

The Spirit of 1776

February, 2000

NESA Day is Rescheduled

Giving way to the recent elements, we decided to postpone our NESA Day Merit Badge Clinics until February 12. Otherwise the schedules will remain in place as originally planned. Morning registration is at 8:30 am. Lunch and breaks are scheduled and will be provided for by the Troop. This delay in the schedule should ensure that every Scout will have the opportunity to read the Merit Badge Books prior to NESA Day. If you have a schedule conflict because of this change, please contact Steve Vaughan.

Scout Sunday

A Scout is Reverent. Each year at St. Ann's, we set aside one Mass to celebrate Scouting and the Church. This years Scout Sunday Mass is scheduled for February 13th at the 12:15 Mass. All Scouts from St. Ann's will be represented (Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts). Twenty seven Cub Scouts will receive their Religious Awards at this Mass. Join us in celebrating Scout Sunday this year.

Pancake Breakfast

Also on February 13th, we will be hosting our second annual Pancake Breakfast. Pancakes will be served after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 Masses. Advance ticket sales are going on now, as each Scout has the opportunity to earn money for their Scout accounts with half of the advance tickets sales. There is plenty of opportunity for all Scouts and parents to help in this event. There are three shifts and good positions are available at each Mass. I HOP is helping to sponsor this Troop fund raiser. Rod Hennek is coordinating this event for the Troop.

Wilderness Survival

This is a favorite theme for the Scouts. What skills do you need to survive if you were suddenly found stranded in the woods. Each Scout will learn basic survival skills and techniques. The month of February promises to be a great schedule as we work up to the Wilderness Survival Camping Trip.

Over the weekend of February 25 - 27, the Troop will be going on a

Wilderness Survival experience. The weekend will be a Merit Badge Clinic for Scouts that want to work on the Merit Badge. But that does not mean to exclude any Scout from camping. We will also be there to help with Rank Advancement requirements or otherwise have FUN. Many Scouts return each year just for the FUN of building and sleeping in their own shelter. The place is High Falls State Park. The cost is \$5 per Scout. A permission form is attached. Ed Rousselot is coordinating the outing.

Summer Camp News

Summer Camp brochures are being distributed. We are looking for commitments of Scouts and Scouters to attend this years Summer Camp at Boxwell Scout Reservation. Get your reservation in now. There is no better place to earn Advancement and Merit Badges than Summer Camp. The dates are June 25 through July 1. Matt Stone is coordinating this years Summer Camp.

Spring Camporee

All 1776 Scouts and Scouters need to plan on attending the Foothills District Spring Camporee. Our very own Scoutmaster, Tom Morin,

is the Scoutmaster of the event. Bob Stong is the Senior Patrol Leader of the Camporee. Our Troop is the service Troop for the Camporee. The dates are May 5 - 7 and the event will be at Bert Adams Scout Reservation.

The theme of the Camporee is "Back to Baden" and it will feature many traditional Scouting methods in celebrating the ninety years of Scouting in America.

We have developed a list of 17 different games to run for the Camporee. Over the next 60 days we need to road test all of these games prior to the Camporee. Each Patrol will be asked to run several games for this District event. This will be a major undertaking that is going to require much planning and preparation. We anticipate that there will be 500 - 600 Scouts from the Foothills District in attendance.

Caving Expedition

In March, the Troop is going on a wild cave expedition. We will set up base camp at Cloudland Canyon State Park. From there we will take three different expeditions to explore some natural caves in the area. We have a professional

guide service that will be leading the tours. The groups are limited to 10 Scouts and they will be grouped by age. Scouts must be at least Second Class to go Caving. Scout skills and advancement will be emphasized for new Scouts and Scouts of less than Second Class Rank.

The cost of this trip is \$. Those not caving need only pay a \$5 camping fee. More details to follow on this. Bob Stong is coordinating this outing.



Order of the Arrow Elections

On February 15, we will hold elections for Scouts that are eligible for election to the Order of the Arrow. The OA is a Honor Camping organization that is dedicated to a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. To be eligible for election a Scout must be First Class Rank and have attained at least 15 nights of camping in the most recent 2 years. Six of those

nights of camping must be at a long term Summer Camp. The Scouts that are eligible for this year's election are:

Richie Boroweic
Wesley Brown
Michael Dean
Matt Hammond
Dennis Hom
Patrick Lura
Mark Manguno
Jake McDonald
Timmy Nummy
Matt Pickard

To be elected the Scout must be named on at least 50% of all ballots cast. The results of the election will be held in secret. The elected candidates will be revealed at the OA Tapout, which will be held at the Spring Camporee weekend.

Uniform Inspections

On February 22, we will undergo our annual Uniform Inspection from our Unit Commissioner. Many of you remember the drill, make sure that you have your complete Class A uniform on for the night. Check yourself over before coming that night, are you prepared? Will you pass inspection?

Court of Honor

Troop 1776's semi annual Court of Honor will be held on Sunday March 19 in the St. Ann's Parish Center. Many of our Scouts have worked hard over the past few months and will be recognized for their accomplishments. More details will follow but reserve the date on your calendar's.

New Leadership Positions

It is time for all Scouts to be thinking about what type of leadership position they want to hold from April until October. SNAP forms are available from Tom Morin. Chris Vaughan will become our SPL, but who will be the new ASPL? Who needs positions of leadership for Rank advancement? The future of our Troop depends on strong Scout leadership. **That means YOU!** What do you want to be? Challenge yourself and develop your leadership skills.

Scout Leader Training

For all leaders, Scoutmaster Fundamentals Training is coming up on March 11. Sessions 1 and 2 will be covered on that Saturday. Advancement and Youth Protection Training will be covered on March

16. And Outdoor Training will be held on the weekend of March 24 – 26. Any Leader who has been trained but more than 4 years ago, should think about being retrained. Attend the March 11 Training or a special Recertification Training on March 25. **We owe it to the Scouts to be Trained Leaders.** See Tom Morin for more details.

Coming soon, just for Troop 1776 is the **Troop Committee Challenge**. This is a new Troop specific Training course developed by National for Committee Members. Training dates will be determined by the Troop Committee.

Scout Show

The greatest exposition of Scouting will be held on March 18th at the Georgia World Congress Center. We will be again staffing a booth for the Scout Show. Each Patrol will be assigned a period of time to staff the Booth. Ticket sales are now underway.