



Valley Forge Troop 73
November Newsletter

Edited by Joel Zimmermann
Troop Scribe



Scoutmaster Tom Savoy and SPL Zach Johnson presents Mike Kassel with one of the eight merit badges he received during the Fall Court of Honor

Valley Forge Troop 73 held their annual Fall Court of Honor on Wednesday October 20th at the Valley Forge Fire Company, presenting awards and rank advancements to the Scouts for achievement and progress since June 2004.

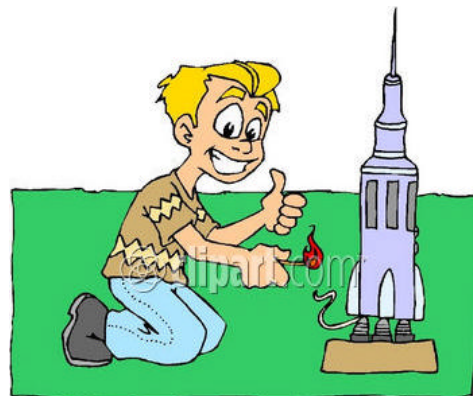
Scoutmaster Tom Savoy and Senior Patrol Leader Zach Johnson presented 36 Scouts with a total of 197 Merit Badges, 14 Rank

advancements, and 7 Special Awards. In addition, 6 Scouts were recognized for earning the Scout Religious Emblem as presented to them by their respective religious organizations.

Mr. Savoy credited the boys' remarkable success to active participation in Troop 73's Honor Patrol Competition and high attendance this summer at both Horseshoe Scout Reservation and Chester County Council's 2004 Science Camp.

Submitted by Rich Boone,
Advancement Chairman

Are you ready for a fun merit badge? In November the troop will be doing space exploration and astronomy merit badge. We will be learning about how rocket engines work how satellites stay in orbit. What makes the world go round and much. much more? I think that this will prove to be a very good month and a lot of fun. We will be building our own rockets and competing for the X-prize seeing whose spacecraft can successfully complete 2 space flights with in one weekend and survive.



Pinnacle of Scouting

In July of 2001 12 Scouts of Troop 73 summited the pinnacle of Scouting, Philmont! The trip was an experience of a lifetime! 70 miles of backpacking in 12 days, hiking, cooking, horseback riding, rock climbing, repelling, black powder rifle shooting, axe throwing, fly fishing, caving, blacksmithing, this list goes on! Ask any participant and they will tell you, it was the best experience of all their scouting experiences



Our Crew photo at base camp, notice the tooth of time, in the distance above Mr. Kaehn's head. Seated left to right: Andrew Bohl, Jon Godlewski, Christy Reid Philmont Ranger, Dan Wagner, Chris Batzel. Standing left to right: Kerry Batzel, Dave Midgley, Bryan Kaehn, Owen Kaehn, Iain Riley, Tom Savoy, Keith Kaehn, Steve Schwarz.

In an effort to continue to provide our scouts this rewarding opportunity, the troop along with crew 73 is planning to summit Philmont again in 2005. We currently have 22 scouts and leaders signed up to attend. Our crew and council still have spots available for any scouts interested. There will be a general information meeting on Tuesday November 9th at 7:30pm at the Fire House. We will discuss equipment needs, itinerary, and shakedown hike schedules.

In addition we will take our first shakedown hike on Sunday November 21st at 1pm.

Submitted by Tom Savoy, Scoutmaster



On the summit of Philips at 11,711 ft above sea level July 2001

Parent Son Weekend

Don't forget to sign up for our annual parent son trip the weekend of November 12 through the 14 at Schramm and Browning Lodge at Camp horseshoe. Once again John Ahn and Bill Myers, World Renowned Chefs, have been contracted for the weekend to tempt our taste buds! The PLC has planned an exciting program for the weekend built around Space Exploration, our theme for November. The weekend will be a blast! No Kidding! It will include the blast off of 60 or more rockets Saturday afternoon as each Scout and Webelos will receive build and launch a model rocket (Adults will probably get to play too!). The agenda also includes astronomy with star gazing on Saturday night. Get your money in and Mark it on your calendar!

Submitted by Tom Savoy, Scoutmaster

Upcoming events

Parent Son Nov 12-14

Trip to Boyertown Planetarium Nov 17th

Christmas tree lot set up November 20th

Trip to Philadelphia Rock Gym

December 15th

Next publication date for the newsletter will be December 1, 2004. Please turn in all articles to Joel Zimmermann by Wednesday, November 24, 2004. If you want to email them send them to spzimm@aol.com with newsletter in the subject line Remember, a newsletter article is worth points for the honor patrol competition. Possible articles could be Parent/Son weekend, tree sales, service projects, Patrol activities or outings, eagle projects, OA weekends, or anything else you want to share that pertains to scouting and troop 73.

Patrol Leader Development Conference

It was 6:30 in the morning on Saturday October 30th and I was going out the door to go to Camp Horseshoe for a day of fun and learning how to be a great patrol leader. We arrived at 8:00am and signed in. The day was twelve hours long and could have been shortened, but 11 scouts from Troop 73 completed the course. First we were put in to patrols and then we went from station to station. We did team building exercises, and played games. We also watched a sample PLC meeting and participated in a campfire.

My favorite thing about PLDC was SSC, which means START, STOP, CONTINUE. It is a great way to improve the fun and activities that your troop does and also an easy way to help you plan.

I would recommend taking PLDC to anyone who wants to become a future leader; it helps develop all your skills and aspects of becoming a good leader.

Submitted by: Joel Zimmermann
Troop Scribe

Fall Camporee, October 2004

On the second day of the Camporee after breakfast our troop was split up into two patrols for the different activities of the day. The Shoe the Shoeless Patrol was headed up by me, Michael Mitten, while the other, called the Storm troopers, had CJ Savoy in charge. My patrol, accompanied by Mr. Nilson, decided to head first to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving booth to see if we could try on those glasses that make you see and move like a drunk person. After we had our paper for signatures signed proving we were at the different areas, we went next door to look at the Coleman equipment booth. Soon afterwards we tied knots for a knot relay. During the rest of the day we did an orienteering course, talked on the radio to people in Canada, completed a first aid exercise, and looked around at as many of the booths that were available as we could stopping only for lunch.

After everything was done and it was time for our papers with their signatures to be handed in, my patrol headed back to camp for dinner. Dinner was followed by church services for three different types of religions. Then after that was a ceremony where some scouts showed off their unusual talents and a band played classic rock songs. Also, awards were handed out for various achievements earned throughout the day. To my surprise, third place in overall participation was awarded to the Shoe the Shoeless Patrol. Everyone went back to camp afterwards and our troop had a snack and went to bed.

Submitted by: Michael Mitten
Wolverine Patrol Leader

Cubs First Campfire 2004

On October 8th Troop 73 hosted a campfire at the fire circle behind the firehouse. The M. C. for the campfire was Matt Pellegrino. Many people from the troop showed up. There were a total of 21 troop members and over 150 kids and adults watching the fabulous campfire. Many of the cubs were from Pack 73 and 85, including Mr. Savoy's son Ben.

The opening had no strings attached, seeing how it was borrowed from the Muppets. Gomer's fire starter kindled the growing enthusiasm, and helped get the show started. Many skits were played out. Including Pencils, A Failed Reporter, and Slow Motion. Mr. Kassel and Mr. Batzel served as the old people (chronologically advanced) smart talkers that were featured in the Muppets. They helped to provide a transition from the "stupid" skits to the joyful songs and the fun cheers.

At the end of the fire there was an Indian ceremony that awarded many adults with a turkey feather in symbolism of an eagle feather. The Indians put tobacco into the fire to represent the peace pipe. This soft melodious part was an exceptional ending to an already fun and cub=sensational campfire.

Submitted by Matt Pellegrino
Cobra Patrol Leader

Officers for Troop 73

SPL - Zach Johnson
ASPL - Steve Ross
Asher Condit
Jay Howson

Patrol Leaders

Wolverine - Mike Mitten
Cobra - Matt Pellegrino
Panther - Colin Small
Smurf - Joe Rogers Troop Guide
Joey Franklin Troop Instructor

Scribe—Joel Zimmermann
Librarian—Thomas Nilson
Historian—Ryan Dolan
Chaplin Aide—Owen Howson
Photographer—Kevin Bohl



*Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree,
Oh how I love to Sell Thee!*

That's right, it's only 30 days left to the start of tree selling season, and with lots of good little boys and leaders going to Philmont at a cost of \$%*#@) per person, the slots are sure to fill up fast! So make sure you are on the good scout sign up list when our scheduling Santa makes her list and checks it twice (to make sure all the slots are filled). Look for you tree sale sign up schedule in the mail soon, fill it out and send it off as soon as possible to our scheduling Santa to get your chance to earn money towards summer camp, Philmont. or scouting equipment.

Submitted by Tom Savoy, Scoutmaster