



Trails of Troop 48

Doing more before breakfast than most people do all day.

December 2014

White Horse District – Garden State Council

What it Means to be a Scout in Troop 48

By Magnus P.

Troop 48- one of the best troops in the U.S. of A. New scouts that join this troop are hungry for adventure- actually, STARVING for adventure. They most likely have what it takes to be a real scout in the world. For 50 years we've been flying high above all the other troops, doing what we really love doing the most- adventuring. We just don't go to some simple campground and sleep there then go home. We actually travel a long distance to get to some of our campgrounds, much longer than 90 miles most of the time. And that only happens in one day. We are a living example to the other troops that we can do a lot on just one weekend. Josh S.' Eagle Scout project is one of many examples that we can do a lot in a short of amount of time, and that we have a lot of brute force. Think about it, we were in a huge park and we had to do many things, like laying a ton of mulch down on the trails, and clearing the trails of leaves, weeds, and huge branches. Even if a little amount of scouts showed up on most of the days, we still had enough power to get done in about 5 weekends. The backpackers' last summer trip is an example of what we can do. It was a very hard 50 miles, but we kept at it. We made it up the extremely steep hill; we made it down the extremely steep rocky hill, and none of us had any severe casualties. Unfortunately, on the other years, I wasn't there to tell you about how tough we've stayed for those 50 years, and how tough we'll stay for god knows how long. All I know is, that if you've been on a trip with us, and seen all the things we do, you'll agree with me and many other scouts that being a scout in Troop 48 and staying a scout in Troop 48 means you have what it takes to be a real scout.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Dec 10	Court of Honor
Dec 12-15	Monmouth Camping
Dec 17	Holiday Party
Jan 4	Ski Trip
Jan 9-11	Klondike
Feb 1	Hoagie Sale



Next month in Scouting!

Sunday, January 4 – Ski/Snowboard/Tubing Trip! - Please let Ann Gillespie know if your Scout and/or family are attending! - gillespiejas@comcast.net. Cost for skiing or snowboarding is \$39 per person plus helmet rental (everyone, Scout or adult, is required to wear a helmet if attending through the troop), which includes all day ski lift pass, equipment rental (minus helmet), and a lesson! Age restriction is 8 and up for skiing and snowboarding (their rule, not ours).

Tubing is \$27 for a half day (3 hours) or \$47 for the whole day. Abe and I will see you out there on the tubing hill!

As stated, friends and family are invited! All friends under the age of 18 must have an adult who will be responsible for them that day (does NOT have to be their parent, just someone who'll keep track of them.)

January 9 to 11 - Klondike Derby! All Scouts are expected to attend, as their friends and patrol are counting on them for help in this competition of Scouts' skills, teamwork, problem solving, and guts!

Showing the Newcomers Around Goshen

By Magnus P.

We arrived at our campsite one night. We just got the rope course ready after we set up the tents and got everything else ready. When we finished, we got into our tents and slid into our cozy sleeping bags, and went to sleep, and while we were asleep, the temperatures were so low that frost developed on the tents, and for those who were sleeping outside, they also had frost on their sleeping bags. I didn't have any frost on my tent since I was bunking. Then in the next morning, we got up and started making breakfast. I'm sure we all had a good meal; I know my patrol did since we had eggnog in pancakes. But everyone was accusing me of bringing an alcoholic beverage which I did NOT bring (Brian...). Anyway, beside all that, we just finished making the rope course when the newcomers were arriving. Their names were Aiden, and Nick. We all just hung out at the camp, making friends with the newcomers. Then we had to start off the hike. It wasn't such a long one, since it was only for a mile. The hike was one big loop from the Atsion Lake ranger station, back to the station. During the hike, we saw many things, and walked on cool things, like an old train track bridge. We could see the rushing water beneath us, and we thought that it was pretty cool. We kept on hiking onward, and then we got to the road. We were hiking along the road when a Jeep drove by, honking at us and giving us thumbs up. We soon arrived at the ranger station as an old truck, probably from the 30's as driving by, and it had a steam whistle blowing loudly.

We got back to camp, and that was when we soon started to run on the rope course. When Will started running, he got the fastest time. Then Mike ran, and he got an even better time. Then when Ethan ran, he dominated everyone. He did a right arm roll under the jump rope, ran across the log, beat the other jump rope thing in one shot, and finished the rest of the course very easily. And he was not wearing his glasses. He was the best. After that, we all just hung around the fires and played manhunt for a while. Then we all just relaxed and then went to bed. I can tell you something: the newer Nick loved this trip, and I'm sure he'll be a part of our family when he gets the chance to join. So, that is what happened on Goshen. Awesome stuff.

Camden City Playground Clean-up

By Magnus P.

There was a clean-up not organized by the troop, but one scout did participate in it. Timmy D. worked hard at the clean-up in Camden. This clean-up took place in Northgate Park, which is obviously in Camden, like I said.



Goshen Pond Campout.

Greeting and Thanking Our Soldiers

By Magnus P.

On November 27th on Thursday, Scouts went to the Battleship New Jersey to welcome and greet our soldiers who can't make it home for Thanksgiving, so they went to the battleship. Skippy, Jason, Reese's, and I were there, along with Jif, Abe, and John. There were also a huge amount of bikers there, and we thanked the soldiers for their service they've done.

“The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people.” ~
Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting, in his farewell message

Sleeping Warm This Winter

By Scout Scoutly

That most Scoutly of camping times approaches – WINTER! No mosquitos! No ticks! No other campers crazy enough to be camping outside with us! Yes, winter is THE most fun time to camp, the time that separates us from the Cub Scouts.

“But Scout,” you might say, “It’s COOOOOOLD out there!”

To which I’ll reply, “It builds character!”

HA! Just kidding! I’d tell you how to keep warm:

- **Eat.** Your body makes heat the same way that a fire does, by burning fuel. As a person (and not a fire), your fuel is food. Eat dinner and snack with your patrol! Hot chocolate is great too!
- **Bring a sleeping pad.** Or two! When you are in your sleeping bag, the cold ground pulls far more heat out of you than the cold air. A pad acts as an extra layer of insulation between you and the ground. I use two cheap foam pads under me at night.
- **Buy chemical handwarmers like “Hot Hands”.** They are cheap and sold at Target/Wal-Mart/camping supply stores. One in your pocket during the day can be switched between your gloves to keep your hands warm, but one (or ever better, two or three) in your sleeping bag at night will help keep you toasty and warm.
- **Pack blankets and/or a sleeping bag liner to go with that sleeping bag.** A cheap fleece or down blanket (available at Target/Walmart/REI/LL Bean and other places) or a sleeping bag liner (available at camping goods stores like LL Bean and REI) can be placed in your sleeping bag, keeping you warmer at night. Throwing some old comforters or other blankets under your sleeping bag (again, more layers to keep the cold ground from sucking the heat out of you) and/or on top of you acts the same way that layers do during the day. Cold? Use three or four blankets... cocoon yourself in!
- **Don’t wear a lot of layers to bed.** Your sleeping bag is not a heater (even with hand warmers in it), it needs your body heat to warm it up. You should wear a fresh, dry t-shirt to bed with either lightweight shorts or one layer of lightweight long pants (flannel pajama bottoms if you have them, gym pants or jogging pants if you don’t) and count on the layers of blankets to keep you warm. If your cold, add blankets over and under you, not clothes!

... *“Keeping Warm” continued on page 5...*

...“Keeping Warm” continued from page 4...

- **Keep your face OUT of your sleeping bag.** Moisture from your breath will make you much colder in the long run. Wear a stocking hat or even a ski mask on your head to keep that part of your body warm. If you have the extra blankets, pull them over your head to make a pocket of warm air for your face.
- **Put articles for your base layer of clothing in your sleeping bag with you.** Your underwear, long underwear, and t-shirt for the next morning should be kept in your bag with you. This will make them much warmer in the morning than if they are sitting out all night. For those that wear contacts, keep the case in your bag with you so that they don't freeze your eyeballs when you go to put them in the morning. Your eyes will thank you. Still have room in your sleeping bag? Stuff more clothes in there! The less air space there is to heat up in your bag, the easier it is to warm it up (and keep it warm).
- **Finally, share a tent with other people.** A tent with two, three, or more people in it is always going to be warmer than a tent with just you in it. Consider using a separate tent for your gear so that you can fit more people in your tent.

The troop always takes extra blankets with us, and patrols often have hot chocolate, but nothing will keep you as warm as coming prepared!

2014 Schedule

January 4 – Ski Trip
January 9 to 11 – Klondike Derby
February 20 to 22 - Belleplain Campout (Yurts!)
March 13 - 15 - Gettysburg Campout
April 8 to 11 - Backpacking Trip on the AT New Jersey/New York
April 24 to 26 - Pequea Campout - hiking and caving!
May 15 to 17 - Weisner State Park/Knoebels Grove - Hiking and fun at the amusement park
May TBA - 50th Anniversary Dinner
June 5 to 7 - Cape Henlopen (Seak kayaking!?)
June 20 - Battle of Monmouth Reenactment
June 26 to 28 - 5th Annual Alumni Trip (Canoeing)
July 11 - Troop Swim Day/BBQ
July 17 to 19 - Great Egg Harbor River Canoe Trip
August - Lake George Summer Trip
October 2 to 4 - MS 150 Trip