

Eagle Bound

Troop 85 Newsletter-October 16, 2016

Scoutmaster Minute:

It's amazing to look back 70 years and imagine what Troop 85 was like in the beginning. As many of you know, our original Troop was made up of, exclusively, WWII orphans - boys who probably felt quite afraid and alone until they discovered how transformative leadership, a robust camping program and camaraderie can be. The vision of the Williamsville United Methodist Church, to create a Boy Scout Troop for them, made a profound impact on their lives and the community as a whole. Troop 85 grew and evolved over the next few years and the membership expanded to include the entire community. Once The Methodist Home for Children sold their property, and become Gateway (a home for at risk youth) in the early 60's, the affiliation with the church came to an end and the secret history of our Troop laid buried for decades - like one of those time capsules.

As unique as our origin is, it pales in significance when we consider the *longevity* of Troop 85. Many other community Troops have folded over the years...struggling to hold together, losing membership or losing their way organizationally. But not Troop 85. We only seem to be getting stronger and stronger and have created a culture of leadership training, retention of membership, Eagle Scout numbers that far exceed the National average by 10-20 times and one of the most diverse and exciting outdoor programs in all of Western New York. And I've been around for more than half of it. Yet, it does not make me feel old. It instead makes me feel overwhelming pride. The percentage of my life that does not include Scouting *pales compared to* the portion that does. It's just ingrained into me.

I wanted to take an opportunity to say thank you to our entire Reunion Committee for making our 70th Anniversary such a memorable night. And thanks also for the kind words, letters and recognition bestowed upon me for my 40th consecutive year in the BSA. Many of you donated financially towards a gift which was very much appreciated. So thank you, all of you for making the day truly special. Yet, after all the memories shared, proclamations read, catered dinner consumed and memorabilia viewed, the highlight of the event, for me, was the addition of two more Eagle Scouts in the Troop. These are the moments that I cherish the most year after year. Seeing the transformative effect of attaining Scouting's highest honor. I look forward to seeing, hopefully, 12 more Eagle Scouts in the next couple years as the Troop currently has that many Life Scouts. And 5 years from now I look forward to our 75th Anniversary - which will be quite a major milestone for us.

Scouting has changed and evolved over the years and I think in very good ways. 70 years is only a beginning...a groundwork laid down by those before us and a torch we carry forward today. Let us never forget how we came to be and how we still are, in many ways, a family of Scouts.

YIS,

Steve Dubois
Scoutmaster

Senior Patrol Leader Message:

First of all, I am very excited to be this year's SPL. It was an honor to be elected, and I can't wait to help lead the troop this year. As SPL, I have many plans for this year. In recent years, we have made great progress on advancing our scouts. I would like to continue this trend, by hopefully getting all of our scouts to first class. Another thing I want to do with the troop this year, is complete merit badges. At our first meeting of the year, we took a vote and decided what merit badges we want to do this year. We decided on Pulp and Paper, Cooking, Family Life, and Personal Fitness. These are great merit badges that the troop has chosen because the majority of them are eagle required, which will also help our older scouts advance. This year will be a great scouting year, and I can't wait to be a part of it.

Michael Lorenz
Senior Patrol Leader

Meetings and Patrols

Meetings are from 7:15 to 8:45 PM and we request that scouts arrive at 7:10 sharp so that our meetings can begin on time. A reminder to everyone – there is no troop meeting on the Monday after a campout. The Junior Leaders meet on that night to review the campout and to plan the following month.

The **Senior Patrol Leader** (SPL) this year is **Mike Lorenz**
His **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader's** (ASPL) are **Mike Anders & Nick Sanderson**
The **Patrol Leader's** (PL) are **Justin Hager, Brandon Leonis, David Palumbo, Aaron Stanley**

Their **Assistant Patrol Leader's** (APL) are **Dominic Licata, Cole Wilkins**
The **Troop Guides** are **Noah Trillizio & Allon Watson**
Our **Junior Assistant Scoutmaster** (JASM) will be **Ryan Seiden**

****PHOTOGRAPHER** – We are looking for an interested scout to take over as Troop Photographer – please see Steve regarding this special assignment.

Committee Chair Corner

Dear Families of Troop 85,

I would like to congratulate everyone on a successful summer camp experience and valuable ALT sessions. I hope everyone had a happy, safe, and fun filled summer. This year looks to be another great year of Scouting and I am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing things that our boys accomplish this year. As your Committee Chair, it has been a busy year, offering swimming merit badge for our scouts, conducting swim tests for summer camp, spending a full week at summer camp and the many other duties I am reasonable for. Many people joked about how brave I was for doing a full week. We had a great week at summer camp. The weather was great, HOT, but great. I really enjoyed observing the boys engaged in

their badge classes and working together as a unit. Our boys had a great time and learned a lot. I would like to note that I was able to be witness to an amazing event that took place our last night of camp. As some of you may know, Henry Howe moved the morning after he got back from camp, to Boston Massachusetts. On our last night, some of the older scouts planned an unofficial bonfire and a farewell get together to say good bye to Henry. As I woke the next morning, I saw that all of the older boys at fallen asleep in their chairs in a circle in the very same positions they were the night before. They all looked so peaceful and I was so moved to see this. Some of our scouts have been together for a long time and have become great friends.

Our new scouts did great. A few were home sick, but they pushed through and made it through their first summer camp. I am so proud of all of them. They made me laugh on so many occasions and their energy and laughter was so contagious.

It is with a heavy heart that I will be stepping down as Committee Chair. I would like to announce that Aaron Stanley will be Troop 85 new Committee Chair. Thank you Aaron. I will still be doing the Swim Merit Badge, and the swim tests for summer camp. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the adult leaders and parents of troop 85.

Thank you all for your support throughout the years.

Rebecca A. Chirico-Hager
Committee Chair

A Word from The Treasurer

A Word from The Treasurer:

We typically start every scout year with the excitement of looking forward to the campouts, the advancement, and the general sense of enjoyment that scouting brings. This year we have another factor adding to the excitement: We are starting off the year with the strongest financial footing we have had in at least 4 years. Based on our existing budget, including our campout costs, and our forecasted income, the **annual dues have been lowered to \$60 per scout for the 2016-2017 year.**

Note: Dues payments need to be made to the Troop by 11/15/16.

While we earn a significant income from the fish frys and the pancake breakfasts, our single greatest income source is popcorn sales. Please make every effort to sell as much popcorn as possible. Approximately 1/3 of the popcorn sales revenue generated goes directly to our troop.

A few money-matter notes:

* Please use our reimbursement request form whenever submitting a receipt for reimbursement These very short ¼ page forms provide a record of our reimbursements.

* Submit any reimbursement request from camping trips within 10 business of days of the date on the receipt.

* ANY checks made out for ANY payment to Troop 85 such as for popcorn sales, dues, or campout attendance, should be made out to “BSA Troop 85”.

* If you receive a reimbursement check from the troop, please cash or deposit it promptly; ideally within the next 5 business days after receiving the check. This greatly helps in tracking our troop’s cash flow.

Looking forward to another fulfilling and rewarding year for Troop 85 scouts and families,

Jon Nickerson

Treasurer, BSA Troop 85

Venture Patrol

Troop 85 Venture Patrol

The purpose of the venture patrol is to provide older scouts the opportunity of having a youth-lead scouting program with greater challenges than would be achievable within the troop or mixed aged patrols. This is done through “trips of a lifetime” that offer memorable destinations, challenging activities, and fun. Venture patrol is not a BSA program but a cross between a Venture Crew and Troop Patrol. Boy Scout awards are available to earn for activities but only Venture Crews can earn venture achievements.

The youth set the schedule and leadership for the events and trips. The advisor(s) acts to provide experience and safety contingencies. The venture patrol events are funded by the scouts participating in the activity and do not use troop funds. The group equipment is provided by the troop. This includes backpacking tents, light weight stoves, light weight cooking gear, water filters. When appropriate the troop also uses this equipment.

High adventure trips are planned each summer. Efforts are made not to interfere with summer camp, youth leadership training, or summer school which dictates our trip the third week of August most years. The trip is determined in the scout year prior to the trip. This one to two-year lead time gives youth leaders, participants, and chaperones enough time to plan, train, and save for most trips.

High adventure does not mean high expense or long distance travel. Philmont, Sea Base, and other BSA high adventure bases are great places to go and the troop will do its best to support those trips if scouts and scout families truly want to have those experiences. Families need to understand that the costs of such trip are typically \$2000-\$3000 per person or more. Unless the youth decide to do one of these trips, the plans will be more modest with costs of \$200-\$800.

Summer 2011-High Peaks near Lake Placid NY

We spent 5 days in the High Peak of the Adirondacks. 7 youth and 5 adults which included recent troop alumni. Rented 3 lean-tos at John’s Brook Lodge. Climbed Mount Marcy and several other ADK high peaks. Trip cost was \$125 per person.

Summer 2012-Cranberry Lake 50

Backpacking 52 miles near Cranberry Lake on a loop trail. 4 youth 3 adults. Cost \$140 per person.

Summer 2013-Cycling the C&O Canal w/Washington DC tour

This trip was 5 days of cycling on the C&O canal from Cumberland MD to Washington DC. This trip included a venture only portion and a full troop portion. Venture patrol cycled 200 + miles to Washington DC meeting the troop and toured historic sites for 4 days. \$315 for full trip (9 days) and \$195 for DC only (4 days).

Summer 2014-Nantucket

Cycling on the island of Nantucket for 6 days. Activities include oceanography merit badge, conservation project, beach swimming, and museum visits. Staying on BSA camp Russell. Trip cost \$350 (approx.).

Summer 2015-Cranberry Lake 50 (again!)

Backpacking 52 miles around beautiful Cranberry Lake. 4 youth 3 adults (again!). Cost \$140 per person.

Fall 2016 – Bristol Mountain Ropes Course (day trip)

Winter 2016 – Sledding, Snowshoeing, and Eating at Chestnut Ridge State Park (day trip)

Summer 2015- Nantucket (again!)

Cycling on the island of Nantucket and possibly visiting mainland Cape Cod attractions. Activities include beach swimming, museum visits, and much more. Staying on BSA camp Russell. Trip cost \$350 (approx.).

Drivers

Scout campouts and outings would not be possible without the help of parents as drivers and chaperones. The troop appreciates the support you have all given in the past. Look at each of the campouts and choose a few that you would like to drive to, then tell Mr. Seidan. Most importantly, **please respond to the e-vites**, even if it is a maybe. It's the only way we know who is planning to attend an event and we need this information to plan for drivers.

Camping

All troop activities have been planned with a list included in this newsletter. Please use it to mark your calendar now. **Make scout outings your first choice this year!**

Before almost every campout, we gather at the Williamsville United Methodist Church parking lot. Departure times may vary a bit due to driving distance, so look for announcements before every trip. Monday after each campout, but **elected scouts is required to attend the Jr. Leader meeting** on those days.

Our camping fee this year will be approximately \$20 per scout per event. Chaperones don't pay for campouts.

****Cancellation Policy for Trips**:**

You cannot change your RSVP after the Wednesday before a campout using the E-vite. Any and all cancellations in attendance must be texted directly to Steve at **(716) 553-6370**. Any cancellations received after 6:30 on Thursday shopping nights will still cost families \$10.00 per scout. We are shopping for your food and cancellations cost the Troop money in food we cannot return and have bought for each scout.

POPCORN (Fundraising)

Hello Troop 85!

Our 2016 popcorn selling season is off to a great start. Including the table sales and any donations we received, the troop has collected almost \$5,000 as of the mid-sale check-in. Thank you to Mr. Posses and Mr. Kerr for their assistance in the sale this year.

Mr. Posses was able to coordinate the table sale events through the month of September, giving the scouts in the Troop the opportunity to participate in show and sell events at Ed Youngs in the village of Williamsville. We had over 20 scouts participate in the events across 5 weekends of sales. Everyone did a great job welcoming potential customers and thanked them for their sales as well as their monetary contributions to our troop. It was a terrific display of Scout professionalism.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we were able to double our sales over last year's event. This is an extremely important statistic considering that this is our largest fundraiser which helps to support our activities all year! Keep up the good work Scouts and let's all continue to work diligently toward achieving our Troop's goal of \$11,400 this year. As of the mid-sale check-in, we are 37% of the way there!

If time permits, the end of sale prize raffle will be held at our Troop meeting on 10/24/16. As for the mid-sale prize raffle all the show and sell as well as table sales have been tallied and the raffle tickets have been assigned according to the sales. We had a scouts who had as many as 16 tickets / \$813 in sales in the raffle. The winner had 9 tickets / \$478 in sales in the raffle ... AND THE WINNER IS John Kerr! Congratulations John!

Don't forget the sale continues till 10/24/16. Please make arrangements to make payments, submit take orders, return any unsold inventory, and make your council prize selection by that date.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me any time. Good Luck Selling!

Aaron Stanley
2016 Popcorn Kernel
Troop 85

Mobile: (716) 430-8036
E-mail: aaron.stanley@greenhomerevolution.com

Let me know if you have any questions, or need me to revise the article.

Thanks,

Aaron
Mr. Posses

Troop Communication

E-MAIL – after each Jr. Leader meeting, the Troop Scribe will send an e-mail to everyone letting us know about upcoming events and meetings. Please check your e-mail often during the scouting year so you are up to date on Troop 85 news.

E-VITE – Before each camp out, Steve will post an e-vite to each scout family. Information about the trip will be provided along with a map and a response section. **Please respond to the e-vites, even if it's a maybe.** It's the only way we know who is planning to attend an event. We need this information to plan for drivers and food for our camping trips.

WEB SITE – Please put www.bsatroop85.com on your “favorites” list and check it periodically, especially as events draw near. Our Webmaster also posts pictures from troop outings, so you can see what the scouts have been up to. Every scout is encouraged to take pictures for the troop.

Uniforms

Uniforms are required at all scout meetings and some special events (e.g. summer camp, Court of Honor). Troop 85's uniform is the BSA-approved Field Uniform with all patches sewn on, troop neckerchief and Boy Scout slide. If you are purchasing a shirt, make sure it's the new style. We have never required official pants; the boys may wear either khakis or jeans for the meetings. A troop appears uniform when all its members look the same. Please wear your scout shirt and neckerchief to every meeting so your patrol looks the best!

Our troop also has an Activity Uniform; this is a navy blue T-shirt with an emblem of an eagle with an “85”. This shirt is worn at some campouts, outings and at summer camp. All scouts should have an Activity Uniform. T-shirts are currently in stock and may be purchased for \$15 each – see any adult or Jr. Leader.

Dues and Registration

Troop dues and registration are collected at the beginning of the scout year usually in September and will be expected by **November 2nd**. Our dues and registration **fee will be \$60** per scout. Dues help pay for camping fees, wood for campfires, troop equipment and supplies.

Please make a **check payable to Troop 85** and bring it to the next troop meeting. You can also mail it to:

Mark Hager
60 Miller Rd
Getzville, NY 14068
(716) 816-5913 (Cell)

2016-2017 Calendar of Outing Events

Dates of Events	Event Location	Phone Numbers
September 23rd-25th	Allegany State Park (Kayaking & Fishing)	Allegany State Park 2373 ASP RTE.1 STE.3 Salamanca, NY 14779 (716) 354-9121
October 21st-23th	Stony Brook State Park & Kingsbury Cemetery Haunted House	Stony Brook State Park 10820 Route 36 South Dansville, NY 14437-9599 (585) 335-8111
November 11th-13th	Pittsburgh Camp Guyasuta (Carnegie Science Center and other attractions TBA)	Camp Guyasuta Laurel Highlands Council Boy Scouts of America 300 23 rd Street Sharpsburg, PA 15215 (412) 782-2669
December 10th	Niagara Falls State Park Hike and Niagara Power Plant Tour and Museum	Niagara Falls State Park 332 Prospect Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303 (716) 278-1796
January 28th-29th	Hamilton Aviation Museum overnighter and Dundurn Castle	Hamilton Aviation Museum 9280 Airport Rd Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0, Canada 1-(905) 679-4183 Dundurn Castle 610 York Blvd, Hamilton, ON L8R 3E7, Canada 1-(905) 546-2872
February	is Patrol Outing Month. Each patrol decides on a campout or day activity to do together. The planning is entirely up to the patrols for this one. Be creative and have fun!	
March 17th-19th	Red Jacket Fellowship	Red Jacket 1601 Sweeney Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120 (716) 743-8033
April 28th-30th	Cleveland Cleveland Rock Hall of Fame and Cleveland Museum of Natural History	

May 19th-21st:	Camp Coffman (Biking and Hiking)	Camp Coffman 4072 Camp Coffman Rd Cranberry, PA 16319 (http://www.campcoffman.com/)
June 10th	Letchworth White Water Rafting, Adventure Calls	(http://www.adventure-calls.com/rafting_letchworth.html).
July	Summer Camp	
August 4th-6th	Whispering Pines ALT @ Whispering Pines- <u>MANDATORY</u> training for elected Type A Leaders.	Whispering Pines 11829 Matteson Corners Rd Holland, NY 14080 (716) 496-7440
August 9th	Planning Meeting 2017	TBA
September 10th	Recruitment in the Park 2017	TBA

This schedule was planned, developed and agreed upon by the Junior Leadership of Troop 85

