

Boy Scout Troop 16

Oak Park, Illinois

May 2, 2012

Dear Scouting Family:

The troop wishes to welcome the families of our 16 new scouts who have recently registered with the troop. We hope that your son's time with Troop 16 is enjoyable and productive. A reminder especially for our new families: Since emails can get lost or deleted, it might be best to print the newsletter and save it for reference. There is material pertinent for both parents and scouts.

We should thank our "regulars" who have made most of the committee meetings throughout the year: Jim Bicak, Mike Bielewa, Chris Clardy, James Conner, Curt Cruver, Dan Dittmer, Bill Kroeschell, Rick Easty, Michael Downs, Peter Harlan, Neal Heriaud, Chris Heffernan, John Jenks, Don Lennie, Bill Richardson, Mike Stewart, Dick Tresselt, Tom Wetzal, and Ken Weise. The number of adults listed here indicates the great depth of support we have for our troop.

Family Campout

We hope you can join us for our family campout June 8-10 at Pokagon State Park in Indiana. It will be a weekend of boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, and more! This is a great opportunity to introduce your family to camping. We do all the planning, provide the equipment, plan and shop for the meals – you come for the fun. Families assist in preparing, cooking, and cleaning meals, as well as the camping activities, such as campfires and hiking. We hope you can join us! A signup form is attached with this newsletter .

Many people have said they are coming, but few have signed up - please sign up ASAP.

Food Drive Help

Our annual Food Pantry service project is on Saturday, May 12. Scouts and parents should arrive at First United at 2:00 P.M. to volunteer. The work includes unloading a delivery truck, sorting and organizing donations, and shelving or boxing the food. This is a great opportunity for service hours, which scouts need for rank advancement. We hope you can join us. Late arrivals are welcome. Work will continue until about 4:30 PM.

May Campout

Our signup for the Rock Cut Campout is Friday, May 11, for the campout on May 18-20. We need several drivers and adults to camp for the weekend, as this is one of our highest attended weekend campouts of the year.

Canoe Day Trip

The date for this event is Saturday, June 2. Please note the attached signup forms. Think about joining us for this fun trip on the Kishwaukee River near Rockford. All scouts must have passed the BSA swim test. New scouts – if you are interested in coming on this trip, we'll arrange a swim check night at Rehm Pool the week prior to the event.

April Campout

Our April campout to The Ranch/ Scout Adventure Camp in Rochelle, IL was a great success. The scouts had a good time hiking, exploring and participating in some camporee activities with other scout troops. The weather was a bit chilly Friday night, but the daytime temps were pleasant. 43 scouts attended the campout. Thanks to all our drivers/leaders: Brad Beile, Dennis and Linda Bonner, Chris Clardy, Josh Cramer, Dan Dittmer, Terry Dutton, Rick Easty, Peter Harlan, Chris Heffernan, Mike Hoag, Bob Hope, Derek Inksetter, John Jenks, Steve Miller, Scott Mullins, Val Rodriguez, Kurt Roskopf, Carolyn Schiffner, Tom Wetzal, and Ken and Tom Weise. Also thanks to those parents who were willing to be our "back up" drivers that we didn't need to call on.

Thatcher Woods Cleanup

A special thanks to the 33 scouts and adults who assisted in our annual service project and collected over 1200 lbs. of trash from the forest preserve! The regularly-found items were present this year, including lots of construction debris. We surely did our good turn on Saturday. Thank you!

Final Troop Meeting

Friday, June 1, is our year-end meeting and Court of Honor, including an Eagle Court of Honor for Joseph Sauer. Boys will be electing next year's Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) at that meeting. Any scout interested in serving as SPL needs to speak with Mr. Bicak by our May campout weekend.

The regular troop meeting begins at 7:30, and the Court of Honor in the church sanctuary begins at 8:15. All parents are invited to join us for this ceremony recognizing all scouts who have advanced a rank since December. Refreshments will be served afterwards. This will be a nice way to wrap up our year and we hope to see you there.

Summer Camp

The troop will be at Camp Makajawan July 15-28. Boys may attend for either of the two weeks or for both. Here is the chance for fun in the Wisconsin sun. Ample opportunity is available to earn merit badges and work on advancement. If you are still thinking about attending, we need you to sign up ASAP. If your boy is new to the troop, camp provides a great opportunity to get to know other boys and work on early advancement. Please call Jim Bicak (708-445-8156) if you have any questions about the summer camp program. He will be happy to talk with you.

ALL SCOUTS MUST HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL EXAM COMPLETED ON THE [BSA Medical Form](#)

If you are already signed up, you will soon receive a separate mailing about summer camp from Jim Bicak.

Please read that letter carefully. It will contain information about camp medical forms, fees due, merit badge schedule, and confirmation of week(s) your scout is attending. Our deadline for collecting all fees due is our pre-camp meeting on Tuesday, June 26 at 7:30 PM. This meeting is required for both the scout and a parent.

Other Info

Our final Troop Committee meeting of the year will be **Tuesday, May 8, at First United Church, from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M.** We welcome all parents.

Check out our website as we make improvements: www.troop16oakpark.com .

Sincerely,
Jim Bicak, Scoutmaster
Don Lennie, Committee Chair

Current Calendar

<u>May</u>			
4	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM	Iron Chef
8	Adult Comm.	7:30 PM	Parents invited
11	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM	TBD/ Campout signup
12	USPS food drive	2:00 PM	Meet at First United
18-20	Campout	7:00 PM	Rock Cut SP, Rockford, IL
25	No meeting		Happy Memorial Day
<u>June</u>			
1	Troop Meeting	7:30 PM	End of Year Slide Show/ Court of Honor
1	Court of Honor	8:15 PM	All Parents Invited – Sanctuary
2	Canoe Trip Day	TBD	Kishwaukee River, Cherry Valley, IL
8-10	Family Campout		Pokagon State Park, Indiana
26	Pre-Camp Mtg	7:30 PM	For all summer camp participants and parents