



Troop Tattler April 2008

Please note: All Regular and PLC meetings are at 7:00 p.m., lower level of the church unless otherwise indicated.

2008 Schedule

Upcoming outings:

April 25-27: Owasippe Scout Reservation Silversides/Gerald Ford

May: Do Nothing/Do Everything Outing

June: Northwoods-Summer Camp

Some specific dates location are to be determined, some locations/outing my have to be changed because of availability, costs or other factors. These changes will be addressed at the PLC meetings. If you wish to have input for future outings and programs let your Patrol Leader know or attend the next PLC meeting yourself.

Coming Up

Calendar Highlights

APRIL 2008 SCOUTING FOR FOOD PROGRAM

April 14: We will leave door tags at homes with written instructions to place food in bags and put them out in a visible place in the front of their house by 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 19th. Food will be picked up by Scouts with assistance of adult leaders the same day.

April 19: FOOD COLLECTION DAY Collect food and drop it off at local food bank.

May 3 Pushcar Grand Prix 2008 at Spartan Speedway

May 5 Tentative date for Troop Order of the Arrow election. We'll talk more about this in our troop meetings.

May 26 Memorial Day Parade – This will be a great time to fly our new troop flag. We are looking for an adult volunteer to organize this.

June 7 Sports for Youth Day- We are looking for a few good scouts to explain backpacking and orienteering to other area youth. Look for more info coming soon.

eNewsletter

This newsletter is being sent to all email addresses that we have in the Troop email listing, in Word and Acrobat formats. If you didn't receive one electronically and have an active email address, please send an email with your address to mbuilder@aol.com. The newsletter will also be posted on the troop website: www.MasonTroop763.com

Council Web Resources

There's a lot of information on the Council website: www.chiefokemosbsa.org. Check out the cool stuff on summer camp, for example. Parents may also want to receive *Signals*, the monthly Council newsletter. You can sign up for their email notification system for *Signals* by going to the website and clicking on

"Subscribe to Signals." The April 2008 Signals Newsletter is now on the Council website. For a direct link go to:

<http://www.chiefokemosbsa.org/signals/April2008.pdf>

The National Council web site has added an extensive section on Boy Scout advancement. Basically, it is a web version of the Boy Scout Requirements book:

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/32215/index.html>

It includes all the rank requirements, alternate requirements for Scouts with disabilities, all of the merit badge requirements, and what they call "special opportunities" - World Conservation award, Totin' Chip, etc.

Revised Boy Scout requirements for 2008

The U.S. Scouting Service Project has gone through the 2008 BSA requirements book and posted the changes for 2008 on their web site at:

<http://usscouts.org/advance/changes/advchanges08.asp>

There are changes in:

REVISED RANK REQUIREMENTS:

Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class

REVISED MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENT:

Backpacking, First-aid, Graphic Arts, Hiking, Metalwork, Sculpture, Water Sports, Wilderness Survival

If you have already started working on one of these Merit Badges you can continue with the old requirements.

Troop Lost and Found

We have plenty of lost and found from recent outings.

Adult Volunteers Needed

The strength of Troop 763 is the active scouts and families that make things happen. We need help with the following. Our preference is that parents who do not already hold leadership positions volunteer to help with these specific jobs. Please let Matt Bergeon know what you want to sign up for:

April 19: FOOD COLLECTION DAY Organize scouts and collect food and drop it off at local food bank.

May 3 Pushcar Grand Prix 2008 at Spartan Speedway – We need an adult to run this, organize youth participation, and get us a trophy! Last year's car is ready to roll, just bring your helmets.

Scouting for Food Coordinator

This is part of the nation-wide Good Turn Daily in the Spring. The coordinator will organize a troop blitz of Mason with flyers and door tags on April 14 and then a non-perishable food item pick up sweep of Mason on Saturday, April 19th. The food will need to be delivered to the local food bank. We could do this in partnership with other scout groups in the area.

Special Program Coordinators

There are several special advancement and community service opportunities. We need a coordinator for each one. For example, we need individuals to organize our troop's participation in Mason area parades (Thanksgiving, Memorial, and Labor Day), Chemistry/ Nuclear science days at MSU- help the boys earn unique merit badges, and other events to be named.

Troop Finances

Pancake Breakfast will be held May 3rd this year.

One annual fundraiser is coming up fast. We need everyone to pitch in and help. This money aids the troop's cash flow for the last few months of the school year. We're asking every troop family to sell at least 10 tickets at \$5/per person (\$20/family). All profits are split between the scout accounts (based on individual sales) and the troop general treasury. More details coming soon!

As always, we will never let finances get in the way of a scout participating in our troop activities and outings. If things are especially tight, see Treasurer Suzanne Ferris or Scoutmaster Matt Bergeon for confidential assistance with scouting costs.