

The Upward Trail

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2003

BOY SCOUT TROOP 477 | KINGSWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Panther Creek Trail Report

by J.T. Sparks

Seven scouts set off from the Scout hut Saturday morning cold, sleepy, and grumpy. After the car ride we got our packs on and set off for the trail.

The weather was cool but sunny. It was an easy trail next to a creek, a few ups and downs but nothing really bad.

We got to a place in the trail where we had to go up some rocks. I climbed up and started to pull up one of the back packs when a water bottle fell off. It rolled down a hill... ..and it kept rolling. One of us went to go get it. That was

funny to watch. He slipped and tumbled down the hill, but he got the bottle. Then we got up the rocks, got our packs on, and kept walking.

When we finally got to the campsite some of us went swimming. IT WAS COLD!!! Mr. Melton and Mr. Clements laughed at us. We dried off, built a small fire, ate, complained, and went to bed.

The next morning we packed up and set off for home. When we got back we all put our packs in the trailer and got in the car. Then we went to the place that was the only reason that some of us went.

REBA'S! This is the all you can eat buffet. It had fried chicken, corn bread, and so much more. We ate till we thought we'd explode!



This was one of my favorite backpacking trips and I don't think that anyone had a bad time.

There will not be a Troop meeting on Thursday, December 25th nor on Thursday, January 1st!

Christmas Service Project

Troop 477's Patrol Leader's Council ("the PLC") is currently planning for a Troop wide service project that will benefit a needy family by providing gifts and food for Christmas.

Kingswood's Senior Pastor has provided the name of a family consisting of a single mother who can use Christmas assistance for her four children, Stephen (8), Christian (4), Angel (2), and Taylor (8 months).

The idea will be to provide gifts for the children, a complete Christmas dinner in the form of groceries, and additional food items



for beyond the Christmas season, which may also be in the form of grocery gift certificates.

The PLC has divided responsibility between the patrols for collecting gifts

and donations. Members of the Troop will visit the family on December 18th to deliver our gifts and spend some time greeting the family.

Our Troop "Community Service/Good Turn" Chairman is Assistant Scoutmaster Del Price, who is working with the Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and the PLC to coordinate this project. If you have questions, please contact Del.

VISIT TROOP 477's WEB SITE AT:

<http://www.kingswoodumc.org/troop477>

Scout Motto: "Be Prepared"

A lot of how a Boy Scout troop runs helps the boys to "Be prepared".

Did you know?

-That Boy Scouts operate on the principle of the "boy led troop"?

-That during a board of review, every boy is asked to offer suggestions of how troop operations can be made more appealing to the group?

-That every boy has input regarding troop activities if he asks his patrol leader to bring up a suggestion at the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)?

-That the attendance of the PLC by one member of every patrol is important to assure represen-

tation of every boy?

-That if every boy made a suggestion, the troop would be doing what the boys want to do?

The point of this is to ask all parents to get a little involved from the sidelines.

Encourage your sons to make comments and suggestions.

Encourage your sons to help planning of meeting and camping programs and service projects.

Offer ideas to get them started in the thought process.

If you or a friend have a special talent or interest that could be shared, tell your son to let the PLC know!

If you have a soft spot in your heart for a particular community service, discuss it so our son would know it exists.

There are lots of things we parents know that the boys don't even know enough about to ask questions!

The other thing we parents can help with is reminding our sons of the commitments they have to the troop. Parents have the benefit of years of experience in reaching goals and meeting deadlines.

Let's share what we've learned with our children to help them become reliable in their obligations.

"The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time, but have done your best".

Lord Baden-Powell
of Gilwell



Service Opportunities for Troop 477

by Assistant Scoutmaster Del Price

December 6th is a golden opportunity to participate in volunteering for community service. Kingswood is sponsoring a clean-up day, including painting the sign in front of the church. 8-12 noon, bring paint brushes, tools for yard work.

Also on December 6th is Dekalb Community Service Day.

We have helped at Chesnut Elementary in the past, and will help again this year 9:30-12:30. Also on August 6th & 7th, the men's group of Kingswood is traveling to the Atlanta Day Shelter to paint. Meet at the church at 12:30.

Once again this year, Troop 477 is sponsoring a needy family for

the holidays. We will be collecting food, money and gifts for a single parent family with 4 children, ages 8, 4, 2 and 8 months. We ask that all donations be completed by December 20th.

Please contact me for further questions. Remember, a Scout is helpful.



The Advancement Chairman Says.....

By Jack Linder

We had one rank advancement in November... Anthony Cotton completed his board of review for the rank of Tenderfoot. Congratulations Anthony, for your first big step on the trail to Eagle Scout.

Merit Badge Advancements for the month of November were as

follows: We had two Scouts earn the Coin Collecting Merit Badge. Brothers Brian and Nick Lichirie attended the Coin Collecting merit badge clinic sponsored by the Atlanta Area Council, and held at the Council's Volunteer Service Center in Marietta. More opportunities to earn merit badges at such classes will be coming up after the first of the

year. Watch the bulletin board at the scout hut, and this newsletter for more information.

The next Board Of Review is scheduled for Thursday, December 18th. Please complete your Scoutmaster conference prior to that date, and be prepared (in full uniform, with your Scout handbook) to be presented to the board. *Climb the Trail!*

Worth Retelling! From Scouting Magazine

'I got mine!'

A few winters ago, our troop held a junior leader training session at a remote cabin in the woods. Before setting out for the site, many Scouts piled their sleeping bags and other gear on a tarp, which a few leaders and some Scouts then pulled through the heavy snow. This required great effort to pull and to keep items from falling off.

"Hey, guys, come help with this gear," the Scoutmaster called to the other hiking Scouts. "Some of the stuff that's falling off might be yours."

Instead of helping, several Scouts grabbed their gear and raced on ahead, shouting: "I got mine! I got mine!" However, one Scout not only helped with the tarp but also offered to carry a struggling leader's backpack.

The next morning, the theme of the leadership training session became "I Got Mine"

rather than the original planned theme.

The Scouts learned a lesson about selfishness, how they had been caring only about themselves and their gear. In contrast, the unselfish Scout demonstrated what it means to be helpful, friendly, kind, and obedient.

Every Scout vowed never again to be guilty of saying, "I got mine."

Terry Jenson
Sandy, Utah



Patrol Leader's Council

Senior Patrol Leader:

Harrison Bain

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

Ben Kiesel

Cobra Patrol Leader:

Brian Lichirie

Cougar Patrol Leader:

Bradley Griffith

Mongoose Patrol Leader:

Hayden Aaron

Wolverine Patrol Leader:

Stingray Patrol Leader:

Troop Scribe:

J. T. Sparks

Membership Highlights for November 2003 Recruitment:

by Assistant SM Henry Fisher

1. Starting plans for Scout Sunday recruitment in February. Need volunteers to help input ideas, setup presentations, etc.
2. The next recruitment push will be at the end of the school year in May. The focus will be to give the boys something con-

structive to do during the summer months.

Webelos-Scout Transition:

1. The Webelos2 from Pack 477 visited the Troop on Nov. 20th as part of preparing for the joint campout in December. Thanks to Bob Melton and Harrison Bain for a great presentation on

cold weather camping. It was a good refresher for all of the boys and especially informative for the Webelos2.

2. Thanks to Carolyn Sparks for getting in contact with Suzanne, the Webelos2 Den Leader in Pack 494. I have been in contact with her and some of them may be joining us in December.

A Big Scouting Thank You!

by Committee Chairman Jeff Glaze

I'd like to express a big thank you to the folks who assisted in making the Troop Popcorn Sales program a success:

On the day we picked up and distributed Popcorn, Kirk & Kevin Chalpan, and Mike Laprade assisted in loading

and transporting the Popcorn to the Scout hut. Henry Fisher and Mike LaPrade helped organize the orders for pick-up.

A special thank you to Mike LaPrade for assisting in keeping the financial side of things in order and on track, especially during the time I

was unavailable due to the death of my father.

All of you, your assistance was much appreciated.



Boy Scout Troop 477
Kingswood United Methodist Church
5015 Tilly Mill Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

To the Scouting Family of:

Kingswood UMC - VENTURE CREW/SEA SCOUT SHIP Organizational Meeting!



**“Associate yourself
with men of good
quality if you
esteem your own
reputation for 'tis
better to be alone
than in bad
company.”**

George Washington

The initial organizational meeting (for parents only) for Kingswood United Methodist Church's proposed Outdoor High Adventure Venture Crew/Sea Scout Ship was held Tuesday, December 2nd, from 7-8:30 PM at the Scout Hut.

The co-ed high adventure program is designed for youth be-

tween 14 and 20 years old.

The meeting included discussion of the different youth programs and election of parental advisors.

The kick-off meeting for youth sign-up will be held in early January.

If you have any questions, please

contact me.

Also, please let me know if your youth is interested in learning more about the group.

Keep watch for an announcement of our January meeting.

Mark Botsch

Kingswood's Scouting Coordinator

Help Wanted

Troop Committee Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor Wanted:

Hours reasonable. Good co-workers. Pay: nonexistent.

We are seeking a parent to volunteer to design and publish a monthly Troop newsletter. Most of the content will be provided, but you will no doubt be required to include filler material. The editor will coordinate the

writing of articles, solicit, assemble, and edit material and print and distribute the newsletter. Each sub-committee chairperson on the Troop Committee will be expected to provide you with articles and items for their work area by the deadline, which is the monthly Troop Committee meeting. Publication and distribution to be completed

within a week of the deadline.

Qualifications: Experience with desktop publishing tools are a plus. Familiarity with Scouting terminology will be useful, but can be learned “on the job”.

Your time commitment will be similar to other Scouting volunteers... just ask them about their “one hour a week”.