

HATBORO BOY SCOUT TROOP 3

Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA

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TROOP 3 NEWSLETTER

Dear Scout Families,

Last month I spoke about the large group of Troop 3 scouts that will be graduating from high school this June. We will miss the boys. Their departure will leave a hole in the troop both in numbers and more importantly in leadership. I am reminded of the 1967 movie *To Sir With Love* starring Sidney Poitier. He spends the entire movie working with a group of youth—watching them grow into confident and mature young adults. But as he basks in their success at the end, the movie closes with a scene where we see the next set of students with whom Mr. Thackarey (Sidney Poitier) will need to start all over with going back to the beginning of the process.

To that end, while we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors we also celebrate their replacements — the newest set of 5th grade boys joining Troop 3. We have 8 boys crossing over to us from 5 different Cub Scout packs. We also have 2 boys who have already or will be joining the troop but are new to Scouting. I always tell visiting parents that my first priority is that boys find some home with a Boy Scout troop that they feel comfortable with, whether it is our troop or some other troop. I want to see all of the boys in our community have the benefit of what Scouting has to offer. Our new scouts will not be able to replace all of the experience and leadership that we are losing to graduation, but that is the beauty of the organization. Scouting is not about what they initially bring to the troop. It is all about the skills and confidence that they develop during the years while they are in Scouting.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH:

Ham and Turkey Supper, March 15: The date for the annual ham and turkey supper is Saturday, March 15. The dinner is an important event for the troop and it is expected that all scouts and their parents will help. It is the one fund raising event we do during the year for the benefit of the troop. Proceeds go to buying all of the awards the boys earn and to keeping our camping equipment in good repair. Tickets have already been distributed to the scouts. Unsold tickets and money need to be returned by the start of the troop meeting March 10. Boys going on the Mt. Washington trip will need to arrange with Mr. Waeltz to return their tickets before they leave for New Hampshire.

The other critical part to running a successful supper is having both boys and parents involved with the operation of the dinner. As said before, it is expected that all boys and parents participate in this event. We are using an online signup system for our parent and Scouter volunteers. Please go to the site at <http://alturl.com/5mrvv> and sign up for times that you can help. Boys are being asked to sign up at the troop meeting. Boys will set up tables at 9am on Saturday, and then should return to the church by 3:30pm.

Washington DC Trip, Mar. 21-23: Our March camping trip is to Washington DC. We are staying inside at a nearby YMCA Meeting Center that is located close to the Metro. Activities include a tour of the Capital building Saturday morning, Washington under the lights Saturday evening, and a visit to Ford's Theatre on Sunday. The cost of the trip is \$127 which is on the expensive side, but it includes lodging, meals, metro tickets, and transportation. Scouts will be expected to wear their uniforms in the city on Saturday. Registrations forms for the trip are due Monday, March 10 and are available on the troop website.

Mt. Washington Venture Trip, Mar. 8-11: A group of intrepid venture Scouts and Scouters are going to take on the mountain and the weather by trying to scale Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. Armed with only cold-weather gear, ice axes, crampons, and lots of gumption, the group will try to ascend one of the windiest places on Earth. In the summer it is an easy car ride to the top, but in the winter... The group will be leaving early Saturday morning and will return Tuesday. You can follow the weather conditions and see streaming video feeds from the top by going to www.mountwashington.org/weather/summit.php.

Camp Card Fund Raising: This is a completely optional program that we will be offering to our scouts. It is meant to help out those who are looking for ways to help cover their camp costs. We will have Cradle of Liberty Camp Cards that the boys will sell for \$5 each and the entire troop's profit of \$2.50 per card will be credited back to the individual scout's camping account. These cards offer a number of discounts with local merchants. Simply buying at least \$40 of groceries at ShopRite gives the card holder a \$5 discount at the store, which completely pays for the card. Why not give that money to a scout's camping experience rather than to the grocery store. Other merchants include Papa John's, McDonalds, Applebees, and Modells. This is a great way to help cover the costs of attending summer camp and/or other troop activities. Mr. McKay is organizing the program and will roll it out on Monday, March 17. Scouts will have one month to sell cards.

Troop camperships are available to families who need help covering summer camp costs, but one of the things we look at when we receive a request is whether the scouts have tried to help themselves by participating in last fall's Applebee's breakfast fundraiser, the ham and turkey dinner, or selling camp cards.

Eagle Court of Honors: Jason Graf, Mar. 10, and Taylor Lauer, Mar. 24: 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 seeing one of their peers achieve this high rank. Please join us as we recognize Jason's and Taylor's accomplishments.

Investiture Ceremony, March 31: After celebrating scouts reaching the highest honor in scouting we will then turn to our newest Scouts. We will hold an Investiture ceremony for all

new boys joining the troop. It will be held Monday, March 31 at 8:30pm. We will meet with parents at 8:00pm to answer questions about camping trips, equipment, or anything else that needs clarification.

District Pinewood Derby, March 16: Mr. Blum is heading up the Washington District Pinewood Derby. This year's derby is going to be held at the Willow Grove Mall on March 16. They will be setting up at 10:30am. Registration is set for 12:30, with the races beginning at 1:00. Mr. Blum and the district would appreciate any help they can get from our scouts to help with the smooth running of the event.

PAST EVENTS

Scout Sunday: Our Scouts did a great job at the Hatboro Baptist worship service on Scout Sunday. Multiple people in the congregation went out of their way to comment on how impressed they were with our boys. Thanks go out to all the Scouts who played a role in the service, be it speaking, doing the offering, handing out bulletins at the beginning, or just sitting in support with the troop. We are thankful for all the support that the church offers us as our charter organization.

Valley Forge Pilgrimage: The Cradle of Liberty held their 102nd annual Valley Forge Pilgrimage in February. This is the longest running BSA event in the nation. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Tellmann, and Mr. Blum helped out.

Cradle of Liberty Annual Dinner: Speaking of the Cradle of Liberty Council, our intrepid VT3 video crew once again provided service to the council. The crew taped the Silver Beaver recipients several weeks before the dinner, and then taped the dinner itself. Thanks go to Mr. John, Mr. Howanetz, Taylor Lauer, Jason Graf, Kyler Grimes, and Dan Howanetz for their service.

Bear Creek Ski Night, Rescheduled for Friday Feb. 28: It took a couple of tries but we had a successful family night of skiing and tubing at Bear Creek Ski Area. The weather was cold but more importantly there was snow on the ground. This sure beats trying to ski in the warm, rainy, and rocky conditions we have had other years. Thanks go to Mr. Pfeil for organizing this event.

March Calendar
Theme = US History

Assignments: Preopening (That), Opening (League of EG), Closing (Barbarians), Service (Asbestos)

Monthly Troop Outing: Washington DC, Mar. 21-23

- Mar 3 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Merit badge advancement
- Mar 5 7:30pm – **NO TLC** – meeting was rescheduled to previous week, Feb. 26
- Mar. 8 6:00am – **Mt. Washington** - Meet at Hatboro Baptist Church
Mar. 11 pm - Return to Hatboro Baptist Church
- Mar 10 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Jason Graf Eagle Court of Honor
- Mar 12 7:30pm – **District Roundtable and OA Chapter Mtg** –Roychester Community House, 2002 Parkview Avenue, Abington
- Mar 13 7:30pm – **Staff Meeting**– Mr. Cooper’s house, 133 Loller Rd, Hatboro.
- Mar. 15 9:00am – **Ham and Turkey Supper** – set up
3:30pm – – dinner
- Mar 16 10:30am – **District Pinewood Derby** – Willow Grove Mall
Set-up at 10:30, Registration at 12:30, Races at 1:00
- Mar 17 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Merit badge advancement
- Mar. 21 6:00pm – **Washington DC Trip** - Meet at Hatboro Baptist Church
Mar. 23 5:00pm - Return to Hatboro Baptist Church
- Mar 24 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Taylor Lauer Eagle Court of Honor
- Mar 31 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Revolutionary war re-enactment activity
(Nick Kelly and Jason Graf)
– New Scout Investiture at 8:30, Parents’ Mtg at 8:00