



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

January 6, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 1

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

Eagle Updates



Eagle Courts of Honor

Nick Smith will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Saturday, January 31 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church at 10:30 a.m. Nick's Eagle Scout project was the construction of 13 elevated garden planters at the Staring Lake Outdoor Center. He passed his Eagle Board of Review on October 28. All Scouts and Scouters are welcome. Congratulations, Nick.

David Markman will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, February 8 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. All Scouts and Scouters are welcome. Congratulations, David.

January Activities

Responsible Patrol: Raptors

Theme: Survival

Troop Campout

Winter survival. Tomahawk SnoBase.
 Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Scouts 13+ will be participating in high adventure winter camping at SnoBase in their Spearhead program. These Scouts will depart from Prairie Lutheran at 6:15 pm on Friday, January 16, spend Friday night indoors learning basic winter camp skills training. On Saturday, crews depart into camp, spending the day building snow shelters, skiing, snow shoeing, ice fishing and cooking. Spearhead crews return to the lodge on Sunday morning.

Younger scouts will be participating in the Snow Huskies program at SnoBase. These Scouts will depart from Prairie Lutheran on Saturday, January 17. Snow Huskies will experience winter camp complete with skiing, snow shoeing, outdoor games and winter skills training but will return to the lodge to sleep inside the bunkrooms after an evening campfire.

Both Spearhead and Snow Huskies Scouts will return to Prairie Lutheran between 3:30 and 4 pm on Sunday, January 18.

Calendar of Events

- January 6 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
- January 8 OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
- January 9-11 NRA Certified Rifle and Shotgun Instructor Training
- January 13 SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- January 16 – 18 Winter Survival Campout, Tomahawk SnoBase
- January 20 Committee & PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); SM's Mtg. (7:30 pm) – **NO TROOP MTG.**
- January 24 Webelos Winter Survival @ Staring Lake (10 am - 1 pm) – **note date change**
- January 27 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- January 29 District Dinner (6:30 pm) (location to be announced)
- January 31 Nick Smith Eagle Court of Honor, 10:30 a.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- February 1 Reconnaissance Articles Due
- February 3 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review
- February 5 OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
- February 7-8 OA Winter Event
- February 8 Scout Sunday (11 am) (all Scouts attend service at Prairie Lutheran)
- February 8 David Markman Eagle Court of Honor, 2 p.m., St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- February 10 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- February 17 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- February 24 SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- February 27-29 Merit Badge Madness, Camp St. Croix
- February 29 Reconnaissance Articles Due



Scoutmaster's Corner by Steve Brennaman

Happy New Year! I trust each and every one of you enjoyed the Winter Break. I know the Brennaman Family did. As always though we have to go back to the reality of school and jobs and the challenges presented to us. Many of us make resolutions for the New Year that we may or may not take seriously. . . .

As I see it... This is the time of year for evaluating where you are and where you are going. Some of you are still early on the road to Eagle while some of you are finished or getting close. Wherever you are let us take a closer look at Scouting and what the new year will bring us.

Each of you will learn a new Scouting skill this year. This skill will either help you at school or help you be a better friend or family member. The skill may have to do with managing how you spend your money or how you help around the house. The skill may be as simple as tying a new knot or it could be as complicated as sending a radio message half-way around the world. Whatever the skill, take it and use it, and then share it with a friend. The skill not only adds to what you know but it also allows you to teach it to someone else. They then can teach others as well.

The chances are pretty good that sometime this year you or someone close to you will be in trouble: grades won't be real good, someone in your family (or yourself) will be sick, or you will need someone to talk to about how you are feeling. First of all, talk to Mom or Dad. If that doesn't work, come talk to me or another scoutmaster. Sometimes just talking about a problem makes the problem seem smaller and easier to handle. The Scouting family is pretty strong and we are here to help each other.

This year will bring advancement in Scouting as well as other activities. We will all make new friends as Cub Scouts cross over to join Troop 695 and we will share adventures on campouts as well in patrol activities. Remember one thing: Scouting is for a lifetime whether you are 12 years old or 49 years old. So don't stop having fun, enjoy your friends, and learn a new skill this year you can share with others.

I am proud to be a Scouter and an American.

ASDL Notepad by Tyler Opitz

"A scout is always prepared."

I learned what this meant at our last Court of Honor. I was given the script half an hour before the ceremony was supposed to begin. I tried to memorize it. I was planning on giving parts to people who I thought could get the job done. However, if you can remember, this was our first snowstorm of the season and when I got there, most of those people hadn't shown up. So, I hurriedly got adults and scouts that could fill in the parts we needed to do. During the ceremony things did get forgotten and I know I wasn't the only one reading off the script. In the end though, I think we pulled it off quite well.

Scouting taught me how to speak in front of a crowd and keep my cool when everything else seems hopeless. All this without me even realizing that I had learned it. Scouting teaches lifelong skills in a fun, interesting way.

SDL Report by Derek Clemmings

I hope everyone has had happy holidays, and a Happy New Year. It's now time to get back to Scouts and have ourselves some fun! The tree lot was a great success, and we worked very hard over there. There really isn't that much to talk about, so I'll repeat myself, Happy New Year!

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

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES by Kyle Kronlokken, Patrol Leader
 During the month of December, those of us who didn't have second class earned it. Now we've set our goals for first class, a lot of fun, and many more campouts together. Most of us have been together for about seven years, since tiger cubs, and have all been very cooperative and have gotten along great since the beginning.

FALCONS by Brian Smith, Troop Guide
 I have been the Falcon's troop guide since September and it has been a lot of fun. One big highlight was when we went shopping for a campout. I thought the patrol did a good job -- we only knocked over one display. I have enjoyed both the September and November campouts and am looking forward to more fun campouts.

FALCONS by Dan Polta, Patrol Leader
 During December there was a Court of Honor and now every Falcon has his Second Class rank. Many of us have completed some of the requirements for our First Class rank. Troop 695 also ran a Christmas tree lot in December. Everyone got at least one shift. It was fun to earn money for campouts while serving our community. There was no campout in December. We look forward to learning winter camping skills in January, although we had unexpected early training at the November campout at Forestville State Park.

HUSKIE: Ross Sherman, Patrol Leader

LAKOTAS by McLeod Brennaman, Patrol Leader
 Welcome back from Christmas break, I hope you all had a good one. The Lakotas will be looking forward to Winter Survival but want to remind everyone that Merit Badge Madness is only a month away, so start getting ready. The snowboarding at Afton will be great!!

WOLVERUNNERS: John Lewis, Patrol Leader

RAPTORS: Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader



Recruiting Update by Kevin Opitz

Senior Webelo recruiting is still underway. Our last recruiting event will be held on **Saturday, January 24** 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.

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)

Wreath Sales by Barbara Hanson

The 2003 wreath sales were very successful. Participating scouts earned over \$1,500 for their scout accounts and over \$675 for the troop. Congratulations to top salesman Eric Hanson with sales of \$1,055. Honorable mentions go to Taylor Wegner (\$715) and Tyler Opitz (\$610). Thank you to all scouts who participated.

Merit Badge Madness 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 February issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, February 1. 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".

SnoBase Winter Camp Packing List

- 2 pairs of long underwear (no cotton)
- 3 pairs of socks (no cotton)
- 1 pair of boots with liner
- 1 pair of pants (no cotton)
- 2-3 shirts (no cotton)
- 1 sweater (fleece preferred)
- 1 pair mittens with liner
- 1 stocking cap (wool/fleece preferred)
- parka-type coat
- headlamp or flashlight
- sunglasses (a must)

- pocketknife and matches
- soap, toothbrush, towel, lotion
- Chapstick (lip balm)
- Rain Gear (a must)
- Scarf and handkerchief
- candy and snacks
- plastic eating gear (3 sets)
- paper plates, napkins, styrofoam cups
- personal sleeping bag and pillow
- personal back pack (no day pack)
- camera, worship book
- waist or lumbar pack (snow sports)

Baden-Powell: Over Programmed Youth by Derrick Poirier

In recent months, Scoutmaster Brennaman has talked about the importance of striking a balance between the many activities that boys have competing for their time these days. To many adults, it seems like kids are far busier now than in "the old days" when they were kids. I was interested to learn that back in the 1870s, the young R.S.S. Baden-Powell ("B-P") kept up a schedule that would easily rival that of any of today's "over programmed youth."

While he was between the ages of 13 and 19, B-P lived away from home at a boarding school called Charterhouse. He sang in the choir, played violin in the orchestra, played flugelhorn in the brass band and was bugler for the cadet corps. He enjoyed playing cricket and was the goalie for the school soccer team. He helped start a rifle-shooting club and was one of its star members. He was a gifted artist and loved sketching and painting – which he could do with either his left or right hand! All these things kept him busy, but the extracurricular activity he spent the most time on was theater. He loved acting and singing in school plays. He also wrote and performed some of his own shows and could always be counted on to spontaneously come up with a skit to amuse his classmates.

All of these activities didn't leave him a lot of time for homework and his grades weren't the best. One of his teachers wrote on his report card, "Could do well, but has become very lazy; often sleeps in school." Of course, he wasn't lazy, but he certainly had a hard time striking a balance. Fortunately, the headmaster of Charterhouse saw tremendous potential for accomplishment and leadership in young B-P, despite his performance in the classroom, and let him continue his education and activities there until he was ready for college.

Like many boys today, B-P was interested in lots of things and tried them all. When he did decide to try something, he threw himself into it with great enthusiasm and hard work. As it turned out, B-P's extracurricular activities taught him skills that would get him through some challenging times during his military career and helped him conceive of and begin the Boy Scout program.

District News

Roundtable -- Roundtable is a monthly training designed to inform you about what is happening in the community and give you ideas on how to get the most out of Scouting. These meetings are the first Thursday of each month (January 6) and start at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Roundtable is held at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina.

Winter Event -- The Winter Event has been changed from January to February 21.



District office closed January 19.

"Scouting is for a lifetime whether you are 12 years old or 49 years old." Scoutmaster Brennaman