

TROOP 824 NEWS

A Publication of Boy Scout Troop 824

June 2001

Fishing Derby

During the first days of June, one of the more popular events the troop sponsors during the year was held at Camp Sherwood Forest near Lesterville. Our thanks especially to the three Zeuners (Tom, Tim, & Steven) who coordinated the Fishing Derby.

Prize winners will be announced next time.



Adult Scouters prepare breakfast Saturday

Overheard at Fishing Derby:

- “ We caught the beaver, we caught the beaver!
- “ It was about THAT big.
- “ Oh no, not another bird's nest..
- “ Hey, I forgot to go fluff the rice.
- “ You say you don't think there are any fish in here? ... Mr. Zeuner says as he holds up a nice Bass
- “ We need another gallon jug of eggs.
- “ Is this jug full of eggs or orange juice?
- “ Look! It's a snake!

Summer Camp Survival

Mr. Eppestine

A Big Reminder: 2001 Summer Camp is just around the corner. July 8-14 at S-F's camp Sakima, on the Linn campsite. Before we leave, we will again hand out maps and answer questions. A summer camp packet was handed out to all, a supplementary information packet was given to some, and an informational meeting for parents was held. The supplementary packet will suggest what to bring, about merit badges and the Voyager program, and tell you about some rules to remember. If you didn't get one and think you need it, see Mr. Fitzgibbons.

A brief checklist of important items for parents and Scouts going to summer camp for the first time:

- ◆ You should have already turned in medical forms & a copy of your insurance card. Scouts will be sent home without these.
- ◆ Class A uniform (at least the brown Scout shirt) bring the best you have. You should have dark shoes, and appropriate pants or shorts (a bright color or striped swim suit or “sweats” don't look good with the shirt). If you have the official Scout shorts, socks, and belt; that goes great with the shirt (tuck it in please).
- ◆ Bring your Scout handbook. Also, your copy of the merit badge schedule you gave to the Scoutmaster.
- ◆ **A cup to drink from and utensils to eat with.** We're rapidly running out of “spares” for those that forget or lose them, so “Be Prepared”.
- ◆ S-F will provide tents with floor boards and cots. Most Scouts like to bring their own cot and a chair or stool. If you don't bring a chair, that's fine, but don't sit in someone else's without permission.
- ◆ Bug your patrol leader about who your tent mate will be. You should arrange with your tent mate which of you will bring the one cooler each tent is allowed. The troop provides ice during the week, and of course remember to KEEP ALL FOOD OUT OF TENTS in a tightly sealed container. Raccoons are smart and those at S-F are looking forward to your arrival.
- ◆ Remember, you can bring what you want (within reason) but a Scout should carry his own gear from the car to the campsite. The Linn site is about as far from the parking lot as you can get. Roads are gravel, trails are dirt, and both have ruts and big rocks. An airport luggage carrier won't work. Bring a “two wheeler” or a kid's wagon if you have items you can't carry a ways. What this all means... pack light but be prepared to carry what you pack.
- ◆ Personal items are your own choice, but here are some suggestions: Bring rain gear... you might have heard stories about last year as we broke camp, 'nuff said. Electronics aren't banned, but if the

Scoutmaster or any adult doesn't like the noise level, it will be taken away. The troop isn't responsible for any equipment broken, lost or stolen at camp. Headphones should be used ONLY during your genuine free time... not during merit badge sessions or when there's work to be done on the campsite. Bring insect repellent and sunscreen. Non aerosol is best (the propellant ruins waterproofing on tents). Don't forget to USE this stuff. Many times you might get stuck on the beach in the sun without a shirt for a long time... it's too late to put on the sun sauce at that point. Bring a towel (or several) and changes of clothes... soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc. You **have** to take a shower before parents arrive on Thursday, but believe me, you'll be lots more comfortable if you take the time to do this **daily**.

- ◆ Mark your name and your troop number (824) on all your “stuff” (a sharpie works good). You'd be surprised what adults find along the trails. If it has your name in it, you might not be embarrassed at a campfire having to go up and retrieve your lost stuff in front of everyone at camp.

I'm sure I forgot something. Next month, in the newsletter before summer camp, we'll have an article about OA elections from a Scout's perspective.

Earning Merit Badges Outside of Troop 824's Counselors

By Craig Watkins

The Greater St. Louis Area Council recommends that Scouts earn at least five and preferably seven merit badges utilizing merit badge counselors who are not parents of Scouts in the troop or adults affiliated with the Troop.

Reasoning behind this recommendation is:

- to encourage the Scouts to acquire the experience of communicating with someone usually unknown to them
- to encourage the Scouts to work on merit badges of interest to them even though there is no counselor in the Troop
- to give the Scouts the opportunity to interact with and learn from someone that has a high interest and possibly professional knowledge in their merit

A Scout is... Courteous.

*A Scout is polite to **everyone** regardless of age or position. He knows that good manners make it easier for people to get along together.*

badge topic.

In the case of Atomic Energy, my counselor worked with equipment related to nuclear medicine at BJC Hospital. A great tenor saxophone player worked with me on the Music merit badge.

The idea of going to a stranger's house can be intimidating, but it turns out to be quite fun. Be sure there is another adult or child there—following the “three deep leadership” policy. Always have the book read, pre-requirements finished, and be sure to know the material! Don't forget your merit badge card. We want Scouts from our Troop to “Be Prepared.”

A sample dialogue for calling the counselor, the most intimidating part of the whole process, might be:

“Hello Mr. Johnson. This is Tim Smith, a Scout from Troop 824. The merit badge counselor list says you are a counselor for the _____ merit badge. Is this still correct?”

“I am preparing to earn this badge. Would you please be my merit badge counselor? I have read the book and have started on some of the requirements. I should be ready to complete it in a week or so. What would be a good time for us to get together?”

“Is there anything in particular you want to tell me as I prepare for this badge?”

Yes, and the Scout should make two more phone calls; one to reconfirm the appointment, and another afterwards thanking the counselor for their time. Keep in mind this counselor is volunteering, so be respectful and appreciative. Go for it!

Meet Craig Watkins

By Matt Miles

Craig Watkins is a 17 year old Life Scout (soon to be Eagle). He's a Junior at Mehlville HS and a future Corporate Executive. He joined Scouting like most of us... he crossed over from Webelos to Scouts in 5th grade. In the troop he's held positions of Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Senior Patrol Leader.

Craig cannot go a day with out recognizing those in need and wishing them well, but he goes a step further - he is often seen helping students with homework, lending people money (as long as they pay him back), and displaying an overall sense of friendliness to everyone he meets.

Craig loves anything where he can help the younger scouts in learning a new skill. He got this from his dad, whom he owes much of his scouting experience to, and he decided to pass this on to the younger scouts in the troop.

Craig's favorite Scouting event was probably Philmont; he Loves the outdoors and nature . He enjoyed how the hike was a personal challenge, but he pleased himself by lending a hand to other scouts and Scouters who he felt needed a boost in morale. He found the hike as a way to grow closer to the people he had



known all through scouting.

His favorite merit badge was Atomic Energy, and his favorite subject in school is Chemistry - likes to experiment with scientific phenomenon.

Other activities Craig enjoys are Band - enjoys jazz and playing the alto saxophone, collecting Mercedes-Benz to store in his 57 car garage <grin>, and Spending time with his wonderful family, friends, and girlfriend - Michelle

Watkins Wrap

Now Craig is scout, like no other scout can be

He demonstrates the oath and law for everyone to see

Philmont was fun - Boy, Scouting is a blast

He hates how his scouting life got over way too fast

He said, "I've been to Sea Base - and also Jamboree"

"One day I hope to own, a Mercedes just for me"

No more about Craig tonight, no more is being shown

If you want to know more on him, you'll have to ask him on your own.

~Word to your brother~

Upcoming Events

✓ **June 24-30** JLTC at S-F

✓ **July 8-14** Summer Camp at S-F Camp Sakima. Cost, \$135 to Carol Bender. Medical forms to Mike Heins by June 25th.

✓ **July 30** Chrysler Plant Tour

✓ **July 29-August 4** JLTC at S-F

✓ **August 17-19** Advancement Camp at Hahn State Park

✓ **August 25** Bar-be-que and Court of Honor at Beaumont

✓ **October 26-28** Shiloh Hikes

Upcoming Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held every Monday (3rd Mondays are PLC only) at 7 PM in the Washington Middle School (WMS) cafeteria unless otherwise noted.

✓ **June 11** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **June 18** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' house

✓ **June 25** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **July 2** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **July 16** Spanky's

✓ **July 23** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **July 30** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **August 6** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **August 13** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

✓ **August 20** PLC at Mr. Fitzgibbons' house

✓ **August 27** Troop Meeting at Suson Park

Upcoming Parents' Meetings

Parents' meetings are generally 4th Thursdays of the month at WMS cafeteria unless otherwise noted

Jun 28 7:00 PM at Suson Park

July 26 7:00 PM at Suson Park

Aug 23 7:00 PM at Suson Park