



Boy Scout Troop 461
Zion Mennonite Church
Souderton, Pennsylvania

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

E-Mail tim_wile@msn.com

Web Master Timothy P. Wile, Scoutmaster



NEWSLETTER

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November 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 27 October – Troop Meeting – Order forms and monies from popcorn sales due. **Annual Halloween Party!!**
- 3 November – Troop Meeting – Head count for Scouting for Food bag distribution.
- 8 November – Pass out food donation bags for Scouting for Food. Drivers are needed for this event!!!
- 10 November – Troop Meeting – Cold Weather camping review; preliminary head count for Ockanickon camping weekend.
- 12 November – General Nash District Roundtable, Trinity Lutheran Church, Main Street, Lansdale, at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.).
- 15 November – Pick up food donation bags for Scouting for Food; Sort and count food donations; deliver donated food to IVOC. Pick up popcorn orders – orders will be ready at the Church by 1300 hours (1:00 p.m.). Again, drivers needed for the Scouting for Food project!!
- 17 November Troop Meeting – Board of Review for eligible candidates. Final head count for Ockanickon camping weekend.
- 17 November Troop Committee Meeting – 1945 hours (7:45 p.m.) in library of Zion Mennonite Church.

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24 November Troop Meeting – review events of Ockanickon weekend; sort out troop trailer and return items to church barn for storage.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

1 December 2008 – General Nash District Den Chief Training.

12-14 December 2008 – Annual winter cabin camp at Camp Men-O-Lan, Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

23-25 January 2009 – General Nash District Klondike Derby at Camp Hart, Musser Scout Reservation, Green Lane, PA.

February 2009 – Winter camping weekend – possibly at French Creek State Park or Resica Falls Scout Reservation.

27-29 March 2009 – Camping weekend at Ockanickon Scout Reservation, Pipersville, PA.

April 2009 – Spring camping and hiking weekend at Gettysburg National Military Park.

1-3 May 2009 – Cradle of Liberty JAM – Council Jamboree at Upper Montgomery County Park, Green Lane, Pennsylvania.

15-17 May 2009 – Annual shooting sports weekend at Community Rod & Gun Club in Bechtelsville, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

June 2009 – Civil War Forts Tour Weekend – a new adventure for our troop this year. A ferry will be taking us to three (3) Civil War era forts along the lower Delaware Bay

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12-18 July 2009 – Annual troop summer camp at Camp Buckskin of the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in the Adirondack Mountain Region of upper New York State.



2008 GENERAL NASH DISTRICT CUB-O-REE

A beautiful autumn weekend provided a super backdrop for General Nash District's annual district Camp-O-Ree/Cub-O-Ree at Upper Gwynedd Township Community Park in North Wales, Pennsylvania. Fourteen (14) Scouts and four (4) adult leaders provided Troop 461's contingent for this annual district event – which we understand is the pride of Cradle of Liberty Council.



This year's theme was a medieval theme entitled the "Knights of Nash." Many units crafted their campsite gateways to look like castles or other items from the middle ages. Since this was only our second year constructing a proper gateway for our campsite, our plans were a bit more modest, as can be seen by the photo on the preceding page. Our Scouts practised constructing the gateway at several Troop meetings prior to Cub-O-Ree, which was a fortunate thing since many of our Scout's lashing skills were a bit rusty. Still, thanks to the organisational skills of Senior Patrol Leader Justin Seelaus, our gateway was completed on Friday night well before the 2300 (11:00



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p.m.) lights out call. One final mention on our gateway requires thanks to Scott and Diane Forwood for preparing the photo collages of our



Troop's activities and a schedule of events that were posted on the two towers of the gateway. These were a nice addition and were a point of interest to most of the Cub Scout leaders and parents who visited our campsite.

In a dramatic change from years past, our Scouts decided to change our presentation to the Cubs this year from International Games to International Cuisine and our Scouts prepared and presented snacks from three different countries that we had visited for the Cubs and their parents to sample. From Iceland we made "Loveballs," or *Astarpungar* in Icelandic, which is like a raisin fritter; from Austria, we had *Pfannkuchen mit gewürzten äpfeln*, or scrambled pancakes with spiced apples; and from Canada, we had Maple Cookies. In addition to providing samples of these snacks to the Cubs and their parents, we also had the handouts for the adult leaders and the parents describing the snacks and their recipes. Fortunately, we had just enough of both to last us the day and the only left-over snack was a partial bag of broken Maple Cookies, which did not last past dinner on Saturday.

Those Scouts and adult leaders who participated in the 2008 General Nash Camp-O-Ree/Cub-O-Ree had a great time and enjoyed some good fellowship with their fellow Scouts from throughout the district.



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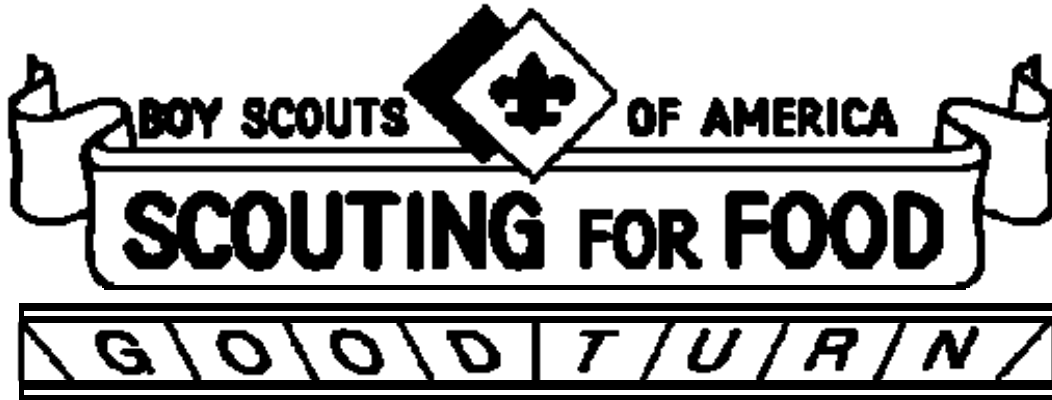


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It is nearly November again and that means it is almost time for the Boy Scouts' national service project entitled "Scouting for Food" where local Scout units throughout the country collect food items from their neighbourhoods and turn them in to local food banks. This is the one service project that has a really significant impact upon our community and provides Scouts with an opportunity to earn a number of required service hours.

The Scouting for Food campaign kicks off on Saturday, 8 November 2008, with Scouts, Cubs and Venturers handing out Scouting for Food donation bags throughout their assigned neighbourhoods. Troop 461's assigned area is the same portion of the Borough of Souderton that we had last year. Plans are for Scouts to meet at the Fellowship Hall at Zion Mennonite Church on Saturday morning, 8 November 2008, at 1000 hours (10:00 a.m.), and receive their assignments. The more Scouts who participate in this part of the project means that we can have our donation bags handed out that much quicker! Adult leaders and parents are also needed as drivers. Also, brothers and sisters are also welcome to assist in this worthy project.

The second phase of the Scouting for Food service project occurs on Saturday, 15 November 2008. It is on this Saturday that Scouts pick

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up the loaded donation bags which citizens in the community have placed on their porches or outside their doors for pick-up and transport to the local food banks. Troop 461 transports the food items collected to the Indian Valley Opportunity Centre (IVOC) in Souderton. However, before the food can be delivered to the IVOC, the Scouts must first collect the donations, bring them back to the Zion Mennonite Church where the donations are sorted according to type and counted, boxed, and then taken to the IVOC. This is the phase of the Scouting for Food project where we need the most help and everyone is encouraged to donate several hours of their time on this Saturday for this most worthy project. As in years past, we will be meeting at the Youth Department area of Zion Mennonite Church at 1000 hours (10:00 a.m.) to begin collecting the filled food donation bags and also for sorting and counting the donated food.

In addition to collecting the Scouting for Food bags and sorting and delivering the donated food, the popcorn orders will be ready for pickup by those Scouts who have sold popcorn. Popcorn orders will be ready for pickup at the Zion Mennonite Church by 1300 hours (1:00 p.m.) on Saturday, 15 November 2008.

NOVEMBER CAMPING TRIP AT OCKANICKON

The Troop's November camping trip has been rescheduled to the weekend of 21-23 November 2008 and will be held at Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County. Ockanickon is well known to the members of this Troop as we have held numerous weekend camps and summer camps at Ockanickon and Scoutmaster Emeritis Harold Frederick served on the staff at Ockanickon for a number of years.

Scouts are also reminded that the weekend that we will be at Ockanickon that the COPE course will be available. Scouts who wish to participate in rock climbing or other COPE activities need to advise

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SPL Justin Seelaus or indicate their interest during sign-up for this camping weekend so that sufficient transportation can be arranged for COPE activities. There is an additional cost involved in the COPE and rock climbing activities and we have been advised that the COPE course and rock climbing activity will not be available in the spring weekend at Ockanickon. Additional costs are as follows: Low COPE – \$10.00; High COPE – \$20.00; Rock Climbing – \$20.00. Again, these fees are in addition to the \$25.00/person weekend camping fee.

The troop will be departing from the parking lot of Zion Mennonite Church for camp at 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) on Friday, 21 November 2008 and our return is expected by Noon on Sunday, 23 November 2008. Cost for this camping trip is \$25.00 per person plus the cost of any additional activities that a Scout may sign up for, such as rock climbing or one of the COPE courses.

TROOP EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

As a reminder to all Scouts and parents, at its November 2007 meeting, the troop committee adopted a policy to handle participants who sign-up for troop events and later cancel or simply fail to show up for the event. As of January 2008, Scouts or leaders who indicate or state that they will be attending a troop event that involves a fee who later discover that they will not be able to attend the event are required to notify either Scoutmaster Tim Wile [215.362.7121 or tim_wile@msn.com] or Treasurer Harold Frederick [215.723.2555 or HLFrederickJR@verizon.net] no later than the Wednesday prior to the event ***or be held financially responsible for the event's full fee.***

Additionally, the final sign-up for a weekend or special event will be the Troop meeting immediately prior to the event. Scouts who have not signed up for a camping trip or event by that time will only be permitted to attend the camping trip or event by permission of the

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Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chair and permission will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

CRADLE OF LIBERTY COUNCIL JAMBOREE

The Cradle of Liberty Council will be holding a council-wide Jamboree at the Upper Montgomery County Park in Green Lane during the weekend of 1 through 3 May 2008. According to the council website, there will be two (2) stages playing music and having shows all day on Saturday, 2 May 2008. Additionally, there will be fireworks and the 307th Military Band will be the closing show! The photo at right shows an aerial view of Jambo '07.



After hearing some suggestions from the 2007 council jamboree, the 2009 jamboree will be featuring more programmes for older Scouts, including an introduction to Scuba. The chair of the Jambo 09 committee is Jeff Baer, who is Scoutmaster of Hatfield Troop 141. According to Jeff, those who attend Jambo '09 are in for a "hootin' good time."

CENTENNIAL JAMBOREE 2010!!

The Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2010 with a National Jamboree that is to be held from 26 July 2010 through 4 August 2010 at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The BSA uses approximately 3,000 acres of Fort A.P. Hill for its National Jamborees and the Fort has been the site of every BSA National Jamboree since 1981. It is expected that approximately 50,000 Scouts and Scouters



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from the USA and around the world will attend the BSA Centennial Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in 2010.

In order to attend the National Jamboree as a Scout, a boy must be registered as a Boy Scout or as a Varsity Scout, must have attained the age of twelve (12) years or have completed the sixth grade and have attained the rank of First Class Scout by 1 July 2010. Additionally, in order to attend as a Scout, the member must not have attained his eighteenth (18th) birthday by 4 August 2010. The Scout must also attend pre-jamboree training that includes monthly meetings with the Scout's jamboree troop at three (3) pre-jamboree camping weekends.

Participants to attend the 2010 Centennial National Jamboree are chosen by the local BSA councils. Youth applications and additional information can be obtained at the National Jamboree website at <http://www.bsajamboree.org/>. Youth applications must be endorsed by the applicant's Scoutmaster and submitted to Cradle of Liberty Council with a ten dollar (\$10.00) non-refundable application fee. This fee is not part of the jamboree fee that is set by each council. Applicants will be notified by their respective councils if they are chosen to attend the National Jamboree and to which jamboree troop they are assigned.

Troop 461 has had several of its members attend the past two (2) National Jamborees, held in 2001 and 2005, and several of our members attended the 2007 World Jamboree held in England. If any member is interested in attending the 2010 National Jamboree, please speak with one of those Scouts about their experiences.