

The Upward Trail

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2004

BOY SCOUT TROOP 477
KINGSWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



"The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others. ."

Sir Robert Baden-Powell

Editor: Jeff Glaze

Contributors: Peter Bain, Henry Fisher, Carloyn Sparks, Bob Melton, Del Price, and Bill Aaron

February Snow Ski Trip (27-29)

By Peter Bain

Troop 477 will be going snow skiing in North Carolina. We will be staying at the Holston Presbytery Center where we stayed last year. This is a very nice facility with cabins and meals included. Departure will be Friday afternoon. Skiing on Saturday with snow tubing on Sunday if time permits. Return will be on Sunday evening.



WHERE: Banner Elk, North Carolina
WHEN: February 27,28 & 29, 2004
DEPARTURE: Depart Scout Hut: Friday afternoon

Summer Camp Information

Summer camp planning is well under way. Scouts should have already made their commitments to join Troop 477 for Summer Camp at Robert W. Woodruff Scout Reservation the week of June 13 through June 19. Merit Badge & Activity scheduling in being done by Mrs. Sparks. Scouts need to meet with her during the next two Troop meetings to ensure a place on the schedule. The first part of Summer Camp fees are due by the February 26th Troop Meeting. You may elect to pay the full amount if you wish.



RETURN: Return Scout Hut: Sunday evening
PERMISSION: Each Scout must submit the Trip Permission slip no later than Thursday February 12th.
MEAL PREPARATION: Unless noted otherwise, all meals are prepared by Holston.
Friday Dinner: Sack Dinner
Saturday Breakfast: Holston
Saturday Lunch: Holston
Sunday Breakfast: Holston
Sunday Lunch: Holston
Sunday Dinner: Restaurant
COST: The cost of the trip is shown below. The "Total" is payable to "Boy Scout Troop 477. *Please note: Your scout will need to bring additional money to cover restau-

rant meals and extras which are not included in the cost below.

Travel (Gas, Rental, tolls) 9.00
Lift Ticket 40.00
Ski Rental 14.00
Meals (at Holston) 24.00
Lodging 39.00
Ski Lessons (if first time skier) 13.00

*Total (see note above) \$ 139.00

The fee for this trip is due no later than the Troop meeting on Thursday, February 19th.

THE CAMPMASTER FOR THE TRIP IS: Bill Aaron
The Campmaster is responsible for making decisions for the Troop while on the outing. If changes in plans are necessary for any reason, it is his decision. Discipline matters are his responsibility. All other Troop leaders and parents on the trip are expected to defer to his authority in decisions affecting the safety of the Troop and the success of the outing.

Total Fee is \$200.00

Due Feb 26th—\$50.00

Due April 29th- \$50.00

Due June 3rd- \$100.00

Please contact Scoutmaster Bob Melton if you have questions about Summer Camp.

Visit the Troop's web site at: www.kingswoodumc.org/Troop477

“Friends Of Scouting” Campaign



A premiere Scouting program requires a significant investment. Friends of Scouting helps secure the operating funds needed by the Atlanta Area Council to provide

the many services offered to support unit programs, e.g., training, insurance, program materials, advancement materials, camping facilities and programs, council and district activities, and much more.

Troop 477 is seeking %100 participation by our Scout families. We are not suggesting an amount. If you want to contribute \$5, or \$500, that is up to you, we just

hope to be able to claim that %100 of the families of Troop 477 want to see the programs of the Atlanta Area Council prosper and grow, benefiting youth in our Council. Please contact Troop Committee Chairman Jeff Glaze for information on making a pledge or donation. We hope to complete our campaign by March 5th.

The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -

Be clean in my outdoor manners

Be careful with fire

Be considerate in the outdoors, and

Be conservation minded.

Community Service - Scouting For Food

By Del Price

Our service project for this quarter is a food drive to restock the pantry at Kingswood UMC. Grocery bags were passed out at the Court of Honor for the Scouts to take home. Donations were solicited from church members on Sunday Feb 1, with bags being given to church members. Saturday Feb 7th, the Scouts will meet to collect and sort food, and on Scout Sunday, Feb 8th, Scouts will collect cans of food

from church members. PLC and patrol leaders need to organize times for these events.

Collection will begin Saturday morning at 9:00 AM and continue until noon at Kingswood. Your canned items are to be delivered to the Church Fellowship hall during that time, where they will be sorted, counted, and placed in the pantry.

Collections from the Kingswood congregation will also be

made during Scout Sunday. Scouts will be asked to transport food brought in before and after the service to the fellowship hall for sorting and counting. Join us!



Membership Highlights (Webelos to Scout)

by Henry Fisher:

Membership Chairman

Troop 477 Membership Highlights for January 2004

Recruitment:

Scout Sunday planning is in full swing.

We will be demonstrating some of the camping skills required at a campout. We will have a tent pitched, a cooking area, backing packing gear, hiking gear and an ax yard. In case of inclement weather, we will have the demo in the Scout hut.



Webelos-Scout Transition:

The Webelos2 from Pack 477 visited the troop during the Court of Honor Jan. 29th. They were well-behaved and had an enjoyable evening with us. They were presented some

activity pin awards at the end of the COH.

The next item on the agenda is a meeting with the parents of the Webelos 2 to give them an idea of what to expect not only for their sons but for the parents.

The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. .

How Do You Best Serve a Troop With Many Leaders?

An assistant Scoutmaster says he feels unneeded in a troop with many adult leaders.

Scouting magazine readers responded with the following:

Urge him to get plenty of training and use his skills and interests to find leadership opportunities.

Boy Scouting is very different from Cub Scouting in that the boys run their troop. For new volunteer leaders, this can be hard to accept because it's easy to feel you are not needed. Some troops encourage parents to attend training to help them see what the program really is.

One of the most important things that an Assistant Scoutmaster can do, if he hasn't already, is take advantage of training opportunities, including Wood Badge. In the interim, he might consider whether he has the expertise to serve as counselor for some merit badge.

The troop may have plenty of opportunities on its committees for training, advancement, camping, and activities. The Assistant Scoutmaster might also serve as leader for the "Trail to First Class" or head a money-earning effort.

One of the keys to a well-run troop is that there are enough adults, whether they are advisers, or skill teachers, or drivers, so that the Scouts feel they can plan any kind of program they want.

Most Cub Scout packs suffer from lack of adult leadership when the fathers of graduating Webelos Scouts follow their sons into a troop. Nothing in the books says that a Webelos Scout graduate's dad cannot remain in the pack as a leader. Quite the contrary, the pack's leaders will surely welcome his expertise—and he can still go camping with his sons in their new troop.

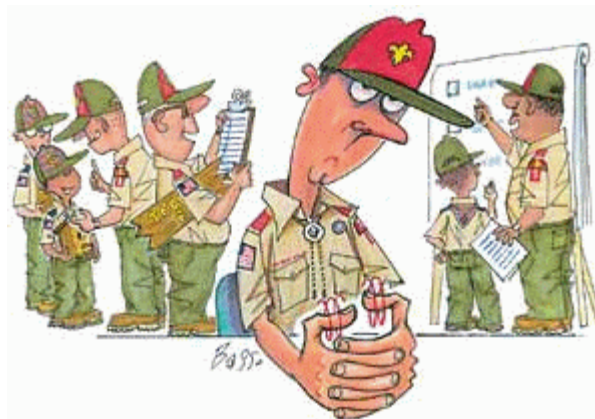
It's a win-win situation.

Some advice given to Assistant Scoutmasters is: (1) attend troop committee

meetings so you can find out where help is needed; (2) take all the training you can (perhaps the Troop should require an adult leader to complete Scoutmastership Fundamentals or equivalent to register as an assistant Scoutmaster); and (3) look for a busy leader and volunteer to help him or her.

Assistant Scoutmasters should let the Scoutmaster know of his frustration. The troop does not want to lose a volunteer leader, no matter how many there are.

In a troop with 20-plus adult leaders. To even the workload, make everyone feel productive, and take advantage of everyone's expertise, reorganize adult leadership



from time to time. To handle administrative affairs, the Scoutmaster may be aided by a first- and second-assistant Scoutmaster, somewhat like an executive officer.

Other ASMs are assigned to work groups, with one serving as the Lead ASM. Separate work groups are assigned to Scouts working on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks, and merit badges. At each troop meeting, one of the four work groups conducts interpatrol competitions and activities.

This system can be very successful. Leaders know what their responsibilities are, and the Troop has some flexibility when some leaders are not available.

What are the ASM's special talents? He might be able to add a new dimension to the troop if he has a talent for cooking, climbing, or teaching a merit badge.

We all have our special talents to teach others.

Read a merit badge booklet on a topic you are interested in. Scouts can always use merit badge counselors. Find out what challenges Scouts in your troop face and work with other parents to identify potential solutions.

The Assistant Scoutmaster should look around to see what needs to be done and then offer assistance. Being proactive means being productive. The success of any troop is dependent on new leaders coming in and being active. It's a great thing for Scouts to see, and the fellowship and friendship offered by other Scouters are lifelong gifts.

Training is what will open ASM's eyes to see what is needed.

Boys like to tell adult leaders what they have been playing, doing, watching, reading, and so on. Sit with them during meetings and listen and be available to them, then pitch in when you see a need. Don't wait for a leader to give you some duties. Ask a leader whether you could

bring snacks to a meeting or supplies for an activity. Being interested in the boys' lives and their stories means a lot to them.

ASM should find his niche by volunteering to lead or co-lead an activity that interests him.

When it comes to responsibility for organizing an event, the number of volunteers can shrink. It is often the same people—those with experience—who take charge of events.

Remember that the present experienced adult leaders will not always be there. If an Assistant Scoutmaster offers to co-lead an event, the leader will appreciate the assistance, and will find himself fitting right in.

NESA (National Eagle Scout Association) Advancement Day

Saturday, March 20, 2004 Scouts not participating in the Troop Camping trip to Standing Indian Mountain on the Appalachian Trail should consider signing up for this opportunity to begin (and in many cases, complete) an Eagle required merit badge. Assistant Scoutmaster Corky Gibbons will be coordinating participation. Please contact Mr. Gibbons if you'd like to learn more about this.

Okeefenokee Trip Review



By Bill Aaron

Troop 477's January two night camping trip over MLK weekend to Laura Walker State Park at the Okeefenokee Swamp was fun and productive! Twelve scouts participated: Brock and Hayden Aaron (Brock as SPL for the campout), Bryce Bancroft (as Assistant SPL), Kevin Chalpan, Peter Clements, Anthony Cotton, Ben Deutsch, Sam Earle, Andy Gibbons, Brian and Nick Lichirie, and J.T. Sparks. Adults camping included Bill Aaron, Barry Deutsch, Kirk Chalpan, Joseph Clements, and Corky Gibbons.

Four cars, with Corky pulling the 477 Trailer, left the scout hut on Saturday morning, January 17th, about 8:00 a.m., and we arrived at Laura Walker State Park around 1:30 PM. After unloading gear, the boys and adults visited the Okeefenokee Swamp Park. We took a boat ride in a canal, and visited the nature center.

A "naturalist" gave us a talk on the animals of the Okeefenokee Swamp, letting the boys and adults touch various snakes and small alligators. He "draped" a small two-foot gator around several boys' necks as several of us took pictures! (He held the gator very tight!) On Sunday, Kirk Chalpan took Brock, Hayden, Kevin and Bryce to

play golf at the wonderful golf course at the park. Barry Deutsch and I took five boys canoeing for four miles in and out of swamp water trails (three of the boys in one canoe actually traveled about three miles zigzagging on the two-mile trip out into the swamp).

Corky and Joseph treated several boys to attempts at fishing and walking several miles to fantastic overlooks on the swamp (Joseph, a marathon runner, ran back to get Corky's vehicle when the group had walked a "long way" and had a "long way" to go carrying fishing rods and gear to get to the overlook area--it really wasn't "within walking distance"!)

On Sunday, all of us eventually gathered at the overlook areas after the various activities. At the campsite early each morning and at evening dinners, several boys completed requirements for the Cooking merit badge.

Other boys worked on camping or cooking rank requirements, and several completed two nights of camping needed for the Camping merit badge. Barry Deutsch proved to be a wonderful coordinator of cooking for the adults (steaks and a low country boil for the two dinners!).

Brock Aaron and Kevin Chalpan cooked a great beef stew for the Wolverine and

February Patrol Assignments

Service Patrol Wolverine

Program Patrol Mongoose

Camp Patrol Cougar

Mongoose Patrols, and the younger boys appeared to prepare some interesting meals as well!

Our pioneer camp at Laura Walker State Park proved ideal, with several "outhouses" at the camp and a warm bathhouse across the road near the car/RV camping area. Both evenings the boys enjoyed games and playing at a large park area in the park.

At a warm fire, Corky discussed with the boys many facets of nature, talking about some of the requirements for the Nature, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Reptile merit badges. Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Monday morning as we prepared to leave we experienced a little rain. Otherwise the weather cooperated as all of us slept comfortably within our warm sleeping bags. Sunday the weather was very pleasant! We left the campsite and park on Monday morning about 9:45 a.m., and after several stops for gas and lunch, we arrived back at the Scout Hut about 3:45 p.m.

Thanks to Barry, Kirk, Joseph and Corky for their help with the trip, to Brock and Bryce for their leadership, and to all the boys for their cooperation in making this a great trip!

Scout Sunday: February 8, 2004

Boy Scout Sunday will be February 8th. **All Troop 477 Scouts and their families** are invited to attend services at Kingswood United Methodist Church to express our appreciation for the congregation's support of our Scouting programs. Kingswood has chartered Boy Scout Troop 477

since 1972, and has always been supportive of the Troop. Scouts will be participating in the service. The Scoutmaster and Patrol Leader's Council will be coordinating that participation.

Please make plans to be in attendance to help the Troop say "THANKYOU" to the mem-

bers of Kingswood.

Scouts will also be collecting canned goods for our annual "Scouting For Food" drive.

