



# Troop 424 Newsletter

## MARCH 2008

Troop Website: [under construction](#)

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## **SCOUTMASTER'S CORNER**

Your Scoutmaster, Mrs. Mattor

Good Behavior = Obeying the Scout Law / Oath results in Strong Troop Productivity

Bad Behavior = Lack of respect for the Scout Oath / Law results in Wasted Time

The "discipline issue" is not enjoyable to discuss and most of you are exhibiting great Scout-like behavior. However, there have been behavioral issues leading to disciplinary action consuming the Troop lately. This wastes our time and ruins the Scouting experience for others. To make improvement in this area it will help to talk about it to set the expectation that we will no longer tolerate bad behavior in Troop 424.

What would happen if there was another adult ASM picking on another ASM? That would be silly wouldn't it? What if one ASM threw a rock at another ASM? Silly again. What if the ASMs didn't listen to the Committee or Council and follow the rules? Exactly, we would be thrown out of Scouts. Rules are in place to make sure everyone in the program behaves and nobody gets hurt.

Behavior is a matter of choice. You can choose to exhibit Scout-like behavior and you should since you have made the decision to become a Boy Scout. Treat others the way you would like to be treated so show respect to other Scouts and leaders. The older Scouts should be helping the younger Scouts and treating them with kindness. If you read the Scout Law the following words come to mind in relation to good behavior: friendly, courteous and kind.

We have a new opportunity for another Senior Patrol Leader to be elected during an election on April 3rd. This is the best leadership position you could have in the Troop. While there is a lot of responsibility and excellent attendance is required, it is also a great opportunity to develop leadership skills and plan some interesting Troop meetings. Keep in mind also that you will need to be a positive role model for the other Scouts. Chris Morrison has done a commendable job and it's time to give someone else this leadership opportunity.... If you are interested in running for the SPL position please contact me.

Your Scoutmaster, Mrs. Mattor

## **SENIOR PATROL LEADER'S CORNER**

By Chris M.

Sorry I haven't sent an article in the last few newsletters. My computer has been down and I have been very busy with FIRST Robotics. SPL elections will be at the Court of Honor on March

13<sup>th</sup> and Speeches for the position will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> (the week before). If any of you have any interest in running for the position contact Mrs. Mattor. I have enjoyed my term as SPL and feel I've learned a lot in the position.

## TROOP UNIFORM POLICY

The policy of our Troop on the wearing of the uniform is as follows:

**Class A Formal Uniform:** To be worn at Boards of Review, Courts of Honor and other formal occasions. Scout Shirt with appropriate insignia, worn tucked in and as the outside article of clothing. Scout pants or shorts, Troop neckerchief with slide, Troop hat or no hat.

**Class A Uniform:** To be worn at normal troop meetings and events. Scout Shirt with appropriate insignia, worn tucked in and as the outside article of clothing. Appropriate pants or shorts, Troop neckerchief with slide, Troop hat or no hat.

**Class B Uniform:** To be worn at informal and outdoor events. Troop or other Scout T-shirt or sweatshirt, appropriate pants or shorts. Scout hat.

We are tracking the usage of the uniform, and a patrol we be recognized for the best percentage of the correct uniform-wear.

## **PATROL CORNERS**

### **SENIORS**

By John S.

The Senior patrol went tubing at Nashoba Valley. They had 16 lanes open and no waiting! The courses were very fast. We did some doubles and had races. I came in third but Andy won. When we all were down and finished with the race old Mr. Q and old Mr. Sween were still coming down so one of those two guys came in last. I think it was Mr. Sween. The night of tubing was wicked fun – we all had a great time!

### **TIC TAC PATROL**

### **SPARTAN PATROL**

By Philip L.

Philip L. is the new patrol leader and will be running the 4/17 meeting. The theme will be decided at a later date.

### **BLACK UNICORNS (First Year Patrol)**

By Troop Guide, Dominick D.

As troop guide, I had my first meeting with the first years. We played introduction games and got to know each other. Then we went over some Boy Scout stuff like leadership, requirements, and the first year weekend. We also picked a patrol name. The popular vote was the Black Unicorns. We finished up with a game.

## **ORDER OF THE ARROW**

Dominick D.  
OA Troop Representative

This month at our OA meeting we learned about cold weather camping. We learned about tents, sleeping bags, flashlights, the layering system, and a lot more. We ended the meeting with pizza and soda. Also in February we had the OA café at which we made a lot of money. If you went to the Klondike you might have seen us.

Next month our meeting is March 19 and we will be working on the Pulp and Paper merit badge and Origami.

Our troop recently elected Jason D. and Chris M. to the OA.  
Congratulations!

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **COURT OF HONOR-MARCH 13**

BY Chris F.

It's that time again - the Court of Honor is coming this month. The Court of Honor will be held on March 13, from 7:00 to 8:30, at Our Lady of Mercy. The theme this year is St. Patrick's Day. The Seniors should bring drinks and they will be doing the opening flag ceremony. The Tic-Tacs will set up while the Spartans will clean up; both should bring desserts. Finally, the First Years, A.K.A. the Black Unicorns, will bring snack food and they will do the closing flag ceremony. It will be lots of fun.

### **EASTER FIRES**

We will be lighting the traditional Easter Fires at Our Lady of Mercy and St. John Neumann Churches on March 22. See Jason for more information.

### **ALPINE ADVENTURES- ZIP LINES**

BY Dominick D.

In April we will be going to Alpine Adventures to go on their ziplines!! The first twelve slots are almost filled, only 12 to go. If you want to sign up and give me your permission slip, I have to get it no later than the March 6<sup>th</sup> troop meeting. Also, the next day, depending on how many people sign up, I will open the list to Troop 15 and siblings. If I do that, you will get an e-mail telling you

so. I need all permission slips and full payment ASAP and you can mail them to me at: 35 Cambridge Dr. If I don't get it and \$45.00 by March 6<sup>th</sup>, you don't go.

## **HIKE-A-THON- APRIL 26**

BY Mrs. Hall

This year's Hike-a-Thon for Troop 424 will be held on the Saturday at the beginning of the April school vacation. That would be April 26th for those of you who actually look at calendars (like me). The Hike-a-Thon is a five mile hike that can be used as a fundraiser if you ask your friends and neighbors to pay you to complete the hike. We also use the Hike-a-Thon as an opportunity to learn about hiking and about the local plants and animals, thus completing several Tenderfoot/Second Class/First Class requirements. If you are planning on attending Scout Camp, or if you are a First Year, or if you are a second year who is in need of having some first year requirements checked off, this hike is for YOU! We haven't decided where yet, but we'll meet at 9:00 am, and hike until lunchtime. We'll have lunch on the trail, and then return sometime in the early afternoon.

By the way, I'm in need of a Scout Coordinator for this activity. Please see me, Mrs. Hall, if you are interested.

## **SUMMER CAMP**

By Mrs. C.

At the March 6 Troop meeting, we'll be seeing a video from Hidden Valley and Camp Bell.

We'll be going to Camp Bell from July 13-19. Signups have started and **\$50 deposits must be in by March 6.**

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. C. Anyone interested in taking part in the high adventure programs for the older Scouts needs to register separately, so be sure to ask for information. These programs fill up fast. Campership money is available for anyone needing financial help. Any Scouts wanting to go another week instead of with the troop or in addition to going with the troop may go "provisional". Contact Mrs. C. for information.

## **EVENT REPORTS**

## KLONDIKE DERBY

BY Mr. Mroz

All of us had a great time at the Klondike Derby this year! Our Attendees were, Stephen M., Ryan S., Trevor M. and Joey C. The Adults were Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Mattor, Mr. DeFrancisco and myself, Mr. Mroz. We also had the fine honor of having three boys from Troop 807 from Amherst join us this year along with their Scoutmaster, Mr. Mike Becker. All seven boys had formed their own patrol, the eagle patrol and mastered their way though a multitude of skill stations. All of our Scouts had done pretty darn good job at each station considering the strict judging they were up against! I would also like to commend the boys for doing well at the first aid station. This station in my opinion was pretty tough!

Our Guys were consistent with scores of 14 out of 20 points at each station except for lunch where they received 18 out of 20 for their cooking skills! I think the one important thing our scouts had learned at the shelter building station was that making a skylight in their shelter didn't work in snow or rain!

**GREAT JOB EAGLE PATROL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



## **POSITION REPORTS**

### **DEN CHIEFING**

Dominick D.

In February I went to both of my den's meetings and went to the Blue and Gold. Two of the kids in my den crossed over into our troop. I have been a den chief for 2 ½ years. This is my last Den Chief Article.

Stephen M.

As a Den Chief I attended their den meeting and helped work on a First-Aid skit and made center pieces for the blue and gold. I attended the blue and gold and took part in my den's setup and skit.

Alex E.

Chris F.

On Sunday of the 17th, the Cub Scout Pack 525 held their blue and gold banquet. All the boys in the den received their Bear Rank. They will continue working on electives to earn gold and silver arrow points.

John S.

My Den went to Lowes home improvement store and learned how to build a race car with a Dremmel tool. This was to prepare for the Pinewood Derby. They also demonstrated power drills and, my favorite, the table saw. It was very interesting. We learned some things and had a lot of fun!

Jason D.

This month I went to the Blue & Gold with my den. We also went on a Field Trip to the Fire Station. We also worked on some requirements for Wolf, which they got at the Blue& Gold.

### **SCRIBE**

### **LIBRARIAN**

### **HISTORIAN**

### **CHAPLAIN'S AIDE**

By Jason D.

This month I helped run Scout Sunday at Our Lady of Mercy. I also did an opening prayer at the PLC.

## **TROOP COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

**By Mr. Hargreaves**

During the past month the Committee has worked closely with the Scout Master, ASMs, and adult event coordinators to better establish guidelines for disciplinary issues, Troop meetings, and what is expected of Scouts on their journey towards the rank of Eagle Scout.

The end result of these ongoing discussions will be; improved and more orderly Troop meetings, better enforcement of BSA and Troop rules, increased ASM presence, clearly defined expectations of the Scouts / Troop, and a great environment for Scouts to learn Scout stuff.

Finally, we all are part of a Boy Scout of America Unit, and it is the Committee's responsibility to make sure the Troop succeeds at many levels while upholding the world recognized BSA reputation. On behalf of the Troop 424 Committee, it is my honor to tell you we are committed to the Troop and our responsibility.

### **COMMITTEE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED**

Every year we have more "retiring" committee members, and have those positions we need to fill. Please contact Mr. Hargreaves if you are interested in more information about these spots, which will continue to make Troop 424 the Troop in which you want your sons to be successful:

**Quartermaster:** Tracking all the troop's equipment and keeping it in good repair. Acquiring any new equipment that may be needed.

**Uniform Exchange:** Collecting and distributing old uniforms. Acquiring any new T-shirts, hats and other items we may decide to purchase.

**Refreshments:** Storing and handling distribution of soft-good supplies. Coordinating refreshments for events when asked.

**Membership:** Serving as liaison with the Cub Scout packs in town and working with the First Year advisors to recruit new Scouts.

**Merit Badge Counselors:** These are needed on an ongoing basis. If you feel you have an expertise in any of the 100+ merit badge fields,

contact Mrs. Creager.

### **ADVANCEMENT NEWS**

Mrs. DeFrancisco

Back in October I challenged each Scout in our troop to try and earn a badge, advance in rank, or work to receive some sort of recognition at our March Court of Honor. So far, only 20 Scouts out of 34 chartered Scouts have met the challenge. What about the other 14 of you? What are you working on? The absolute last day I will conduct Boards of Review or accept completed merit badge cards to be presented at the CoH will be the March 6<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting. If you are ready for a Board of Review, you must contact me as soon as possible, and definitely BEFORE the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

[Congratulations to the following Scouts who have earned merit badges since our February newsletter:](#)

**Andy L.**-Rifle Shooting

**Chris M.**-Family Life

**Jacob T.**-Personal Fitness

**Kevin G.**-Personal Fitness, Environmental Science

**Derek M.**-Environmental Science

**John S.**-Environmental Science

[Congratulations to the following Scouts who have advanced in rank since our February newsletter:](#)

**Maslin L.**-Tenderfoot Rank, Second Class

**Brandon H.**-Tenderfoot Rank

**Brady P.**-Star

### **QUARTERMASTER**

By Mr.Q

### **TRAINING**

By Mr. Laberge

Hi All, February proved to be a very busy training month for our Troop. Several of our Scouts attended the vacation week Merit Badge Boot Camp, hosted by Troop 15. Congrats to all who attended and earned new Merit Badges answering the challenge put forth by Mrs. De Francisco!

Our adults were busy as well, with fifteen leaders completing CPR certification on Jan. 24th. For those who were unable to attend, a second CPR class is being offered on Tues. April 8th from 6-9pm at the Community College in Nashua. This course is open to

any adult leaders and Scouts who are 14 years of age. Please sign up early as space is limited.

Several training courses are being offered by our Arrowhead District. March 1st will be training for Scoutmaster/ ASM specific. Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills will take place on June 7th and 8th. Additionally, the Nutfield and Massabesic Districts will host Outdoor Leader skills on April 25th thru 27th. For more info please contact John Pelletier, our arrowhead Dist. Exec. at 625-6431 x131 or myself.

Lastly, lets give Mr. Figueroa a huge BSA "thumbs up"! Since January, he has taken and completed SIX adult leader training courses and plans to attend an Outdoor Leader Skills course this Spring! Great job Mr.F!!!! Thanks, Tom Laberge 424-0860

## **FUND-RAISING**

We're still collecting used printer toner cartridges for rebates. Bring them to Mrs. Morrison.

## **PUBLICITY**

By Kathleen Kautz

## **UNIFORM EXCHANGE**

See Mrs. Martens to contribute or to obtain uniform parts.

## **MEDICAL FORMS**

Contact Mrs. Downing to update your medical forms.

Please remember that we need copies of both sides your insurance cards on file. Doctors and Hospitals will not treat your son without this. The insurance number on the med form will not read into their scanners and they need the phone numbers on the back of the cards.

There is now a form for submission with any medications for any Scout. It must be submitted in a zip lock back with the medications to the adult coordinator of any trip. If it is not submitted, the Scout will not receive the medications.

## **TRANSPORTATION RECORDS**

Contact Mr. Sullivan to update your transportation information. We need it for Tour Permits.

## **NEW WEBSITE**

By Chris Vecchione

## CALENDAR

**PLEASE REMOVE THIS PAGE AND POST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR  
OR BULLETIN BOARD**

**BOLD = Scout events**

*Italics= Adult events*

<i>March 5</i>	<i>Troop Committee Meeting</i>
<b>March 6</b>	<b>Troop Meeting at Reli. Ed. Center, OLM</b>
<b>March 8-9</b>	<b>Wasserman Weekend- first years plus</b>
<i>March 12</i>	<i>Roundtable at Mormon Church</i>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Court of Honor in Main Church Basement</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Order of the Arrow Chapter Meeting</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Troop Meeting, Holy Thursday and First Day of Spring. Location TBD.</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Easter Fire at OLM and SJN</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
<i>March 25</i>	<i>ASM Meeting- Community College</i>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>PLC at Community College</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>First Year Patrol Meeting</b>
<b>March 29-30</b>	<b>Lock In at YMCA</b>
<i>April 2</i>	<i>Troop Committee Meeting</i>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Troop Meeting</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>ZipLine</b>
<i>April 9</i>	<i>Roundtable</i>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Troop Meeting</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>OA Chapter Meeting</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Troop Meeting</b>
<i>April 22</i>	<i>ASM Meeting</i>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>PLC and First Year Meeting</b>
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Hike A Thon</b>