



Boy Scout Troop 461
Zion Mennonite Church
Souderton, Pennsylvania



Troop Web Site <http://www.soudertontroop461.org>

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Web Master Timothy P. Wile, Scoutmaster

NEWSLETTER

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May 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 28 April Troop Meeting – Electricity & Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badges.
- 5 May Troop Meeting – Electricity & Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badges; Uniform Inspection.
- 12 May Troop Meeting – Rifle & Shotgun Safety; Final head count for shooting sports weekend at Community Rod & Gun Club at Bechtelsville, Berks County, PA.
- 16-18 May Annual Shooting Sports Weekend – Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- 19 May Annual Family Night and Troop Court of Honour
- 26 May Memorial Day – No Troop Meeting

CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

- 16-18 May 2008 – Shooting Sports Weekend at the Community Rod & Gun Club, Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Shotgun Shooting merit badge will be available for a limited number of applicants.
- 14 June 2008 – Eagle Scout Award Ceremony for Nathan Lanan – Trinity Lutheran Church, Main Street, Lansdale. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

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6-12 July 2008 – Annual troop summer camp at Resica Falls Scout Reservation, Marshall's Creek, Pennsylvania. This is the troop's first summer camp at a Cradle of Liberty Council camp since the troop's 1997 trip to Resica Falls.

20-26 July 2008 – Boot & Paddle Speciality Camp, Resica Falls to Treasure Island Scout Reservations.

23 August 2008 – Service project – parking at the Souderton Mennonite Community Bar-B-Que. This is an easy way to accumulate service hours for advancement!



ADVANCEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Star Scout - Ben Gehringer, Andrew van der Kleut; **Merit Badges** - Zach Brong - Leatherwork; Ben Gehringer - Family Life; Andrew van der Kleut - Citizenship in the Nation

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Troop 461 welcomes several new members to the Troop family:

Scouts:

Christian Colella - Transferred from Troop 391, Hamburg, Michigan.

Brandon Rhoads - New member, brother of Andrew.

Adults:

Earl Colella - Transferred from Troop 391, Hamburg, Michigan

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ANNUAL FAMILY NIGHT & COURT OF HONOUR

The troop will hold its annual Family Night covered dish supper and Court of Honour on Monday, 19 May 2008, in the Fellowship Hall (Troop meeting room) of Zion Mennonite Church. The evening will begin with a covered dish supper at 1845 hours (6:45 p.m.) with the Court of Honour scheduled to begin at 1945 hours (7:45 p.m.). Help is needed at 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) to set up tables and chairs.

As has been our tradition, each year families in various points of the alphabet bring different portions of the dinner. Each family is supposed to bring enough for their own family plus ten (10) other persons). This year the assignments are as follows:

Last name A—F	Bring a Salad
Last name G—M	Bring an Entrée
Last Name N—Z	Bring a Dessert

The troop will be providing beverages, rolls, butter, plates, plastic utensils and napkins.

Please notify Troop Treasurer Harold Frederick [215.723.2555] if you plan on attending the meal. We would like a final head count by the 12 May 2008 troop meeting.

ORDER OF THE ARROW ELECTIONS



The Order of the Arrow is the honour and service society of the Boy Scouts of America. Founded in 1915 at Treasure Island Scout Camp, the Order of the Arrow is unique among honour societies in that its members are elected largely by non-members – the candidates fellow scouts of their

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troops. In order to be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, a Scout must have attained the rank of First Class at the time of the election and have accumulated fourteen (14) days and nights camping within the past two (2) years, of which not more than five (5) nights can be a long-term camp, such as summer camp. Candidates must also have the approval of their Scoutmaster to stand for election. In order to be elected, the candidate must obtain an absolute majority of votes of the Scouts present at the election.

Troop 461 held its annual Order of the Arrow election at its troop meeting on 11 February 2008 and elected one Scout to membership in the Order – Zachary Brong. Having been elected to membership in the Order does not automatically elevate a Scout to membership. Once elected, the Scout must take an “ordeal” to show their worthiness for membership in the Order. This ordeal must be accomplished within one (1) year of the Scout’s election and may be performed either at a Lodge Service Weekend or at a Cradle of Liberty Council summer camp.

In addition to electing one of the Scouts to membership in the Order, the troop also nominated one of its active adult leaders for membership. This year, the Troop nominated Assistant Scoutmaster Ernest M. Gambone for membership in the Order and that nomination was approved by the Unami Lodge’s membership committee. Like any other candidate, Mr. Gambone will have to accomplish his “ordeal” within a year of his nomination in order to complete his membership in the Order of the Arrow.

Congratulations to both Zach Brong and Ernie Gambone for this honour!

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RECYCLING CONTINUES

For those few of you who still have not heard, Scoutmaster Emeritus/Troop Treasurer Harold Frederick has completed his move from his former residence on North Fourth Street in Telford to his villa at the Souderton Mennonite Community. Accordingly, recycling materials should no longer be left at 515 North Fourth Street in Telford – the new owners probably would not appreciate the deposit! Rather, recycling materials can be left at Harold's villa at the Souderton Mennonite Community or dropped off at any Troop meeting.

If you have aluminium cans or other recycling materials to drop off, please make arrangements with Harold in advance. (215.723.2555 or leave a message).

ANNUAL SHOOTING SPORTS WEEKEND

The troop will be holding its annual shooting sports weekend at the Community Rod & Gun Club of Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania during the weekend of 16 through 18 May 2008. Both small bore (.22LR) rifle shooting and shotgun shooting will be available.

This year, the weekend's emphasis will be on shotgun shooting with that merit badge being offered during the weekend. In order to qualify for the shooting portion of the merit badge, an applicant must shoot two rounds of twenty-five (25) clay targets, and hit twenty-four (24) out of the total of fifty (50). In addition to the shooting portion of the merit badge, applicants must also demonstrate knowledge of the safe handling and maintenance of a shotgun, the major parts, different types, etc.

As a result of a lack of time and interest, rifle shooting merit badge will not be offered this year. Scouts interested in this merit

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badge are encouraged to work on it at summer camp at Resica Falls. If there is sufficient interest, a Rifle Shooting Merit Badge class can be arranged later in the year.

This weekend is a tent camping weekend. We will be camping on the gun club's grounds, as usual, and will have the use of the club's cabin, which includes running water and indoor plumbing. Departure will be from Zion Mennonite Church at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) on Friday, 16 May 2008, with our return planned for Noon on Sunday, 18 May 2008. The cost of the weekend is thirty dollars (\$30.00) per person, the additional cost being required for the purchase of shotgun ammunition and clay targets. For those Scouts who want to attempt to qualify for the shooting portion of Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge, there will be an additional twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) charge since that portion requires an additional fifty (50) shells and clay targets.

An informational flyer and permission slip relating to the Shooting Sports Weekend will be issued shortly.

SCOUT UNIFORM REMINDER!!

It hardly needs to be stated, but the Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organisation and it is our uniform that identifies us as a member of the BSA and of Troop 461. It is not only encouraged, but expected, that Troop members and leaders wear their Scout uniforms when participating in Scout events, such as meetings, camping trips, service projects (where appropriate), etc.

When Yocum & Gottshalk's department store of Souderton closed its doors some years ago, the unsold uniform parts on hand were offered to Troop 461. This was the beginning of Troop 461's Uniform Exchange Programme. Up to May 2007, Harold Frederick maintained the troop's Scout uniform exchange. Julie Youtz (Ben Gehringer's mom) has since

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taken over this operation. Contact Julie at 215-703-0733 if you have a need for a Scout uniform part or have an outgrown uniform shirt or pants to donate to the Troop uniform exchange.

We would like to see all scouts in full uniform, if uniform parts are available. There is no charge presently to secure another uniform part, but where doing so, we ask the older, i.e., too small, item be turned in for another scout to use. In doing so, PLEASE LEAVE THE "SOUDERTON, PA, 60 YEAR AND 461" BADGES ON THE UNIFORM SHIRT. If new ones are needed, they are available from the troop at no cost. You may remove all other badges, but please do so carefully so as not to tear or cut the shirt.

SPECIAL THANKS

Scoutmaster Emeritus Harold Frederick sends his special thanks to those persons who helped him move to his villa earlier this year. He is gradually going through all of the boxes at his new residence, as time permits!

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is a campaign that gains support directly from our community members, parents, and families. The money donated to this campaign goes directly to the support of the local programme and directly affects your Scout! Annual dues and registration monies pay for less than one-half (½) of the cost of bringing the Scouting programme to our boys. Additionally, as a result of some negative publicity campaigns brought on by special interest groups who oppose the values that Scouting stands for, some traditional sources of funding have decreased or dried up altogether. We have our sons in Scouting because we believe in the values and skills that Scouting promotes and teaches young boys. Many of us devote many hours to

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ensure that our Scouts receive a quality experience and gain the skills that are vital to positive and participating citizenship. The “Friends of Scouting” campaign is one of the ways that those of us who believe in the values and benefits of Scouting can “put our money where our mouths are” and support our local council and district with our donations.

We will be having a FOS presentation at our Annual Family Night/Court of Honour. We realise that not everyone can afford to donate an additional \$120.00 per family that is the FOS target goal, but please consider making some kind of donation to our council, through the FOS programme, even if it is only \$10, \$15, or \$20. Every bit helps and puts our council and district towards greater fiscal independence. It is important that we all help support our council and district so that it can continue to present the quality programme for our Scouts that we all believe in!