



Boy Scout Troop 461

Zion Mennonite Church

Souderton, Pennsylvania

Troop Web Site <http://www.geocities.com/bsa461>

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Web Master Timothy P. Wile, Asst Scoutmaster



NEWSLETTER

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- February 5. Distribution of Hoagies/Strombolis from 1.00 to 2.00pm
- February 6. Presentation of the Eagle Scout Award at 2.30pm to Gregory Ciccarelli. All welcome - mailed announcement.
- February 7. Troop Meeting-First Aid practice. January's Board of Review.
- February 13. Troop Swim Instruction/testing, 1.00-3.00pm at SAHS pool. Contact Bill Brandis (215-723-0140) for details. Anyone wishing to schedule swimming activities should also call Bill Brandis - other times may be available.
- February 14. **PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL MEETING - 7.00PM.**
- February 14. Troop meeting-Camp Promotion & Order of the Arrow election. First Aid.
- February 21. **TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING - 7.00PM.**
- February 21. Troop Meeting-First Aid practice. Advancement.
- February 25-27. Winter camp in Bushkill Lodge, Resica Falls Scout Reservation. Departure is planned by 6.30pm from Scoutmaster's home. Snow sports at Camelback Ski Area is booked for Saturday. Be prepared for cold weather, especially at Camelback Snow Sports Center. While lunch will be packed at camp for Saturday, some spending money is recommended for snow sports area. See page 3 mailed earlier, for data & form.
- February 28. Troop Meeting-First Aid. Board of Review, as needed.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

- March 7. Troop Meeting - Preparations for Spaghetti Dinner.

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- March 12. Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser. See details on page 3.
- March 17. General Nash Adult Recognition dinner/program.
- March 26-27. Hiking weekend-Backpacking/carry in & out your gear.
- April 22-24. Fishing weekend at Camp Ockanickon.
- May 9. Annual Troop Family Night/Recognition Court of Honor.
- May 13-15. Shooting Sports Weekend – Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County. Rifle & Shotgun Shooting.
- June 17-19. Annual Family water weekend & rafting on the Lehigh River. Weekend Camping at Hickory Run State Park.
- June 18. Rafting on the Lehigh River.
- July 10-16 Scout Summer Camp - Citta Scout reservation, NJ.
- August 27 Parking for Chicken BBQ at Souderton Mennonite Homes.

GENERAL NASH DISTRICT ADULT RECOGNITION DINNER

General Nash District's Adult Recognition Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2005. All Scouters are invited, with their spouses, to participate in this annual event. **PLEASE LET HAROLD [215-723-2555] KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2005, OR SOONER.** Fabulous Food and Fellowship - the social hour at 6.00pm, dinner at 7.00pm. Will be held at the Immanuel Church of The Nazarene (located at 1260 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA). Theme this year will be "St Patrick's Day". To date 11 adults are signed up - can we add you?

ADVANCEMENT COMPLETED—CONGRATULATIONS!!

First Class - Adam Gambone; **Merit Badges**: Troy Gärthe - Citizenship in the World, Citizenship in the Nation, Personal Fitness, Camping; Justin Seelaus - Genealogy, Personal Management; Joshua Comden - Family Life; David Pulli - Genealogy. **World Conservation Award** - Troy Gärthe.

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THANKS TO ADULT SCOUTERS

Thanks go to Assistant Scoutmasters Andrew Cowles and Timothy Wile; Committeeman George Senderling; and Scoutmaster Harold Frederick, for conducting the 2005 Junior Leaders Training in January 2005.

WINTER CAMP—FEBRUARY 25-27, 2005

We have reserved Bushkill Lodge for the weekend. Return is scheduled for about noon on Sunday. Sign-up sheets were mailed earlier, with the summer camp sheets, since so little time exists before the deadline for cancellation of our reservation, should we not have the minimum of 15 persons sign up. All sign up sheets with fees are due by Feb 10, 2005. Each participant is required to provide all his own camping needs, including personal gear. (NOTE - extra warm sleeping bag, plus lots of warm clothes - NO SNEAKERS; boots & boot socks; extra socks; head cover; 2 pairs of gloves/mittens; personal hygiene gear, etc; flashlight; any other items which you may need for cold weather camping. Troop fee includes food, including lunch [to be packed Friday night] while at Camelback, cooking gear, and troop gear.

Page 3 was mailed to each currently active Scout family & Scouter.

Due to inadequate information furnished to our troop as to what qualified for group rates at Camelback Ski Resort, the troop leadership has decided to return to Big Boulder Ski Resort again this year. We were at Big Boulder the past two years.

UPDATE ON SNOW SPORTS WEEKEND

Upon phoning Camelback on February 11 for more information, it was learned they operate a 2 sections - 1) snow tubing, and 2) skiing/snow boarding. In order to qualify for group rates in either area, a minimum of 15 persons is required. And Camelback considers our weekend part of the President's Holiday - the rates are higher, and not qualifying for group rates, the rates are even higher that we first published.

Big Boulder does not consider our weekend as part of the President's Holiday, and their whole operation, whether it be Snow Tubing, Skiing or Snow Boarding, and everyone who participates in any of these 3 activities is counted for the minimum group rates (15 needed).

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Please note the rates of both areas:

	Camelback	Big Boulder
Snow tubing-all day	\$28.00	\$15.00
Snow Boarding Package (Lift ticket, Rental, Lesson)	\$83.00	\$63.00
Snow Boarding (no lesson)	\$66.00	\$49.00
Skiing (no lesson)	\$72.00	\$47.00
Lift Ticket (no rental)	\$48.00 (18 & over) \$36.00 (under 18)	\$31.00 (22 & over) \$25.00 (under 22)
For skiers & snow boarders: Snow tubing add-on	\$28.00	\$8.00
Weekend Camping Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00

Additional participants can still register with proper payments, thru February 21, 2005.

All those who have already paid will receive a credit adjustment into their savings accounts for the difference. Those who still owe, are asked to pay the appropriate amount by Monday, February 21, 2005, or sooner.

2005 SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY

By a vote by the majority of our scout members, our troop has made reservations at the Citta Scout Reservation at Brookville, NJ, for the week of July 10-16, 2005.

Due to the shortage of time, page 3 of this newsletter was mailed to all families, with specifics, costs, and sign-up details. Of note is that \$25.00 can be saved if a \$25.00 deposit is paid by February 21st. Other wise the fee would be \$225.00 per scout. The \$25.00 deposit per adult will be the only fee for the adults attending. To date a number of scouts said they plan to attend.

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OF INTEREST TO OUR CURRENT AND INCOMING SCOUTS

1. SCOUT UNIFORM PARTS AVAILABLE:

Scoutmaster Harold Frederick, Jr., has a number of scout uniform parts available for use. All that is asked for using them is that when they become too small, the parts are returned for others to use. Please NOTE that when returning a scout shirt, please do not remove the "SOUDERTON, PA, 50 YR BAR AND #461" emblems. Harold will replace these for new shirts needed later, at no additional cost.

2. RECYCLING OF SALEABLE METALS:

Troop 461 still recycles all saleable metals, especially aluminum cans. Metals such as aluminum storm doors and windows, siding, old lawn chairs, etc., are acceptable. Kindly place these items on the Scoutmaster's front porch, behind the bushes. Cans and small items should be placed into plastic bags. Larger items can be brought separately or put into boxes. The money earned goes toward new merit badge pamphlets, and other program materials. This helps to keep the annual dues lower for everyone.

3. NEW BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS:

A new Boy Scout Handbook is presented to each incoming Scout. If the new scout is a Webelos crossover, he will receive his handbook at the crossover ceremony. Otherwise, it will be presented at an appropriate time. The Kiwanis Club of Lansdale has recently provided handbooks to local troops for this purpose.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

This year we are again holding our Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser, on March 12, 2005. All scout members are expected to sell at least 10 tickets. They can certainly sell more tickets, as can any adults involved with our troop. All profits will go towards the upgrading troop equipment and special troop activities. Appropriate credit may also be given to those Scouts who participate.

Scott Forwood is in charge of the cooking, assisted by Ernest Gambone. Several other adults are also assisting. Parents of each scout family are asked to assist, and all scouts are expected to help at the dinner on March 12, 2005 (and will be placed on a time schedule roster). All adults able to assist in any way - before, during, and after - the dinner, are asked to call Harold Frederick (723-2555) or Doug Floro (703-0262) by Feb 21st. Jason Brookhart is in charge of serving.

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Tickets will be sold - \$7.00 for persons 11 and older; \$4.00 for children 4 to 10; toddlers under 4 are free. Ticket sales sheets will be provided to record monies collected. Tickets and sales sheets will be distributed at the appropriate troop meeting.

Tickets and forms will be distributed at Scout Meeting on Monday, February 21st.

All ticket sales are due back with payments by Scout Meeting, Monday, March 7th.

REMINDER FOR DEPOSIT DUE FOR SUMMER CAMP AT CITTA, NEW JERSEY

A \$25.00 deposit is due by Scout Meeting on Monday, February 21st. This payment holds a camper space at Citta. If full payment is made by May 23rd, the total fee will be \$200.00 [less the deposit of \$25.00 or \$175.00 balance]. If full payment is made after that date, the full fee increases by \$25.00.

Remember—A deposit of \$25.00 is due Monday, February 21st, to hold a camper space!