



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

December 6, 2005; Volume 10, Issue 10

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December Activities

Theme: First Aid

Responsible Patrol: Huskies

December 6 – Troop and Parents' Meetings

December 13 – Troop Court of Honor

December 20 – **No Troop Meeting**

December 27 – **Tree Lot Clean-Up**

Troop Camp-Out

There is no camp-out this month.

Your First Aid Merit Badge can be worked on this month!!!!

“ Think of Baden-Powell's words when you promise "to help other people at all times."
Scoutmaster Polta




Toys for Tots is a program of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve operated by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

December Troop Service Project

The Troop will be collecting items for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Michael Wiig has graciously volunteered to take any toys/gifts to the Scout office in Golden Valley. Committee Chair Jennen suggested that the Troop Court of Honor on December 13 would be a good date to collect. If you can't make the December 13 Court of Honor, Toys/gifts will also be collected at the meeting on December 6.

We would like to focus on gifts for teenagers as this is where the need is greatest. Use the list below to help choose appropriate gifts for teenagers. PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ANY ITEMS THAT ARE UNAPPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM (I.E. RATED R MOVIES OR MUSIC CONTAINING EXPLICIT LANGUAGE.)

Baseballs	Baseball Cap	Baseball Glove	Backpack	Duffel Bag
Purse	Fanny Pack	Sport Watch	C.D.'s	Cassette Tapes
Video Tapes	DVD's	Disposable Cameras	Clock Radio	Walkman Radio with headphones
Inexpensive Challenging Board Games	Challenging Jigsaw Puzzles	Car/plane models that need assembly/painting	Framed Posters	Hand Held Electronic Games
Art Supplies (large painting or charcoal set with art paper)	Books	Modeling Clay and Tools	Rollerblades or accessories	Hockey Sticks and Puck
Football	Basketballs	Deluxe Frisbees	“Other” sports equipment	Make-up Cases (Caboodle's or Sassy)
Hair Dryer – Volumizer Curling Iron	Bedazzler beads	Tickets to movies, bowling, theater, plays, concerts, sporting events	Gift Certificates for fast food restaurants, movie theaters, pizza parties, sporting events, music and video stores or theme parks	

MISSION: The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

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

The tree lot (at the corner Flying Cloud Drive and Pioneer Trail by the Super America) is open through **December 18**. Thanks to all the Scouts and parents who help make this a successful event. This is one of the largest fundraisers for the troop.

If you are unable to work a shift you are assigned, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

Salesmanship – This is an excellent thing to work on this month. As you're working the lot, remember to be polite, courteous and helpful to potential buyers. You are not only representing yourself, but the entire Troop. Also remember to encourage others to visit the lot for their tree purchases.

Clean-up: Clean-up of the Tree Lot will take place on **Tuesday, December 27 at 6 p.m. at the Tree Lot.**

Bulletin Board

<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the January issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, December 25! Email your articles to her at songle19@msn.com.</p> <p>Reconnaissance on the Web <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 -- Karen 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 Committee Chair: Mark Jennen (952)</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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Wreath Wrap-Up by Barbara Hanson

Wreath Sales
A new record! The 2005 wreath sales topped all previous years. Thirty-seven Scouts sold \$18,248 worth of products, an increase of 65% over the 2004 total. Fabulous! Participating Scouts earned over \$4,500 for their Scout accounts, and over \$3,000 for the Troop. Congratulations to top salesman Van Donkersgoed with sales of \$2,690. Honorable mention to Eric Hanson with sales of \$1,673.50 and Spencer Toay with sales of \$1,135. Thank you and congratulations to all Scouts who participated.

Recruitment

<p>If you are able to assist at any of the listed recruiting activities, please see Don Qually or Kevin Opitz.</p> <p>If you know of any Scouts, families of Scouts or non-Scouts that are interested in scouting, please have them contact Don Qually, Kevin Opitz or Scoutmaster Joe Polta.</p> <p>Contact Information: Don Qually -- 952.944.2679 (h); 612.839.4674 (w); gmcqually@worldnet.att.net Kevin Opitz -- (952.975.0580 (h); 763.367.5008 (w); kopitz@mn.rr.com). Scoutmaster Joe Polta – 952.974.0264 (h); scoutmasterpolta@att.net</p>	<p>Events: Troop and Parents' Meetings, December 6, (6:30-8 pm) Join a typical Troop meeting to see what it's like and meet some parents of our Scouts. Troop Court of Honor, December 13 (6:30-8 pm) – Attendance is required by Senior Webelos in order to earn the Summit Award. Refreshments are served. Winter Survival Outing, January 29, Staring Lake, (noon-4 pm) – Webelos will join our Scouts for a morning of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice bowling and winter survival training. Scouts will demonstrate how to make your own snowshoes.</p>
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Calendar of Events

- Dec. 6 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling; Rank advancements due; Webelos invited
- Dec. 13 Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm); Webelos invited
- Dec. 18 Last Day of Tree Lot
- Dec. 25 *Reconnaissance* articles due
- Dec. 27 Tree Lot clean-up (6 pm)
- Jan. 3 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling
- Jan. 5 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
- Jan. 6-8 North Winds (Stearns)
- Jan. 10 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- Jan. 17 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
- Jan. 20-22 Troop Camp-Out (Stearns); North Winds (Stearns)
- Jan. 24 **No Troop Mtg.**; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)
- Jan. 26 Mustang District Dinner
- Jan. 29 Webelos Winter Outing (Staring Lake) (12 pm); *Reconnaissance* Articles due
- Jan. 31 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)

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.

Merit Badge Madness is Coming! By Derrick Poirier

What is it? We will devote much of January and all 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 at first January troop meeting). We will work on requirements during the troop meetings in January and February and then stay at Camp St. Croix the weekend of February 24-26 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 merit badge classes and help the scouts lay out plans to finish long-term requirements. Volunteers have already agreed to teach the list of badges that follows. We'd like to include additional badges based on the interests of the boys and parents. Please contact Derrick Poirier if there is another 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.

Badges to be offered (* denotes eagle-required):

- 1) Snow Sports
- 2) Art
- 3) Energy
- 4) Citizenship in the World*
- 5) Citizenship in the Community*
- 6) Citizenship in the Nation*
- 7) Communications*
- 8) First Aid*
- 9) Personal Management*

Scouts: help keep our costs down! Please return any merit badge books that you have finished using but still have at home. This is a great time to finish off badges you have started!

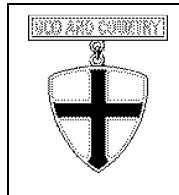
Earning Your Protestant Emblem by Cindy Blomgren

Scouts who are in Grades 6, 7, or 8 are asked to think about tackling the prestigious and mentally challenging **Protestant Emblem**. When finished, you'll get a *God and Country* Pin, a patch, and a Purple Knot to wear on your uniform. We'll be going through our *God and Church* workbooks together and doing meaningful activities such as a videography project.

Four scouts have already asked to be in this program - and we welcome more! Class dates and times are as follows:

- Sat. Dec. 10, 9:30 – 11 a.m. Introduction and inquiry for anyone thinking about doing this! Bagels and juice served.
- Sat. Dec. 31
- Sat. Jan 14
- Sat. Jan 28
- Sat. Feb. 4
- Sat. Feb. 11
- Sat. Feb. 18

Additional dates as needed until finished.



Meeting times will vary, either 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. or 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. For more information, see Chris Mueller, Troop Chaplain, or Cindy Blomgren, Protestant Counselor.

Any Scout who wishes to work on an emblem for another faith should contact Scoutmaster Polta.



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said this to Scouts everywhere:

"I often think, when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size: some are big, some are little, and some men have done small deeds but they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they go to heaven. Try to make your hole in the blanket by good work while you are on earth. It is something to be good, but it is far better to good."



Think of Baden-Powell's words when you promise "to help other people at all times."

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SPL Scratch by Scott Jennen

During the month of November, the Scouts worked on two things: annual planning and the Cooking Merit Badge. For the Cooking Merit Badge, the Scouts played various trivia games involving how to cook and cooking safety. At the campout, they went to several demonstrations throughout the day. For the planning part of the month, the Scouts picked topics for 2006 and half of 2007. Then they assigned those themes to different months and Patrols. All-in-all, most of the month went extremely well, except for Scouts not knowing when to speak and when to not speak. So keep that in mind.

ASPL Notepad by John Lewis

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. The tree lot is going well right now and is looking good. There are no campouts in December, but in January there will be a winter campout for the younger Scouts. They will be in a shelter. For the older Scouts, there will be a high adventure to go on. Also, there is a Court of Honor coming up on the 13th of December. I am also looking forward to getting my last two Merit Badges for my Eagle requirement.

ASPL Notepad by Matt Boudreaux

I would just like to say that your last 2 campouts have been great, even though we lost some tarps at one of them, (sob sob sob). Just like to remind everyone that in December we are doing First Aid. If you need those requirements, you should come to the meeting. We will be touching on all the 2nd and 1st class First Aid requirements. We also have a COH coming up, so start thinking of a cool treat that you could bring. Thank you.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Adam Bissonette
PURPLE COBRAS: Andrew Teaver; Troop Guide: Terrance Tan
DRAGONS: David Jennen -- I think that the month of November was pretty well planned and that is was a lot of hard work. I like the fact that during the campout we had more time to cook and get good tasting meals. I think that the Scouts talk when the leaders are talking and I say that making them clean the latrines is a good idea.
FALCONS: Andrew Shawd -- At the November campout, the Troop determined which months each Patrol would plan. Remember, if your Patrol is planning a particularly difficult Merit Badge for a month, check with the Merit Badge Counselor to see if they have any extra curriculum or materials to help with the completion of the merit badge.
HUSKIES: Shane Thuleen
RAPTORS: Brad Madsen

THUNDER: Ryan Brattensborg -- At this time, the Thunder Patrol has four out of the six Scouts going to North Winds. It looks like the last two may come also, but nothing definite at this time. Luke and I are 1st Class; Drew, Jeran, Kyle and Matt are all 2nd Class. All of us but Jeran and Luke went to the tree lot training. Luke is a Den Chief and has been on most of the campouts since I've been Patrol Leader. My goal as Patrol Leader is to get everyone to 1st class or beyond.
TIMBERWOLVES: Sam Rosol; Troop Guide: Ian Vanic
SCORPIONS: Austin Artz
WOLVERUNNERS: Jake Poirier -- This month at the cooking campout, I stood in for John Lewis as an ASPL. We got a lot done for annual planning and I think the campout went very well. In the coming months, my Patrol will be getting ready for Merit Badge Madness, which is coming up in February.

Troop Leadership Reports

Assist. Senior Patrol Leaders: Matt Boudreaux and John Lewis II
Bugler: Open
Camping Instructor: Eric Wiig -- You should try to keep as much mud/dirt out of your tent. It's the dirt and grime that eventually wears off the waterproof coating and lets your tent leak. So when you can, store your dirty footwear outside of the tent underneath the vestibule in front of the door. One technique is to sit in the tent and take off your boots with your feet outside the door instead of stepping into the tent. Remember **Leave No Trace**.
Chaplain's Aid: Chris Mueller
Cooking Instructor: Reed Qually
Den Chiefs: Luke Coyer, Josh Issacs, Daniel Johnson and Zach Poirier -- I went to a den meeting with my den last week. We worked on the Handyman Activity Pin. The Scouts did things like change a light bulb in a lamp, change the headlight on a car, and oiled a bike chain. I also taught them how to check the air pressure in bike and car tires. Things are going great so far. **Zach Poirier**. I'm the Den Chief for Den 13, Pack 348. We had a good time in the past months. We got all the way through the Bobcat stage and had a pancake breakfast to earn money for PROP that went very well. **Ryan Halpin**

Fire Safety: Patrick Conklin
First Aid Instructor: Evan Fairbrother
Historian: Ryan Halpin
Junior Assistant Scoutmasters: Ben Cooper and Brad Madsen
Knife & Ax Safety Instructor: Julian Kollmeyer
Knots Instructor: Dan Polta – I have been noticing that some people don't know how to tie any knots besides the square knot. Now in a perfect world we would know every knot there is to know, but seeing as the world is not perfect, you should be asking me how to tie knots. You have not. Please don't go around not knowing how to tie any knots besides the square knot when I am here to help.
Librarian: Alex Fleagle
Quartermaster: Nate Brown
Troop OA Representative: Jake Brown
Scribe: Paul Rairamo
Venture President: Open

District and Council News



Visit the Northern Star Council Website at www.northernstarbsa.org

Offices Closed. The Council Service Centers will be closed on December 23, 26 and January 2.

District Awards Nominations: If you would like to recognize a Scout or Adult who has performed exemplary service to our Troop this past year, please consider nominating them for one of the District Awards that will be presented at the Mustang District Dinner on January 26. For more information, clip on the nomination forms found under Upcoming Events at <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/mustang>.

District Goals: *All leaders in the Unit are trained; *Unit has a solid 12-month Program Plan; *Unit has a flexible 3-year Program Plan; and *There is a Succession Plan for the Unit's Key Adult Leadership Positions.

30 Quicker Ways to Save a Life with CPR

Heart experts say faster chest compressions will improve blood circulation and possibly double a person's chance of survival.

New guidelines: "Push hard, push fast" next time you give CPR to someone having cardiac arrest, say new, simpler guidelines that are a radical departure from past advice. Moving the emphasis from mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, the American Heart Association now is urging people to give 30 compressions – instead of 15 – for every two rescue breaths. The advice is the same for patients of all ages, and you don't have to stop to check from improvement.

Why the change? What's important is to keep the blood flowing. Studies have shown that blood circulation increases with each chest compression and it must be built back up after an interruption. "When you're doing 30 of those compressions, then you're giving more circulation throughout the body and the brain," said Jennifer Khonsari of Texas CPR Training.

Telling statistics: More than 300,000 Americans die each year from cardiac arrest – when the heart suddenly stops beating. About 75 to 80 percent of all cardiac arrests outside a hospital happen at home, and effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CRP) can double a victim's chance of survival.

"The most common reason many people die from cardiac arrest is no one nearby knows CRP," said Dr. Michael Sayre, an Ohio State University emergency medicine professor who helped develop the new guidelines, announced Monday, November 28.

Further medical advice: The Heart Association also recommends that medical professionals cool down cardiac arrest patients to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 24 hours. Two significant studies have shown that practice can improve survival and brain function for those who are comatose after initial resuscitation.

The new guidelines also advise just one shock from a defibrillator before beginning CPR. Studies show that the first shock works more than 85 percent of the time.

Added benefit: The streamlined guidelines should make it easier for people to learn CPR, which the Heart Association said can be effectively taught in about 20 minutes. Currently, about 9 million Americans a year are trained in CPR, the Heart Association says, but it has a goal of more than doubling that number in the next five years to 20 million.

"We have more and more evidence that good CPR works. We're doing our best to increase the number of bystanders that learn CPR," said Mary Fran Haxinski, a clinical nurse specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center who also worked on the guidelines.

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