.att.net) if you are interested in attending this event.

An open invitation has been extended to all Senior Webelos to attend our troop meetings on December 2 and December 9 and our Court of Honor on December 16. Please remember that your Class A uniform is mandatory and all visitors are potential scouts for our troop.

Our last recruiting event for the year will be held on Sunday, January 25 at Staring Lake. Webelos will join our scouts for a morning of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice bowling and winter survival tips.

If you need additional information regarding recruiting, please contact Kevin Opitz (Webelos Activities Chair) or Don Qually.

DISTRICT NEWS

Den Chief Training – Training for Den Chiefs will take place on Saturday, November 8 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Viking Council Service Center Boardroom (5300 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis). Please contact Matt Rowan at 763.545.4550 ext. 1159 or fill out the online registration form at www.vikingbsa.org/districts/Mustang/chief.asp to reserve your spot.



SUGGESTED WINTER CAMPING PACKING LIST

Always pack for one season colder than expected weather conditions.

- ___ SNOW PANTS (preferred) or nylon shell pants with non-cotton "Polar Fleece" Sweat Pants under
- ___ BACKPACK (line your pack with a lawn bag first to keep contents dry)
- ___ 100% POLYPROPYLENE LONG UNDERWEAR tops (wear directly against skin) and bottoms
- ___ 2 pair BRIEFS or BOXERS
- ___ 2 LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS, No Cotton! (Wool or synthetic fiber for good insulating quality and quick drying.)
- ___ 2 HEAVY WOOL SWEATERS, or POLAR FLEECE SWEATSHIRTS, No Cotton!
- ___ 1 extra pair SNOW PANTS, No Cotton! (or extra nylon shell pants)
- ___ 2-3 pair POLYPRO INNER SOCK LINERS, No Cotton! (prevent blisters and keep your feet cool in the summer)
- ___ 3 pair HEAVY-DUTY SYNTHETIC or WOOL HIKING SOCKS, No Cotton! (year-around use) (Make sure boots are NOT TIGHT!)
- ___ STURDY, INSULATED, NON-LEATHER WINTER BOOTS (Rubber is much better than leather. Leather will likely freeze at night)
- ___ PLASTIC BAGS (to go under socks in case of wet boots—newspaper "rain" wrappers, bread wrappers, or regular plastic grocery bags)
- ___ WINTER GLOVES or MITTENS (as many as you own and can borrow!)
- ___ PLASTIC or RUBBER GLOVES (food handling, examination, or dishwashing gloves—to go under regular gloves if they all get wet).
- ___ WARM JACKET, SCARF, No Cotton!
- ___ 2 WARM HATS (One for sleeping ONLY—sleeping hat should be designed to stay on at night).
- ___ WINTER SLEEPING BAG (or 2 summer sleeping bags stuffed one inside the other; or summer sleeping bag AND three (3) blankets
- ___ ADDITIONAL SWEAT PANTS & SWEAT SHIRT (for sleeping only! Change all your clothes inside your sleeping bag when go to bed)
- ___ TWO (2) CLOSED-CELL FOAM SLEEPING PADS (prefer NO air mattresses)
- ___ WATERPROOF "BLUE" TARP -- 5'X7' (or other heavy plastic ground sheet)
- ___ SIX (6) additional LARGE heavy-duty plastic lawn bags (Important! to keep your stuff dry in emergencies! Clear plastic preferred)
- ___ BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK in a Zip-Lock bag.
- ___ GOOD QUALITY WHISTLE on neck chain (do not buy a cheap whistle)
- ___ POCKETKNIFE, small enough to wear around neck (a small Swiss Army Knife)
- ___ MESS-KIT (BOWL, CUP, FORK, SPOON, PLATE -- heavy-duty plastic or metal)
- ___ 2 ONE-QUART WATER BOTTLES, filled (wide-mouth "Nalgene" Bottles can be filled with hot water for inside sleeping bag at night)
- ___ FLASHLIGHT, & EXTRA BATTERIES (Can be any style, but a headlamp enables use of both hands)
- ___ SMALL FIRST AID KIT (You can make your own: BSA Handbook)
- ___ PEN, PENCIL & PAPER, SMALL NOTEBOOK
- ___ 50 FEET NYLON PARACHUTE CORD
- ___ COMPASS with a BASEPLATE, in a Zip-Lock bag
- ___ MATCHES, LIGHTERS, in a Zip-Lock bag. (and/or "HOT SPARK" -- \$1.60 at Scout Shop)
- ___ CLEAN-UP KIT (small hand soap, small toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, floss, fast-drying camp towel)
- ___ TOILET PAPER (Half a roll in a Zip-Lock bag)

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- ___ SIX (6) or more 2-GALLON HEAVY-DUTY ZIP-LOCK BAGS (To keep your clothes and gear organized and dry)
- ___ RUNNING SHOES, MOCCASINS, and/or WATER SHOES
- ___ REPAIR KIT (small duct tape, needle & thread, safety pins, batteries, extra buckles & straps, parts for your equipment)
- ___ SUN GLASSES (UV-Proof required for winter camping -- prevents snow blindness)
- ___ OLD WORK GLOVES (for working with trees & tools, hot pots & pans)
- ___ OPTIONAL EXTRA SET OF DRY CLOTHES TO LEAVE IN CAR (in an extra bag)
- ___ BANDANAS (a million uses)
- ___ COMPRESSION STUFF SACKS (reduces size of sleeping bag or other bulky things)
- ___ FISHING OR BACKPACKING VEST (Best way to be sure that you always have your 10 Essentials and Survival Gear with you.)
- ___ EXTRA BAG FOR HEAVY ACCESSORIES (camera/film, magnifying glass, nature identification books, binoculars, prayer book or Bible)

"Being able to say NO! can be the bravest thing you do or say since it may mean that your friends may think you are judging them. You are not judging them; you are just making a better decision based upon your values and beliefs." Scoutmaster Brenneman.