



THE RECONNAISSANCE

Boy Scout Troop 695 of Prairie Lutheran Church

January 3, 2006; Volume 11, Issue 1

Inside This Issue

Recruitment.....	2
Bulletin Board.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	2
Scoutmaster's Corner.....	3
SPL Scratch.....	3
ASPL Notepad.....	3
Patrol News.....	3
Troop Leadership Reports.....	4
District/Council News.....	4
Merit Badge Madness.....	4

"I challenge you to bring me something from the top of the mountain." Scoutmaster Polta

January Activities

Theme: Snow Sports

Responsible Patrol: Dragons

January 3 – Troop and Parents' Meetings (6:30 pm)

January 10 – Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)

January 17 – Brad Madsen Eagle Court of Honor (6:30 pm)

January 24 – No Troop Meeting; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm), ASM Mtg. (7 pm)

January 29 – Webelos Winter Survival Outing (noon – 4 pm) Staring Lake

January 31 – Troop Meeting (6:30 pm)

Troop Camp-Outs

North Winds Adventure, Stearns, January 6-8 (7th grade +)

Baker, January 20-22

North Winds Experience, Stearns, January 20-22

Adult Training by Michael Wiig

One of the Mustang District goals is that all leaders in the units be trained. Youth Protection Training, Boy Scout Fast Start and Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat are always available on-line and take 20-30 minutes to complete. Notification is sent directly to the Council and you can usually print the certificate right after you finish. Here are some upcoming training opportunities:

March 14, New Leader Essentials – Christ Presbyterian Church, 7-9 pm

March 18, Boy Scout Leader Specific Training – Christ Presbyterian Church, 8 am – 4 pm

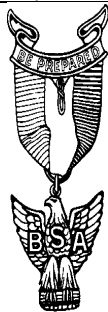
March 31-April 2, Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, Stearns Scout Camp

April 1, University of Scouting, St. Thomas Academy, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

May 5-7, May 26-28, Wood Badge Course, C-44-06, contact Tom Welna at (651)483-9312

August 9, August 18-20, September 8-10, 2006, Wood Badge Course, C-02-06, contact Dave Johnson at (763) 533-1819

If you have any questions regarding these training opportunities, contact Michael Wiig.



Eagle Court of Honor – Brad Madsen will hold his Eagle Court of Honor on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm at Prairie Lutheran Church. Brad's Eagle Scout project was a landscaping project at the Jacques-Riley Homestead at Lake Riley Park.

Brad welcomes all 695 Scouts and others to join him in celebrating this achievement. Cake and beverages will be served after the Court of Honor.

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

<p>If you are able to assist at the Winter Survival Outing, please see Don Qually or Kevin Opitz.</p> <p>Contact Information: Don Qually -- 952.944.2679 (h); 612.839.4674 (w); qmcqually@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: 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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<p>Bulletin Board</p>		
<p>Reconnaissance Articles Articles for the February issue are due to Lisa Songle no later than Sunday, January 29! 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) 974-0264 Committee Chair: Mark Jennen (952) 943-1340 <i>Reconnaissance</i> Editor: Lisa Songle (952) 944-8803 Email: songle19@msn.com Troop Web Page: www.troop695.org</p>

<p>Calendar of Events</p>	
<p>Jan. 3 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling</p> <p>Jan. 5 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)</p> <p>Jan. 6-8 North Winds (Stearns)</p> <p>Jan. 10 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>Jan. 17 Brad Madsen Eagle Court of Honor (6:30 pm); Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>Jan. 20-22 Troop Camp-Out (Baker), North Winds (Stearns)</p> <p>Jan. 24 No Troop Mtg.; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)</p> <p>Jan. 26 Mustang District Dinner</p> <p>Jan. 29 Webelos Winter Outing (Staring Lake) (12 pm); Reconnaissance Articles due</p> <p>Jan. 31 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>Feb. 2 OA Mtg. (7 pm); District Roundtable (7 pm)</p> <p>Feb. 5 Scout Sunday</p> <p>Feb. 7 Troop & Parent Mtg. (6:30 pm), aluminum can recycling</p> <p>Feb. 14 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm); Eagle BOR at United Methodist (7 pm)</p> <p>Feb. 21 Troop Mtg. (6:30 pm)</p> <p>Feb. 24-26 Merit Badge Madness, Camp St. Croix</p> <p>Feb. 26 Reconnaissance Articles due</p> <p>Feb. 28 No Troop Mtg.; PLC & Committee Mtgs. (6:30 pm); ASM Mtg. (7 pm)</p>	<p>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.</p>



Scoutmaster's Corner by Joe Polta

A man wanted to test the character of three boys. Early one morning, he instructed the three of them to climb a far away mountain and bring him something from the top. The first boy came back late in the morning with a pine branch. The man said to him, "I can tell that you made it only as far as the woods; you didn't even start up the side of the mountain." The second boy came back in the middle of the afternoon with a mountain wildflower. The man said to him, "I can tell that you made it half-way up the mountain, where there are no trees, but where these flowers grow." The last boy didn't come back until late evening, as daylight was fading. He was empty-handed, and when the man asked him to explain, this is what he said: "There were only rocks and snow at the top of the mountain, but from there I could see the ocean."

Scouts and parents, I wish you the very best this new year. I challenge you to bring me something from the top of the mountain.

I'm proud to be your Scoutmaster.

SPL Scratch by Scott Jennen

December was a fairly short month, with only one meeting and a Court of Honor. The theme of the month was first aid. During the meeting, the Huskies ran stations so some of the younger Scouts could get the First Aid Merit badge and the older scouts could refresh their knowledge. One unusual thing that happened at the Court of Honor, the Huskies got a band together and sang holiday songs. They got many to join in as well.

ASPL Notepad by John Lewis

I hope everyone had a good holiday and that the new year of Scouting should be very good for 2006. We should be doing a lot of new things that I am looking forward to. There are two winter camp outs coming up in January. One for the older scout at the beginning of the month and at the end of the month there will be a camp out for the younger kids. In February Merit Badge Madness is coming and this will be a good opportunity for lots of Merit Badges. I hope every one has a good year in 2006.

Patrol News

<p>BALD EAGLES: Adam Bissonette PURPLE COBRAS: Andrew Teaver; Troop Guide: Terrance Tan DRAGONS: David Jennen -- I think that during the month of December people did some very different but more fun things. At the Court of Honor they were singing which made everyone involved with it and it was really fun. I liked the idea of making a more fun Court of Honor and less boring. I liked the idea of the rotations for First Aid. It really made it easy to remember how to do the stuff.</p>	<p>FALCONS: Andrew Shawd HUSKIES: Shane Thuleen RAPTORS: Brad Madsen THUNDER: Ryan Brattensborg TIMBERWOLVES: Sam Rosol; Troop Guide: Ian Vanic SCORPIONS: Austin Artz WOLVERUNNERS: Jake Poirier</p>
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Ripley Rendezvous X-Treme Scout Challenge

X-treme Challenge is a co-ed high adventure program sponsored by the Central Minnesota Council on April 21-23 2006 at for young adults who are physically fit and looking for a challenge. Open to Boy Scouts (15 & older), Venture Crew Members, and non-scout 'outreach' groups. For more information contact Fred Shermock, '06 Ripley Rendezvous X-treme Chair – CMC BSA volunteer, St. Cloud, MN fjshermock@astound.net (H) 320-252-6246. A registration form can be found at <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/PDF/Events/RipleyRendezvous.pdf>.

2006 American Heritage Trails

Experience two weeks (June 23-July 5) of touring some of the largest cities in the east. Check out Washington D.C., Gettysburg and Philadelphia, PA, New York City, and enjoy some tea in Boston on the Forth of July. Scouts will be able to see some of the most important cities in the United States all while being able to work on merit badges and taking hikes on historic trails. Visit <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/PDF/Camping/AmericanHeritageTrails.pdf> for more info.

Troop Leadership Reports

<p>Assist. Senior Patrol Leaders: Matt Boudreaux and John Lewis II Assistant Scoutmasters: Ben Cooper and Brad Madsen Bugler: Open Camping Instructor: Eric Wiig Chaplain's Aid: Chris Mueller Cooking Instructor: Reed Qually Den Chiefs: Luke Coyer, Ryan Halpin, Josh Issacs, Daniel Johnson, Brandon Schwab and Zach Poirier -- In December I worked on the Engineer Activity Pin with my Den. I demonstrated and showed pictures of a few different kinds of bridges. We also had my neighbor, who is a civil engineer, come and talk to us about different kinds of engineers and what they do. Zach Poirier My Cub Scout Den earned PROP patches in December and are looking forward to making pinewood derby cars for the races at the end of January. Ryan Halpin My Den that worked on the whittling chip at the last meeting. The Scouts learned knife safety and started making arrow heads out of soap. They all received their whittling chip. They also did bell ringing on December 10. Brandon Schwab First Aid Instructor: Evan Fairbrother</p>	<p>Historian: Kevin Thomsen – Please forward any pictures you have from campouts or other Troop activities to me. Junior Knife & Ax Safety Instructor: Julian Kollmeyer Fire Safety: Patrick Conklin -- Our Fall campouts showed that the Scouts working through their rank advancement have learned good fire building and fire safety skills. The Carver Park campout in difficult weather conditions really demonstrated 1st year abilities...we had enough coals on Saturday night to cook several Dutch Oven meals and for Mr. Toay to make cobbler for all. Also, a number of scouts showed their ability to start a "matchless" fire as a part of Mr. Fairbrother's Wilderness Survival Merit Badge. Way to go! Let me know if I can help any scout get their Fireman's Chit this Spring. Knots Instructor: Dan Polta Librarian: Alex Fleagle Quartermaster: Nate Brown Troop OA Representative: Jake Brown Scribe: Paul Rairamo Venture President: Open</p>
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District and Council News



Costa Rica Trip – Get away from the winter weather for a couple of weeks and enjoy a warm climate, exciting environment, beautiful beaches, the warm Scout hospitality and help in a service project in Costa Rica. This trip is planned to late December 2006 to early January 2007. The trip is open to Boy Scouts and Venture Crews. The estimated cost is \$1500. For further information and application forms, contact Tom Turba at Thomas.turba@unisys.com or 651.489.0779 or 651.635.6774.

For more information on happenings in the Council and District, visit the Northern Star Council website at www.northernstarbsa.org

Merit Badge Madness by Derrick Poirier

<p>When: February 24-26 at Camp St. Croix (heated cabins, indoor meeting space, no cooking or dish washing).</p> <p>Badges Offered (* denotes eagle-required):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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* <p>How Can I Help? – Counselors are needed teach Merit Badge classes. Please contact Derrick Poirier if you're able to help.</p>
