

Troop 219 Informational Handout

(www.troop-219.org)

- **Calendar Issues:**

The original troop calendar scheduled a cabin campout and polar bear campout over the weekend of February 8-9-10. Early in the troop year, we found it was impossible to secure either the new troop cabin or the administration building for the scheduled weekend. The PLC considered the alternatives of finding another camp or changing the date. The PLC decided to change the date of the cabin campout to the weekend of March 1-2-3. We've reserved the Tapico Administration building for that weekend. It seems that we did not get this change widely announced; please adjust your calendars accordingly.

Mr. Hussar advises that considering the late revised date and the fickleness of this winter's weather, the polar bear portion of the campout will not take place this year.

- **Star Seminar:**

Every Scout that intends to attain the rank of Eagle ***MUST*** attend a "star seminar." These are offered five times a year. A parent and a troop leader *should* accompany scouts, but this is wise and helpful rather than mandatory. Two of these seminars are held at a location convenient to Fenton Scouts: our own, scheduled for May 7th at Grand Blanc; and one hosted by Baden Powell district at the Tall Pine Council headquarters on Thursday January 31st at 7:00PM.

To attend this star seminar you must call the council office at 235-2531 to reserve a place. I will be at a different meeting at the TPC office that evening so I can provide a ride for some Scouts and answer any questions that arise from the meeting. Scouts who need a ride should contact the Scoutmaster.

- **Webelos Crossovers:**

The lifeblood of our troop is graduating Webelos Scouts. Over the next few weeks, Webelos Dens will visit us, and we've been invited to participate in the crossover ceremonies for Packs 158 and 286.. We'll want several Scouts to assist in these crossovers, Den Chiefs in particular. See the Scoutmaster to express interest in attending and helping at these crossovers. Pack 158 will crossover Sunday, February 24th; Pack 286 has its crossover scheduled for Sunday, March 10. In addition, Webelos Scouts are scheduled to visit us next Monday, January 28th.

- **OA Elections / Eligibility:**

Since the last newsletter, two additional scouts have been found eligible for election to the Order of the Arrow: J.T. Waters and Jacob Chalut. This makes thirteen (13) eligible scouts! Scouts who believe that they are eligible or eligible Scouts who wish to be removed from eligibility should contact the Scoutmaster ASAP. When elections come, remember that ALL of our eligible candidates may be elected to membership, depending on how you vote.

- **Dorchester -- IMPORTANT:**

I am advised that we are definitely registered to attend the Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee (DIBC) outside London, Ontario over Mother's Day weekend. This annual event takes on new significance this year, as I expect a more difficult border crossing, both ways. Scouts **MUST** have **BOTH** a Michigan ID Card (secured from the Michigan Secretary of State – it looks like a drivers license) as well as an **ORIGINAL** birth certificate (*with raised seal clearly visible on the document*). Scouts who have a valid United States Passport may substitute that for the Michigan ID card. Additionally, a specially worded permission slip that we'll ask for (and arrange) to have notarized will be used, to ease and prevent any misunderstandings at the border. With increased security, I think that it's important to "*be prepared*".

You'll want to use the time between now and May to make sure that you have all the important documents in order. Scouts without proper documents will not be allowed to leave with the troop for the event from the troop assembly point.

- **Summer Camp:**

It's not too late to start thinking about Summer Camp. This year, we will be leaving on Sunday, July 14th and returning Saturday, July 20th. Full payment of \$160 is due to the Council by May 15th or the price rises by \$30. Further instructions and paperwork will follow, but it's time to start thinking about it, and getting key dates on your calendar.

- **High Adventure:**

A high adventure trip is in the planning stages, as reported on the troop calendar for the period August 4th – 10th. The plan is to hike parts of the Appalachian Trail in Smoky Mountain National Forest. Costs and details are still in the works, and a schedule of practice hikes and campouts will be announced shortly. Scouts who wish to attend must have turned 13 years old by this past January 1st and must be First Class rank by the date of the trip. Additionally Scouts must earn the First Aid, Camping and Hiking merit badges by the date of the trip. Scouts should earn both the Backpacking merit badge as well as the "Fifty Miler" award from participation on this trip.

See the Scoutmaster, or Assistant Scoutmaster, Dr. Waters for more details.

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster