



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

October 5, 2004; Volume 9, Issue 8

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October Activities

Theme: Rock Climbing

Responsible Patrol: Raptors

Troop Activities

Don't know much about belaying and repelling. Don't worry, this month the Raptors will expose you to these terms along with opportunities to hone your knot tying skills, learn about rope management and other general safety requirements of rock climbing. The highlight of the month will be a trip to Vertical Endeavors at the October campout to test out what you've learned. **Just a reminder that there is no meeting on Tuesday, October 19.**

Troop Campout

October's campout will be held at William O'Brien State Park in Marine-on-St. Croix, Minnesota from Friday, October 15 through Sunday, October 17.

An additional permission slip will be required of those scouts climbing at Vertical Endeavors in St. Paul.

Popcorn and Wreath Sales Fundraising Opportunities

Annual Popcorn Sale Fundraiser Has Begun – by Marthy Smoliak

The Viking Councils annual Trails End Popcorn Fundraiser continues through October 23rd. If you didn't sign up to sell popcorn at the September 21st meeting, you can still get a sales packet by calling Marthy Smoliak at 952-937-0379. The holidays are approaching and Trails End Popcorn is perfect for gift giving to family and friends!

Order forms and money collected will be due October 26th from those scouts who are participating.

Wreath Sales

We are once again selling 25", 36", 48" and 60" wreaths, 26" sprays and 25' and 50' garlands. This year we are adding living trees and centerpieces to the product mix. Also being offered are light sets for wreaths and door hangars. Selling these items to family and friends provides them with a quality product and puts money in your scout account (60% of profits) for campouts and high adventure trips. It will also help out your troop (40% of profits). If you are interested in this optional fundraiser, please remember to get your wreath packet from Barbara Hanson (available beginning October 5) at the troop meeting. Sales to anyone other than family and relatives may begin Saturday, October 9. All money and item totals will be due at the October 26 troop meeting. Call Barbara with any questions at 937-5905.

FYI – by Troop Committee Members

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.

Fund Raising and Scout Accounts

Troop 695 has fundraising activities which provide monies for troop operation. Those scouts who work at the fundraisers have money deposited into a scout account. A scout account represents a portion of the troop's funds which an individual scout may use for scouting activities, such as camping fees, Class B shirts and, with prior approval, appropriate camping equipment.

Troop 695 is unique in that scouts have several avenues in which to contribute to their scout account. By working at the Flying Cloud or Staring Lake concession stands, selling popcorn, wreaths and trees at the troop tree lot, a scout will earn 60% of the activities' profits. For example, scouts that worked at the Flying Cloud concession stand during the spring soccer season earned \$7.40 an hour. Scouts participating in this fall's wreath sales will earn over \$4.00 for each 25" wreath they sell and over \$8.50 for each 50-foot garland. Earnings vary for other products.

Scout accounts are not checking accounts. These funds belong to the troop but are made available to active scouts for troop activities. Scouts are able to "earn their own way" as well as help provide the troop with operating funds. For more detailed information on scout accounts and fundraising activities as well as other troop policies and procedures, please see the Troop 695 Guidebook.

“. . . persistence: Stick with the job, even if you encounter road-blocks. . . . initiative: Ask for help, even if you think it's not much of a request.” Scoutmaster Polta

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

Its recruitment time for the troop. If you are interested in helping at any of the upcoming recruiting events, contact Don Qually. Older boys can join scouts too! If you have a friend that may be interested, invite him along to a meeting.

Bulletin Board

<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the November issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, October 31 – Happy Halloween! You may email your articles to her at songle19@msn.com.</p> <p>The Reconnaissance Misplaced your copy of <i>The Reconnaissance</i> or you weren't able to attend a recent meeting to get your copy? <i>The Reconnaissance</i> is on-line. Visit www.troop695.org and go to the tab marked "Monthly Newsletter".</p>	<p>Advancement Contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator -- Glenn Vanic ▪ Boards of Review or Advancement – Nancy Madsen ▪ Eagle Boards of Review – Bill Brown <p>Contact information can be found in your Roster.</p> <p>The Merit Badge Sign Up book can be found by the "Ships" at each meeting.</p>	<p><i>The Reconnaissance</i> is a monthly publication (no issues July and August) of Boy Scout Troop 695 chartered at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prairie Lutheran Church 11000 Blossom Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347</p> <p>Scoutmaster: Joe Polta (952) 942-0407</p> <p>Committee Chair: Julie Arthur Sherman (952) 975-0264</p> <p><i>Reconnaissance</i> Editor: Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803 Email: songle19@msn.com Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org</p>
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Eagle Updates



<p>Eagle Courts of Honor Taylor Nelson will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Tuesday, October 19 at Prairie Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. All Scouts and Scouters are welcome. Reception following ceremony. Congratulations, Taylor.</p> <p>Eagle Project Ben Cooper will be putting together 128,304 food bags for Feeding Children International to help starving children in Honduras for his Eagle project. Ben would appreciate your assistance at one of three sessions starting at 8 a.m. in New Hope on both October 23 and October 30. Sign-up sheets will be available at troop meetings or contact Ben directly for more information.</p>
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Monthly Camping Tips by Andrew Songle

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broke a shoelace, use Nylon rope as a lace. 2. Forgot your pillow, use a large zip lock plastic bag filled with air. 3. Old shower curtains make great ground cover. 4. Waterproof matches by dipping them in melted paraffin. 5. To help shed burrs easily, rub the laces of your hiking boots with paraffin before hitting the trail. 6. To remove the musty smell from a canteen, put three teaspoons of baking soda with a bit of water into the canteen. Swish it around and let sit for an hour, rinse. 7. Canning rings can be use to cook your eggs in for egg sandwiches. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Certain fibers can be damaged by insect repellants. Don't apply to spandex, rayon or Dynel. Tent fabrics, plastic and painted surfaces can also be damaged by repellants. 9. To prevent batteries from wearing down if a flashlight is accidentally nudged on while you're traveling, put the flashlight batteries in backwards. 10. When it comes time to pack up at the end of camp, a wet toothbrush, face cloth and bar of soap wrapped in foil won't dampen the other things in your kit.
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Calendar of Events

<p>October 5 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling; Board of Review</p> <p>October 7 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)</p> <p>October 9 Wreath sales fundraiser begins</p> <p>October 12 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist</p> <p>October 15-17 Troop Campout, Rock Climbing, William O'Brien State Park</p> <p>October 19 No Troop Meeting; SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Committee Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>October 19 Taylor Nelson Eagle Court of Honor, 6:30 pm, Prairie Lutheran Church, Reception following Ceremony</p> <p>October 23 Popcorn sales fundraiser ends</p> <p>October 26 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Wreath sales fundraiser ends</p> <p>October 31 <i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due</p> <p>November 2 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Youth Protection Training; aluminum can recycling; Board of Review</p> <p>November 4 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)</p> <p>November 9 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR (7 pm) United Methodist</p> <p>November 12-14 Troop Campout, Rum River</p> <p>November 16 No Troop Meeting; SPL Mtg. (6 pm); Committee Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>November 19 Tree Lot Set-Up</p> <p>November 20 Tree Lot Opens; Wreath Pick-Up</p>
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Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Dolta

I was impressed with the September Court of Honor. Eighteen of you advanced in rank, 61 of you were awarded over 200 Merit Badges, and fourteen newly elected leaders were sworn in. Are you proud of your accomplishments? I hope so. Were you disappointed? I hope not, but if you were, please read on anyway.

Persistence: I overheard one high achiever planning how he could do even better the next time. Initiative: Another asked me for recommendations on Merit Badges he could work on in the coming months. Disappointment: Not everyone got to step up for recognition, and some who did may have been hoping they could have accomplished more.

What to do? Back to persistence: Stick with the job, even if you encounter roadblocks. Back to initiative: Ask for help, even if you think it's not much of a request.

I'm not doing my job if I don't seriously consider your request, and I take my job, and your success, very seriously.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SDL Scratch by Tyler Opitz

To start off, I would like to thank everyone for their support to elect me as your new SPL. I also want to remind everyone that writing these *Reconnaissance* articles is important and if you don't you may not get credit for your leadership. Also, I hope everyone is looking forward to a brand new year and also is ready for our upcoming campout to Vertical Endeavors. I would like to thank everyone who supported me and for all your help.

Patrol News

<p>BALD EAGLES: Reed Qually, Patrol Leader</p> <p>DRAGONS: David Jennen, Patrol Leader Troop Guide: Jake Poirier</p> <p>FALCONS: Kevin Thomsen, Patrol Leader</p> <p>HUSKIES: Eric Blomgren, Patrol Leader</p> <p>RAPTORS: Jens Gilman, Patrol Leader</p> <p>THUNDER: Drew Churchill, Patrol Leader Troop Guide: Tyler Herzog</p>	<p>SCORPIONS: Nate Brown, Patrol Leader Troop Guides: Ross Sherman & Shane Thuleen -- Summer is over and new leadership will be starting up soon. Ross and I would like to thank you for letting us be apart of your patrol. We learned a lot about leadership and we enjoyed getting to know all of you! September was our last camp out and it was sponsored by the Huskies. We had perfect weather for a wilderness survival camp out. Hopefully you all completed your 5-mile hike. Remember, if you ever have any questions you can always ask me or Ross. Shane Thuleen.</p> <p>WOLVERUNNERS: Josh Clifford, Patrol Leader</p>
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Troop Leadership Reports

<p>Assistant Patrol Leaders: Scott Jennen and Tim Wolfram Bugler: Open Camping Instructor: Andrew Songle – As the troop's new camping instructor, I will try to help as many scouts as I can with their advancement and camping skills. I will also try to achieve most of the goals that are expected of me. Please attend October's campout at William O'Brien State Park on October 15-17. Permission slips are due to the Gilman ship by next week's meeting. We will be rock climbing at Vertical Endeavors. It will be a fun weekend. Ceremonies Instructor: Eric Hanson Cooking Instructor: Terrence Tan Chaplain's Aid: Open</p>	<p>Den Chiefs: Matt Boudreaux and Josh Issacs Fire Safety Instructor: Open First Aid Instructor: Patrick Tinucci Historian: Jake Brown Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: David Camerino Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open Knots Instructor: Andrew Shawd Librarian: Open Quartermaster: Kyle Kronlokken 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.