



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

January 4, 2005; Volume 10, Issue 1

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

January Activities

Theme: Winter Survival
Responsible Patrol: Falcons

Troop Activities

Jan. 4 Troop meeting – We planned two stations. Scouts numbered off 1-4, and those were the 4 teams. Groups 1 and 2 went to station 1, Groups 3 and 4 went to station 2. Station 1 was a compass game. We went outside and each team was given compass bearings. Teams went to the first bearing and found a marker that has the next bearing. The first team that got all the markers won. Station 2 was estimating distance and height. Teams needed to solve puzzles using this method. For this we played a game where the Scouts got back in their groups and chose 3 people. The team had to carry those 3 people who had linked hands to a point without the 3 touching the ground. Team members not of the 3 had only touch the outside 2.

Jan. 11 Troop meeting -- We will have speakers on how to dress, how to sleep, how to cook, and first aid for cold weather. We will have a game that will have 4 teams. They all stand on a tarp and try to flip it over without anyone touching the ground.

Jan. 25 Troop meeting -- We will again have four teams. Teams 1-2 go to station 1 and teams 3-4 go to station 2. Station 1 will go over medical carries. At Station 2, each team goes through a simulation of being lost in the woods. There are 40 items and each chooses ten items to take along in the woods. You go through the simulation until you lose, win or time runs out.

Troop Campout

This month's campout is to North Wind at Stearns January 14-16. Permission slips are due to Terrance Tan's ship **today!** Permission slips can be downloaded from the Troop website.

Electronic Reconnaissance

I would like to propose that Scouts and families begin receiving electronic versus printed issues of *The Reconnaissance* each month. You would receive an email that included a link to the troop's website for you to review and print, if you choose, that month's issue. Several print copies would be available in the Troop Ship. If you like the idea, do nothing. If you don't like the idea or like the idea but would prefer to receive a printed copy each month, let me know via email at songle19@msn.com. This would be a huge savings for the Troop each month. Thank you.

"An Experienced Scout leads. He might be a Troop Guide. He might be an instructor. Or he might be one of many who lead less obviously -- but no less importantly -- by example." Scoutmaster Polta

Calendar of Events

January 4	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
January 6	OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
January 7	Timberwolves Scout night, 7 p.m. vs. 76ers
January 9	AAD Training, Tinucci's (6:30 pm)
January 11	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
January 14-16	Troop Campout, North Winds, Stearns/Dog Sledding, Ely
January 18	NO MEETING ; Committee and PLC Mtgs. (6:30 pm); Committee-ASM Mtg. (7 pm);
January 22	Webelos Winter Survival Outing, Staring Lake Outdoor Center (10 am-1 pm)
January 23	AAD Training, Tinucci's (6:30 pm)
January 25	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
January 27	District Dinner, 6:30 pm, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
January 29-30	Tentative 2 nd Troop North Wind Campout
January 30	<i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due
February 1	Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
February 3	OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
February 6	AAD Training, Tinucci's (6:30 pm); Scout Sunday
February 8	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
February 12	AAD Board of Review (St. Gearld's, Brooklyn Park); OA Winter Event
February 13	Timberwolves Scout Night, 2:30 p.m. vs. Bulls
February 15	Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)
February 22	Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)
February 25	Merit Badge Madness; 9 pm PLC Mtg.
February 26	Merit Badge Madness; 1 pm Committee Mtg. (tentative)
February 27	Merit Badge Madness; Reconnaissance articles due

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.

Adult Involvement – There are three basic reasons why every Scout’s parents and/or guardians should volunteer with the Troop in some capacity:

1. Even though the Scouts run the Troop, it is essential that they have strong support from the families of Troop 695. New Scouts cannot be expected to have the skills necessary to undertake the responsibilities of running a Troop without some guidance from older Scouts and adults.
2. Virtually all of the Scouts who are successful in the program have strong support and encouragement from their families.
3. If we divide the work equitably, no one has to do too much.

The Troop expects every adult to do each of the following:

- Fill one volunteer position
- Serve on an occasional Board of Review
- With other families, bring food to share at the quarterly Courts of Honor
- Occasionally drive to campouts
- Work with your son on fundraising projects
- Be a counselor for one merit badge
- Attend Youth Protection Training

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the February issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, January 30! 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".

Roster Changes

Please change your roster to reflect Nick Smith's new email address: nos12@mn.rr.com.

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.

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

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Mustang District

www.vikingbsa.org
www.scouting.org

COUNCIL AND DISTRICT NEWS

Buck Hill Ski Lock-In - All night skiing and snowboarding lock-in on February 25. A fun night with friends, both new and old. Other activities include movies, snow football, snow camping, bonfire, tubing. Register NOW!!! Times a ticking. You need to register by group or individually, registration deadline is February 14.. Buck Hill may cancel event if we do not meet the minimum registered by this date. Questions about the Lock-In, contact Bob Thielen at bthielen@bsaemail.org.

Timberwolves Scout Night – For \$19 each, Scouts and family members will receive a \$24 ticket, a Crunch mini-bobblehead (Scout version), Timberwolves yearbook, Timberwolves Scouting patch (collect all four), post-game free-throw contest. Game dates are January 7, February 13, March 4 and March 27. Order and payment due no later than 10 days prior to game. For more information, contact Chris Palaia at 612.673-8141.

Uniform Exchange

Michael Wiig has graciously offered to bring uniforms in to the council office for their uniform exchange, which is open on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday evenings of each month. If you have a uniform that your son no longer needs, please consider giving it to the council for this exchange. Mr. Wiig attends most meetings, so feel free to bring them at your convenience. Thanks, Michael!



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

This is an exciting time for our Troop. We're over 70 members strong, everyone with anywhere from almost a year to over six years' experience as a Scout. In just two more months, we hope to take on several patrols of new Scouts.

I look at our expected growth as more than "just" getting bigger. It's also another opportunity for each of you to take on the role of Experienced Scout. An Experienced Scout leads. He might be a Troop Guide. He might be an instructor. Or he might be one of many who lead less obviously -- but no less importantly -- by example. By wearing the uniform correctly. By helping out eagerly. By knowing and practicing good camping skills. By living the Scout Oath and Law, of course.

Have you thought of yourself as one of those Experienced Scouts? Each of you is one. Look back on the last year (or two, three, four or five) of accomplishments. Be proud of who you have become, and let your talent show.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SPL Scratch by Tyler Opitz

I very happy to see how well our troop is doing with advancements. Usually December can be a slow Court of Honor advancement wise. This time, however, I was very pleased to see how many kids have moved up in rank. It was very impressive. I am also very pleased to see people still working on merit badges. **As a reminder to all**, please remember that you need to keep your blue cards, so put them in a safe place and don't lose them or the badge may not be counted.

ASPL Notepad by Tim Wolferam

Boys, it is getting very cold outside as you all know. Also, the winter campouts are fast approaching. You must dress warm for these campouts because if you don't then you will be miserable. Wear layers and buy good quality winter gear such as boots, hats and gloves. REI has some great winter items. Keep this in mind when you are packing for Merit Badge Madness.

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Reed Qually, Patrol Leader
DRAGONS: David Jennen, Patrol Leader; **Troop Guide:** Jake Poirier
FALCONS: Kevin Thomsen, Patrol Leader
SCORPIONS: Nate Brown, Patrol Leader
Troop Guides: Ross Sherman & Shane Thuleen
HUSKIES: Eric Blomgren, Patrol Leader
RAPTORS: Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader
WOLVERINNERS: Josh Clifford, Patrol Leader

THUNDER: Drew Churchill, Patrol Leader -- My goals for being a Patrol Leader are to get people to listen to me, get everyone to their next rank and help our patrol get to know each other better. The tree lot was a lot of fun, especially if you were working with friends. Hopefully all the new Scouts had a chance to work at it at least once. Thanks for the good training session. **Troop Guide:** Tyler Herzog

Troop Leadership Reports

Bugler: Open
Camping Instructor: Andrew Songle -- As you all know by now, we are scheduled to go on two winter campouts in January. One will be North Wind at Stearns, and another big one is dogsledding in Ely. If you have any questions about winter camping, call or see me at one of the meetings.
Ceremonies Instructor: Eric Hanson
Cooking Instructor: Terrence Tan -- The seasons are changing and with it the temperature is dropping, so be sure to plan well for the up-coming campouts. When I say plan well, I mean things such as substituting food like ham and cheese sandwiches with some hot soup. Are you ever tired of the same meals being planned for campouts? If so, suggest to your patrol to cook different recipes. In your Scout handbook there are a variety of ideas for food, or if you need more ideas ask me.
Chaplain's Aid: Open
Den Chiefs: Matt Boudreaux and Josh Issacs
Fire Safety Instructor: Open

First Aid Instructor: Patrick Tinucci -- You may come up to me anytime during the meetings to get help or to get something signed off.
Historian: Jake Brown
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: David Camerino
Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open
Librarian: Open
Quartermaster: Kyle Kronlokken
Scribe: Dan Polta -- I have finally started to take attendance at meetings and other events. Please attend meetings, guys, because you need good attendance to be considered an active participant to advance in rank. If you are a patrol leader and do not get an attendance sheet at any meeting, please come find me and ask for a sheet. Remember, if you don't attend, you might have to wait to get your rank.
Knots Instructor: Andrew Shawd
Troop OA Representative: Open
Venture President: Open

Instructor Tips of the Month

First Aid -- Patrick Tinucci -- Always remember to cook your food thoroughly so there are no pink or red spots. This will help prevent you from getting food poisoning.

Camping -- Andrew Songle -- A couple good things to purchase before winter camping that will keep you very warm are a bomber hat with rabbit lining and Under Armour which is an under layer that is skin tight and keeps you very warm. And remember, dress in layers!!

Cooking – Terrence Tan -- What comes to mind first when you want to cook quicker? Many people would say to turn up the heat, but most of the time all that does is burn your meal. You need to be patient about cooking things like hamburgers or sausages, but for most liquids like soup just turn the stove on high.

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 Ins and Outs

There are 119 Merit Badges to choose from. Merit Badges introduce Scouts to possible careers and hobbies, teach additional outdoor skills, and encourage citizenship and personal development. Scouts who wish to work on a Merit Badge should choose a badge from the list in The Boy Scout Handbook, then follow this procedure:

1. Scouts write their name and the badge they would like to work on in the Merit Badge Notebook. This notebook is located on the Troop table at all Troop Meetings.
2. At the following Troop Meeting, the Scoutmaster will present the Scout with a Blue Card, which is marked with the name of the Merit Badge and the name of the Merit Badge Counselor.
3. The Scouts obtains the Merit Badge book that he will be working on. Reading the Merit Badge book will make completing the badge infinitely easier. The Merit Badge book may be borrowed from the Troop Librarian, the Public Library or purchased at the Scout Shop.
4. The Scout then contacts his Merit Badge Counselor and sets up a meeting. At the meeting, the Scout and his counselor will discuss the merit badge requirements and set up a timetable for completion of the badge. *Please note that Troop 695 complies with BSA guidelines by following the buddy system. The buddy system requires that each Scout be accompanied by another person when meeting with an adult counselor (that person may be another Scout, parent, friend, etc.*

5. The number of meetings that the Scout has with his counselor will vary, depending upon the Merit Badge and the Scout's ability to work independently. Whenever the Scout feels that he has completed one or more of the requirements for the Merit Badge, he will meet with his counselor. If his counselor agrees that he has met the requirement, he/she will sign that requirement off on the Scout's Blue Card. Merit Badge Counselors must not sign off on their own son's Blue Cards.
6. When all of the requirements have been signed off, the Merit Badge Counselor will sign the Blue Card. The Scout then turns it in to the Scoutmaster for his signature. The signed card then goes to the Advancement Chairperson. The Scout will receive his Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor.
7. *Note: at the Court of Honor, the Merit Badge will be accompanied by one portion of the Blue Card. The Scout should retain that portion in his records, since it may be required as proof that he has earned that Merit Badge if he attains the rank of Eagle.*

Merit Badge Madness is a great opportunity to work on several badges in one weekend. Look for more information as to the badges that will be offered at this year's Merit Badge Madness, February 26-28. We devote the month of February to working on merit badges. A mixture of Eagle-required and optional badges will be offered.

Scouting for Food is April 30, 2005

One out of every 21 families in Minnesota will use a food shelf this year. Over half of those families will have children who have to miss meals because there isn't enough food for everyone. The tremendous need is reason enough for all packs, troops, crews and posts to participate in this year's Scouting for Food program, but there is another great reason – the youth who participate will get a lot out of it too.

Get the Word Out!

Has your patrol or the Troop had a great activity? Let's tell the community. Small stories of an event with a picture can be sent to the local paper at www.mnsun.com or www.edenprairienews.com. While they may not all get published, nothing will if we don't send it. If you need help writing an article or have ideas, email Lisa Songle at songle19@msn.com.

Scout Sunday is February 6

Scouts are encouraged to attend mass with the Troop at Prairie Lutheran, our Charter church, on February 6. Scouts may have the opportunity to act as color guards, ushers or participate in the service. Scouting bulletins or inserts can also be used. Some religious institutions list Scouting members in their bulletin to acknowledge their belief that "A Scout is Reverent."

Winter Survival Outing – Recruiting Event

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Staring Lake Outdoor Center to participate in our last Senior Webelos Recruiting Event. Enjoy a morning sharing experiences of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice bowling and winter survival training. Contact Webelos Activities Chair Don Qually for more information or if you are interesting in assisting.