

# Troop 824 News

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

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## Attention: Slots are Open for an Awesome Campout! All Ages Invited!

By Greg Lehn, SPL

**Just imagine:** You arrive Friday night at a scouting paradise, a lush, green field with birds chirping as the sun rolls gently toward the horizon. You look around and see friends, new and old, ready to have a good time. You split off into your patrol and prepare for the next day's great adventures. In order to complete the tasks, you and your patrol will need teamwork, friendship, physical strength, and scouting knowledge. If your patrol prepares for these tasks, you can get a hand up on the competition, which can lead to certain victory. After completing the events, you can return to your site and play many sports like football and Frisbee, or just chill out and relax with your friends. The next day, everyone in camp gathers around for the grand ceremony. Every Troop is presented with their award for completing all the tasks. When your patrol leader gets a ribbon of achievement, it will say MERIT AND HONOR because your patrol rocks and you earned it.



That's right, if you haven't guessed yet, this great campout is the Spring Camporee. Down at beautiful (but sometimes wet) Camp Sunnen on April 23-25, this is one of the better campouts of the year. Filled with friends, food, and fun, I hope all you scouts attend. If you want to sign up for this action packed campout or need more information, see your patrol leader, or anyone at your friendly local LC table. (It's the one at the front of the troop meeting... *with all the high school students doing their homework—Ed*) I hope to see you there.

## Spring Conclave

By David Bender

The spring brings new camping opportunities, mostly because the weather has warmed up. Well, most of the time. This year, for you OA members out there, we are going to the Spring Conclave. I'm a sixth year scout and we have never gone



to the Conclave in the years that I have been in the troop; however, extenuating circumstances have forced us to go this year. The event will take place at Beaumont and will be in one of the fields, Shippey I think. This is the opportunity to come and enjoy yourselves and maybe even work in the service project to fulfill some Brotherhood or Beyond Brotherhood requirements. Officers will be there to sign off on your cards, so bring them. Just a reminder, this campout is for Order of the Arrow members ONLY. For you younger scouts, OA is like scouting's honor society. Every year at summer camp, we have an election to honor the best scouts in the troop with membership in our Order. For those of you who wonder what we do, well, we like to keep our activities secret. This is not because we can't tell you, it is mostly because it would take the surprise out of the experience, and then there would be no point in membership. What I can tell you is that we have a lot of fun and it is really worth it to try to get in. If you have any questions regarding the Conclave, or OA in general, feel free to ask me or any other OA member and we'll do our best to answer your questions.

## Welcome "First Year" Scouts

By Mr. Epeptine

Welcome! To all you new Scouts and Scouters (also known as "parents"). Troop 824 is a great Scouting family to be a part of. If you've come to either the recent New Parents meetings (held during troop meetings) or to the Webelos Cabin Campout, you probably heard about this newsletter. We started it (I say "we" because Mrs. Epeptine contributes a lot as you will see below) way back in February 2001 just after an annual advancement camp at Swift. It's supposed to be a monthly publication, and we originally intended for it to be a "boy run" endeavor just like Scouting. But recently, we're asking adults to contribute also. We haven't had a newsletter since late January for example, and many of our newsletters over the recent year have been either very late or are dual month issues. There's been a lot happening and there are many stories left to cover.



Hand-in-hand with the newsletter, this troop has a website [www.troop824-gslac.org](http://www.troop824-gslac.org) Our webmaster, Mr. Neil



**Modern Boy Scouts gather around the ol' virtual campfire.**

Phipps was once a Scout in the troop, he's also an Eagle Scout (once an Eagle, always an Eagle, but when you reach the age of 18 years, you are no longer considered a Scout). The current featured picture on the opening page for the website should have most if not all of the new Scouts. This picture is from Webelos Cabin Camp-out. I had hoped to get all the new family's email address to send out the newsletter to them. This is also the reason for this newsletter being late, but in addition to that, there are now some problems with sending group emails (at least for me, anyone else have this problem?) I can't send more than about 15 emails at a time using SWBELL's mail server. This is most likely some anti-spam or anti-virus feature that's recently been implemented, but it's a pain to send out sixty or seventy newsletters this way. Until I can get some kind of work-around going, I just thought I'd mention that you can also get your newsletter at the troop's website (again, the URL is [www.troop824-gslac.org](http://www.troop824-gslac.org)). Simply right-click on a newsletter of your choice, and then click on "Save Target As". This method will allow you to "download" a newsletter to your hard drive and use it later for reference. You can also simply click on the link, it will open and you can then read it print it, whatever. I'm mention this at meetings, but those of you reading this should tell others how they can get a newsletter if they didn't get one.

## Newsletter Evolution

It really does appear that our newsletter schedule is turning into an "every other month" kind of thing. And usually near the end of each month. I'm comfortable with that considering all the other things I have to do during the month, but if you guys would like to see a newsletter more often, you know what we need... contributions. Also, as we've said during many meetings and events, your editors won't be around forever to do this. If anyone is interested (Scouts or adults) in doing the newsletter in the future, let us know. We'll be glad to help you get started. Even to the point of donated software and lots of good templates, graphics, and ideas to make it really easy.

## Family Float Trip

By Mrs. Epestine



I'm considering reviving the Family Float Trip, last held in 1998. First of all, a disclaimer. This is NOT a troop-sponsored activity. That would require we have BSA-certified lifeguards along. This is a **family** activity; parents/guardians will be responsible for their children under the age of 18. Adults will be signing up, not the Scouts. However, we will observe other BSA rules. If anyone has any questions about those rules, see me. Sign-up sheets are at the meetings. We will probably want deposits somewhere between late April and mid-May. From what we have seen so far, canoes will run about \$40-44 and will seat 2. We are proposing July 31-August 1 as the date. Location hasn't been determined, although I am leaning to the Current or Jack's Fork Rivers. We could do this a number of ways, drive down Friday night or Saturday morning. Return after the float Saturday or Sunday morning. We would like anyone interested to sign up and indicate their preference. If you have any suggestions about which stretch of river to float, how long the float should be, where to camp, outfitters, anything else I've missed, please see me at one of the troop meetings. Some of the outfitters have campgrounds. Camping is also available in nearby Montauk State Park, Logger's Lake in the Mark Twain National Forest, and the National Park Service has campgrounds along the Current River at Cedar Grove, Akers, Pulltite, and Round Springs. As always, any input (and help) is most welcome. By the way, those scouts wondering what merit badges they might want to take at summer camp should think about the canoeing merit badge. Just a suggestion.



**Almost a whole band all by themselves. Sixteen Scouts, a “graduated” Eagle, & two girls from Venturing (Left to Right) -** Jacob Jones, Peter Eppestine, Eric Schrenker, Ryan Basch, David Marsters, Greg Lehn, Aaron Chambers, Mike Lombardo (w/sax), Will Shelton, Robby Lehn, Bryan Rapp, Matt Rodgers, David Dempsey, Jason Wang, Betsy Lehn (venturing crew), Matt Miller, Eric Dundon, Davey Oster, Lindsay Shelton (venturing crew)

## Do You Know This Face?

*By Peter Eppestine*

You might know this guy, at least I hope you do. He is Greg Lehn, our current senior patrol leader. He has achieved the rank of eagle at his current age of 16 (although he will be turning 17 in only a few weeks). Outside of scouting, he is active in Mehlville's band, Spanish club, and a basketball league at his church. His favorite subject in school is science. His favorite scouting activity is the ropes course. His favorite scout event was the trip to Philmont.



## Scouts Can and Usually Do Excel at Something Besides Scouting

*Have you noticed that if a boy is involved in Scouting, in many cases he's also involved in other good things? We've created this space to recognize special accomplishments outside Scouting. If you know a Scout who attends some special function, earns an award, or is a part of some service group project, let us know. Even better if you have pictures. And you Scouts... don't be afraid to "blow your own horn". Be proud of yourself, you've probably already guessed that we're all proud of you.*

*Submitted by Sharon Oster*

Kudos to **Aaron Dunajcik!** First Class Scout Aaron Dunajcik recently took first place in the Washington Middle School Geography Bee. This was an accomplishment to be

very proud of! But it doesn't stop there. Aaron has been notified he has placed as one of the top 100 students in the state, and has qualified to compete for the state title. Aaron will be competing at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO on Friday, April 2. Congratulations Aaron! We all wish you the best of luck!

Keep up the hard work guys!!!

*Submitted by Diane Eppestine*

I saw this in the MHS newsletter. "Mike Heins... won 1st place at the Greater St. Louis Speech League event." This was labeled Greater St. Louis Speech Competition. No date or other details were given.

*Submitted by David & Diane Eppestine*

If you've been around awhile, you know we've already recognized many of our Scouts for participating in Mehlville school district's music programs. We've noticed over the years that (on average) nearly a quarter of all Scouts in Troop 824 at any one time are members of a band at their respective school. Considering the time and dedication spent in this endeavor and the non-proportional recognition these young men receive, we thought it would be nice to recognize them from time to time.

**The above group picture is from the All District Instrumental concert, March 15th, I think. Kudos to you all, guys (and gals).**