

HATBORO BOY SCOUT TROOP 3

Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA

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TROOP 3 NEWSLETTER

Dear Scout Families,

This is the time of year when we welcome new scouts to Troop 3. This year we celebrate the joining of a group of older scouts who are joining Troop 3 after their troop unfortunately decided to terminate their program. At the same time we have a number of younger boys that are joining Boy Scouts for the first time. We have 7 Webelos crossing over from Cub Programs, another who took a brief hiatus from Scouting and is now returning, and two boys who 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 think that Troop 3 has a lot to offer, but more importantly 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 an active and great group of graduating seniors, but that is the beauty of the organization. Scouting is not about what boys 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 14: The date for the annual ham and turkey supper is Saturday, March 14. 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 9. 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/vkyar> 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 in uniform (but no neckerchiefs) by 3:30pm.

TLC, RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 11: The March TLC has been moved on the calendar. Instead of meeting the normal 1st Wed. of the month we will be meeting the 2nd Wed. in March at Mr. Gentry's house.

Camp Rodney, Mar. 20-22: Our March camping trip is to the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. We will be camping outside, cooking with our patrols, climbing and repelling on a rock wall, and doing some compass orienteering. It should be a fun weekend of outdoor scout activities. The cost of the trip is \$20 plus the cost of patrol food for the weekend. Registrations are due by March 16. Our trip coordinator, Mr. Walsh, can answer any questions you might have. walsh5@comcast.net

Mt. Washington Venture Trip, Mar. 7-10: 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 starting Monday, March 16. It is meant to help out those who are looking for ways to cover their camp costs. We will have Cradle of Liberty Camp Cards that the boys will sell for \$5 each and the entire 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 or Acme 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 16. 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.

Investiture Ceremonies, March 23 and 30: We have several sets of scouts that we want to officially welcome into Troop 3. We have several older scouts who have transferred into our troop. We will present them with our Troop 3 neckerchiefs on March 23. The following week we will have an investiture ceremony for our newest scouts who are joining from Webelos or from other backgrounds. The Investiture ceremony for our new scouts will be held at 8:30 on the 30th. We will meet with parents at 8:00 pm to answer questions about camping trips, equipment, summer camp, or anything else that needs clarification. As is our tradition, we ask the boys'

mothers to present the boys with their first badge in Boy Scouts, and then will ask them to do the same when they earn the rank of Eagle.

VT3 Community Good Turn, March 6: The Hatboro-Horsham School District has asked Troop 3 to video tape the district band concert to be held at Keith Valley Middle School. Students from all over the Philadelphia region will be performing. The concert itself begins at 7:00pm, but Mr. John is asking for the video crew to show up at 5:30 to help set up the equipment. The district has also asks us to offer DVD's for sale for all the proud parents. Mr. John could use a couple of volunteers to sell orders for the DVD's in the lobby. Please contact Mr. John if you can help.

Summer Camp in July: The troop will be attending Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rhode Island. We will be leaving Saturday, July 18 and returning Sunday, July 26. The cost for boys is \$480 and \$175 for adults. The payment schedule is (\$120/\$120/\$120/120) due by Feb. 23rd, Mar. 23rd, Apr. 27th, and May 18th. Check out our web site at www.hatborotroop3.org for the registration form.

Troop camperships are available for those who need financial help to attend camp. 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.

Wilderness First Aid: Many of us have taken a regular Red Cross First Aid course which is designed to stabilize patients for the 5-10 minutes that it would take an ambulance to arrive with advanced care. But what do you do when there is a problem when you are out backpacking in the woods and help is far away? Owen Adams has offered to teach a Wilderness First Aid class for anyone interested. The course is strongly suggested for any adult participating in either troop or national high adventure programs, but is a good idea for the rest of us as well. Own has suggested two possible dates. Please let Owen know as soon as you can if you are interested in taking the course and let him know which of the two options is best for you. Cost to follow. If you have a prior book let him know or if more than 1 from a family will be taking the course and plan to share a book let him know. Owen's email address is: adamscpr@msn.com

Option #1) Sat. March 7 8:00AM - 3:30 PM, Sun. March 8 8:00AM - 4:00PM
Option #2) Sat. March 7 8:00AM - 3:30PM, Sun. March 8 12:00PM - 4:00 PM
Sat. March 21 1:00PM - 4:40PM

KEY FUTURE EVENTS

Parents Meeting, April 6: Our semi-annual parents meeting will be held Monday, April 6. We will be celebrating all of the advancement earned by the boys over the past 6 months as well as reviewing all of the rest of our troop activities. As always, a highlight for the evening will be Mr. John's video highlighting all that our boys have done since October.

Cradle of Liberty Merit Badge College, April 11 and May 2: Registration is now open for Cradle of Liberty Council's second Merit Badge College on Saturdays April 11 and May 2, 2015 at the Valley Forge Military Academy & College in Wayne. A Scout is able to earn up to four merit badges by completing prerequisites in advance of the first session, completing additional

requirements between the two sessions, and of course by attending and participating in the two Saturday class events.

Fifty badges are being offered including seven Eagle required badges, many STEM badges, a Nova Award Badge, and other seldom offered badges. There is a limit of 500 Scouts so don't delay and miss this opportunity. The cost is \$26 per Scout which will include lunch for both days and a patch.

Registrations closed early last year due to the popularity of the event so you will want to register early. More information and registration can be found at www.colbsa.org/mbc

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.

Community Good Turn, Hatboro Borough Ball: Troop 3 was asked to take care of the staging and videotaping of the Hatboro Borough Ball. Thanks to everyone who made the evening a success. We had Scouts and Scouters out in the morning moving stages and sound equipment, and then the VT3 video crew was there for the evening program.

Monthly Trip - Harrisburg: We had a great time in Harrisburg and Hershey this past month. Mr. Balot arranged for us to stay in the barracks at Fort Indiantown Gap. On Saturday we had a tour of the state capital and then went to the state museum. That evening we had fun watching the Hershey Bears WIN a hockey game. We had to be flexible with the weekend due to snow, but the Scouts were great in going with the flow.

March Calendar
Theme = Camping Skills

Assignments: Preopening (Florida Monument), Opening (Duct Tape), Closing (Me), Service (Phoenix)

Monthly Troop Outing: Camp Rodney, Maryland

Mar 1 3:45pm – **Pack 17 Webelos Cross-over**, Lehman Methodist Church, Hatboro

Mar 2 7:30pm – **Troop Meeting** – Jeopardy Game – Pennsylvania Fun Facts

Mar 6 – **District Band Concert**
5:30 – 8:00 - video crew
6:00 – 8:00 - sales of video DVD's

Mar 7 3:00pm – **Pack 410 Webelos Cross-over**, Simmons Elementary School

Mar. 7 6:00am – **Mt. Washington** - Meet at Hatboro Baptist Church
Mar. 10 pm - Return to Hatboro Baptist Church

Mar 9 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Rock climbing demo

Mar 11 7:30pm – ***** TLC RESCHEDULED TO WED. MAR 11 *****

Mar 11 7:30pm – **District Roundtable and OA Chapter Mtg** –Roychester Community House, 2002 Parkview Avenue, Abington

Mar 12 7:15pm – **Troop Staff Meeting**– Mr. Cooper's house, 133 Loller Rd, Hatboro

Mar. 14 9:00am – **Ham and Turkey Supper** – set up
3:30pm – – dinner

Mar 16 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Extended Patrol Corners and Extended Game

Mar 20 6:00pm – **Camp Rodney Trip** - Meet at Hatboro Baptist Church
Mar 22 1:00pm - Dismissed from Hatboro Baptist Church

Mar 23 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Knot demos and game

Mar 30 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – Camp safety skits

April 7 7:15pm – **Troop Meeting** – **PARENTS MEETING**