



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

April 12, 2005; Volume 10, Issue 4

Inside This Issue

Committee Chair Chat.....	2
FYI.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	2
District News.....	3
Bulletin Board.....	3
Protestant Emblem Opportunity.....	3
May Activities.....	3
Scout Achievements.....	3
Many Point News.....	4
Eagle Updates.....	4
Scoutmaster's Corner.....	5
SPL Scratch.....	5
ASPL Notepad.....	5
Patrol News.....	5
Troop Leadership Reports.....	5

April Activities

Theme: Communications

Responsible Patrol: Scorpions

The goal for all Scouts in April is to begin working on their Communications Merit Badge (this is an Eagle-Required Badge). Every Tuesday during the month of April will offer you an opportunity to complete requirements toward earning the Communications Merit Badge.

The Scorpions will also be hosting the April campout at Lake Maria State Park in Monticello on April 15-17. The cost for the campout is \$18. Check the Troop Ship for more information.

“Unlike so many other organizations or clubs you might belong to, Troop 695 doesn't require you to attend.” Scoutmaster Polta

Merit Badge Counselor Opportunity by Nancy Madsen

Parents, it's time again to consider signing up to be a merit badge counselor. We update our list annually or semi-annually to insure that counselors are available to assist scouts as they pursue their merit badges. Please consider signing up. You don't have to be an expert, just have an interest in the merit badge and be willing to learn and pass on your knowledge.

What do Merit Badge Counselors Do?

The counselor is the key to success in the merit badge plan. They offer their time, experience and knowledge to guide Scouts in one or more of the merit badge subjects.

What's a Merit Badge Counselors job?

Your job is to satisfy yourself that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge. In this sense you are an examiner. But, your larger opportunity is in coaching – helping the Scout over the different hurdles of the requirements and making him aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from your knowledge and experience.

What do I agree to do?

- Follow the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions and ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
- Have a buddy present with each Scout at all instructional sessions.
- Renew your registration as a merit badge counselor annually to continue to serve as a merit badge counselor.

Outside of Merit Badge Weekend or Many Point, how does a scout earn a merit badge?

- The scout signs up for a merit badge card in the merit badge book. The book is generally found by the “ship” at troop meetings.
- A merit badge card will be put in the Scout's “ship” at the next meeting. A counselor will be indicated on the blue card according to the merit badge counselor sign up list.
- The scout checks out a merit badge pamphlet from the troop library.
- The scout contacts the merit badge counselor and they discuss the requirements to earn the badge. The scout sets up a meeting with the counselor, if appropriate. Always use the buddy system when meeting with your counselor.
- The scout learns and does the activities in the merit badge pamphlet. They go as far as they can to fulfill the requirements.
- The scout makes an appointment to meet with the counselor using the buddy system. The counselor will go over the important parts of the subject. The counselor will also help the scout see beyond the requirements and discover ways to continue learning about the subject. If the counselor is satisfied the scout has completed the requirements, the counselor will sign the merit badge blue card.
- The scout checks the blue card to insure all signatures have been obtained from the Scoutmaster and the Merit Badge Counselor.
- The scout puts the blue card in the ship “Merit Badges – Completed” or the ship for the Advancement Chair (Madsen).

Please go to www.meribadge.com for more information or contact Nancy Madsen with questions.

April will be a busy month for the troop. Besides the campout on April 15-17, there will also be lots of opportunities for service hours.

Scouting for Food will be on Saturday, April 30. Each patrol will be given an area to cover. It will be up to the patrol how they wish to handle it. The bags can either be handed out on April 30 or scouts can put the bags out before and gather the bags on the April 30. The filled bags will be taken to EP City Hall where the food will be handed out to one of three groups, including PROP.

Spring Clean-Up --One other project that needs to be done on April 30 is to clean up the shed at Flying Cloud. Monday, May 1 will be the start of the spring soccer season. Jeff Shawd will be asking one patrol to help in that project.

Also on April 30, Prairie Lutheran Church, our charter organization, has requested our help in spring cleaning. They want our help with sweeping the parking lot, raking the lawn and cleaning up the grounds. If the patrols all come over to the church after gathering food bags, the work will go very quickly.

Both of these projects are worth service hours. It is up to the patrol coaches to get service hours to Joe Houterman.

For more information on the events listed below, see Julie Sherman:

*Scout Days with the Twins - There are 6 dates available. For \$18 you receive a lower level ticket, a soft drink, a hot dog and a special patch.

*May 6-7 -- Special deal to see Monsters of Destruction at the Xcel. Reduced tickets will also get you into a Pit Party.

*June 4 -- Scout Day at Valley Fair on 6/4 (Troop campout).

FYI

FYI (For Your Information) is a 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.

What Are A Patrol Leader's Responsibilities?

- He appoints each member to a patrol job, so all can share in its leadership.
- He takes the lead in planning and steering regular patrol meetings and activities.
- He helps patrol members advance, and may teach Scouting skills.
- He encourages members to recruit new boys to fill patrol vacancies.
- He represents his patrol on the patrol leaders' council (PLC—which typically meets once per month) and reports to the patrol the decisions of the council.
- He sets a good example by working on his own advancement, taking junior leadership training, and living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

Calendar of Events

- April 12 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
- April 15-17 Troop Campout, Lake Maria State Park, Monticello
- April 19 **NO TROOP MEETING**; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)
- April 26 Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)
- April 30 Scouting for Food; Prairie Lutheran Church Clean-Up; Flying Cloud shed Clean-Up
- May 1 Reconnaissance articles due
- May 3 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
- May 5 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (Safety Afloat) (7 pm)
- May 7 Brad Madsen Eagle project – Jacques-Riley Farmstead
- May 10 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- May 17 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR (United Methodist) (7 pm)
- May 20-22 District Camporee
- May 24 **NO TROOP MEETING**; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm); **Merit Badge Information Due**
- May 29 Reconnaissance articles due
- May 31 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); **Rank Advancements Due**
- June 2 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
- June 3-5 Troop Campout
- June 7 Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm)
- June 10-12 Jamboree Shake Down
- June 12-18 Pine Tree Session I
- June 19-25 Pine Tree Session II
- July 17-23 Many Point

Outdoor Code

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.



www.vikingbsa.org
www.scouting.org

COUNCIL AND DISTRICT NEWS

Timberwolves Scout Night – Due to popular demand, an additional Timberwolves Scout Night has been added – Wednesday, April 13 at 7 pm vs Warriors. For \$19 each, Scouts and family members will receive a \$24 ticket, a Crunch mini-bobblehead (Scout version), Timberwolves Scouting patch, 1 hot dog, 1 small soda, 1 box of Hot Tamales candy and 1 Dairy Queen Blizzard coupon. In addition, the first 5,000 fans will receive a KG Smiti action figure in its own collector tin, courtesy of US Bank. For more information, contact Shane Sturges at 612.673-1686 or Chris Palaia at 612.673-8141.

Scout Overnight with the Saints – May 7-8. For \$15 per person, you will receive a general admission ticket to the Saints Friday, May 7 4:05 p.m. game, a coupon for a hot dog and soft drink, a special St. Paul Saints Scout patch, Free Saints hat, a post-game autograph session for Scouts only, multiple Sport-themed Fun Zones, a post-game movie on the new scoreboard, sleep out in the Midway outfield and a general admission ticket to the Saturday, May 8 5 a.m. game. For more information, contact Matt Bomberg at 651.644-6659 or order tickets online at www.saintsgroups.com (enter "scouts" as password).

2005 Saints Scout Nights – Wednesday, July 6 at 7:05 pm vs. Joliet or Wednesday, July 27 at 7:05 pm vs. Gary. For \$15 per person, you will receive a general admission ticket, a coupon for a hot dog and soft drink, a special St. Paul Saint Scout patch, a free Saints hat, a post-game autograph session for Scouts only, multiple sport-themed Fun Zones and a post-game movie on the new scoreboard. For more information, contact Matt Bomberg at 651.644-6659 or order tickets online at www.saintsgroups.com (enter "scouts" as password).

May Activities

The theme for May is Aviation with the Raptors the Responsible Patrol. There will not be a Troop campout in May, rather a Mustang District Camporee May 20-22. Stay tuned for more details.

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles
Articles for the May issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, May 1! 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".

Uniform Exchange
Viking Council holds uniform exchanges several times a month. If you have a uniform that your son no longer needs, please consider giving it to the council for this exchange. Michael Wiig will bring any donated uniforms to the council office. Michael attends most meetings, so feel free to bring the uniform at your convenience. Visit the Viking Council website at www.vikingbsa.org for more information regarding the uniform exchange.

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.

Troop Directory Changes -- Please check your information in the troop directory and send any corrections or additions to Barbara Hanson at BNEHanson@mn.rr.com.

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:
Joe Polta (952) 942-0407

Committee Chair:
Julie Arthur Sherman (952) 975-0264

Reconnaissance Editor:
Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803
Email: songle19@msn.com

Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org

God & Country Protestant Emblem Opportunity by Cindy Blomgren

WHAT: God & Country Protestant Emblem

WHO: Any Scout between Grades 6 - 8

Optional - a parent may participate with you as a mentor if they agree to complete a workbook too!

WHY: You'll learn more about yourself, your faith, helping others, and it could just be relevant in your future when you run into tough circumstances.

WITH: Scouts from our Troop and other Troops within Eden Prairie

WHERE: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, hosted by Scoutmaster Ron Bigley

WHEN: First meeting is Saturday, April 23 at 9 a.m. This is a good chance to come and find out what it's about; We will meet weekly thereafter for approximately 8 to 10 weeks.

FOOD: Yes! Continental Breakfast served.

INQUIRE: Ask Cindy Blomgren or either Eric Blomgren or Tyler Herzog (both are Huskies) who are about to complete this program.

RESULT: Scouts who complete this workbook and program are entitled to wear a religious knot on their uniform and to order a special GOD & COUNTRY metal emblem. Scouts who complete this program will better understand their personal faith, the background of their denomination, and have opportunity to outreach with service projects to people in the community.

Scout Achievements

Congratulations to –
Chris Mueller who will be representing the State of Minnesota in the National Math Competition held in Detroit, Michigan, the weekend of May 5. Chris is ranked the highest 7th grade math student in the state through the MN MathCounts organization. Good Luck Chris!

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



Troop 695 will be returning to Many Point Scout Camp for their week long summer camp experience from July 17-23. The camp is on the shores of Many Point and Round Lake. It is 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.

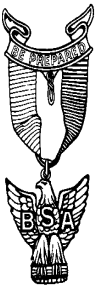
Registration started in March, with the down payment of \$100.00. This payment was due March 29th. **The final payment of \$120.00 is due May 3rd.** This total payment of \$220.00 covers the cost of camp, which is \$187.00; and the cost of bus transportation. A few of the merit badges will have a nominal fee for materials once you get to camp. These fees will be listed in the final packet I give to you in May. Also, please factor in approximately \$20.00 spending money for the Trading Post at camp.

Please start thinking about what merit badges you would like to take at camp this year and get your list to your patrol coaches. I would like to receive the merit badge choices from the patrol coaches by mid-May. For the older scouts entering 8th grade, I will speak with you at a troop meeting regarding the high adventure programs. The Tree House is a new high adventure attraction this year. Also new this year is a pontoon boat at each beach for troops to use; a water trampoline and log launch at each beach; and an AED at each beach. They are expanding the climbing tower and offering many cooking demonstrations. This year they did retire all the horses so there is no longer the horseback riding programs.

All scouts should plan on attending 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 will need your assistance again this year. 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. I already have many parents that have signed up to help out at camp full-time or part-time. At camp there are many activities adults can participate in. Camp is fun for any age! If you have a day or two, or a week, please sign up--we'd love to have you join us!

I will have my table set up at the top of the stairs at each meeting. Stop by to sign up, make a payment, or just ask a question. If you have any questions you can call me at 952-906-9604 or e-mail me at pboudreaux@mn.rr.com. I will also be working with Jim Sundberg to get Many Point info on the web site.



Eagle Updates

Eagle Project – Brad Madsen is doing a landscaping project at the Jacques-Riley Homestead for his Eagle Project which is located on the north side of Lake Riley Park. Brad invites all scouts to join him on this project on May 7 and 8. A sign-up sheet and maps will be located by the Troop “ships”.

Rank Advancement

Congratulations to the following scouts who were honored at the March 29, 2005 Court of Honor:

<p>SCOUT: Niko Beauchamp, Josh Boudreaux, Jason Briest, Brian Elyea-Wheeler, John Koepke, Cory Kronlokken, John Kronlokken, Michael Lindgren, Tom Polta, Sam Rosol, Brandon Schwab, Shaun Sperr, Ryan Williamson and Hunter Wolf TENDERFOOT: Daniel Johnson SECOND CLASS: Cory Munkvold FIRST CLASS: Josh Clifford and Eric Wiig STAR: Robbie Beveroth, Kyle Kronlokken, Terrence Tan and Kevin Thomsen LIFE: Todd Hayen and Andrew Songle EAGLE: Ben Cooper</p>	<p>EAGLE GOLD PALM: David Camerino WORLD CONSERVATION AWARD: Jens Gilman and Nathan Haggerty RELIGIOUS AWARD – AD ALTARE DEI – Matt Boudreaux, Andrew Songle, Patrick Tinucci and Tim Wolfgram</p>
---	---

Thanks

Special thanks to the following for all their hard work for the March 29 Court of Honor:

<p>Becky Engelhart – Friends of Scouting Barbara Hanson – Court of Honor Program Nancy Madsen – Rank and Merit Badge Coordinator</p>	<p>Scoutmaster Joe Polta Thunder Patrol Merit Badge Counselors</p>
---	---



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

Have you ever heard me say "you'd better be at the next Troop meeting, or you're not going to the campout this weekend"? I didn't think so. Unlike so many other organizations or clubs you might belong to, Troop 695 doesn't require you to attend. I'm always glad to see every Scout at Troop events, but I also think you have the right to give priority to church and family first, and school second. Scouts and everything else can come third. Sometimes Scouts gets pushed down to fourth or fifth place, behind sports, music, or other activities. Naturally I think the Troop is the best group for you to spend your time with, but there's nothing wrong with attending one of your other activities instead.

The choices can be tough. You'll want to be here to learn camping and leadership skills, and to have fun putting them to use. You'll especially want to be here if you're in a leadership position, or want to be in one. Of course I hope you'll choose to spend time with the Troop or your patrol, but you have to do what's right for you. Your most important job is to become the best man you possibly can.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SPL Scratch by Tim Wolfram

I am looking forward to being the newly elected SPL. I think that my natural leadership strengths and Scouting knowledge will help me to run the Troop effectively. It will be a lot of fun, but as well as being a great challenge. Also, I am sure that this upcoming campout will be a successful one. Finally, I hope that everyone had an enjoyable, but safe spring break.

ASPL Notepad -- Jake Poirier and Brad Madsen

There haven't been any meetings or activities since I became ASPL, so I haven't had to do anything yet. I look forward to helping out on campouts and meetings in the coming months. Jake Poirier.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Evan Fairbrother, Patrol Leader; Reed Qually -- Outgoing Patrol Leader – Our Patrol has had two meetings in the late March to work on team building skills. This will make us a more dependable and a together patrol. We hope to use one of the exercises at the next campout with the rest of the troop. I heard that the campout went well without me. This is my last article as Patrol Leader and I wish Evan Fairbrother the best of luck being our new Patrol Leader the next six months.

COBRAS: Josh Boudreaux, Patrol Leader -- We have just gotten our Scout rank and now working together to accomplish our Tender Foot. For all the people in the Troop that don't get our patrol name, it is from the movie Dodge Ball.; Matt Boudreaux & John Lewis, Troop Guides – The Purple Cobra Patrol is now working on their Tender Foot Rank. We are looking forward to the campout this weekend. That is it for right now. We will keep you updated.

DRAGONS: Adam Reden, Patrol Leader --

FALCONS: Spencer Sundberg, Patrol Leader

TIMBERWOLVES: -- John Kronlokken, Patrol Leader; Troop Guides: Andrew Songle & Ian Vanic – Most of the Timberwolves have advanced to Scout rank and will be working toward their Tenderfoot Rank. Now that they are Scout rank, we are going to get them started on their Merit Badges. If you have any questions about which Merit Badges to work on at Many Point, see us. We would suggest First Aid and Swimming and then one of your choice.

SCORPIONS: Spencer Toay, Patrol Leader --

WOLVERUNNERS: Nathan Haggerty, Patrol Leader

RAPTORS: Jason Smoliak, Patrol Leader

HUSKIES: Tyler Herzog, Patrol Leader

THUNDER: Luke Coyer, Patrol Leader --

Troop Leadership Reports

Bugler: Chistopher Mueller -- I liked playing at the COH this past month. Also, I have purchased a Bugler Handbook for Troop 695. It has over 30 songs in it. All buglers from now on can use this book.

Camping Instructor: Open

Ceremonies Instructor: Open

Cooking Instructor: Open

Chaplain's Aid: Eric Wiig

Den Chiefs: None

Fire Safety Instructor: Open

First Aid Instructor: Open

Historian: Eric Hanson

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: David Camerino and Ben Cooper

Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open

Librarian: Kyle Kronlokken

Quartermaster: Dan Polta -- Hello. I would like to mention that starting next campout there will be a checkout list for camp equipment. You will not be able to just put the tent in the trailer when you are done with it. You will have to come and find me and tell me that you are returning it and tell me the tent number. If the tent is lost or you don't return it soon we WILL charge you for it. Please come to me if you have problems with your patrol box or are missing something.

Scribe: Terrence Tan

Knots Instructor: Open

Troop OA Representative: Robbie Beveroth

Venture President: Open