

Boy Scout Troop 73 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

The theme for February...

The focus for February is FIRST AID. Every meeting throughout the month we have planned for inter-patrol competitions based on first aid problems and solutions. This is in preparation for the First Aid Meet being held on March 4th.

How many lives would you say Boy Scouts save every year? Believe it or not, they save hundreds. Heroic actions by Scouts have been recognized by thousands of people since the beginning of scouting. These heroic actions all stem from the training these young men have learned in scouting. Being prepared against one of the greatest enemies... the accident, first aid is our best defense to saving lives and limbs.

The immediate care given to an injured or sick person before the doctor arrives is what First Aid is all about. By knowing and giving good first aid we lessen pain, help bring about early recovery, prevent infection and even lessen the recovery period. The payback in learning first aid skills is not only in helping others but studies indicate that people who have learned first aid have 30% - 50% fewer accidents than those with no first aid training.

February's skill training is a great start towards First Aid Merit Badge, which is a requirement for Eagle.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Polar Bear Campout -

Valley Forge Pilgrimage

The weekend of February 18th – 20th is filled with the excitement of the annual Polar Bear Campout. This year the event coincides with the Valley Forge Pilgrimage. All day activities encompass the weekend with a focus on woodsman skills and winter tent camping.

One of the most impressive segments of the Valley Forge Visitor's Center are the pictures of George Washington and his troops during the winter in Valley Forge. The snow, ice and cold weather was more than most of them could stand, but that does not scare the scouts of Troop 73. We are prepared, winter camping gear is required and using the winter packing list in our handbooks is a must. We intend to fully enjoy the weekend.

MAINE 2000

The State of Maine is a place for all seasons, so in August, Troop 73 will head north for 421 miles to the land of recreation and outdoor fun. Maine is considered the state filled with boundless opportunities for recreation, sightseeing and relaxation. But, we don't expect to get a great deal of relaxation time with plans to hike Mt. Washington, go lobster catching, canoeing and of course you can't consider a trip to Maine complete without a visit to LL Bean.

From the mountains to the sea, the State of Maine blossoms with activity and spirit. The summer climate is considered one of the most comfortable in the United States, with daytime temperatures in the 70's and the nights cool and comfortable. Maine is America of the beaten path and a visit to Maine might be considered a double adventure as you explore the great outdoors, as well as the rural, yet sophisticated, country towns unique to New England.

The planning committee, Chris Batzel, Steve Ayers, Kerry Batzel and Tom Savoy are working on the plans. It will prove to be ten full days of excitement for all that attend.

CHRISTMAS TREE...

O' CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas 1999 proved to be another successful year in the Christmas Tree Selling Business for the scouts. This year we sold out earlier than we have ever done before, which might be a reflection on not only our new location, but also the salesmanship of the scouts. By December 17th all the trees were sold and the Christmas Tree Association made and estimated \$13,000 in profits. Although all the numbers are not in as of yet, Troop 73's share of the profits is estimated at \$4,000 – \$4,500, which is in keeping with past years.

A TIME TO TELL

On February 9th Troop 73 will be running the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Program A Time to Tell. A Time to Tell is targeted at Scouts age boys and is designed to help them recognize and avoid situations in which others could potentially abuse them. This program consists of a short video that shows potentially abusive situation followed by a discussion period. The program is expected to last about 30 minutes. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend this session.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Keith Kaehn at 610-933-1844 or Tom Savoy at 610-935-3392. Additionally, we will attempt to accommodate Parents/Guardians if you would like to preview the video.

SKI WEEKEND – JANUARY 28TH – 30TH

If you thought that Blue Mountain was fun, you should have been a part of the trip to the two mountains of fun, Jack Frost Mountain and Big Boulder. The weekend in the Poconos started on Friday night when nineteen scouts and parent/guardians left for a weekend with a focus on skiing, snowboarding and more skiing.

High in the scenic Pocono Mountains, a place with crisp mountain air, brilliant blue skies and deep snow Jack Frost Mountain and Big Boulder were wonderful. With the recent winter weather the slopes were full of powder and as the day went on each run provided the challenges we all look for in winter sports. It was fun to watch Dan Isieib on skis again with a strong note of improvement from the Blue Mountain Trip. Of course that was truly second to watching the adults attempt to snow board for the first time.

Many thanks go to Bill Jackson for allowing us to stay at his cabin, it is always great. The accommodations were definitely rated 4 stars, the food was wonderful and the card games that ran to all hours of the evening or should we say morning showed some strong sportsmanship.





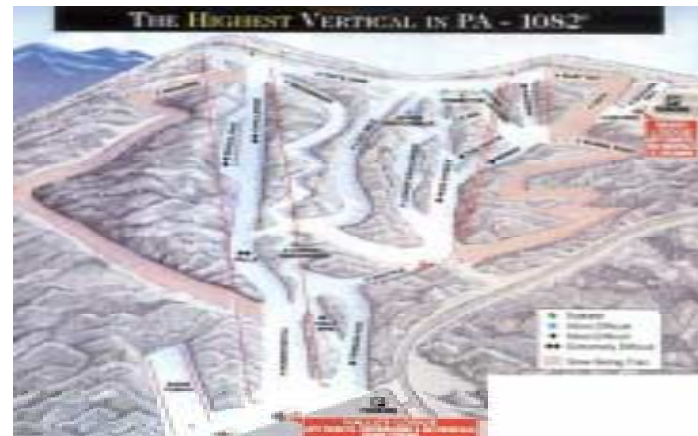
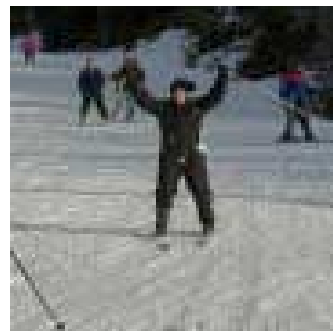
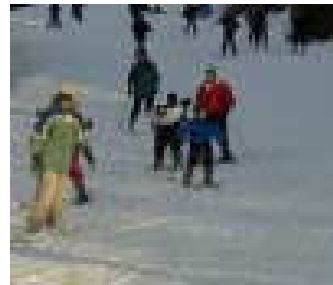
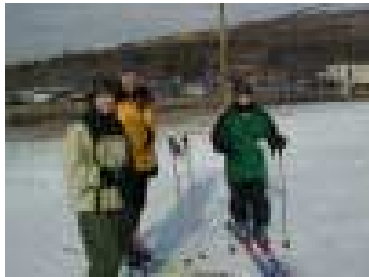
SKI TRIP TO BLUE MOUNTAIN

On Sunday, January 16th the slopes at Blue Mountain were the sites of an exciting day filled with skiing and snow boarding for Troop 73. Blue Mountain is the closest major ski area to Valley Forge making it a wonderful day trip for everyone.

With 25 slopes and the highest vertical in Pennsylvania at 1,082 feet, Blue Mountain's 27 trails offered all us the excitement that can only come from a day on the slopes. With its 100% snow making capability and great weather the beginner to the expert skiers of the troop enjoyed the day.

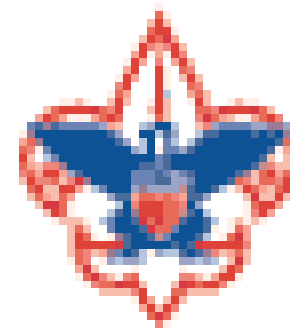
The best part of the trip was that it introduced the sport to many who had never skied before. For those the day started off with a two-hour lesson, which prepared them for the rest of the day of skiing.

The more advanced skiers and snowboarders took off to the black diamond trails. With over 29% of the slopes dedicated to the advanced skiers the challenge was exciting and enjoyable. Everyone ended the day looking forward to our next trip to Blue Mountain.



**Boy Scout Troop 73
Valley Forge,
Pennsylvania**

**WE CONGRATULATE ALL
OUR SCOUTS FOR THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS AND
LOOK FORWARD TO
THEIR ADVANCEMENTS
OVER THE COMING
MONTHS.**



**Newsletter 2000
February**