



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

April 13, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 4

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Bulletin Board | 2 |
| Council/District News | 2 |
| Calendar of Events | 2 |
| Scoutmaster's Corner | 4 |
| Troop Leadership Reports | 4 |
| Patrol News | 4 |
| Rank Advancements | 5 |
| Many Point | 5 |
| Merit Badge Process | 5 |
| Scout Achievement | 6 |
| QM2=E | 6 |
| April-May Calendars | 7-8 |

Annual Spring Cleaning

Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m – 1 p.m. (weather permitting)

You are all invited to our annual troop spring cleaning. Please come and help get us ready for our new and exciting 2004/05 outdoor season!

We have four major project work groups. It will all take some time to complete all these projects so your help is needed. Painting the patrol boxes and getting the new trailers ready may take longer (due to paint dry times, extra supply runs, etc.). The Wolverunners & Falcons will be prepping the Flying Cloud concession stand with Jeff Shawd. Adult crew leaders are indicated below with the patrols that are to help them. Adult help is needed as well.

Spring Cleaning Continued, Page 3

April Activities: Cooking/Biking Responsible Patrol: Bald Eagles

Troop and Patrol Meetings

Cooking and Biking are the themes for April. The Bald Eagles have planned several activities for the month, including an introduction to cooking and the opportunity to work on the Cooking Merit Badge. First year Scouts will be working to complete their fitness testing for Tenderfoot and planning for their first campout. At the April 27 meeting, the troop will be biking around Staring Lake, with several stations set-up along the trail. Scouts will have the opportunity to work on their Cycling Merit Badge during this meeting. Look for more information in your ship on this activity.

Troop Campout

April's campout will be held at Stearns in the Heritage campsite from April 23-25. We will be loading from Prairie Lutheran Church at 5:45 pm with a 6 pm departure. We will be returning to Staring Lake (upper lot) between 10:30 and 11 am on Sunday. Cost to attend is \$12. Permission slips (available at www.troop695.org) need to be turned in to Casey Quinn or Willie McNee. Planned activities are a 3-mile hike for new Scouts, biking, Council Campfire, Order of the Arrow, Peach Cobbler (yum!!!). **Please remember to bring you bike!!** Additional Note: Please be aware that Stearns will shut down the camp if the potential Fire Danger is high for the safety of the Scouts. Scouts attending will be notified if we receive a cancellation from Stearns.

Scouting For Food is Coming on April 24!

This is the annual Cub Scout / Boy Scout campaign to acquire food donations to stock Minnesota food shelves. Participation will be counted as service hours toward rank advancement. Since our troop is camping that weekend, we are partnering with Cub Scout pack 342.

- Our job is to distribute food donation bags to the homes in our assigned area near Prairie View Elementary (north of Duck Lake Trail, south of 62, east of 101 and west of Eden Prairie Road).
- Patrol leaders or patrol coaches will be assigned a neighborhood and issued bags.
- Your patrol should then coordinate a time before April 24 to distribute bags to the houses in your assigned neighborhood.
- The Cub Scouts will pick up the donations on Saturday morning, April 24.

Not going on the campout? We need Boy Scouts to help the new Tiger Cub dens that are doing scouting for food for the first time. Any T695 scouts not going on the campout who are able to help on the 24th, should contact Jessica Poirier with P342 (934-8567, jpoirier@mn.rr.com) to be partnered with a den.

Some facts: One out of 21 Minnesotans use food shelves – half are children, 20% are seniors. An estimated 20,000 Scouts and leaders from the greater metro area will approach 500,000 homes requesting donations. Last year, 332,980 pounds of food were collected during Scouting For Food. This year's goal is 500,000 pounds!

Questions? Contact Derrick Poirier at 934-8567.

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 May issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, May 2. 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 on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "Monthly Newsletter".

Advancement Contacts

- Merit badges - Glenn Vanic
 - Boards of Review - Pam Thuleen
 - Eagle Boards of Review - Joe Polta
 - Other - Nancy Madsen or Mark Fairbrother
- Contact information can be found in your Roster.

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

Prairie Lutheran Church
11000 Blossom Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Scoutmaster:

Steve Brennaman (952) 942-0407

Committee Chair:

Julie Arthur Sherman (952) 934-5731

Reconnaissance Editor:

Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803

Email: songle@mn.rr.com

Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org



Mustang District

Council and District News

Homestay Opportunity -- Norwegian Scouts to visit Minnesota. On June 27, 2004, 36 Norwegian Scouts and Scout leaders will arrive in Minnesota to attend Many Point Scout Camp from June 28-July 3. After leaving camp, they will spend 3 days in Spicer, Minnesota at the home of Jon and Sophie Pederson before going to Minneapolis/Saint Paul to stay with American Scouts and their families until July 9 when they leave for Los Angeles. They will leave for Norway on July 17. If you, or someone you know, can provide a quality "home stay" for these Norwegian Scouts, please call Jon Pederson at 612-325-3669 (cell) or 612-378-9385 (office). Tusen Takk!

Uniform Exchange – On the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday evenings of each month, volunteers operate a uniform exchange at the Viking Council office, 5300 Glenwood Avenue. Call the Council office at 763.545.4550 to confirm the exchange is open. The Council also accepts uniforms which can be dropped off at the Council Information Desk.

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------|--|
| April 13 | Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Flying Cloud training; aluminum can recycling; Board of Review |
| April 17 | Troop and Flying Cloud Spring Cleaning (9 am – 1 pm) |
| April 19 | Scouting For Food Bag Drop-Off (week of) |
| April 20 | SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Council Awards Dinner, Metropolitan Ballroom |
| April 23-25 | Troop Campout, Stearns; PLC Mtg. at Campout; Scouting for Food |
| April 27 | NO TROOP MEETING; Committee & PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); SM's Mtg. (7 pm); Gathering of Eagles Dinner |
| May 1 | Prairie Lutheran Church Clean-Up (9 am – 1 pm) |
| May 2 | <i>Reconnaissance</i> Articles Due |
| May 4 | Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review |
| May 6 | OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm) |
| May 11 | Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm) |
| May 15 | Armed Forces Day – Display American Flag |
| May 18 | SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist |
| May 21-23 | Troop Campout |
| May 25 | NO TROOP MEETING; Committee & PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); SM's Mtg. (7 pm) |
| May 30 | <i>Reconnaissance</i> Articles Due |
| June 1 | Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review |
| June 3 | OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm) |
| June 4-6 | Troop Campout, Rum River |
| June 8 | Troop Court of Honor |

"Even with a good attitude some things are difficult to do but at least with a good attitude our actions will reflect our caring to do something the right way."
Scoutmaster Brennaman

Thank You

- Steve Brennaman, Scoutmaster
- Mark Jennen, Committee Chair
- Rob Smith, Finance Chair
- Lorraine Nickels, Advancement Chair
- Betsy Elgin, Records Chair
- Walt Cooper, Activities Chair
- Betsy Engelhart, Patrol Coach Advisor
- Joe Polta, Barbara Hanson, Mark Kronlokken, Don Qually, Dennis Isaacs, Julie Sherman, Derrick Poirier, Greg Williamson, Mike Gilman, Kevin Opitz, John Clemmings, Rob Smith, Dan Segersin and Beth Smith, Patrol Coaches

Spring Cleaning Continued

WORK GROUPS AND PROJECTS:

1. Trailers

Adult Crew Leaders: Boon Tan & Dennis Isaacs

Patrol(s): Lakotas & Hawks. They are also helping supervise other patrols as needed.

- Design, arraign and build out 2 new 6x6x10 trailers with ridged structure to maximize space, minimize problems and balance load for safety. They need to be a designed and built with a fail safe arrangement. Both trailers should be the same. The new trailers are larger than our previous trailer so we need to ensure that we do not overload or miss load them, a problem we have experienced in the past. Look into installing storage for tarp poles in the trailers to make them easily accessible and lower the weight closer to ground level.
- Install new common keyed pad locks on everything. The new trailers alone will need at least 3 locks each.
- Put one canoe on each trailer.

2) Patrol Boxes

Adult Crew Leader: Don Qually

Patrol(s): Raptors & Bald Eagles

- Power-wash and repaint the patrol boxes, including the new ones.
- Some boxes may need priming before painting (such as the new ones). Minor sanding may be needed. Some boxes may even need 2 coats of paint.
- Re-handle all boxes with user-friendly handles (3/8 rope through piece of garden hose).
- Have each patrol take their stuff home and get everything washed. To be returned on Tuesday and put back in the box.
- Repair/replace damaged & missing items in each box. All but one has been inventoried and tagged.
- Stuff for the new boxes have been ordered and should be in by 4/15 or sooner. There is a smaller modified version which was made out of leftover parts/wood for the adults.

3) Trailer & Shed:

Adult Crew Leader: Kevin Opitz

Patrols(s): Scorpions & Huskies

- Clean out the shed & trailer.
- Toss really old tents, which are noted to be likely not worth saving, but save the tent pegs. (To be done by tent team – see below.)
- Toss old food in bins.
- We have some old stuff like an old Colman liquid fuel stove we have never used (a donation). We should either dispose of it or it could be used in the adult patrol box. Other items should be checked, repaired, or tossed.
- Go through first aid kits (this should be an annual thing).
- Check all the gear in the shed and trailer to make sure everything works. Lanterns (need repaired and tested, we have the parts), tools, etc.
- Ax box needs checked to see if it is in good repair, paint it if so or replace it if not, and make sure it is properly equipped incl. safety rope, axes sharpened, etc.
- Inventory what other items we need such as a toolbox, shovels, brooms, etc.
- Check and repair as needed canoes & canoe trailer.
- Consider putting one of each aluminum canoe on new trailers.
- We can also update our list of things to buy/repair/replace like life jackets, paddles, bins, or whatever.

4) Tents

Adult Crew Leader: Derrick Poirier

Patrol(s): Dragons & Thunder

- Measure and cut all new ground cloths for all the tents.
- Number and ID new tents. (Note: new tents are to be stuffed, Not rolled. Rolling will damage the new tents due to the new lightweight materials used.)
- Finish minor repairs on current tents.
- Go through really old tents and salvage what it worth out of them. (like tent pegs).
- Put tent peg lines on fly's of new tents.

5) Other

- Look at putting concrete slab in front of the shed for looks and mud/mess. Look at minor landscaping of shed for the church. Julie Sherman is going to discuss this with the church and then we can plan accordingly. This is likely to occur at the church clean up day on May 1.

Please come and help! We need scouts and adults to do all these projects. If you have any questions please contact Fred Haggerty.

Thanks in advance to all the adults who have volunteered to lead groups. Get as many assistants as you need to help you. If you need supplies let Fred Haggerty know.

Fred Haggerty, Troop 695 Adult Quartermaster
fhaggerty@mn.rr.com; 952-934-7211 (home); 612-799-9081 (cell)



Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brennaman

What do we have to offer others as we go through life? Money, advice, help doing errands? All of these of course, but there is much more we can offer others in terms of how we lead our lives.

As I see it... We can only control a few things in our lives. Many things that happen around us are the result of other people's actions, acts of nature such as weather or natural events that God sends our way, or things affect us that are the results of our actions and attitudes. In truth, the only things we can control are our actions and our attitude.

Many people go through life complaining about how other people are doing bad things to them and use those things as excuses for not trying harder or not at all. Not a real good attitude to have is it? No, it isn't. Attitudes...everybody has one and even the best of us do not always have good ones. But, for the most part, a scout bounces back quickly and maintains his good attitude. Why? Because a Scout lives by the Scout Law and he will find it very difficult to have a bad attitude if he lives the Scout Law and Oath.

It is not a surprise to find out that our actions are largely determined by our attitudes. If we have a bad attitude about something we may not give something our best effort because we do not see the reason for doing the activity (other than being told to do it by leaders or parents). Even with a good attitude some things are difficult to do but at least with a good attitude our actions will reflect our caring to do something the right way.

Finally, food for thought. My first mentor told me that "The measure of a man's character is defined by what he will do when he knows he will not be held accountable for what he does". So we can control our attitude and our actions even when no one is looking.....but God is.....

I am proud to be a Scouter and American.

Troop Leadership Reports

Quartermaster: Nathan Haggerty -- We received 30 new tents. These are backpacking tents and because of the special lightweight materials, they **MUST NOT BE ROLLED** but are to be **STUFFED LIKE A SLEEPING BAG!**
Reminder: we have a cleanup day this sat. 4/17/04 from 9:00 A.M. to noon. We will have food, please come and help.

Scribe: Andrew Songle -- Hi, my name is Andrew Songle and I am your Troop Scribe for the next six months. I look forward to being the Scribe. Some of my responsibilities will be to keep a logbook of decisions made by the PLC and record attendance at meetings, activities and campouts. I will be assisting the *Reconnaissance* editor by requesting and collecting articles and be working with the Troop Records Chair.

Bugler: Jake Brown
Camping Instructor: Open
Chaplain's Aid: Open
Den Chiefs: Matt Boudreaux and Josh Issacs
Fire Instructor: Open
Historian: Dan Polta
Librarian: Open
Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open
Troop OA Representative: Open
Venture President: Open

Senior Patrol Leader: Taylor Nelson
Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders: Brian Smith and Jason Smoliak

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Evan Fairbrother, Patrol Leader

DRAGONS: Jake Poirier & Brad Madsen, Troop Guides
The Dragon Patrol has almost finished their flag and they are working on Tenderfoot rank. Some of the patrol came to the orientation after the JLT. Those who were there learned how to set up both kinds of tents, cook on stoves and work with the patrol boxes. Jake Poirier

FALCONS: Brian Wunderlich, Patrol Leader

HUSKIES: Ian Vanic, Patrol Leader

LAKOTAS: Nick Smith, Patrol Leader

RAPTORS: Jens Gilman, Patrol Leader

SCORPIONS: Tim Wolfgram & Tyler Herzog, Troop Guides

THUNDER: Ross Sherman & Shane Thuleen, Troop Guides

WOLVERUNNERS: Todd Hayen, Patrol Leader

Rank Advancement

Congratulations to the following scouts who were honored at the March 30, 2004 Court of Honor:

SCOUT:

Tore Anderson, Austin Artz, Ryan Brattensborg, Nate Brown, Drew Churchill, Josh Clifford, Patrick Conklin, Luke Coyer, Kyle Donahoe, David Dummer, Alex Fleagle, Ryan Halpin, Blaine Herbst, Jacob Houterman, David Jennen, Daniel Johnson, Cody Munkvold, Fernando Nunez, David O'Neill, Zachary Poirier, Paul Rairamo, Luke Rouse, William Schauf, Jeran Schmidt, Colin Smith, Daniel Suchsland, Sam Suek and Spencer Toay

SECOND CLASS:

Willie McNee

STAR:

Eric Blomgren, Matt Boudreaux, Tyler Herzog, Ross Sherman and Tim Wolfram

LIFE:

John Lewis, Jake Poirier, Jason Smoliak

EAGLE:

David Camerino and Taylor Nelson

Many Point Scout Camp by Paul Boudreaux, Many Point Coordinator

Troop 695 will be returning to Many Point Scout Camp for their weeklong summer camp from July 18th to 24th. The camp is on the shores of Many Point Lake and Round Lake. It's a beautiful wilderness setting with 2400 acres of wooded property in the White Earth State Forest. Many Point is located northwest of Park Rapids, MN.

Registration sign-up started March 30. You must put down a \$100 deposit by April 13 (tonight). The remaining \$90 will be due on May 11. This \$190 covers the camp fee and transportation. A few merit badges have a nominal fee (usually \$2 - \$20 for supplies) and most Scouts will want some spending money for souvenirs and treats.

Many Point has added a few new things this year: a tree house at Flintlock for Scouts entering 8th grade and the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge class.

All Scouts should plan to attend Many Point. There are incredible opportunities for working on advancement and merit badges; skills are learned and practiced; friendships are made; Order of the Arrow elections are held; and it's just a real good time!

Parents, we'll need your assistance. Each patrol is required to have at least two parents at Many Point for every day of our camping week. More than two is best for the younger patrols. If you have a day or two, or a week, please sign up - we'd love to have you join us! The deadline to sign up is April 13.

At the May Parent Meeting I will have another packet for parents of Scouts attending camp, we will discuss the packing list, and questions you have can be answered.

Merit Badge Process and Madness Recap by Lorraine Nickels

Merit Badge Madness (or Badness, as it is sometimes referred) resulted in a busy advancement month. *Good work*, Scouts and counselors! Scouts completed approximately 90 merit badges for the March Court of Honor. More or less, and therein lies a little problem. Some boys completed merit badges and hoped to receive acknowledgement at the March COH but all of the steps may not have been completed to make that happen. So there are no disappointments, I want to share a little information about the processes involved.

Shortly after new Scouts join the troop they will find some information in their ships about earning advancement through Boards of Review and Merit Badges. This information can be *very useful*, so please try to read it. There is a lot to be learned *through* Scouting, and taking a little time to learn *about* Scouting will help you to make the most of your experience.

To earn your merit badge, you complete the merit badge requirements, have your blue card signed off by your counselor and the Scoutmaster, and turn in your blue card to the Advancement chair.

The Advancement chair then checks all of the information on the blue card, enters the completion date in the red Merit Badge Book, signs the Application section of the blue card and files it, and enters the merit badge earned on the Advancement Report. The Advancement Report is turned in to the Viking council in Golden Valley, and the merit badge and green card are picked up at the Scout shop. Information is filled in for the merit badge on the green card, and it is signed by the Scoutmaster. The merit badge is recorded in the list of Advancement for the next Court of Honor. Several days before the Court of Honor, the list is sent to the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Troopmaster, Record Keeper, and the volunteer who produces and copies the programs for the Court of Honor.

If your blue card is incomplete, it will be returned to you for completion. If the blue card is not turned in early enough for the Advancement chair to complete all of the required documentation, you will not receive your merit badge until the next Court of Honor. The date that the card is signed as completed is the date that applies to any requirements that may be tied to the card.

Although you are probably anxious to receive your merit badge, it is important to follow this process so that your advancement is properly documented. If you decide to earn your Eagle rank, you need this information available in case there is any question as to whether you met all of your requirements. We have a big troop with lots of advancement, and it would be easy to get confused or lose information if we are disorganized in our approach. Just like when an airplane is serviced, or a new car is built, a regular process is important to make sure that all of the steps are followed every time.

To help, I am going to ask that the information sheets for Boards of Review and Merit Badges are posted on the troop website at troop695.org. If you haven't looked at the website, take a peek. There is a lot of information and pictures of you and your friends! If you have any questions about advancement, ask any of the Advancement Committee, or Senior Patrol Leadership or Troop Guides. We want to help you reach your advancement goals!

Scout Achievements

By Jase Engelhart, Eden Prairie High School Quiz/Knowledge Bowl Captain and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Eden Prairie Quiz/Knowledge Bowl was recently brought to the attention of many prairie-dwellers through an article in our fair city's newspaper.

Many people have asked me what the activity is all about, and I would like to respond to their questions right here.

Quiz Bowl is an activity where two teams of four square off against one another in "Jeopardy"-like academic competition. Knowledge Bowl is a similar competition; however, in Knowledge Bowl, the players on any given team may talk with one another. As a general rule, Quiz Bowl is fast-paced and knowledge-based, and Knowledge Bowl is deliberate and speculative. Quiz Bowl and Knowledge Bowl involve the same group of people at the High School, but people may join to participate in just one of the activities. Unfortunately for our younger scouts, Quiz/Knowledge Bowl is only available for high school students.

Our Quiz Bowl team did very well this year. We took first place in Lake Conference and second place in State. The Quiz Bowl Season is officially over in Minnesota, but we will probably be attending the National Quiz Bowl Tournament in New Orleans in late May.

Our Knowledge Bowl team has also performed very well. We took first at the St. Anthony Battle of the Saints Tournament, second at the North Branch Knowledge Bowl invitational, and fourth at Knowledge Bowl Region 11 competition. Our place at regionals earned us a bid to the state tournament, which will be taking place at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd on April 20-21. This is Eden Prairie High School's first bid to state-level Knowledge Bowl competition.

Anybody going to the high school may attend practice during all lunches in Room E2022.

QM2=E (or helpful hints) By Fred Haggerty, Adult Quartermaster

As we head into a new camping season and new scouts arrive, many questions come up on everything from: what kind gear does he need, what should we buy, or how much will it cost. Some quick thoughts, directions, and suggestions: (i.e. F.A.Q)

1) What does he need?

The best place to start is with the scout manual. In there are recommendations of the basic equipment to get a scout (and parent) started. Other sources include the camping merit badge book and the scout field manual. For outside professional suggestions, two websites are helpful (there are many others): www.backpacker.com and www.rei.com Both have lists of suggested personal gear and supplies. Lastly, ask other parents in the troop. There is a lot of experience and suggestions we can share. Outside of a pack, sleeping bag, and boots, most items can be found round the house (more on that later). When looking for sleeping bags, figure they will sleep at least 10 to 15 degrees cooler than their rating and keep away from down filled. When down gets wet it has no warmth. A 20 degree rated bag is likely to be comfortable to only about freezing (32 degrees). For boots, only one key rule...Fit! Regarding packs, make sure they are sized and fit to the applications and person. Whether you go with internal or external frame it is a personal preference, internal framing tending to be more popular. One last thought is: no cotton. No cotton sock, pants, or sweatshirts. The big problem with cotton is when it is wet it loses its ability to keep a person warm and we do get wet. This is a real safety concern. **Scout Motto: Be Prepared.**

2) Where do we find gear?

Lots of places. A good way to start is look around the house or by borrowing. Garage sales are another place. You can even rent packs and sleeping bags. Check with friends and family. Ask around the the troop, some of us tend to collect this stuff and end up with extra over time that we might part with for a nominal fee to a good home. You might even put a note in the troop newsletter. Many things can be found in the house like pocketknives or supplies to make your own first aid kit. An old plastic cup (like one from Webelos camp) and bowl with an old metal fork & spoon makes a very usable mess kit. Water bottles (at least two) are usually a collectors items (to many collected that is), just make sure they don't leak. For a pack? On the first few campouts think about using an old larger day (school) pack with the sleeping bag tied or strapped on the outside. Boots?? Lets just say there are expert and professional hikers/backpackers who only use good fitting running shoes or sandals with wool socks (my oldest who is an eagle scout is one of the sandal group). Boots can wait until a real need arises like Philmont. For purchasing sources, beside those mentioned above, you can check Gaylans, Gander Mountain, REI, and others. A good discount website is: www.campmor.com Other sites include: www.rei.com , www.cabelas.com , and www.llbean.com **A scout is Helpful.**

3) How much will it cost?

How much money do you want to spend? One can spend hundreds of dollars on pack, sleeping bag, boots, clothes, and gadgets. I like the KISS rule, Keep It Simple Scouts. Look to the scout Motto, Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code (all in the scout's manual) for direction. If you buy new, shop around. Lots of good sleeping bags can be had made out of 3D (type of fill) or similar lightweight synthetics, good to 20 degrees, weighting only about 4 lbs. and that will last many seasons for under \$100 new. Last yrs. model, so what. Clearance, on sale, end of season, or discontinued can be great bargains. (I buy most of my stuff this way, works fine). Packs, 4000 to 5000 cubic inches size works for most weekend trips and even weeklong ones. Decent packs can be had for under \$120 new and same with boots, just make sure they fit. And don't forget, there are other good sources for gear besides new. **A scout is Thrifty .**

Monthly Tip: Tent Etiquette

- Keep the inside of your tent cleaner and drier by parking your footwear outside. If it's raining, herd wet and dirty items into a big garbage bag.
- Bringing **food into a tent is like laying out a welcome mat for animals.** Bears can smell food from miles away, so keep it out of your tent and properly stored in your trunk or food-storage containers in the campground. Ditto for toothpaste, deodorant, perfume, and any other scented toiletries.

Tent fires can be deadly. Do not light matches or use any device with an open flame inside a tent, including lanterns.

