



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

September 2012

White Horse District - SNJ Council

What a Summer! What for Fall?

By Mike McCormick, Scoutmaster

What a summer we had in 2012! Two excellent summer trips to the wilds of Wyoming and to the Catskill Mountains of New York. Over a dozen rank advancements and a score of merit badges. Two successful backpacking trips, one of 77 miles through the Teton Mountains and the other a tough 22 miles on the AT. A bunch of kids having a blast at base camp canoeing the Delaware River, exploring Fort Delaware, and running amuck at TMR Scout Camp. You'll read more about these adventures inside this month's newsletter.

With the end of summer comes the return of school (blech), but also the beginning of a new calendar year of fun and adventure for Troop 48. There are two important dates all Scouts should mark on their calendar - September 12 and 26. Wednesday, September 12 is election night where you, the Scouts, get to choose who will lead your troop in 2012-2013. It's like voting for you teacher at school, your coach in soccer, or your boss at work - a rare opportunity. The other is Wednesday September 26. On this night, the Scouts discuss, vote for, and finalize the trip schedule for next year. Biking, backpacking, caving, exploring, rappelling... what we do depends on you! Come with suggestions! Use the internet (with you parent's permission) to check out cool places. Talk to older Scouts about where they love to go. Look on the website at our old pictures. What to do? It's all on you!



Pranav, Don, K.P, and Luke admire a Wyoming sunset

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Sep 12	Election Night
Sep 15 - 16	Bar Trip - Pine Hill
Sep 26	Trip Planning Meeting
Sep 28 - 30	MS 150 Trip
Oct 6	Yard Sale
Oct 12-14	Danny's Eagle Project

Eagle Court of Honor

By Scout Scoutly

Troop 48 would like to congratulate Paul Iacovonni, Kamran Naidoo, Steven Hale, and Erik Lee on achieving Scouting's highest honor - Eagle Scout. Their Court of Honor was held on a blistering hot June day on the deck of the USS New Jersey. While the temperatures were hot, the turnout was excellent and the ceremony solemn as each boy was presented with his medal and recited the Eagle Scout Promise for the first time. Troop 48 would like to wish these boys the best of luck in their future endeavors!



Brian defies gravity on Climbing Night in June!



Our new Eagle Scouts! – Steven, Paul, Erik, and Kamran!

Troop 48 Summer Trip to Ten Mile River Scout Reservation By Tyler C.

This was my first Summer Trip as a Boy Scout and I was very excited to see what it was going to happen. We met at the shed bright and early Saturday morning. We loaded up the cars and got on the road. We got to Ten Mile River around 1:00 on Saturday afternoon. We checked in and the caravan of cars followed the Ranger to our campsite...or at least we all tried to follow the Ranger (aka Speed Racer Ranger). We lost Mrs, Gillespie on the way, but don't worry, we found her and then proceeded to follow the Ranger to the campsite.

Once there we found a very cool campsite right on the Delaware River, unfortunately, the scout reservation did not allow swimming in the River. So much for bathing in the river! Baths, who needs em! There was a train bridge just past our site too. You could hear the train go by late at night. We set up camp, made dinner and played Manhunt that night.



K.P. at his Eagle Project at the Stafford Farms Trail – June 26.

Our second day of the trip the backpackers left for their 3 day hike. The boys at base camp went to Fort Delaware. Fort Delaware was a replica of the first white settlement on the Upper Delaware River, called Cushetunk, in 1754 by the Delaware Company Pioneers. We got to see them shoot the cannon, work a loom and spinning wheel, make candles and how a blacksmith worked.

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EASY TROOP 48 FUNDRAISER!

Wish you could do more to support Troop 48 but never seem to find the time? Well now you can *and* take care of your errands at the same time when you use Shop Rite gift certificates purchased through Troop 48! These gift certificates come in handy denominations of \$25 and \$50 and are sold by Deb Sperling during each troop meeting.

With every card you purchase the troop makes money!

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The third day, we went on a 10 mile canoe trip through some minor rapids. As the reigning champion for canoe tipping, it seemed as though the trip would never come to an end! But after 2 capsizes we all came out alive and even had fun in spite of the rain falling as our trip came to an end. That afternoon, some of the Teton Backpacking crew showed up to join us.

On day four, the backpackers returned and the base campers went on a five mile hike up the mountain. There was a rowdy game of soccer before during and after dinner, assuring that KP would be done in the dark!!! It was my birthday. Everyone got a sugar high that night after cupcakes and the smores pie.

Day five was bath time for all at the water park! There were two important requirements for that day, go in the water to get clean and have fun! We drove go-karts, played mini-golf, drove bumper boats and went down the water slides. It didn't matter that it started to rain, we were wet anyway! Of course the day trip ended with ice cream, no fun day is complete without it!!! Other than something snorting in the woods sending Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Craig running for the boys to save them, it was a pretty good day for all.

On our sixth day, we drove to Camelback Mountain Adventures to do the rope bridge courses and the zip line. However, once again, we lost Mrs. Gillespie on the way. Unfortunately, there were car troubles, and they had to stay behind. At least they broke down close to a restaurant and ice cream place!!! It was very challenging, but it was a great time for everyone! It was also Kevin's birthday. I heard there were skits and colored flames that night around the fire, but I was already on my way home to my nice comfy bed.

All in all, I think everyone had a great time. There were many new things to learn and experience for all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip happen, I can't wait until next year!!



Canoeing on the Summer Trip!



The gangs all here – Basecamp and backpackers – Summer Trip at TMR.



Batona Warm Up Hike – 12 Miles from Carranza Memorial to Batsto – July 28.

Sunfish Pond

By Luke S.

Early this past summer I had the privilege of going backpacking with Dan, KP, Jif, Pranav, and Don. Our fearless leaders for this trip were, of course, Mike and Tom. In addition, we were pleased to have Jeremy accompany us on this backpacking trip. Jeremy is a fine leader and really cool guy. I'd like to compare him to a male version of Snow White, if one existed. Jeremy is one with nature and animals. A deer, a doe, I believe, walked right up to Jeremy! Jeremy can also be called Nature Man. Perhaps that is a more fitting title than Mr. Snow White. He sleeps right out in the open, not worrying about a thing and not being burdened with carrying a tent, putting it up, putting it away, and carrying it again. Jeremy also let us hike at a fast pace and stayed with us, figuring that those going at a slower pace would catch up eventually. Thanks, Nature Man. Come join us again anytime!

We went to SunFish Pond and we hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail. This was yet another fun filled and exciting backpacking adventure on the road to preparing us for our main event, backpacking in The Grand Tetons of Wyoming. We all certainly had the chance to break in any new hiking boots! The views were great with the Delaware River in sight. I'm not sure how many miles we backpacked on this particular trip. I can tell you that the views were beautiful and that the grass was really, really high! Try pitching your tent in a mountain of yarn and try even harder not to lose anything in that tall, tall grass. In addition to that tall grass, there were huge rocks all over the place. The rocks made good seats and tables for cooking. See for yourself and take a look at the pictures of our trip on the Troop 48 website.



Luke and Jif on the AT near Sunfish Pond



Left - Troop 48 BBQ in June as Skippy and Nick prepare for battle!

Right - Timmy hooks the big one at Fishing Merit Badge Day with Mr. Pannu in June!



Check back next month for articles on the Grand Teton Trip, TMR Backpacking, the Bar Trip, elections, and much more!

Want to write for the newsletter? We want to hear about your Troop adventures! Talk to Nick M. or Mike McCormick at any meeting!

Upcoming Events - 2012-2013!

September 1 – October 6 – Yard Sale Item donations accepted!

September 8 + 9 - Jif Gillespie's Eagle Scout Project – 9 AM to 5 PM both days - Berlin VFW, 34 Chestnut Ave, Berlin, NJ - building a gazebo for the Veterans Hall. Wear old clothes, bring work gloves and hammer if you have them (label please), and bring refillable water bottles (refills will be provided). Lunch will be provided!

September 12, 2012 - Troop 48 Election Night - 7:00 pm - Every Scout gets to vote! @ the Shed

September 15 to 16, 2012 - Bar/Leadership Trip – 8 AM at the shed. Back by 9 AM Sunday. Pine Hill Scout Reservation, Pine Hill, NJ - This trip is for all Bar, newly elected leadership, and Troop Guides. This trip will include leadership training, team building, and our planning for the year. All bar and new leaders should be on this trip!!!

September 19, 2012 - National Troop 48 Wear Purple Day - As part of Recruitment Week, we encourage all Scouts to wear their purple to school today!

September 19 - Team Building Night! – 7 PM to 8:30 PM @ The Shed

September 26 - Leaders Meeting - TRIP PLANNING EXTRAVAGANZA!!! – 7 PM @ The Shed. All trips for the year will be finalized this night, be there and make your choices known!

September 28-30 - MS 150 City-to-Shore Bike Ride Rest Stop – Please meet at 5:30 PM @ The Shed Cost - \$15. All Scouts not riding are welcome and encouraged to work at the rest stop, people are counting on us! As always, we'll be hitting the Ocean City Boardwalk on Saturday night, so bring a few dollars for Skee Ball!

October 6 - Troop 48 Yard Sale! Set up at 6:30 AM, Sale 8 AM – 1 PM, cleanup 1 PM to 3 PM – At Holy Communion Lutheran Church. Scout and adult volunteers needed!

October 13 – 14 – Danny Smith's Eagle Project – Batsto Historic Village – More details soon!

October 31 to November 19 – Scouting for Food! Collect food for those less fortunate and bring it to "The Shed". We will again be coordinating with G.I.F.T and the churches of Berlin to bring Thanksgiving to those who cannot afford it, as well as to help stock the G.I.F.T Food Pantry program.

October 31 to November TBA - Candy for the Troops - Bring your extra Halloween candy to send to the men and women of the armed forces overseas! Last year, we donated more than 50 pounds of candy!

November 19 - Scouting for Food Distribution- 5 to 9 PM @ Holy Communion Lutheran Church – help distribute food with G.I.F.T.

Thanksgiving, November 22 - Feed the Troops Rally - 9:30 am (meeting at shed) - 1 pm (return to shed) – We thank members of the armed forces who are away from their families. Please wear "Class A" uniforms. Family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and anyone else are welcome and encouraged to attend! The more, the merrier!

The rest of our schedule will be announced after our planning meeting at the end of September! Where do you want to go this year?

PERMISSION SLIP – MS 150



When?: Friday to Sunday, September 28 to 30

Please meet at “the shed” at 5:30 PM, we will be leaving by 6:30! We’ll return Sunday in the early afternoon.

Where?: Rest Stops – Pleasant Mills, NJ and Egg Harbor Township, NJ. Camping at Estell Manor County Park.

Cost?: \$15 for trip. The Scouts may also want to bring some spending money for the boardwalk (\$10 - \$20 suggested) to play some pinball, grab an ice cream, or challenge their Scoutmaster at Skee-ball.

After a fantastic showing at last year’s MS 150, the MS society welcomes us wholeheartedly back to assist at two rest stops. We’ll camp out Friday night at Estell Manor. Saturday and Sunday mornings will be spent handing out food and water to bikers in this charity event. If time allows, Saturday afternoon will be spent exploring the abandoned WWI munitions factory in the county park. Saturday evening will be spent at the thank you spaghetti dinner for riders and volunteers, then splitting into patrols to hit the boardwalk for a few hours. Fun!

All Scouts are encouraged not to miss this trip, people are counting on us!

SCOUT: _____ has permission to attend the troop activity/trip and has permission to engage in all activities, except as noted below. I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader in charge to treat, hospitalize, and secure proper anesthesia and/or order injection or surgery for my son/ward.

RESTRICTIONS: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

If your son is required to take medication or has any other special needs, please list the details below:
