

HATBORO BOY SCOUT TROOP 3

Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA

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TROOP 3 NEWSLETTER

Dear Scout Families,

At last week's Pro Bowl football game they announced the name of each of the starting players as they ran on the field. In keeping with this tradition let me announce the names of our 2013/2014 Troop 3 All Stars: Chris Atras, Michael Balot, Dylan Brown, Dylan Callum, Jeff Dieterly, Jacob Fisher, Jason Graf, Taylor Lauer, Matt Rabii, and Steve Tritsch. These TEN scouts all earned the rank of Eagle within the past 12 months. Well Done!

Take away Chris Atras (because he is a year older) and add Joe Moore (because he earned his Eagle the previous year) and what you have is 10 youth that were part of a larger group of 25 boys that joined Hatboro Troop 3 back in the spring of 2007. These boys have grown into confident young men that will be graduating from high school this June. We will miss them.

My calculator tells me that this means that 40% of the scouts that joined the troop in 2007 made it to Eagle! Add to this list several other scouts that have stayed active but did not complete all of the requirements for Eagle and what you have is a remarkable collection of youth. To put this in perspective: nationally the BSA organization loses 50% of its scouts within the first year of their joining a Boy Scout troop, and then continue to lose 10% of the scouts each year after that. And an often recited statistic is that less than 3% of all boys who enter Boy Scouts make it to the rank of Eagle. Yet Troop 3 is reaping the benefits of boy leadership from 40+ % of the entering boys from that year.

This large number of Eagle Scouts should not in any way take away from the great challenge that was successfully met by these young men. Instead, what it speaks to is the power of the team. We had entering boys that came from multiple Cub Scout packs or who were completely new to Scouting. They came from different schools and communities spread across the region. Yet despite this diversity, they were able to come together as a group. The accomplishments earned by each scout were individual accomplishments. Each boy had his moments of doubt or challenge and each was ultimately able to rise above them. But at the same time, these individuals had the power of the team in support behind them. The other scouts were there to encourage, cajole, act as role models, whatever, to help their team mates achieve their goals. And this is not to lose sight of all the other scouts and scouters who helped them along their Path to Eagle.

So when you look at the troop calendar over the next few months and you notice the large number of troop meetings assigned to Eagle Court of Honors remember that starting group of 25 and how unusual it is for 10 of them to have made it to the finish line. We look forward to the continued success of all our scouts in Troop 3, no matter what their age and are thankful for all the individuals who have made this success possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH:

Summer Camp in Winter: The troop will spend 4 weeks in February and March working on advancement at the troop meetings. New scouts will work on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements as needed. Older scouts will have their choice of 4 merit badges to work on: Personal Management, Citizenship in the Community, Emergency Preparedness, and Electronics. The first three are indoor Eagle required badges that are best earned during the winter rather than at summer camp. Boys will be able to select a single merit badge that they will work on Feb 3, Feb 17, Feb 24, and March 10.

Summer Camp in July: Speaking of summer camp, the troop will be attending Resica Falls Scout Reservation Sunday, July 13 through Saturday, July 19. The cost for boys is \$375, with \$175 due Monday Feb 3. The camp charges a \$25 penalty for summer camp registrations deposits paid after Feb. 24. (Boys crossing over from Webelos are exempt from this penalty.) The fee for adults is \$180. Check out our web site at www.hatborotroop3.org for the registration form.

Camperships are available for those who need financial help to attend camp. We ask that you first apply for a council campership, due March 1 and available at www.colbsa.org/camperships/camperships/2013-campership-application.html

If you need additional help after the council makes their awards then the troop will provide further financial support. Our goal is to have every boy attend camp no matter what their financial situation. If you need financial help with the first deposit then please talk to Mr. Cooper or Mr. Gentry.

Scout Sunday, Feb. 9: Scout Sunday is always a special day in the Troop 3 year. It is a chance to share a morning of worship with our sponsoring organization, Hatboro Baptist Church. We are blessed to have a strong relationship with the church and are thankful for the support they give us. Please join us for the morning. We will be in Class A uniform and will meet at 10:30am for the 11:00-12:00 service. A number of boys will play a part in the morning's worship service.

Valley Forge Pilgrimage, Feb. 15: The Cradle of Liberty will hold their 102nd annual Valley Forge Pilgrimage on Saturday, Feb. 15. Troop 3 will not be attending as a troop, but the event is open to all scouts and their families. It will run from 8:45am to 2:00pm, cost \$13/person, and honor our continental soldiers that spent that cold winter on the site in 1777 and 1778. More information can be found at www.colbsa.org/pilgrimage-and-encampment/pilgrimage-encampment.html

Road from Life to Eagle, Feb. 19: The Washington District is offering a workshop on the process of going from Life to Eagle. They will talk about Eagle projects, approvals, the board of review process, and the various forms that need to be filled out to achieve Eagle. The meeting is open to all Star and Life scouts and their parents. It will be held from 7-9pm on Feb. 19 at the Willow Grove Giant Supermarket in one of the community rooms found on the second floor of the supermarket (staircase near front entrance close to York Road).

Bear Creek Ski Night, Rescheduled for Friday Feb. 28: The weather report has snow in the forecast. What better way to get into the swing of winter than a night of skiing, snowboarding, or snow-tubing. Mr. Pfeil has arranged for the troop to go skiing Friday, Feb. 28 from 4-11pm at Bear Creek Ski Area. This event is open to family and friends and is a great chance to learn to ski if you are new to the sport. Or if you are looking for something different why not snow tube. We will meet at Bear Creek anytime after 4pm depending on what your afternoon schedule looks like. Registration is due Monday, February 24. The form and information sheet can be found on our website at www.hatborotroop3.org.

Dylan Callum Eagle Ceremony, February 10: An Eagle court of honor is an important event in the life of the new Eagle Scout and his family. But it is also an important event in the life of the troop. All of our scouts benefit from seeing one of their peers achieve this high rank. Please join us as we recognize Dylan's achievement on Feb. 10th.

KEY FUTURE EVENT

Ham Supper, March 15: The ham supper is an important event for the troop and it is expected that all scouts and their parents will help. We will be distributing tickets to the scouts on February 3. Tickets and money need to be returned by March 10. The other critical part to running a successful supper is having both boys and parents involved with the operation of the dinner. We will again use an online signup system to organize our volunteers. It should be up and operating shortly.

PAST EVENTS

Resica Falls Camping Trip, Jan. 17-19: We had a very successful camping trip at Resica Falls in the middle of January. Thanks go to our trip coordinator Mr. Ehly, our senior patrol leader Nick Kelly, and all of our adults including those who ran the rifle and shotgun range for the boys. It was a fun weekend with lots of program options available to the boys.

Camp Hart Iditarod Camping Trip, Jan. 31-Feb. 2: We also just returned from our February outing. We had a hearty group of scouts who camped in tents and competed in the district-wide Iditarod scout skills competition at Camp Hart. Mr. Lauer was our trip coordinator and Jason Graf stepped in as senior patrol leader and sled captain.

February Calendar
Theme = Summer Camp in Winter

Assignments: Preopening (League), Opening (Asbestos), Closing (Asbestos), Service (Border)

Monthly Troop Outing: Iditarod Competition, Camp Hart, Jan. 31 – Feb. 2

- Feb 3 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Merit badge advancement and OA elections
- Feb 5 7:30pm – **TLC** – Mr. Gentry's house, 6 Sweet Gum Ln, Horsham
- Feb 9 10:30am – **Scout Sunday** – Hatboro Baptist Church (wear full Class A uniform)
- Feb 10 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Dylan Callum Eagle Court of Honor
- Feb 12 7:30pm – **District Roundtable and OA Chapter Mtg** – Roychester Community House, 2002 Parkview Avenue, Abington
- Feb 13 7:30pm – **Staff Meeting**– Mr. Cooper's house, 133 Loller Rd, Hatboro. Bring a platter of food to share with others
- Feb 15 8:40am – **Valley Forge Pilgrimage**
- Feb 17 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Merit badge advancement
- Feb 19 7:00pm – **Life to Eagle workshop** – Willow Grove Giant Supermarket
- Feb 24 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Merit badge advancement
- Feb 27 6:30pm – **Annual Cradle of Liberty Council Dinner** – Crowne Plaza Valley Forge