



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

March 1, 2005; Volume 10, Issue 3

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March Activities

Theme: Fire Safety

Responsible Patrol: Thunder

The goal for all Scouts in March is to earn their Fire Safety Merit Badge. The Thunder Patrol has planned some neat activities with regards to fire safety with the assistance of our very own resident firefighter, John Wolfgram. Every Tuesday during the month of March will offer you an opportunity to complete your requirements on your way to earning your Fire Safety Merit Badge.

The Thunder will also be hosting the March campout at Phillippo Scout Reservation near Cannon Falls on March 11-13. The cost for the campout is \$17 and will involve sleeping indoors, but cooking our own meals outside. We will need to bring the trailers and will need volunteers to pull them to and from the campout. There will also be an opportunity for skiing or snowboarding at Welch Village. See permission slip for additional fees associated with this activity. Permission slips are due to Mike Brattensborg or Mark Churchill by Tuesday, March 8. Check the Troop Ship if you need a permission slip.

Eagle Updates



All Troop 695 Scouts and their families are cordially invited to attend the following Eagle Courts of Honor and celebrate the achievements of Charlie and Derek. A reception will follow the ceremonies.

Eagle Court of Honor – Charlie DeBeck will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, March 20 at 1 p.m. at Prairie Lutheran Church. Charlie's Eagle Scout project was the construction of street signs for the Relay for Life.

Eagle Court of Honor -- Derek Clemmings will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Tuesday, March 22 at Prairie Lutheran Church at 6:30 pm. Derek's Eagle Scout project was the construction and posting of signage at the Starring Lake X-C ski trails. He passed his Eagle Board of Review on October 26.

Eagle Preview Meeting – Attendance at an Eagle Preview meeting is highly recommended to all Life Scouts working toward Eagle Rank. These meetings are only held twice per year. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at 7 pm at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina.

Welcome New Scouts

Today we are welcoming 17 new 1st year Scouts from four Packs. One of the boys is coming from a Hopkins pack, so it appears our web site works. We are also being considered by a 6th grade scout who recently moved here from Illinois and a few first years who remain undecided as to which troop they will join.

Welcome from Pack 347: Jonathon Odom; Jason Briest; Brandon Schwab; Jonathon Hillard; Evan Blomgren; Josh Boudreaux and Brian Elyea-Wheeler; **from Pack 348:** Sam Rosol; John Kronlokken; Cory Kronlokken and John Koepke; **from Pack 342:** Tom Polta; Shaun Sperr; Niko Beauchamp; Ryan Williamson; Matthew Knauf; and **from Hopkins:** Hunter Wolf.

New Scout Parents -- There will be a meeting for all the parents of the new scouts on March 8 at 6:30 pm. Topics covered will be Many Point and an FAQ session using our website.

Troop Court of Honor

A Troop Court of Honor is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 pm. All scouts are expected to be in full Class A uniform. A sign-up sheet will be available during meetings requesting adults to bring beverages, appetizers and desserts. Please make note of the merit badge and rank advancement deadlines on the calendars and articles included within the newsletter.

“The questions or problems I don't care for are the ones that are just that -- problems. . . . The ones I like are the ones where the Scout is coming to me not with a problem, but with a request for a **solution.**” Scoutmaster Polta

March Is Recharter Month by Julie Sherman, Committee Chair

March is the time when each scout unit must register with the council all their scouts and adult leaders. At the parent's meeting tonight, each scout will find in their ship an information sheet. This contains all the information we have for a scout and their family. Please review this and make any necessary corrections. Please also fill in any blanks. There will also be a medical form. Please fill in this information. The medical forms are kept in a notebook that accompanies the troop on each activity.

All this information will be added to Troopmaster. This is the scout database that keeps track of each scout's progress. This year the recharter will be done online through Troopmaster. After the recharter is completed, we will explore the opportunity of putting Troopmaster on the Troop's website and all the opportunities that will this will provide us. More information on that to follow.

FYI by Barbara Hanson

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.

TROOP COMMUNICATIONS -- Good communication is essential to the smooth operation of Troop 695. It is each Scout's responsibility to attend Troop meetings regularly and communicate to his parents the information that is presented at the Troop Meetings. Realistically, however, not all Scouts have developed the maturity to consistently relay accurate information. With that in mind, the Troop has several methods of communication to keep Troop 695 families informed. Families with dual households may receive duplicates of any Troop materials by notifying the Committee Chair.

"THE SHIP" contains a file for each family. Scouts should check their file at *every* meeting. Permission forms, information sheets, newsletters, Scout Account summaries, etc. are distributed through "The Ship". **"THE RECONNAISSANCE"** is our Troop newsletter. It is distributed monthly online or through "The Ship" on the first Tuesday of the month. "The Reconnaissance" has articles about upcoming events, camping and articles from each Scout who holds a leadership position. The **"TROOP 695 GUIDEBOOK"** explains the general policies of BSA and Troop 695. Parents who periodically review this guidebook will have a much better understanding of their son's Scouting experience. **TROOP WEBSITE -- www.troop695.org**. This website provides up-to-date information about troop activities, advancement, fund-raisers, troop positions, calendars, forms, publications and much more. The site also provides links to other sites with valuable scouting information.

Calendar of Events

- March 1 **New Scouts Join;** Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
- March 3 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
- March 8 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); New Parents Meeting; Troop Elections
- March 11-13 Troop Campout, Phillippo Scout Reservation
- March 12 AAD Ceremony, St. Paul Cathedral
- March 15 **NO TROOP MEETING;** PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm); ASM/Patrol Coach Training #1
- March 16 **MERIT BADGE INFORMATION DUE**
- March 19 ASM/Patrol Coach Training #2
- March 20 Charlie DeBeck Eagle Court of Honor (1 p.m.)
- March 22 Derek Clemmings Eagle Court of Honor and Troop Meeting (6:30 pm); Patrol Elections; **RANK ADVANCEMENTS DUE**
- March 27 April Reconnaissance articles due
- March 29 Troop Court of Honor (6:30 pm); Friends of Scouting; Recharter Due
- April 1-3 ASM/Patrol Coach Training #3
- April 5 **NO TROOP MEETING;** Eagle Preview Mtg. (7 pm) Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina
- April 7 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)
- April 10 Reconnaissance articles due
- April 12 Troop & Parents' Mtgs. (6:30 pm); aluminum can recycling
- April 15-17 Troop Campout
- 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
- July 17-23 Many Point



www.vikingbsa.org
www.scouting.org

COUNCIL AND DISTRICT NEWS

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 and can attend a post-game free-throw contest. Remaining game dates are March 4 and March 27. For more information, contact Chris Palaia at 612.673-8141.

Viking and Indianhead Councils Consolidation -- On February 16, the Boards of Directors of both Viking and Indianhead Councils heard reports from five Task Forces of the Consolidation Study Committee that has been meeting and building upon the work of previous Task Forces and study committees. The boards then each voted to approve the Plan of Consolidation and to ask the voting members of each council (Chartered Organization Representatives, Members at Large and Board/Cabinet members) to prepare to vote on the question too. Meetings of the voting membership of each Council are scheduled for March 30, and advance Surveys will be sent to all voting members so that if they can't attend the meeting, at least their position on the Proposal can be shared. Visit www.vikingbsa.org for more information.

April Activities

The theme for April is Communications with the Scorpions the Responsible Patrol. The April camp-out is scheduled for April 15 through 17. Stay tuned for more details.

Bulletin Board

Reconnaissance Articles

Articles for the April issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, March 27! 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

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Merit Badge Process and Madness Recap

Merit Badge Madness (or Badness, as it is sometimes referred) results in a busy advancement month. *Good work*, Scouts and counselors! Scouts opened a 167 merit badges with hopes of many completed for the March Court of Honor. Therein lies a little problem. Some boys complete merit badges and hope to receive acknowledgement at the March COH but all of the steps may not have been completed to make that happen. So there are no disappointments, here's a little information about the processes involved.

Shortly after new Scouts join the troop they will find some information in their ships about earning advancement through Boards of Review and Merit Badges. This information can be very useful, so please try to read it. There is a lot to be learned *through* Scouting, and taking a little time to learn *about* Scouting will help you to make the most of your experience.

To earn your merit badge, you complete the merit badge requirements, have your blue card signed off by your counselor and the Scoutmaster, and turn in your blue card to the Advancement chair.

The Advancement chair then checks all of the information on the blue card, enters the completion date in the red Merit Badge Book, signs the Application section of the blue card and files it, and enters the merit badge earned on the Advancement Report. The Advancement Report is turned in to the Viking council in Golden Valley, and the merit badge and green card are picked up at the Scout shop. Information is filled in for the merit badge on the green card, and it is signed by the Scoutmaster. The merit badge is recorded in the list of Advancement for the next Court of Honor. Several days before the Court of Honor, the list is sent to the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Troopmaster, Record Keeper, and the volunteer who produces and copies the programs for the Court of Honor.

If your blue card is incomplete, it will be returned to you for completion. If the blue card is not turned in early enough for the Advancement chair to complete all of the required documentation, you will not receive your merit badge until the next Court of Honor. The date that the card is signed as completed is the date that applies to any requirements that may be tied to the card.

Although you are probably anxious to receive your merit badge, it is important to follow this process so that your advancement is properly documented. If you decide to earn your Eagle rank, you need this information available in case there is any question as to whether you met all of your requirements. We have a big troop with lots of advancement, and it would be easy to get confused or lose information if we are disorganized in our approach. Just like when an airplane is serviced, or a new car is built, a regular process is important to make sure that all of the steps are followed every time.

If you have any questions about advancement, ask any of the Advancement Committee, Senior Patrol Leadership or Troop Guides. We want to help you reach your advancement goals!

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- March 16 -- **MERIT BADGE INFORMATION DUE**
- March 22 -- **RANK ADVANCEMENTS DUE**

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.

Instructor Tips of the Month

Camping -- Andrew Songle – How To Prepare A Ground Bed – Spread out a ground cloth (a plastic sheet cut to the size of your sleeping bag or tent floor), lay your sleeping bag on top of it. A good thing to also have is a sleeping pad. When you are not using your sleeping bag, roll it up to keep it from getting damp.

First Aid -- Patrick Tinucci -- When you are using a knife, make sure everyone is an arm’s length away and you follow the Boy Scout rules on knife safety.

Thank You



Special thanks to Derrick Poirier, the Wolverunners and all the many parents who made MBM a success!

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

QM2=E (or helpful hints) By Fred Haggerty, Adult Quartermaster

As we head into a new camping season and new scouts arrive, many questions come up on everything from: what kind gear does he need, what should we buy, or how much will it cost. Some quick thoughts, directions, and suggestions: (i.e. F.A.Q)

1) What does he need?

The best place is to start is with the scout manual. In there are recommendations of the basic equipment to get a scout (and parent) started. Other sources include the camping merit badge book and the scout field manual. For outside professional suggestions, two websites are helpful (there are many others): www.backpacker.com and www.rei.com Both have lists of suggested personal gear and supplies. Lastly, ask other parents in the troop. There is a lot of experience and suggestions we can share. Outside of a pack, sleeping bag, and boots, most items can be found round the house (more on that later). When looking for sleeping bags, figure they will sleep at least 10 to 15 degrees cooler than their rating and keep away from down filled. When down gets wet it has no warmth. A 20 degree rated bag is likely to be comfortable to only about freezing (32 degrees). For boots, only one key rule...Fit! Regarding packs, make sure they are sized and fit to the applications and person. Whether you go with internal or external frame it is a personal preference, internal framing tending to be more popular. One last thought is: no cotton. No cotton sock, pants, or sweatshirts. The big problem with cotton is when it is wet it loses its ability to keep a person warm and we do get wet. This is a real safety concern. **Scout Motto: Be Prepared.**

2) Where do we find gear?

Lots of places. A good way is to start is look around the house or by borrowing. Garage sales are another place. You can even rent packs and sleeping bags. Check with friends and family. Ask around the troop, some of us tend to collect this stuff and end up with extra over time that we might part with for a nominal fee to a good home. You might even put a note in the troop newsletter. Many things can be found in the house like pocketknives or supplies to make your own first aid kit. An old plastic cup (like one from Webelos camp) and bowl with an old metal fork & spoon makes a very usable mess kit. Water bottles (at least two) are usually a collectors items (to many collected that is), just make sure they don't leak. For a pack? On the first few campouts think about using an old larger day (school) pack with the sleeping bag tied or strapped on the outside. Boots?? Lets just say there are expert and professional hikers/backpackers who only use good fitting running shoes or sandals with wool socks (my oldest who is an eagle scout is one of the sandal group). Boots can wait until a real need arises like Philmont. For purchasing sources, beside those mentioned above, you can check Dick's, Gander Mountain, REI and others. A good discount website is: www.campmor.com Other sites include: www.rei.com , www.cabelas.com , and www.llbean.com **A scout is Helpful.**

3) How much will it cost?

How much money do you want to spend? One can spend hundreds of dollars on pack, sleeping bag, boots, clothes, and gadgets. I like the KISS rule, Keep It Simple Scouts. Look to the scout Motto, Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code (all in the scout's manual) for direction. If you buy new, shop around. Lots of good sleeping bags can be had made out of 3D (type of fill) or similar lightweight synthetics, good to 20 degrees, weighting only about 4 lbs. and that will last many seasons for under \$100 new. Last yrs. model, so what. Clearance, on sale, end of season, or discontinued can be great bargains. (I buy most of my stuff this way, works fine). Packs, 4000 to 5000 cubic inches size works for most weekend trips and even weeklong ones. Decent packs can be had for under \$120 new and same with boots, just make sure they fit. And don't forget, there are other good sources for gear besides new. **A scout is Thrifty .**

Monthly Tip: Tent Etiquette

- Keep the inside of your tent cleaner and drier by parking your footwear outside. If it's raining, herd wet and dirty items into a big garbage bag.
- Bringing **food into a tent is like laying out a welcome mat for animals.** Bears can smell food from miles away, so keep it out of your tent and properly stored in your trunk or food-storage containers in the campground. Ditto for toothpaste, deodorant, perfume, and any other scented toiletries.

Tent fires can be deadly. Do not light matches or use any device with an open flame inside a tent, including lanterns.



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

We Scoutmasters get dozens of questions every time we get together with our Scouts, ranging from the simple to the complicated. Through my years in Scouting, I've recognized a pattern.

The questions or problems I don't care for are the ones that are just that -- problems. "This knife is dull." "This tent is missing its stakes." "Fritz ruined the pancakes." "He's bugging me."

The ones I like are the ones where the Scout is coming to me not with a problem, but with a request for a **solution**. "I want to learn how to sharpen my knife." "Who can help me find spare parts for this tent?" "Will you teach Fritz and me how to make pancakes the right way?" "Will you help me resolve a dispute with him?"

Can you see why I like the one, but not the other? When someone comes to me with just a problem -- dull knife, lousy pancakes, or whatever, I wonder how much they've really thought about it and whether or not they really want to learn. I wonder if they want me to do it all for them.

But someone who comes to me in search of a fix -- who can teach me how to sharpen it, who can teach me how best to cook it -- is showing the mental wakefulness we talk about in the Scout Law. When I see that, it makes my day.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SPL Scratch by Tyler Opitz

I would remind everyone that elections are beginning. I hope I did an alright job and maybe even taught something to all of you. Being a leader is tough. All of the outgoing as well as past leaders know that. Many new people are going to be stepping forward and I hope you will all listen to them and respect them like I believe you all did me. I hope the first years very soon to be second years will also run for positions and I encourage all of you to try and run for something in the next couple of weeks. Thanks for being such great scouts for my term as SPL. Your outgoing SPL.

ASPL Notepad by Tim Wolfram

In my opinion, Merit Badge Madness was a huge success. No one got hurt or had to go to the Emergency Room this year while skiing. A wide range of subjects of Merit Badges were covered and completed. The food was very good and no windows were broken! If you have long term requirements on your Merit Badges, try to keep up with them. This will help you stay ahead in all of your rank advancements before summer camp sneaks up on us. We have a few more campouts left before summer camp and the more that you do now, the more fun you can have at Many Point. Finally, there are elections coming up and if you are interested in a position make sure you tell some one so the opportunity of being a leader does not pass you by. That's all for now!!

Patrol News

BALD EAGLES: Reed Qually, Patrol Leader -- Last month I wrote an article but my Dad when he emailed the article may have sent it to the wrong address. Now, that I gotten that off my chest. Kyle Kronlokken and I got our snowshoes back after they had been dipped in urethane.

We put on bindings and now they look really cool!!! This past month we have been working on Merit Badges and went to camp this weekend to finish up. I am approaching the end of term as Patrol Leader and the next campout will be my last as PL. Thank you for your support.

DRAGONS: David Jennen, Patrol Leader; **Troop Guide: Jake Poirier** -- This month we worked on merit badges and went to Camp St. Croix for Merit Badge Madness. This is going to be my last month as a Troop Guide, I've had fun and I'm sure the patrol has too. Thanks Dragons for making it so fun.

FALCONS: Kevin Thomsen, Patrol Leader

SCORPIONS: Nate Brown, Patrol Leader; **Troop Guides: Ross Sherman & Shane Thuleen**

WOLVERUNNERS: Josh Clifford, Patrol Leader

RAPTORS: Eric Gatto, Patrol Leader

HUSKIES: Eric Blomgren, Patrol Leader

THUNDER: Drew Churchill, Patrol Leader -- We are in charge of the month of March. The theme of the month is Fire Safety. We will be doing discussions and activities with Mr.

Wolfram. We hope you can come to the camp out to learn more about fire safety. To new scouts - welcome to our troop. We hope you have fun! Many Point is GREAT. **Troop Guide: Tyler Herzog**

Troop Leadership Reports

Bugler: Open

Camping Instructor: Andrew Songle -- I've had a good time being your camping instructor. If you have any questions about camping, let me know.

Ceremonies Instructor: Eric Hanson

Cooking Instructor: Terrence Tan

Chaplain's Aid: Open

Den Chiefs: Matt Boudreaux and Josh Issacs

Fire Safety Instructor: Open

First Aid Instructor: Patrick Tinucci -- If you need anything signed off you can come up to me at any time and I will sign you off.

Historian: Jake Brown

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: David Camerino

Knife, Ax & Safety Instructor: Open

Librarian: Open

Quartermaster: Kyle Kronlokken -- The month of February was great with MBM. The upcoming month looks to be just as great, especially with the new scouts coming to the troop.

Scribe: Dan Polta

Knots Instructor: Andrew Shawd

Troop OA Representative: Open

Venture President: Open