



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

November 1, 2005; Volume 10, Issue 9

Inside This Issue

Tree Lot.....	2
Bulletin Board.....	2
Leader Training.....	2
Scoutmaster's Corner.....	3
ASPL Notepad.....	3
Troop Leadership Reports.....	3
Patrol News.....	3
Recruitment.....	4
Riding in Cars with Boys.....	4

Merit Badge and Rank Advancement Deadlines

To be included in the December 13 Court of Honor, all completed Merit Badge cards must be turned in by **November 29** and Rank Advancements turned in by **December 6**.

November Activities

Theme: Cooking

Responsible Patrol: Dragons

Your Cooking Merit Badge can be worked on this month!!!!

Activities

- November 1 – Troop and Parents' Meetings
- November 8 – Troop Meeting
- November 15 – **No Troop Meeting**; PLC, Committee and ASM meetings
- November 22 – **Tree Lot Training**
- November 29 – Troop Meeting; Merit Badge Information Due

Troop Camp-Out

This month's campout will be held November 11-13. Look for more information in your ship.

"Picture two guys in a canoe, facing each other and paddling." Scoutmaster Polta

Popcorn and Wreath Sales Fundraising Opportunities

Popcorn Sales

Scouts who turned in popcorn orders can pick up those items between 3 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 12 at the Rairamos' house (9810 Cromwell – off Franlo, between Anderson Lakes and Pioneer Trail). Please contact the Rairamos at 941-7408 if you have any questions or need to make alternative pick up arrangements.

Wreath Sales

Scouts who turned in wreath orders are reminded that all items will be available for pick up between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 19 at the Hanson's house (6445 Grand View Drive). Maps are available in Eric Hanson's ship. Please call Barbara at 937-5905 if you need to make alternative arrangements for pick up.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 1	Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling
Nov. 3	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
Nov. 7	Senior Webelos Wall Climbing, Bloomington REI (5-9 pm)
Nov. 8	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)
Nov. 11-13	Troop Camp-Out (Cooking)
Nov. 12	Popcorn pick-up (3-6 pm)
Nov. 15	NO TROOP MEETING; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)
Nov. 19	Wreath pick-up (10 am – 1 pm); Tree Lot Opens
Nov. 22	Tree Lot Training (Super America – Flying Cloud Drive and Pioneer Trail)
Nov. 27	<i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due
Nov. 29	Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Merit Badge information due
Dec. 1	OA Mtg.; District Roundtable (7 pm)
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	<i>Reconnaissance</i> articles due
Dec. 27	Tree Lot clean-up (6 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.

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

Tree Lot by Mark Jennen

The tree lot (at the corner Flying Cloud Drive and Pioneer Trail by the Super America) will be open from **November 19 – December 18**. This is one of the largest fundraisers for the troop and all scouts must sign up to work shifts. Sign up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings and by emailing Mark Jennen at Mark_S_Jennen@yahoo.com. Put "Tree lot sign up" in the subject line. Remember, you cannot sign up on the web site.

Volunteers Needed: In addition to working the tree lot, volunteers will be needed for set-up and take down/clean-up. **In addition, we still need coordinators for set-up day; tree lot training day and snow removal coordination. Please speak with Mark if you are able to assist. Please keep in mind that the Troop needs one adult from each family to hold a volunteer position in order to keep the troop running.** Thanks to the following tree lot coordinators: Scheduling, Tree Orderer, Permit and Insurance Securer, etc.: Mark Jennen; Equipment: Mike Toay, Dennis Isaacs, Price Tags: Kim Teaver; Cash Box: Karen Vanic.

Training: Tree Lot training will be held at the lot in lieu of the regular Troop meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22. If you have not worked the tree lot before, do not sign up to work until you have been trained.

Bulletin Board

<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the December issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, November 27! Email your articles to her at songle19@msn.com. Have a great summer!</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 Prairie Lutheran Church 11000 Blossom Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347</p> <p>Scoutmaster: Joe Polta (952) 942-0407</p> <p>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>
--	--	---

Leader Training

A trained leader is knowledgeable and confident in the role being performed. This knowledge and confidence is quickly sensed by the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers they work with. A trained leader is better equipped to deal with their role, more enthusiastic about the program, more effective at providing a quality program, and inspires those with whom they come into contact. Trained leaders have more fun, serve more youth, and better retain the youth they serve. The aim of the Northern Star Council training committee is to provide all adult leaders with fundamental information about the Scouting movement and specific information relating to the role they have volunteered. Leaders need training as soon as possible in the best situation available. We strive to make this happen from Fast Start & orientation materials, abuse prevention training, to advanced leadership development and ongoing training opportunities.

Training Continuum - The Training Continuum provides volunteer leaders with a seamless transition from one program to the next, with little repetition in content and much flexibility in presentation and scheduling.

What Makes a Trained Leader?

- ❖ Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
- ❖ Troop committee members are considered trained when they have completed New Leader Essentials and the Troop Committee Challenge as their Leader Specific Training.

Qualified leaders wear the Trained Leader Emblem on the left sleeve of their uniform shirt, immediately below and touching the emblem of office for which it was earned. **Continued on page 4.**



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

Are you paddling the canoe, or are you making the boat move? Think about the difference between the two.

You can paddle the canoe, but not really help make it move -- by not putting any effort into it, or even working against the other paddler. Picture two guys in a canoe, facing each other and paddling.

Or you can make the canoe move -- by putting genuine effort into your work, working *with* others instead of against them, looking for ways to improve the things around you. Now picture those same two guys, facing the same direction, using words or signals to move the canoe quickly and in a straight line.

Are you a paddler or a mover? You might answer differently from day to day, even from minute to minute. Think about being more of a mover, and less of a paddler.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

ASPL Notepad by John Lewis

The troop had a very good time during the October campout at Rebecca Lake. I believe the first year Scouts had a lot of fun on the "The Great Cobbler Run of the Klondike" experience. This campout was a little different from our other campouts. It was about leadership and how decisions need to be made and allowing other to participate in the input process. On Friday night half of our Troop camped out at the South Group Camp and the other half camped out at the Sarah Creak Camp. Saturday both groups went on separate hiking trips looking for clues and learning about the Klondike. We worked together on a First Aid Challenge along the hike. Later that afternoon, both groups met up at the South Group Camp to take on the Pioneering Challenge. The last challenge was the Wilderness Survival Challenge. The group I was with (South Group Camp) won the overall challenge for the weekend, but actually we all won because we completed all of the challenges. The family picnic was also very good with lot of good food. This was truly a learning experience with leadership and to learn what went on back during the time of the Klondike time period. Thanks to the adult leaders that help put this campout together!!!!

Troop Leadership Reports

<p>Assist. Senior Patrol Leaders: Matt Boudreaux and John Lewis II Bugler: Open Camping Instructor: Eric Wiig -- Here are some camping tips to go along with Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code principles we should be following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use designated or already impacted campsites when appropriate. 2. Choose sites free of fragile plants. 3. Hide you campsite from view, out of site of trails, streams, and lakes. <p>Chaplain's Aid: Chris Mueller Cooking Instructor: Reed Qally Den Chiefs: Luke Coyer, Josh Issacs, Daniel Johnson and Zach Poirier</p>	<p>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 Librarian: Alex Fleagle Quartermaster: Nate Brown Troop OA Representative: Jake Brown Scribe: Paul Rairamo Venture President: Open</p>
---	--

Patrol News

<p>BALD EAGLES: Adam Bissonette PURPLE COBRAS: Andrew Teaver; Troop Guide: Terrance Tan THUNDER: Ryan Brattensborg DRAGONS: David Jennen FALCONS: Andrew Shawd</p>	<p>TIMBERWOLVES: Sam Rosol; Troop Guide: Ian Vanic SCORPIONS: Austin Artz WOLVERUNNERS: Jake Poirier RAPTORS: Brad Madsen HUSKIES: Shane Thule</p>
---	---

Recruitment

If you are able to assist at any of the listed recruiting activities, please see Don Qually or Kevin Opitz.

If you are solely responsible for the recruitment of a Scout to our Troop, you will be recognized with a recruitment badge.

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.

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

Events:

Wall Climbing, November 7, Bloomington REI (5-9 pm)
– Learn how to wear a harness, belay and rappel under qualified supervision.

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.

Leader Training (cont.)

Some points for clarification:

- ❖ A person has to complete New Leader Essentials only once. If their position changes, they merely have to attend the additional courses listed for their new position to be considered trained.
- ❖ Youth Protection Training is required for every registered leader in the Northern Star Council. This training must be renewed every two years. This training has been commonly included in Leadership Training events because it is convenient for leaders. This course is officially called "Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents," in the 46-minute videotape session, or "Youth Protection Guidelines for Adult Leaders and Parents," online.
- ❖ Fast Start Training should be taken by a leader within 48 hours of their taking a volunteer position, and it is recommended that it be completed before any part of the training process. Cub Scout and Boy Scout fast start videos are also great as parent orientation tools. Cub Scout and Boy Scout Fast Start training are also available as self guided online learning sessions.
- ❖ Training beyond the requirements listed above is helpful, but cannot be required, e.g. insisting that Troop Committee members complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

If you would like more information regarding Leader Training, see Scoutmaster Joe Polta.

Riding In Cars with Boys – Anonymous Submission

As you know, we have a campout each month that involves getting many Scouts to and from the campsite. There are many theories on the best way to approach this, but none of them have any merit without the respect, cooperation and patience of all the Scouts and their parents. We have tried to assign cars in advance, but, invariably, someone doesn't show up either on the drivers' side or the Scout side, and then things just fall apart. In any event, it is up to the Patrol planning the campout to come up with the ride plan. It is up to the other parents and Scouts to stay calm and work with that Patrol.

Here are a few things that EVERYONE can do to help keep cool, calm and collected:

1. If you're driving, mark your campout reservation form properly. Much of the time we don't even have the correct information and are "surprised" the day of the campout.
2. If you have volunteered to drive, PLAN ON IT. If you checked "If Needed" on the campout form, some one will contact you if you are needed. If you don't hear from anyone, you're off the hook.
3. As a driver, make sure you have cleaned out the mulch bags, donation bags, landscaping rocks, brief case, school backpacks, and so on, so that you can fit as many Scouts into you car as possible and make sure if the Troop does not have your auto insurance information on file, that you bring a copy and turn it in to the responsible Patrol Leader.
4. Put gear in the trailers and Scouts into cars. (Never the other way around.)
5. As a driver, GET TO THE PARKING LOT EARLY. It is important to see you there so that we don't panic and think that there aren't enough drivers.
6. If you're going to be late, contact a member of the Patrol that's in charge so that they know you're coming, but you're going to be late.
7. Let the Patrol that's in charge handle the situation. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
8. Be patient. Because we have no control over 1 through 6 above, we may have to do some serious finagling in order to get all the boys into cars. We will not leave anyone behind.
9. Don't ask for assignment changes. It's just too confusing with this number of Scouts.
10. Always be helpful, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful and respectful.

Whether getting ready for a campout or participating in other Scouting events, have your PMA ("positive mental attitude") on hand at all times.