



We're Going Places!

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Troop 839 November Newsletter

What we did This Month

November was bike month. We had a speaker from the Kingwood Bicycle Shop who talked about bike maintenance. We also had internal speakers who discussed bike safety. When we went to Lake Houston Wilderness Park we were able to use what we learned and rode for over 4 hours (nearly 15 miles). During this ride we completed requirement 7 of the Cycling merit badge. Mr. Patterson also provided a class to seven scouts to complete requirements 1-6 of the Cycling merit badge, while other's had free time. Afterward, all scouts played capture the flag. Fun was had by all!





Fall Court Of Honor

As a celebration and acknowledgement of the Scouts progress towards becoming Eagle Scouts, this fall Court of Honor provided an opportunity for friends and family see the results of all their Scouts efforts. During this Court of Honor, 120 merit badges and 21 rank advancements were recognized. A special note, since the winter Court of Honor we have 7 new Eagle Scouts. A big thank you to First Presbyterian Church for being able to host this special event in their Sanctuary.



November Merit Badges



Tommy A	Family Life*	11/15/20
Oliver B	Cycling*	11/14/20
Morgan L	Cycling*	11/14/20
Aidan L	Climbing	11/23/20
Nate M	Cycling*	11/14/20
	Radio	11/23/20
Cody M	Motorboating	11/23/20
Tyler P	Camping*	11/14/20
	Climbing	11/23/20
	Cycling*	11/14/20
Scott S	Cycling*	11/14/20
Christian T	Climbing	11/23/20
	Cycling*	11/14/20
Jonathan T	Cycling*	11/14/20

*Eagle Merit Badges



Upcoming in December & January



In December our focus is upon Horsemanship merit badge. Looking forward to a few special guest speakers on Horsemanship prior to the campout. Our horseback riding campout will be at the Horseback Rodeo in Conroe December 11th through the 13th.

Remember our troop elections are December 7th. See the troop website for the leadership application if you want to run for or apply for an office of responsibility.

Eight service hours (perfect for Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge!) are available for those who volunteer with Wreaths Across America. Sign-ups are in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall before the troop meetings.

Don't forget to turn in your selections for merit badges for Winter Camp! We will be at Lake Houston Wilderness Park over the Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend January 16th through the 18th. Please see Mr. deMasi for registration forms for both Scouts and adults!

Rank Advancements



Andrei B	First Class	11/14/20
Joshua Y	First Class	11/14/20

Congratulations on a job well done!



Scoutmaster Thoughts

Hey Troop!

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with their families. It may sometimes feel like there's not much to be thankful for this year but our lives are filled with so many silver linings. As a Troop, we discovered how to see Scouting through a different, Zoom, lens (I can hear the groans) to keep moving forward on our journey. We welcomed new members into our Troop family and restarted more normal activities. This past month, we enjoyed cycling through Lake Houston Wilderness Park; even though at some points it may have felt like a hiking camp out. We even hosted Pack 610 during our campfire program and it was great to share with the younger Scouts and their families. We honored so many accomplishments during our Court of Honor which demonstrated the resilience of Troop 839. As we leave November, it's time to look forward to our December activities of hosting several Webelo Dens, Troop elections and saddling up for our Horsemanship camp out. Giddy Up!

YIS

Jorge Piñón
Scoutmaster
Troop 839



SPL Thoughts

Howdy troop!

The past month was a lot of fun at Lake Houston Wilderness Park. We had a blast biking over 12 miles on the trails.

This month we have Horsemanship merit badge. I can't wait to see people learn how to saddle and possibly ride a horse for the first time. And if you already have the merit badge, this will be a great time to sharpen those skills!

YIS

Spencer G
Senior Patrol Leader
Troop 839

IMPORTANT DATES



Topic

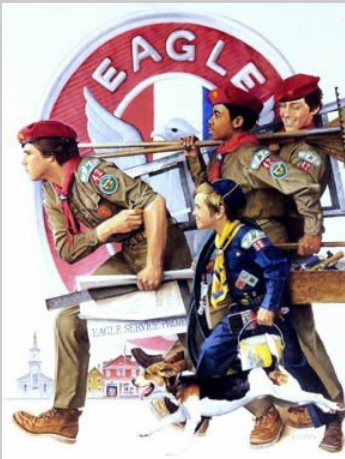
Date

Wreaths Across America	December 19, 2020
No school	December 21 - 31, 2020
Christmas	December 25, 2020
New Years	January 1, 2021
No School	January 1 - 4, 2021
Bark Mulch Packets Distributed	January 11, 2021
Winter Camp	January 16-18, 2021
MLK Day	January 18, 2021
Bark Mulch Sales Day Blitz	January 24, 2021

Mark your Calendars!

BOY SCOUT LAW
A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal,
Friendly, Helpful,
Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, CHEERFUL,
Thrifty, BRAVE,
Clean, & Reverent.

Advancement Notes



Now that we are meeting in person at the First Presbyterian Church, all merit badge requests will follow the “Winning at Merit Badges – 10 Steps” below. As long as we are meeting in person, blue cards will be used for tracking progress and the completing of merit badges. The Scoutmaster will let us know in the event that we will need to start up virtual signoff of merit badges again. Give Mr. Torres an early request notice, by emailing him your request for a merit badge at Advancement@troop839.com and he will bring it to the next troop meeting.

For Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews, all efforts will be to have these in person. Limits on the number adults available at Troop Meetings for Board of Reviews may result in some still being virtual.

WINNING AT MERIT BADGES - 10 STEPS

1. Select a merit badge.
2. Obtain Blue Card from Mr. Torres (Advancement Chair).
3. Contact the merit badge Counselor.
4. Begin work on the merit badge.
5. Review with the Counselor.
6. Finish the merit badge.
7. Review with the merit badge Counselor.
8. Obtain the Scoutmaster's signature.
9. Turn in the signed blue card to Mr. Torres.
10. Received the merit badge.

Mr. deMasi's Announcement

Wreaths Across America-Houston Service Hours: Saturday, December 19th

- Event:** The traditional wreath laying event has been changed due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is now a Drive-Thru event to maintain social distancing.
- Need:** At some point some sections of the cemetery will be filled to a point where it becomes a problem with social distancing. We need Scouts and Scout Radio Operators to help monitor the sections for crowds. You will not have to deal with the problem. Each Scout will be paired with a Radio Scout as a team. We may also have some opportunity for traffic control.
- Time:** It all starts at 8:00am and should be done by 2:00pm.
- Sign-Up:** Signing up is required. We have to let the cemetery know how many people will be on site.
- Bonus:** We will bring around snacks and drinks to your area. The day comes with a patch. Yes, all of those hours are Service Hours.

All you need to do is to let us know that you want to do it. We will be adding all the names to a list. Send the email to committeechair@troop839.com

Here is the Troop 839 for wreath fundraising if you like:
<https://waahouston.salsalabs.org/2020a/t/bsatroop839/index.html>

YIS
Mr. deMasi



Other Announcements

Hello Troop!

Now that we are meeting in-person it is very important to remember we must abide by the Church's request to wear masks at all times inside the church building and to maintain social distancing while both inside and outside the church building. It was made very clear to us that violations of these rules will cause us to lose our ability to meet in-person. Let's show them that Scouts can do it right!

Speaking of social distancing, we are making another change when it comes to arrival to and departure from campouts. Instead of limiting the number of people to three people per vehicle, we are leaving it to the discretion of the parents. That said, the Troop *STRONGLY ENCOURAGES* maintaining social distancing at all times.

If you have not expressed your interest for Summer Camp, please do so as quickly as possible. Mrs. Seay and Mr. Pinon have sent links to express your interest in attending Summer Camp 2021 at the new Camp Strake. You can turn in your first payment along with your recharter paperwork.

The Troop Committee would like to send a Shout Out to everyone who camped in September and/or October! Thanks to your efforts we have had no real issues with ANYTHING. You are getting along, you are social distancing, and you are wearing masks – all things we need to ensure we can continue to camp. WAY TO GO!

Yours in Scouting,
David Godell
Committee Chair