

Troop 211 Newsletter

January 2016

Volume 1, Issue No. 3

Cold Weather Camping Tips

Dressing for the cold

All scouts Camping in the winter doesn't mean you need a whole new set of equipment. Go with what your Scouts have, using these tricks:

When dressing for cold weather, focus on a layering system including the three Ws: wicking, warmth and wind. Your base layer should be wicking (like an athletic shirt), an insulating layer should be warming (like fleece or wool) and an exterior layer should block the wind. Use clothing you have, focusing on the right combination of fabrics.

Mittens are warmer than gloves. If insulated mittens get wet, they stay that way. Wool mitts worn inside leather or nylon shells are removable for faster drying. Wool gloves are needed for dexterity when cooking.

For overnight warmth, wear wool, polypropylene or polyester (never cotton!) long johns, socks and a balaclava to bed. Place a scarf across your neck to seal drafts. Be sure to change into dry clothes for sleeping — moisture retained in field clothes will cause chilling.

Sleeping warm

Two sleeping bags — one placed inside the other — should provide enough warmth down to about zero degrees. If you don't have a closed-cell foam pad to use as a sleeping mat, try half-inch-thick foam carpet padding.

In warmer months, a plastic ground cloth should be used inside your tent to stay dry. However, in winter, use the ground cloth beneath your tent to keep it from freezing to the ground.

Avoiding cold-weather dangers

Be very careful around open flames, since you won't feel the heat of a burning stove or campfire

through thickly insulated winter clothing.

Wearing waterproof clothes in subfreezing temperatures while hiking or sleeping is a recipe for hypothermia. Opt for a breathable, windproof shell that won't trap perspiration. However, you're in big trouble if snow suddenly turns to rain and you don't have a waterproof raincoat. Tuck the waterproof shell away in your pack or sled.

Double up on clothing that might get wet: two sets of wool underwear, mittens, warm hats (a balaclava and stocking cap) and wool socks.

Small stuff disappears in snow, so take pre-emptive measures to prevent this. Tie colored plastic surveying tape (available at hardware stores) to small items that might get lost. Each patrol should use a different color. Your pocket-knife and compass can be kept on a lanyard attached to your belt. A security strap for eye-glasses is important.

Days are short in winter, so plan accordingly. Every Scout should have an LED headlamp with lithium batteries. (Store it in a jacket pocket close to your body to keep the batteries from draining in the cold.)

With some planning, a cold-weather camping trip might just be the ideal challenge for your Scouts.

This Month's Meetings

Jan 6th- NB Civic Club -7 PM - 8:30 PM

Jan 13th- NB Civic Club -7 PM - 8:30 PM

Jan 20th- NB Civic Club -7 PM - 8:30 PM

Jan 27th- NB Civic Club -7 PM - 8:30 PM

December Wreaths Across America

The Laying of the Wreaths ceremony took place St. Mary's cemetery and Oakwood cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 11:30am. We had a great turnout of scouts and adults at the VFW Hall before the procession to St. Mary's cemetery. We even had Ellie Thomas, a Girl Scout from Troop 70656 join us for the event!! The scouts were very respectful during the whole event. Thank you to the adults that participated, John Klos, Tiffany White, Matt Smoger, Dave Molczan, Jeffery Wooten, Mark Hansen, and Shannon Resch.



Next year we are looking to expand the event to include the Immaculate Conception cemeteries!!

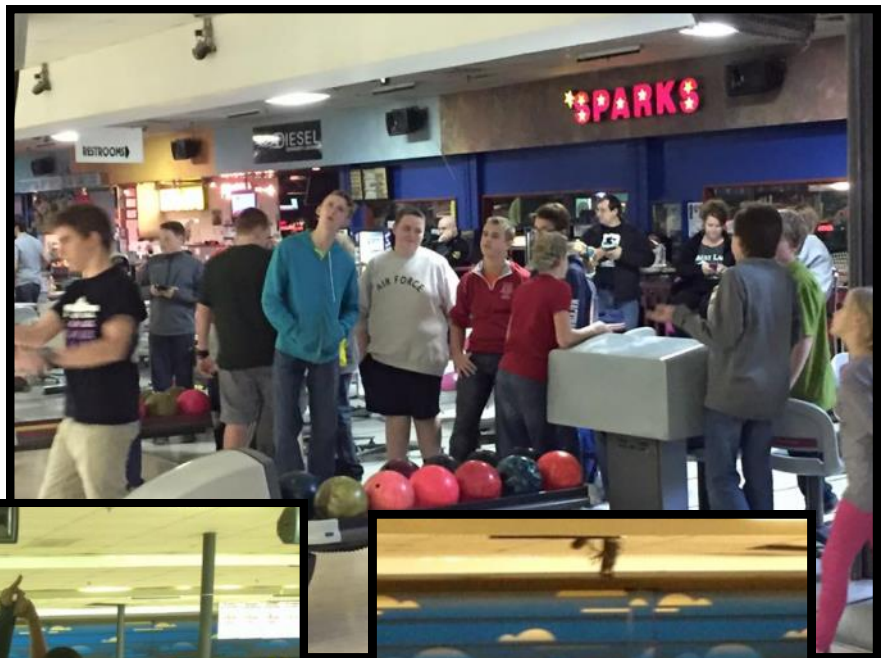


Scouting for Food Shout Out

In last month's newsletter, in an article about Scouting for Food, an egregious error was made. I forgot to include Carol Dolan in the special thanks section. Carol spends a great deal of time supporting our troop. From helping with our Court of Honors to donating her time to events like Scouting for food, to sewing our neckerchiefs!! Thank you so very much Carol!

Bowling Party

Troop 211 met at Premier Lanes on December 16th. The scouts each brought a toy for donation to local families. They appeared to have a great time! We hope everyone that attended had a fun filled, rockin around the Christmas tree, good time!!



March Euchre Party!

In March we will be having a Euchre Party at Cedar Glen golf course. This event is adults only and the proceeds go towards our campership program, as well as providing funds for troop transport to and from summer camp.

The Euchre party is a great fundraising event for the troop. The committee is requesting all parents to bring something for the raffle. Items requested could be gift certificates to local area restaurants or stores, and/or a bottle of "cheer"!

If you have any questions, please see Matt Smoger or Bill Ward.

Upcoming Parents Meeting

The next parents' meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 18th at Green Street Tavern.

We encourage at least one parent from each family to attend the meeting and be part of the planning process to put together the best possible program for our scouts.

District Roundtable Meeting

The next District Roundtable meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14th at the Utica United Methodist Church. The church is located at 8650 Canal Rd, Sterling Heights, MI, 48314

All adult scout leaders should try to attend these meetings if possible.

Wood Badge Course

This coming February we have two adult leaders that will be attending the Wood Badge course at Silver Trails Scout reservation in Jeddo, MI. Josh Thomas and Matt Smoger will be attending during the first weekend and the last weekend. They should be thoroughly flaked out by the time they return!



Troop 211 Merit Badge Library

We are attempting to rebuild the troop merit badge library and we need your help! Most of the merit badge books we do have are out of date. The information is still good, but many of the requirements have changed.

If you have any Merit Badge books that you would like to donate to the troop, please see troop Librarian Joey Thomas or Josh Thomas.

We have checked with MacDonald Public Library and they do not have any of the Merit Badge books, but they can contact other libraries in the area to get the book(s) you need.

Philmont Scout Ranch Crew

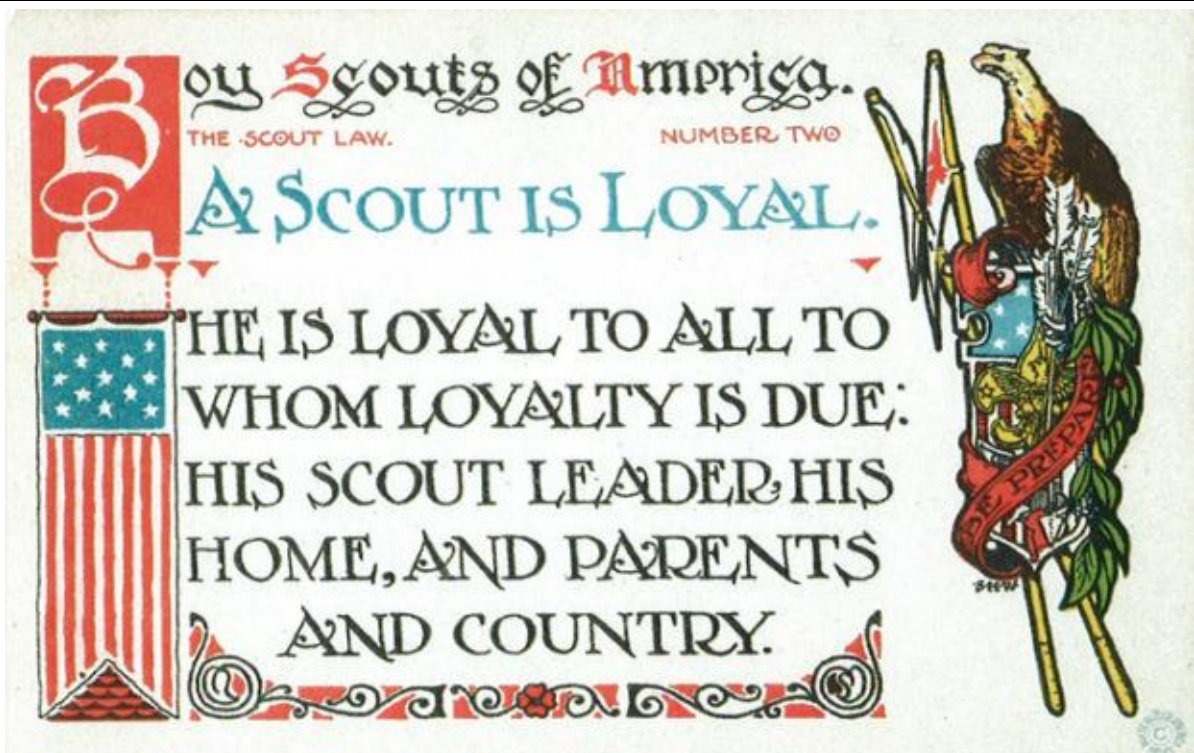
Next year we will be sending a group of boys to the Philmont Scout Ranch in July 2016!! Philmont Scout Ranch, located near Cimmaron, NM, is the Boy Scouts of America's largest national High Adventure Base. It covers 137,000 acres - about 214 square miles - of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) range of the Rocky Mountains in northern New Mexico.

Philmont Scout Ranch operates 34 staffed camps and 55 trail camps. Philmont has high mountains with rough terrain and elevations that range from 6,500 to 12,441 feet! Our boys will be going for 12 days and will be attempting the 106 mile hike!! To participate, scouts must be 14 years of age OR completed 8th Grade and be at least 13 years of age prior to participation. So start your training today!!



The Troop believes that no scout should be excluded from activities because of financial considerations - this includes Summer Camp, High Adventure, Jamborees and monthly campouts!

We have a fund that can help with this issue. If you require further details, please contact Bill Ward with requests or concerns.



Troop Committee

Matt Smoger – *Troop Committee Chair*

586-855-2553

Bill Ward - *Scoutmaster*

586-725-5352(home) (586) 883-3072(cell)

Stu Resch– *Outdoor Committee Chair*

586-524-2226

Sally Ward – *Advancement Committee Chair*

586-883-3070

Josh Thomas - *Secretary*

586-557-2184

Dave Molczan – *Treasurer*

810-444-5727

Jeffrey Wooten - *Troop Commissioner*

586-909-5177

Please see the troop roster for the Youth Leadership contact information.

Adult Leadership

Scoutmaster

Bill Ward

Assistant Scoutmasters

Alan Lavigne

Pat Tezak

Josh Thomas

Calendar of Key Events

Jan 1st - Happy New Year!

Jan 29th-31st - HODAG

Feb - Klondike Campout at Silver Trails

Feb 14th - Scout Sunday at local churches

Mar 5th- Euchre Party at Cedar Glen

Mar 18th-20th - D-Bar-A New Scout Campout

Apr 22nd-24th - Silver Trails Campout

May 6th-8th - Dorchester International
Camporee

Jun 26th-Jul 2nd - Summer Camp

Jun 29th-Jul13th - Philmont Scout Ranch Trip

**Please see Scoutlander for more
detailed information.**

Mark your Calendars!

Summer Camp 2016 dates:

Sunday June 26 to

Saturday July 2

