

Troop 701 Message of the Week

February 28, 2010

News and notes from the leaders of Boy Scout Troop 701:

This week, we will start to see new faces at the troop meetings as twelve Webelos from Strongsville Cub Scout packs transition to Boy Scouts. Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the troop. Remember how you felt the first few times that you came.

1. This week will be an Advancement Night for all boys in the troop from 7:01 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. At 7:45, the SPL, ASPLs, Patrol Leaders, and Asst Patrol Leaders will begin planning Father / Son camp and all other scouts should plan on being picked up. I would like to meet with the new guys joining the troop and hope to have the Troop Guides and Mrs. Geiss meet with them as well. I am also hopeful of meeting for about 20 minutes with the parents of the new kids.

2. The highlight of the Boy Scout year is undoubtedly the week of Summer Camp at Heritage Reservation. Where else can you have fun with your buddies, go on a canoe trip, sail around a lake, shoot 22 rifles, and not have to take a shower every day! We will begin sign-ups for Summer Camp this week with a \$75.00 deposit. As was the case last year, the cost for the week at Heritage Reservation will remain \$260.00. We will ask for another \$75.00 on April 1, with the balance of \$110.00 due by May 1. The cost for Summer Camp will increase to \$275.00 on May 1.

Troop scholarships for all or part of the cost are available. If you would like to learn more about them, please see me. I never want money to be the reason that a boy, or an adult for that matter, cannot participate in a Scouting event. There is no form to fill out and no proof of need is required. All you have to do is talk to me about how we can help.

3. Each year in April, Troop 701 has to renew its charter with the Boy Scouts of America. This allows us to continue as an organization, but also makes sure that we are covered under the BSA insurance policy during troop outings. These dues cover one year of membership in the BSA, a subscription to Boy's Life magazine (if desired), and coverage under the BSA insurance policy. The dues for this year will remain the same as 2009:

New Scouts just joining the troop will be charged \$50.00, and this fee will include a year's subscription to Boy's Life, as well as receiving the troop numerals, neckerchief, and neckerchief slide.

Scouts in 6th to 8th grade will be charged \$42.00, and this fee will include a year's subscription to Boy's Life. If Boy's Life is not desired or a sibling already gets it, the cost will be \$33.00.

Scouts in 9th to 12th grade will be charged \$33.00 and this does not include Boy's Life.

Every Scout is asked to pay his registration dues by April 1, so that the troop can get their registration paperwork completed on time. As is the case with anything financial, if you need help with these fees, please let me know. Scouts can pay by check, cash, or from funds in their

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Scout account. Scouts that are not rechartered for the coming year will not be allowed to participate in troop activities. If you have any questions about rechartering, please see one of the adult leaders.

4. It's that time of year when Scouts and fathers compete against one another. Once again, this year the campout will be held at Camp Miakonda in Toledo. We will begin signing up for our Father / Son campout this week. The cost for the weekend will be \$35.00 per person (scouts and adults) and can be paid by check (made out to 'Boy Scout Troop 701'), cash, or from the scout's account.

There are new challenges waiting for you and your father. The PLC will begin planning the activities for the weekend as this week's planning session. It is very important to attend this camp because it gives each father an idea of what activities a Scout does at camp. Also it is a great way for the fathers to have fun with their son, making memories for a lifetime. This campout will be an interesting experience to all who dare to accept this worthy challenge.

5. Every year, Troop 701 participates in the Greater Cleveland Council's Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign. Our families are always generous, making Troop 701 one of the larger donors not only within our district, but within the Council. Our appeal for 2010 will be held Saturday during Father/Son camp. Money raised through FOS is used by our council. It does not go to the troop, but supports the great activities and programs the council offers, including the professional staff that works with us volunteers. Please consider a donation according to your means. If you are unable to pledge this year, please return the card anyway to avoid getting phone calls in the near future soliciting your support.

6. In 2010, the Boy Scouts of America released a new health and medical record form. Scouts and adults are required to begin using the new form immediately. The primary reason for the new form is to avoid the confusion caused by having different medical forms based on the length of an activity or a participant's age. Now, one form is used by all participants regardless of activity or age. Troop leaders often see incomplete information on medical forms, especially related to medications or certain medical conditions. This information is needed to structure safe activities and is imperative when giving emergency care. Please be thorough and honest. Our experience also indicates that a Scouting activity is not the place to experiment with or stop medications. The new form is available on the Troop 701 web site www.troop701.com.

7. In January, the BSA implemented new advancement requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, and Life. The troop has incorporated these changes into our green advancement books and will begin handing them out this week. It will be up to each Scout that is First Class or below to get the contents of their current book copied over to the new version. As of April 1, we will no longer honor the old books, so each of the boys has 30 days to get a new copy.

8. Boys taking the First Aid merit badge are expected to study the handouts that are handed out each week to prepare for the next meeting. The next MB meeting is 3/2. Any assigned work must be completed and turned in to get credit for the merit badge. For more details, please see Mrs. Geiss or Mrs. Brown.

9. We have a troop fund raiser scheduled with MARCO's PIZZA for Wed., March 10, 2010. Marcos will provide us with fliers to promote when we are closer to the date, but for now, here is another chance to give Mom (or Dad) the night off from cooking, while helping the troop at the same time.

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10. While the boys (and maybe Dad) are away camping at the troop Father / Son campout, why not stay warm with some tasty food and good company? Linda Shoaf has scheduled a Mom's Nite Out for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 20 at Cleat's Club Street Grille, 15147 Pearl Road, Strongsville. This is a great time to meet some of the other moms in the troop, ask questions of moms of older boys, and just have some fun. For more information, please see the attached flyer or contact Linda Shoaff at 878-0398.

11. I have only heard from one scout that about taking part in Whirlyball in March. This was set up for anyone that sold \$100 or more in popcorn this past fall. I will ask one more time on Tuesday and if there is not a lot of response, I will be cancelling the event.

12. The next payment is due for the Adventure West Virginia High Adventure trip. All scouts and adults that have signed up to be part of this trip are asked to submit the next payment of \$150.00. Scouts can use funds from their scout accounts, pay in cash, or write checks payable to 'Boy Scout Troop 701.' Your support is appreciated. The crew will be departing from Strongsville in the morning on Saturday, June 26 and will return home later in the afternoon on Saturday, July 3. We could still use 1 or 2 more adults to help with the driving for the trip. Please see me if you would like to join us that week.

13. It is almost time to start thinking about troop leadership positions for next year. I am hoping that the leadership application process this year will be done on-line and we will get more information to you if that is the case. In any event, the troop will begin accepting Leadership applications for 2010 - 2011 on April 1. Now is the time to begin to talk to your parents about what your commitment to the troop will be in the coming year and what leadership position you would like to interview for at summer camp. Do not be afraid to challenge yourself and ask 'where can I make the most difference?'

14. Troop 701 Scouts have an opportunity to become pen pals with Scouts in Sweden, thanks to alumnus Nicholas Haluska '06 (Eagle #63). For the last year, Nick has been a resident of Sweden, where he attends university, studies the Swedish language and has gotten involved with a local Scout troop. Most of Nick's Scouts are young (10-11 years old) and would like to learn more about Scouting in the U. S. In return, they can tell you about Scouting there, perhaps sending photos, patches or other Scouting memorabilia. If you are interested in becoming a pen pal, contact Mitch Kovacs or Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Wollet.

If you have any questions, or any additional information, please feel free to give me or Mitch a call.

Don Young
Scoutmaster
Boy Scout Troop 701

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www.troop701.com