

# Troop 701 Message of the Week

July 4, 2010

Hello Troop 701 family and friends! Here's the news from Troop 701:

Welcome home to the Adventure West Virginia crews who arrived home safely on Saturday. A great time was had by all as they got to sample some mean whitewater on the Lower New River, climbed and rappelled, hiked 13 miles on the AT, and went mountain biking. A special thank you to Doug Perisutti and Stuart Doty who went along as adults to support the troop leaders on the trip.

1. There will be no troop activity this week due to the 4th of July holiday. Next Tuesday, July 13 will be our annual family picnic at Bonnie Park. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Bonnie Park in Strongsville. We will provide charcoal and you provide all of your own food and drinks. There will be lots of information about Summer Camp (including the change in weeks for 2011), Leader's Camp, and the remaining summer activities to be discussed. This year, the Greater Cleveland Council has changed the recharter dates for their units, so we will have to recharter again in December. Rates will be adjusted for this one time to account for the fact that everyone already paid the full fee in April. More details once the troop committee has sent the fees.

2. Current medical forms and parental consent forms must be submitted. Your support on this is greatly appreciated. If your son's forms are out of date, he will not be permitted to participate in troop activities. I will be sending out a separate list of the kids that I think still need to submit updated forms. It is ALWAYS a good idea to keep an extra copy at home for your records.

3. Every year, the highlight of the Scouting year is our trip to summer camp at Heritage Reservation. This year, the troop leaves on Sunday, August 1 at 8:30 a.m. and will be returning to Chapman on Saturday, August 7 at 3:00 p.m. For a lot of boys, this is their first extended stay away from home without their parents. Your assistance is requested to help make this experience something that all of the kids will not forget. I ask that every family started sending mail the Wednesday BEFORE we leave for Heritage, which is July 28. Please mail ONE piece of mail **EVERY** day until the following Tuesday, August 3. That way, when we arrive at camp there will be A LOT of mail waiting for us. There are a lot of kids each week that never get any mail and it is tough to tell them that there was nothing for them that day. It does not need to be a 5-page letter, just a postcard or note to let them know that you are thinking about them.

Please **DO NOT** send lots of cookies and candy. There is no place to store it and if the boys leave it in their tent, they are just inviting woodland creatures to come in and check it out.

4. Summer Camp also means that it is time for our annual troop elections. Each year, the boys elect the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and each of the patrol leaders. The term is for one year and expires as they step off the bus when we return from Summer Camp. I ask that each of you talk to your sons about the commitment they are making to the troop. This is a boy-led troop and we are only as good as the boys that are leading it. Nothing we do happens without a lot of preparation and planning and that will be the focus of Leader's Camp this year.

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It is expected this year that we will cut back to four patrols, plus the staff and Mustangs patrol. Once the SPL and PLs have been elected, they will pick their own assistants. As soon as those positions are filled, we will begin interviews to fill the remaining staff positions for next year. If your son will not be attending Summer Camp this year and he is seeking a leadership position for next year, it is up to him to request an interview with the ASM in charge of the area he would like to be part of.

Instructors - Wes Kent

Quartermasters - Scott Horan & Matt Shoaff

Troop Guides and Den Chiefs - Amy Geiss & Dave Anderson

Scribes, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, Bugler - Joe Wollet

JASMs - Mark Mangan and ASM for the position

5. Speaking of Leader's Camp, this year it will be held the weekend of August 20 - 22 at Camp Tuscazoar in Dover, Ohio. It is expected that the SPL, ASPLs, PLs, and APLs will be in attendance that weekend. We will begin planning a good portion of our year that weekend and we need all of you to be there. We will let the boys know if we are going to include the rest of the staff (scribes, instructors, troop guides, and quartermasters). The cost for the weekend is \$25.00 and it is preferable if it is paid in cash so that we can purchase the food and the ice cream supplies for Saturday night. If you have any questions about Leader's Camp, please see Mr. Mangan or me.

6. Cleveland Indians tickets are on sale for the Thursday, August 12 game against the Baltimore Orioles. **All family members invited.** Tickets are \$5.00 each and the seats are Upper Reserve seats, just to the right of 1st base. Tickets will be assigned as they are paid for, so don't miss out on this fun activity.

7. Final summer camp payments are due. If you have not submitted your final payment, please do so at this week's troop meeting.

8. I need your help on making sure that the troop equipment sent home from our monthly campouts gets returned CLEANED, DRY, and SOON after it is sent home. We are missing a lot of gear from the trailer and that means that we either do without it the next month or we have to go out and buy more. I would prefer to do neither. When a scout is assigned something to take home, it is expected that it is dried out / cleaned the next day and returned to the next troop meeting. Your help and support would be greatly appreciated!

9. We have a couple of service projects coming up for the troop. We will have sign-up sheets for all of these service projects at the troop meetings.

Saturday, July 10, 8:30 - Take the flags and signs on the Commons

Saturday, November 13 - Yard Charge. Last year, we had over 450 people supporting this project and Scouting units in the city were able to rake the yards of 85 very grateful senior citizens. Please mark down and save this date as we hope to be able to service even more this year!

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If you have questions on any of the above information, please contact Senior Patrol Leader Mitch Kovacs or one of the adult leaders.

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