



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

November 9, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 9

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November Activities

Theme: Camping

Responsible Patrol: Falcons

Troop Activities

Camping will be the focus of this month's activities, in addition to learning about the types of holiday trees the troop will be selling and more importantly, learning the skills required to ensure a successful fundraising effort at the tree lot. All scouts should attend the tree lot training held at the tree lot at Super America on Highway 212 and Pioneer Trail on Tuesday, November 23. In addition, scouts and adults are needed to assist in the setting up of the tree lot. See Tree Lot article below.

Troop Campout

November's campout will be held at the Minnesota Valley State Park, Jordan, Minnesota from Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 14.

The troop will also be doing their annual planning at this campout. See permission slip for additional information and items required.

Popcorn and Wreath Sales Pick-Up

Popcorn

Scouts who turned in popcorn orders are reminded that their order will be available for pick up between **1 and 2 pm** on **Sunday, November 14** at the Smoliaks (15019 Village Woods Drive, Eden Prairie). Please contact Marthy at (952) 937-0379 if you have any questions.

Wreaths

Scouts who turned in wreath orders are reminded that all items must be picked up between **10 am and 1 pm on Saturday, November 20** at Barbara Hanson's house (6445 Grand View Drive). Maps are available in Eric Hanson's ship. There are a few extra items available: 25", 36" and 60" wreaths and one centerpiece. Please call Barbara at 937-5905 if you would like to purchase any of these items or if you need to make alternate arrangements for pick up.

Tree Lot by Mark Jennen

The tree lot (at the corner of Highway 212 and Flying Cloud Drive by the Super America) will be opening Saturday, November 20 at 9 am. This is one of the largest fundraisers for the troop and all scouts must sign up to work shifts. Sign up sheets will be available at meetings and by emailing me at Mark_S_Jennen@yahoo.com. Put "Tree lot sign up" in the subject line. Remember, you cannot sign up on the web site. You must email me.

Volunteers Needed: The schedule for getting the tree lot going is as follows: **Saturday, November 13 at 9 am** – First set up opportunity. Stands, lights, and poles will be delivered on November 11. Trees will be delivered on November 17, so **Friday, November 19 at 6 pm** we will have our final set up. We need volunteers at both of these set ups. Contact Walt Cooper to volunteer.

Training: While we start selling trees on November 20, training will not be held until **Tuesday, November 23**. In lieu of the regular troop meeting, all scouts are encouraged to attend the training session at the tree lot on November 23. If you have not worked the tree lot before, do not sign up to work until you have been trained. Contact me if you have any questions.

Calendar of Events

November 9	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist;
November 12-14	Troop Campout, Minnesota Valley State Park, Jordan
November 13	Tree Lot Set-Up (lights, stands, poles), 9 am
November 16	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Committee Mtg. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)
November 19	Tree Display Set-Up at Tree Lot, 6 pm
November 20	Tree Lot Opens; Wreath Pick-Up
November 21	AAD Training, Pax Christi (6 pm)
November 23	Tree Lot Training (6:30 pm)
November 30	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Merit Badge information due
December 2	OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
December 5	AAD Training, Tinucci's (6:30 pm); <i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due
December 7	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Webelos visit; aluminum can recycling; Troop BOR; rank adv. Info due
December 12	AAD Training, Tinucci's (6:30 pm)
December 14	SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Court of Honor (6:30 pm); Webelos visit
December 19	Last Day of Tree Lot
December 20	<i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due
December 21	NO MEETING

FYI – by Julie Arthur-Sherman

FYI (For Your Information) is a new feature of The Reconnaissance. FYI is written by troop Committee members and will describe policies and procedures of Troop 695. If you have an idea for future FYI topics, please contact Julie Arthur-Sherman.

I would like to summarize some of the topics that were discussed at the last committee meeting.

For any adults who are leading a campout or a service project it is very important to get the scout information into the troopmaster. These are the records the scouts need for their advancement. Joe Houterman will soon be taking over troopmaster from Deb Clemmings.

I would like to adult training information updated for the troop's records. I will have at the parent's meeting a sheet for listing which training programs adults have attended. This will also enable us to make sure appropriate training is made available. If you need to update your youth protection, it can be done on the internet at your convenience. Here is the link http://www.vikingbsa.org/trn_online.asp.

Dean Conklin will be coordinating service projects. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please let Dean know.

The tree lot will be starting soon. If you are new to the troop, please do not sign up for a shift until after you have been trained. Please remember that the trees have to be tied to the tops of vehicles so make sure when you sign up, there is at least one person who can handle it.

The scouts have been putting together their ideas for the annual planning. Some good ideas are being generated. At the next committee meeting, we will take what the scouts have put together and finalize the calendar for next year. That meeting will be 11/16. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to everyone's ideas and help. It would not be possible to run a good program without so much help.

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the November issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, December 5! Email your articles to her at songle19@msn.com.

Reconnaissance on the Web

The Reconnaissance is on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "Monthly Newsletter".

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

- Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator --Glenn Vanic
- Boards of Review or Advancement – Nancy Madsen
- Eagle Boards of Review – Bill Brown

Contact information can be found in your Roster.

The Merit Badge Sign Up book can be found by the "Ships" at each meeting.

January '05 Reconnaissance Submissions

Please make note that article submissions for the January '05 issue of *The Reconnaissance* are due to Lisa Songle no later than **Monday, December 20**. Thank you.

Uniform Exchange

Cub and Boy Scouts and their leaders can obtain "experienced" (used) Scout uniforms for a nominal cost from the Uniform Exchange Program operated by Scouting volunteers. The Exchange is open the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday evenings of each month from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Viking Council Scout Office building, 5300 Glenwood Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55422. Please call the Scout Office at 763- 545-4550 the day you want to come to confirm that the Exchange will be open (especially during the holidays). The Exchange needs any used uniforms (or parts of) which can be dropped off at the Scout Information Desk anytime during office hours.

"People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling with the "lift" of one another." Scoutmaster Polta

Instructor Tips of the Month

First Aid -- Always make sure your knife is sharp and no one is within an arm's length away from you when you are carving -- and never run with a knife. **Patrick Tinucci**

Cooking -- When you buy ham for sandwiches at camp outs, you almost always have extra. So, here is what you can do with leftover ham besides throwing it away. On long-term camp outs, when you will be staying for more than 1 or 2 days, fry the ham and eat it with your next meal like eating bacon or store it. Since frying will dry it out, it will last longer and you can save it for later. I hope my tip will help some patrols in the future. **Terrence Tan**

Camping -- **Head** – Make sure it's covered. You can lose up to 70% of your body heat from your head. Hats are essential in winter camping. If your toes are cold, put on a hat – it makes a difference – it's true. **Hands** - mittens are warmer than gloves. It's useful to

have an inner mitten with an outer shell to give you layering capabilities. Also, "idiot strings" are important to keep you from losing mittens in the snow. Gloves are also important in the winter because of the need for dexterity in various operations. **Feet** - Rubber or leather and rubber boots that use a layer of wool felt to provide dead air space are best. One of the best ways for keeping your feet warm is using multiple layers. Start with a thin polypropylene liner sock next to the skin to wick moisture away followed by 1 - 2 pairs of wool or wool/nylon blend socks. Make sure the outer socks are big enough that they fit comfortably over the inner layers. If they are too tight, they will constrict circulation and increase the chances of frostbite. Keeping your feet dry is essential to keeping your feet warm. You may need to change your socks during the day. **Andrew Songle**



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Dolta

Have you seen and heard the geese heading south? There is an interdependence in the way geese function.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates lift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole gaggle adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling with the "lift" of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front. LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position. LESSON: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership -- people, as with geese, are interdependent with each other.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. LESSON: We need to make sure our "honking" from behind is encouraging, not something less helpful.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with their gaggle. LESSON: If we have as much sense as the geese, we will stand by each other.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SDP Scratch by Tyler Opitz

I am looking forward to the following months ahead as we continue to learn more about each other. Unfortunately I wasn't able to make our last campout but I heard it was a blast, and I hope to continue this to make sure that from now on we do the things you all want to do. I also hope that we can achieve our goal and really include all ideas for future events and not judge them right away. Furthermore, I enjoyed everyone's input on our campout and I hope to see even more of you on following campouts.

ASDL Notepad by Tim Wolfram

The Rock Climbing Campout was cold but a lot of fun. Everyone enjoyed the climbing at Vertical Endeavors, playing football in the cold, and various activities to keep warm. This was a campout that we were not stressed with time and the meals were not rushed. Despite the cold weather it was a lot of fun and I am looking forward to a great rest of the year!

ASDL Notepad by Scott Jennen

Over the last month, new leadership has taken over the troop. I think it has been a smooth transition. On the campout, the troop went to Vertical Endeavors (the theme was rock climbing) and some people worked on their merit badge. It was a good campout and month, so I am optimistic for the next 5 to come.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Reed Qually, Patrol Leader -- On our last campout at William O'Brien State Park, we had a great time. The weather was cold, but we kept warm by wearing some of our winter clothing. Some of us played football and scored some touchdowns. On Saturday, we went to Vertical Endeavors where we spent a few hours scaling the climbing and boulder walls. I am enjoying being a Patrol Leader, but I find it challenging to schedule patrol duties at the camp and making sure the jobs get done. I am looking forward to the next campout.

DRAGONS: David Jennen, Patrol Leader
Troop Guide: Jake Poirier

FALCONS: Kevin Thomsen, Patrol Leader -- I'm the new Falcon patrol leader. Everything is going fine with the patrol. For the next campout we are going to be working with lashings. We will be making a Sedan chair, a catapult and a structure using lashings. We will have contests on how far the catapults can fling, going through an obstacle course with the sedan chair and first aid trivia. I'm happy to be the patrol leader.

THUNDER: Drew Churchill, Patrol Leader
Troop Guide: Tyler Herzog

HUSKIES: Eric Blomgren, Patrol Leader -- On Sunday October 31 the Huskies went shooting. At the campout in October, we had fun climbing at Vertical Endeavors. In September we went to Carver Park and had survival training. We made emergency shelters using tarps and rope and slept in them overnight.

RAPTORS: Jens Gilman, Patrol Leader

SCORPIONS: Nate Brown, Patrol Leader
Troop Guides: Ross Sherman & Shane Thuleen -- Ross & I volunteered to stay on as your troop guides for the next 6 months. We are here to answer any questions and ensure your Patrol leader is comfortable with his new leadership role. As always, you can ask Ross & I questions at any time.
Shane Thuleen

WOLVERUNNERS: Josh Clifford, Patrol Leader

Troop Leadership Reports

<p>Bugler: Open Camping Instructor: Andrew Songle – Good job to all the scouts that attended the climbing campout. The weather was cold, but everyone was prepared and stayed warm and dry. Ceremonies Instructor: Eric Hanson -- We have not had a Ceremonies Instructor for a couple of years and we're doing this as an experiment. If you're running any event such as the campfire, campout or COH, I can help you with anything about it. If I don't know the answer, I will find it. I hope you will ask me for help if you need it. Cooking Instructor: Terrence Tan -- As Scouts know already, a camping trip is not as enjoyable if there is not very good food to eat. I have experienced a fair deal of cooking and enjoy it so I feel fit for this position. From what I have been through with the troop, I have noticed that there have not been too many cooking instructors in the past, so excuse me if I am not doing it perfectly for the first few camp outs. From how I look at this job, I see that the cooking instructor is supposed to help the troop with any cooking problems. For the Scouts who are reading this, if you have any cooking questions during a camp out, come to the Falcon patrol and ask for Terrence Tan.</p>	<p>Chaplain's Aid: Open Den Chiefs: Matt Boudreaux and Josh Issacs Fire Safety Instructor: Open First Aid Instructor: Patrick Tinucci – As you new First Aid Instructor, if you need anything signed off or any advice just talk or call me. A First Aid tip for the month is: Always make sure your knife is sharp and no one is within an arm's length away from you when you are carving -- and never run with a knife. Historian: Jake Brown Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: David Camerino Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open Knots Instructor: Andrew Shawd Librarian: Open Quartermaster: Kyle Kronlokken -- This past month's campout was a blast despite the cold weather. If you still haven't turned in a tent from this campout or any other campout, you can check it in with me before or after any of the upcoming meetings. I hope those of you who are going to the November campout have a great time. Scribe: Dan Polta Troop OA Representative: Open Venture President: Open</p>
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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.

Council and District News

District office closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26.

Joint Councils Task Force

Learn more about the discussions that have been taking place between representatives of the Viking and Indianhead Councils at the official Joint Councils Task Force Website, <http://taskforce.realscouting.com>. Over the past year, several task forces have been commissioned to examine the question of collaboration and how to most efficiently work together to serve the youth in our communities. One of the questions being explored is whether the collaborations would be most effective if the two Boy Scout Councils were combined to create a new Scout Council. Further, they asked if a new entity would reduce the duplication of leadership that has been required in collaborations so far. A facilitator from the Wilder Foundation was hired to guide the process. Please review the information available on the task force website and send us your comments using the "Contact Viking Council Link." Your input will help determine Scouting's future!

Yahoo! Group

Mustang parents and volunteers now have a new resource for up-to-date and late breaking news on district events and opportunities. Often new information just can't wait until the Roundtable. We would like have a way to get you this info much quicker. We now have a Yahoo Group that you can sign up for to receive emails and view posted notices. Simply go to www.yahoo.com and click on the word groups. Then in the search for a group section, type in Mustang District. This will take you to our page and allow you to click on a "join this group" button. Or just email mrowan@bsaemail.org to get added on. All leaders and parents are encouraged to sign up.

THANKS

Many thanks to those who support our troop.

<p>All Patrol Coaches and Adult Volunteers Bill Brown ~ Eagle Boards of Review Paula Boudreaux ~ Many Point coordinator Dean Conklin ~ service projects Becky Engelhart ~ Friends of Scouting Barbara Hanson ~ wreath sales Joe Houterman ~ transitioning Troopmaster Mark Jennen ~ tree lot</p>	<p>Nancy Madsen ~ Boards of Review and advancements Dan Polta ~ Scoutmaster Don Qually ~ Webelos recruiting Julie Sherman ~ Committee Chair Marthy Smoliak ~ popcorn sales Jim Sundberg ~ web page Glen Vanic ~ Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator John Wolfram ~ Treasurer</p>
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Special thanks to outgoing Troopmaster Debra Clemmings who has spent many hours of recordkeeping for the troop and each scout.