

## **Troop 69 Newsletter, September, 2004**

Just as so many other activities are starting up again, so is Scouting (although we only took one month off, not three). We'll be starting off at a fast pace, with lots of activities planned for September and October. Here's a review:

### **Troop Meeting Day Change to Tuesdays**

The day for Troop meetings is changing! Troop 69 will now meet 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights, not Thursday nights, still at Pleasantdale Middle School. This change is being made because so many tests and school project due dates seem to come on Fridays. It also gives us some time to deal with any last minute changes for weekend campouts. Last year Jan Shangle called every parent in the Troop, and we were told that there would be no problem, so we've made the change. Hopefully this will help cut down on the number of absences from Troop meetings because of school work.

### **Annual Planning Process**

A group of the Troop's Junior Leader corps met on August 29<sup>th</sup> to plan the activities for 2004 – 2005. There will be another meeting of the Scouts to finish this, and then it must be approved by the Troop Committee. But we expect to have it finished soon. When it is, it will be posted on the Troop web site (<http://www.troop69.org>). We'll get an update out when that happens!

### **Fall Camporee, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Our first campout of the fall will be the Tall Grass Fall Camporee, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, at Camp Tomo Chi-Chi-Knolls. The theme this year is Pioneering. The Scouts will be spending the morning brushing up on their lashing and knotting skills. In the afternoon, each Troop will build a catapult and will compete in throwing projectiles for distance and accuracy. Troop 69 closed out July by doing this very thing, so I expect that we can do a pretty good job at this. Let's start out our first campout of the year with a bang! The permission slip will be posted on the Troop web site soon (<http://www.troop69.org>).

## **Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.**

If your son is a member of the Order of the Arrow, there is an opportunity for him to camp out with other members of the OA from around the Council on September 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at Camp Tomo Chi-Chi-Knolls. This outing is limited to OA members only. There will be games, service work, and a chance to learn more about the OA. I encourage all OA members to go, especially those that were just inducted this summer. The signup sheet for this can be printed out from <http://www.bsa-dpvc.org/OA/forms/2004%20fall%20fellowship%20flier.pdf> .

## **Pack 69 Webelos Den Campout, September 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.**

We are going to help sponsor Pack 69's Webelos Dens on a campout on September 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. There are multiple purposes for this. We want to teach the Webelos something about what a Boy Scout campout is like and encourage them to move on into Boy Scouting. An overnight activity with a Boy Scout Troop gives them the chance to pass the Cub Scout Arrow of Light requirement for this. And we want to encourage the Scouts to join Troop 69 by meeting us and seeing how we help out the younger Scouts.

We will not need the whole Troop for this. Depending on how many Cub Scouts sign up, we'll need between 4 and 6 Scouts. The Troop's future depends on recruiting Webelos Scouts, so it's important to fill out a crew of Boy Scouts for this activity.

## **Troop 69 Junior Leader Training**

In order to get off to a well-organized start to the Scouting year, we will be conducting the National Council's Troop Junior Leader Training Course at St. Helena's on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The course will start approximate 8:30 A.M. and will end around 5:00 P.M. The essence of Scouting is that Scouts lead other Scouts in activities, both meetings and outings. But Scouts need training if they are to understand what leadership is and what their role is in it; otherwise, we are just setting them up for failure. Please be sure to have your son attend this training, especially if he is a leader in the Troop; it's very important.

## **Parent Get-Together and Court of Honor, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Troop 69 will have a Parent Get-Together and Barbecue and Court of Honor on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 PM at St. Helena's Episcopal Church. We will start

off with a Court of Honor. We will be awarding all ranks and Merit Badges that have been earned since our last Court of Honor. There will be quite a few, since the Scouts of Troop 69 have been quite busy working on advancement, and they also earned a number of Merit Badges at Camp Mach-Kin-O-Siew this summer. This will be followed by a barbecue, with all the food supplied by the Troop. This will be a great opportunity for all the parents, leaders, and Troop committee members to get re-acquainted and talk about the upcoming year. Please reserve this time and date; it is important for all of our Scouts' family members to be there. If you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, etc., to share, that would be fine. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs, and all family members are invited. Please let us know how many people will be there by calling Ron Fox at 708.839.2780, or by e-mailing [rfox@troop69.org](mailto:rfox@troop69.org).

### **Devil's Lake Climbing Campout, October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.**

One of our Troop's favorite activities is rock climbing (we owned the climbing tower at summer camp this year). We'll be going up to Devil's Lake again from October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve this weekend on your calendar. As with all our campouts, parents are invited to come along. Please consider taking this opportunity to do something with your son that he loves to do, and even try a new thing yourself! A signup sheet/permission slip will be posted on the Troop web site.

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### **Scoutmaster's Minute**

This last year has been a fine one for Troop 69. We have over 20 Scouts on the roster. We have averaged over one rank advancement per Scout, and many merit badges. We have seen two of the original Scouts who helped form the Troop in March of 1997, Daniel Fox and Michael Fierke, earn their Eagle awards and graduate from the Troop with honor. The Troop had a great time on numerous campouts this year, which included rock climbing at Devils Lake and white water rafting on the Peshtigo River. Numerous Scouts earned their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, a very difficult one to get and one required for Eagle, at a District event. We set a record for the amount of money raised at our 4<sup>th</sup> of July pancake breakfast (> \$2000). Finally, the Troop's junior leadership has been better organized and more active than it has for a while; we even have an active Quartermaster and an active Scribe, both doing a fine job. I expect that the Troop will build on this and have an even better year this year, especially with your support.

This gives me great comfort and confidence in the next step that the adult leadership of the Troop is taking. At our October 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Honor, I am going

to step down from my post as Scoutmaster to Assistant Scoutmaster. Assistant Scoutmaster Dave Shangle will be taking over as Scoutmaster. My son Dan earned his Eagle Badge and turned 18, and is now attending the University of Illinois, so Dave and I have decided that it is in the Troop's best interest for me to step down at this time and hand the post over to Dave. Please understand that I'm not leaving; I intend to remain quite active in the Troop, instructing and guiding Scouts. However, it's time for Dave to take the hot seat, especially as he and Jan have stepped down from Program Director and Camp Director (respectively) of the Council's Weekend in Illinois Cub Scout summer camping program.

Dave will do a great job as Scoutmaster. He has been active in the Troop for years, working with the junior leaders and leading the Troop at campouts and at summer camp this year. Dave has completed numerous training courses both at Council and at the National Council's Camp School at Philmont. He reached the pinnacle of unit leader training this summer when it was my privilege to award him his Wood Badge beads. The Scouts think he does a great job and I can't think of anyone better to be the Scoutmaster of Troop 69 right now, leading it forward into a great year and beyond. Please do your best to attend the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Honor and honor Dave for taking on this responsibility.