

Troop 219 Informational Handout

(www.troop-219.org)

- **Court of Honor:**

The next formal Court of Honor for Troop 219 will be in place of next week's troop meeting, Monday, February 11, 2002 at 7:00PM in the sanctuary. Scouts should arrive early, and in full uniform. **OA members should wear their sash**, as there will be a calling out ceremony for those scouts elected at tonight's meeting. ***Bring your family and friends.***

- **Lock In(s) Are Coming Up:**

MARCH 15, 7:00PM to MARCH 16, 7:00AM will be the Mt. Morris Lock-In. A separate flyer for that event is part of this handout. It appears at this time that we must register for this lock-in as a troop, by March 1st. We'll start a signup sheet at tonight's meeting, if you're interested in going. The OA Lock-In previously advertised for March 2nd is in a state of flux and information that differs from the earlier flier will be made available soon.

- **Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard:**

There is still room to be a part of this year's contingent to Mackinac Island and serve on this extremely prestigious crew. This year, the crew will leave Flint early in the morning of Memorial Day, May 27 and return June 1. Attendees will miss four days of school, but pretty much all schools recognize the experience and educational value of this event and excuse the absence without concern. **DON'T PASS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY!** See the Scoutmaster for further information and dates of meetings and trainings. Mr. Zimmler is planning to serve on staff again this year and should be able to provide transportation to meetings and practices, etc.

- **Fund Raising Opportunity:**

Golden Lamp Association is a local public charity founded by Troop 219 parents several years ago, and several families are still associated with both organizations. Golden Lamp provides the opportunity for the troop to receive donations generated by the proceeds of working at a concession stand at the Palace of Auburn Hills; the GTE Music Theatre (nee Pine Knob); or the Meadowbrook Theatre at Oakland University. Workers share the greater of minimum wage or [up to] 10% of the gross sales of their booth, donated to the charitable organization of their choice -- presumably Troop 219. Troop 219 has made it a practice of crediting scout accounts with 75% of donations generated by or on behalf of each particular scout.

Workers must be at least 16 years of age, and there are limits to how many workers at any event can be between 16 and 18 years old. Adults may be working with beer or other alcoholic beverages (objections to this *usually* can be accommodated). Volume Services, the employing agent also has **strict appearance guidelines** that must be met. Despite these limitations, these monies can go a long way toward covering the costs of Summer Camp, High Adventure, Dorchester, Cedar Point, or any other troop activity; and your driving miles are tax deductible. The following dates are currently available to work:

Tuesday, February 5	Palace, Pistons game	5:00PM
Sunday, March 10	Palace, Pistons game	12:30PM

Wednesday, April 10	Palace, Pistons game	5:00PM
Saturday, May 18	Palace, Pistons game	5:00PM

Contact Ken or Marsha Rogers at 750-8390 to sign up or to check about other possible dates. Mr. Zimbler or Mr. Hussar can also provide general information about how Golden Lamp works and the relationship to troop finances.

- **Webelos Crossovers:**

The lifeblood of our troop is graduating Webelos Scouts. Over the next few weeks, Webelos Dens will visit us, and we're invited to participate in the crossover ceremonies for Packs 158 and 286. I already have several Scouts to assist in these crossovers, but more scouts can be used, 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. Full [Class A] uniform is required, and you'll be fed at the Pack's Blue and Gold dinner.

- **WANTED – Troop Guide(s):**

One or more scouts are solicited for the position of Troop Guide to the one or more patrols of "new" Scouts crossing over from Webelos. Apply with the Scoutmaster. Troop guides will be required to assist with their assigned patrol and will rarely be available to assist their own patrol at troop meetings and events. Troop Guide is a leadership position qualifying for rank advancement.

- **High Adventure:**

This year, our high adventure trip will be backpacking along the Appalachian Trail in the Smoky Mountains National Forest. The trip appears in the troop calendar from August 4 through August 10. Participants should earn the Backpacking merit badge and the BSA "Fifty Miler" award. Assistant Scoutmaster Dr. John Waters is the contingent leader for this event.

A trip of this magnitude requires significant preparation. Several special hikes and campouts are scheduled for boys (and adults) who wish to attend to ensure that they are adequately trained and prepared.

Many details are not yet finalized, but it appears that the cost for the trip will not exceed \$300 (see above for one way to avoid writing a check), plus any special clothing or equipment that might be needed – although you should be able to borrow rather than buy much of the needed equipment.

Minimum participation rules: scouts must be age 13 and first class rank by August 4, 2002. In addition, by August 4, 2002 scouts must have earned First Aid, Hiking and Camping merit badges. The planned preparation hikes and campouts will provide opportunities to earn these merit badges.

There is a first informational meeting scheduled for **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th** beginning at **NOON** in the gym on the upper floor of the barn at Dr. Waters' house, at 13229 White Lake Road, just east of the White Lake Road/Denton Hill Road (Fenton Rd) intersection. This meeting will discuss the important parts of the trip and the preparations and equipment required. A 10-mile hike will follow the meeting. Additional 10 mile hikes are scheduled for March 2, 9, 16 and 17, and a 20-mile hike is scheduled for April 20. Locations, as well as additional dates and events will be announced at a later date.

If you're at all interested in this trip, make sure you attend this first informational meeting. I've also placed a link to information about the Appalachian Trail on the troop site.

- **Dorchester – VERY IMPORTANT – DATE SENSITIVE:**

As in the past, Troop 219 will be attending the Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee (DIBC) outside London, Ontario over Mother's Day weekend. For those boys who want to pre-order shirts, mugs, patches, etc. the deadline for pre-orders is **FEBRUARY 15th**. The pre-order form is part of this handout. A link to the official DIBC web page has been added to the troop web page.

Cost for this event will be \$35 and it will include one patch. Sign up paperwork will be available soon. As always, an **ORIGINAL** birth certificate (*with raised seal clearly evident on the document*) is required.

This year we expect a more difficult border crossing, in both directions. Therefore, Scouts **MUST** have some form of government issued, picture ID. A Michigan Personal ID Card (secured from the Michigan Secretary of State – it looks like a drivers license), or of course, a regular driver's license, or a United States Passport will all work just fine.

See the Scoutmaster well in advance to check on the acceptability of other forms of ID – school ID cards are NOT acceptable. It takes several weeks, an original raised seal birth certificate, and \$7 to get a Michigan ID card so you should not wait until the last minute to apply.

We'll be using a specially worded permission slip that will require notarization to ease and prevent any misunderstandings at the border. We'll arrange for the notary at one or more Scout meetings. With increased border security, I think that it's important to "*be prepared*". We'll also be adjusting the travel times to account for a longer border crossing.

Links to request an original Michigan birth certificate and for information about the Michigan Personal ID card have been added to the troop web page. 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 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.

- **New Eagle Scout:**

I am very pleased to announce that Ken Witzgall, son of former Scoutmaster Mike Witzgall and a member of Troop 219 since February 1995 passed his Board of Review yesterday and is now Troop 219's newest EAGLE SCOUT!

- **Personal Data Sheets:**

Next week, we'll be distributing personal data sheets based on what's in our TroopMaster computer records. Please review and correct them when you get them.

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster