



TROOP SCOOP

Maquoketa Caves Edition

April 2014
Gary United Methodist Church-Wheaton, IL

Boy Scout Troop 35
www.wheatontroop35.org

SPL Noah



SCOUTMASTER MINUTE

The long winter is making it seem like summer is a long way off but it's actually right around the corner. Soon we will be heading to summer camp and shortly thereafter our current troop leadership terms will end. At our last Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS) workshop at Winfield Church I was proud to see the members of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) set goals specific to their positions and make a real commitment to lead, train and inspire scouts to become First Class. Taking on a leadership role in the Troop is a requirement for advancement. It's also an investment made by the Scout that pays dividends back to the Scout, the Troop, and the community. Like anything of real value; learning to lead is not easy. The good news is that the members of the Troop are here to help each other learn. If you come to the Tuesday meetings regularly and participate in the campouts, you will learn to lead simply by doing what Scouts do.

If you're new to the Troop and wondering what it is that Scouts do, here it is in a nutshell:

"Scouts put the Scout Oath and the Scout Law into Practice. Scouts go camping, backpacking, hiking, canoeing and all manner of outdoor adventures. Scouts learn skills and apply them. Scouts explore hobbies and careers. Scouts serve their community. Scouts organize and Plan their own activities through the patrol system."

Our next Patrol Leader's Council meeting is Tuesday, May 6th. I am sure our Senior Patrol Leader will be following up the progress that each leader is making towards their goals. If you're on track- good for you! If you know someone that needs a little guidance- lend a hand. If you're someone that needs some help- guess what? You're surrounded by boys committed to "Help other people at all times."

Like a compass reliably pointing north you can take the Troop in the right direction by honoring your leadership commitments. If you're on the way to First Class, keep going. You'll get there. If you're First Class and not currently holding a leadership position, answer the call. Opportunities are all around you.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

May

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Troop Committee Meeting |
| 3 | Troop Shoot |
| 6 | PLC Meeting |
| 9 | CPR/AED Training, Camp Big Timber |
| 10 | Wilderness First Aid |
| 11 | Mother's Day |
| 13 | Troop Meeting |
| 17 | STEM-O-Rama, 9am-4pm |
| 17-18 | Chris' Eagle Project |
| 18 | Swim Test, 5-6pm at YMCA |
| 20 | Troop Meeting |
| 26 | Memorial Day |
| 27 | Troop Meeting |
| 29 | Troop Committee Meeting |
| 30-31 | Wesley Woods Camp Out |

June

- 1 Wesley Woods Camp Out
 3 PLC Meeting
 7 Troop Shoot
 10 Troop Meeting: Elections
 14 Flag Day
 15-21 NYLT
 22-28 Summer Camp

July

- 4 Independence Day
 26-8/3 Boundary Waters

October

- 12 Jacob's Eagle Court of Honor, 1-5pm

For more details and later dates see the calendar on Scouttrack



Mr. Cat retires from role as Troop 35 Scout Master

APPLAUSE FOR MR. CAT!

How do we say thank you to someone who has devoted untold hours of time for four years to so ably lead Troop 35 as Scout Master? Mr. Cat, your passion for the outdoors, your rapport with the boys, your sense of fun and your words of inspiration have been such a gift—maybe more than you'll ever know. You've been an incredible role model and you helped create a safe, inclusive place where boys can have the best times of their lives but also grow and learn to be capable, resourceful, confident, and responsible young men, leaders, and citizens. Words are inadequate, but Mr. Cat, we are truly grateful to you and your whole family.

Many hours of family time were dedicated to serving Troop 35. Thank you for continuing to serve Troop 35 as an Assistant Scout Master.



Mr. and Mrs. Catanzaro

Our deep gratitude also goes to Mr. Carl Peterson who has accepted the role of new Scout Master for Troop 35. Mr. Peterson has played a key role in Troop 35 for a year-and-a-half as an Assistant Scout Master who attends almost every camp out. He has nearly completed his Woodbadge, the most advanced training available for adult leaders, which often takes 18 months to complete due to the large amount of work involved. As an environmental scientist, he has a wealth of knowledge about the outdoors and can be counted on to find the best fishing holes! Thank you Mr. Peterson for all you do and are continuing to do for Troop 35.



Mr. Carl Peterson, new Troop 35 Scout Master



Joe, Colin, Preston, Will, Noah, Josh, Joe

REPORT FROM THE FIELD *Where have we been?*

April 25-27 at Maquoketa Caves was an awesome adventure that ranked high in the top 10 places we've visited so far. We arrived at the state Park around 9:00 pm. Matt and Collin guided the Old Goat and trailer up a dark winding path to a campsite on top of a prairie knoll. Tents were pitched under a blanket of stars followed by a cracker barrel and storytelling (mostly the purple ping pong story as told multiple times by Joe A.) As dawn came we woke and realized the beauty of our surroundings. After devouring a quick breakfast and packing our trail lunches we hiked to the caves. At the mouth of Dance Hall Cave we were educated by an Iowa DNR agent named Cassie. She explained the rules of the caves that are in place to protect bats and other wildlife. She also clued us in to a few "secret caves" that were not officially named or on the map. We were told that as long as we treaded lightly, no portion of this underground wonderland was off limits. The Troop hiked over six miles and did their best to cover every inch of the park. During the hike we practiced "Leave No Trace" principals and picked up a lot of garbage that was left by others. Preston and Zach met a couple of DNR rangers that were running a survival bracelet station. These two young men are Eagle Scouts that now have cool jobs in the

outdoors. They were glad to see Troop 35 having fun in the caves without doing too much damage and we were glad to have met them.

You would think that after a full day of hiking and exploring that the Scouts would be exhausted. Not so. After dinner Mr. Brunner took most of the Scouts back to the caves and went for an hour long spelunking adventure that took the team 1000 feet into the rock. They came back to a campfire built by Gus and Brandon (with a little help from Mr. Cat). The winds picked up during our campfire and Collin used his HAM radio to monitor weather conditions. Noah did not build an ark but he did tell the scouts to get their gear organized for a quick exit if necessary. We woke to swirling clouds and a distant thunderstorm. To be safe we broke camp and headed for lower elevations to eat breakfast and return home.

This will not be the last time that Troop 35 experiences the Maquoketa Caves. We will take what we have learned and make this trip even better.





Where are we going?

LAKE GENEVA

May 30-June 1 brings a trip north of the border to Camp Wesley Woods in Lake Geneva. The lake covers an area of approximately 8.14 square miles, has a maximum length of 7.5 miles, mean depth of 62.7 feet and a maximum depth of 144 feet. Geologists believe that it is a filled-in kettle formed from a receding glacier. At the bottom of the lake you can find: a 50's era cabin cruiser south of Black Point, a Nash over by Cedar Point, a Volkswagen North of the Academy, and the Hull of the Lady of the Lake by the Geneva Inn.

We will be camping on the lake and near the docks. This spot held a ton of fish last year so bring a rod and some of your favorite lures. The lake is just starting to warm up and this should put the bluegills, rock bass and crappies on the bite in shallow water along the shore. The lake is also home to walleyes, bass, northern pike and lake trout. Who knows what you'll catch. If it's warm enough, swimming and kayaking are on the table. There may even be a trip to the Yerkes Observatory and a sailboat involved. We'll find out more at the PLC.



STEM-0-RAMA

Scouts, their families and the general public are invited to STEM-O-Rama, held at the Kane County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 17th from 9am to 4pm, showcasing over 100 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math exhibits. A special guest appearance will be made by Dr. Robert Ballard, the National Geographic Explorer who discovered the Titanic. A representative from the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Program in the Space Technology Mission Directorate will discuss the NASA STEM Outreach. Exhibits will include:

- The Shedd Aquarium with demonstrate underwater robots
- The University of Chicago's Neuroscience Lab on Wheels. Dance to brain-generated music and colors.
- Fermi Lab's own Mr. Freeze. His "A Real Cool Show" – demonstrates Cryogenics
- Challenger Learning Center's hands-on space science activities
- Mad Lab Industries' UAV (drone) demonstrations
- SciTech Hands-On Museum's testing of flight designs using a NASA-designed wind tunnel
- Experimental Aircraft Association's display of an aircraft
- Loyola University's hosting Doodle (robotic) cars races
- St. Charles Fire Department's display of a Fire Truck
- 1st Division Museum at Cantigny's display of historic Military vehicles

This event is sponsored by Parent Petroleum, The Pride, BP, Bricks 4 Kidz, Legoland Discovery Center, Cabela's, and Colonial Café.

Tickets are \$10.00 and are available online at threefirescouncil.org, at the Scout shops, Colonial Cafés and at the event gate.

Please see the STEM-O-Rama flier on the second last page of this Troop Scoop.



GOOD TURNS

WELCOME NEW SCOUTS!

We are happy to welcome our **12** newest Troop 35 members:

- Pack 335 - Gary Church (Emerson School)
Brent H.
Jamie M.
Ricky S.
- Pack 365 - Hope Presbyterian (Wiesbrook School)
Carson R.
Eric R.
- Pack 317 - Sandburg School
Josh C.
Noah M.
- Pack 134 - St Michael Church
Daniel C.
Daniel W.
Michael W.
- Pack 63 - First Presbyterian Church
Brandon G.
Jake I.

We look forward to getting to know all of you and having you be part of the Troop 35 tradition. Go Flaming Arrows!



Some of our volunteers

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Troop 35 had 14 volunteers on Sunday, April 6, to kick off a new year of highway cleanup on Naperville Road. (The county has designated both sides of the road from Seven Gables Park north to Roosevelt Road as our area to clean, and they have posted a highway sign indicating our Troop's commitment.) This is our second year volunteering with the Adopt-a-Highway Program.

Our volunteers for April included Brandon, Sebastian, Jesse, Danny, Alyn, Carson, Jack, William, Mr. Bielik, Mr. Duve, Mrs. Exner, Mr. Mann, Mr. Rewiski, and Mr. Vail.

GOOD TURNS AT THE GREEN & GOLD

Thank you, Scouts, for all your help with the Green and Gold Court of Honor. Many hands were needed, and everyone pitched in. Some of the jobs included:

- setting up tables and chairs, setting out tableware and decorating tables



- MCing the program and conducting ceremonies



- Rehearsing and performing hilarious skits

- Setting up displays



- Clean up



A big thank you also goes to **Mr. Miller** for preparing the wonderful meal, to **Mr. Whitlock** for assisting Mr. Miller and helping locate needed items for the Court of Honor, to **Mr. Childers** for assisting with meal preparation, to **Mr. Oleniczak** for being our photographer, and to all who brought side dishes.

What fun, what a meal, and what memories!



"TENTER" LOVING CARE

Just like you'd baby a new BMX bike or fuss over a fancy fishing rod, our tents need some TLC. They are a significant investment, and timely maintenance is key to protecting them.

After every tent camp out, the Quartermaster assigns one tent mate to take home the tent that the pair used. Each Scout takes home a tent roughly every other camp out.

Since our troop usually breaks camp on Sunday morning before dew and other ground moisture is evaporated, the tents are invariably damp or wet. Scouts must air out the tents *promptly* when they get home in order to prevent mold and mildew, which can grow and spread in a matter of days and ruin a tent. Damage from mildew cannot be reversed.

Each Scout who takes home a tent is asked to do the following:

- *On the day you get home*, set up the tent in a dry environment and make sure it dries on all surfaces- sides, bottom, ground cloth and fly. This can be a challenge on a rainy day, but garages are useful in this case.
- Clean any mud or debris from the inside and outside of the tent. (Mildew feeds on dirt and soil.) Wiping the tent down with a wet, nonabrasive sponge and cold water is a good way to do this.
- Avoid using detergents, including dish washing liquid, bleach, spot removers and laundry pre-soak products. They



will leave a residue that will make the tent less resistant to water. The scents will also attract bugs, mice and other critters.

- Never dry clean or run your tent through the washer and dryer.
- Inspect the tent for damage- holes, broken/missing poles and stakes, etc. If you can fix the problem, great! If not, report this to the Quartermaster when returning the tent.
- When the tent is completely dry and odor free, take it down. Return the tent at the next Troop meeting.

Thank you for doing your part to maintain our equipment.



WHAT TO DO ABOUT MILDEW

Mildew is a musty smelling fungus that needs a warm, dark environment, moisture and organic matter like dirt to grow. It stains your tent and can ruin the fabric. If your tent does show signs of mildew, treat it *immediately*. Use a mildew solution that is made for tent fabric, or you can try this REI-recommended treatment: Mix together:

- 1 cup of salt,
- 1 cup of lemon juice
- 1 gallon of hot water

Rub the solution into the mildew and then let the tent dry. This will also help rid the fabric of other nasty odors.

REMINDER: BOARDS OF REVIEW

Scouts, when you complete all requirements for your rank, please request a Scoutmaster Conference with Mr. Cat or any other Assistant Scoutmaster. *Then* contact Mrs. Duve regarding a Board of Review. Expect to wait about 2 weeks for your Board of Review because it takes time to arrange for 3 adults who are not Scoutmasters to be present.



MERIT BADGES



ARCHERY, RIFLE SHOOTING, AND SHOTGUN SHOOTING MERIT BADGES

The Aurora Sportsmen's Club, located in Waterman, Illinois, offers a monthly youth program to work on shooting badges. **Please see their flyer on the last page of this Troop Scoop.**

Please send Troop Scoop information to Teresa Exner: exner@sbcglobal.net

WHAT TO FEED YOUR OLD GOAT

Point Lookout Chili Pie



Servings: 12–14 | Challenge Level: Moderate

"Troop 1575 was on a trip to Point Lookout on the Chesapeake Bay. After exploring the Civil War prisoner camp on the point, the Road Runner patrol got together to start dinner. They began to prepare my chili pie but decided to make changes to the list of ingredients. Some wanted to add honey; others wanted cheese on top. One scout proposed adding a surprise. The Road Runners, perhaps the troop's best cooking patrol, finally devised a plan. After working on the meal, they asked me to sample the chili. To my surprise, it was very tasty and I could immediately identify without a doubt the mystery ingredient: Old Bay, the Scoutmaster's favorite seasoning!"

3 pounds lean ground beef or turkey

2 medium onions, chopped

1 bell pepper, chopped

1 hot chili pepper, chopped

½ cup (1 standard stick) butter

4 (15-ounce) cans chili beans

1 (16-ounce) jar medium salsa

1 (16-ounce) bottle hickory smoke flavored barbecue sauce

1 (10-ounce) jar honey

Chili powder and McCormick Old Bay seasoning to taste

3 (7-ounce) packages corn bread mix (including ingredients required by package directions)

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Preparation at Camp:

1. Place 32 coals under Dutch oven. Brown meat and onions. Drain excess grease.
2. Add pepper, chili pepper, butter, chili beans, salsa, barbecue sauce, honey, and seasonings. Stir.
3. Mix corn bread in medium-size bowl according to package directions.
4. Pour corn bread mix evenly over chili. Do not stir.
5. Rearrange coals, using 10 briquettes under the oven and 22 on the lid. Bake for about 25–35 minutes until the corn bread becomes golden brown.
6. Sprinkle cheese on top of corn bread and replace lid, baking for a couple of extra minutes to let the cheese melt before serving.

Required Equipment:

14-inch Dutch oven

Medium-size mixing bowl

What is STEM-O-Rama?

STEM-O-Rama is a Scout-O-Rama or Scout Show on steroids! It is the “Next Generation” of Scout skills.

The Boy Scouts have been into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) since 1910. The BSA has been doing STEM since we’ve been doing Green.

Why should my unit put together and man a booth at STEM-O-Rama?

- It is an awesome program activity – Your Scouts and leaders get to try out some fun ideas together! And – you will visit other booths which will expand your program.
- Showcase your unit and their accomplishments. Recruit some new Scouts.



When: May 17, 2014

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Kane County Fair Grounds
IL 38 & Randall Rd,
St Charles, IL

- Your unit is part of the larger “council.” It’s fantastic what we can all do together! Teamwork!
- We will give your unit free booth space and 10 free admission tickets!
- FUN for each and every Scout, Leader, parent, and sibling! Everyone is welcome to the amazing family event.



AURORA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS

2014 Monthly Youth Programs

First Saturday of most months -- 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
May through October. No class on July 5, 2014

The Aurora Sportsmen's Club, located in Waterman, Illinois is pleased to be able to offer young shooters (ages 10-17) the opportunity to develop their shooting skills and start or make progress on Winchester/NRA Marksman qualification programs in Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun disciplines. This opportunity can also be used by area Boy Scouts to complete the shooting requirements for Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting merit badges (bring blue cards, please.)

Archery – 9:00 am to 11:00 am. One class with room for 8 participants. There is no fee for this program. Check in at the archery range which is co-located with the shotgun range on Rueff Road at 8:45 am.

Handgun - . This class will be offered only on May 3, June 7, September 6, and October 4. \$30 fee to cover the cost of lunch, ammunition and supplies for a full day of shooting. One class with room for 10 students. Lunch is provided and we will shoot from 9:00 am to 4:00pm. Check in at the 50 foot range #2 on Rueff Road.

Rifle - \$15 fee to cover the cost of ammunition and supplies for 2½ hours of shooting. Choose between smallbore (.22) and muzzleloading rifle. Two relays of each, 16 available positions per smallbore relay. 4 positions per muzzleloading relay.

- Relay 1 - 9am to Noon, meet at the 50 foot range #3 on Rueff Road
- Relay 2 - 1:15pm to 4:15pm, meet at the 50 foot range #3 on Rueff Road

Shotgun (Modern Cartridge) - \$25 fee to cover the cost of ammunition and supplies for two rounds of trap in three hours. Two squads, 5 participants per squad. Additional shooting available at \$10 per round, time permitting.

- Squad 1 - 9am to Noon, trap field on Rueff Road
- Squad 2 - 1:15pm to 4:15pm, trap field on Rueff Road

Check in at the shotgun range at the beginning of class.

Shotgun (Muzzleloading) - \$15 fee to cover the cost of supplies for three hours of instruction and shooting. Two squads, 4 participants per squad.

- Squad 1 - 9am to Noon, trap field on Rueff Road
- Squad 2 - 1:15pm to 4:15pm, trap field on Rueff Road

Check in at the shotgun range at the beginning of class.



First-come, first-served registration by sending email with the Junior shooter's name, Parent's name and phone number; along with first/second choices of relays and squads to ascyouthprogram@gmail.com or call the ASC Youth Program voice mail at 630-537-0272. All registration requests will be acknowledged. Fees to be paid at check in.

On-range instruction is based on materials from NRA Education Department source material, but these clinics are not NRA approved course offerings. All instruction and firearms shooting will be completed under the watchful eye of NRA Certified Instructors or NRA Coaches and NRA Certified Range Safety Officers.



Ear and eye protection for firearms ranges and arm bands for Archery are provided by the club, but feel free to bring your own.

Visit <http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/marksman/> for more information on the Winchester/NRA Marksman Qualification program.

This program will be repeated in 2015. Watch the club web site for information.

Maps, directions, and information on other activities at the Aurora Sportsmen's Club can be found on the club web site:

www.aurorasc.org

This program supported in part by a Grant from the Friends of the NRA