

Troop 219 Informational Handout

(www.troop-219.org or www.troop219.org)

☆☆☆ **POPCORN** ☆ **POPCORN** ☆ **POPCORN** ☆ **POPCORN** ☆☆☆

Popcorn order forms **MUST** be turned in by next Monday's meeting night (October 21). **NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXTENSIONS.** Orders may be turned in earlier – Contact Mrs. Sarosy.

● **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**

A special flyer is being distributed to each scout/family signed up to attend containing all the relevant details. A copy of the flyer will also be placed on the web page and will be mailed to the home of any scout not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

● **Youth Leadership Positions**

Troop elections are scheduled for the troop meeting of Monday, November 18th. At this meeting, the troop will elect a Senior Patrol Leader to serve until the May 19th election. Following the SPL election and the appointment of an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, patrols will elect Patrol Leaders to serve for the same period. The positions of SPL, ASPL and Patrol Leader qualify for rank advancement. Additionally, there are many other positions of leadership and responsibility within the troop that also qualify for rank advancement. Positions must be at the Troop rather than the Patrol level. The positions are: Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Quartermaster, JASM, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide, Instructor, Den Chief, Bugler (only for Star & Life ranks) and OA Troop Representative. These positions are appointed by the Scoutmaster.

Some of these positions have boys filling them, others do not. **At this point we are in need of an OA Troop Representative, a Bugler, a Chaplain Aide, and a Historian.** There may be room for additional boys in positions already being filled, and there are often positions available as Den Chief. OA Troop Rep must be an OA member. Bugler needs to *learn* (not already know) about 3 – 4 standard calls.

Scouts who need a leadership position for advancement or who just want to serve in one of these positions should see the Scoutmaster or the Senior Patrol Leader. The main caveat is that if you accept an appointment, you **MUST FULFILL** the responsibilities of the job, or you may be removed and will not receive credit toward advancement.

● **Camp Holaka – October 26th**

REMINDER -- There's a bunch going on at camp that weekend. For OA members it is OA workday, followed by the annual fall fellowship. For non-OA members it is the Council workday. The Blue Heron District is also conducting a HALLOWEEN TRAIL (suitable for young children) that Saturday. None of these are Troop 219 program calendar events – but that doesn't mean that Troop 219 Adults and Scouts can't or won't be there! Make it a day – bring the whole family to camp!

● **OA Chapter Meetings and Adult Roundtable**

REMINDER -- The next meeting of the Bidaban Chapter of the OA is Thursday November 12, 2002 at the Grand Blanc Middle School. Bidaban Chapter meetings are for OA members only, and **all T-219 arrowmen should plan to attend.** This is the same date, place and time as the adult Roundtable meeting so several T-219 adult leaders are usually going (at least Mr. Zimble and Mr. Hussar and often Mr. Cox and Mr. Witzgall, sometimes others too.) – and they are usually more than willing to provide you with transportation there and back!

● **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next troop committee meeting is this Wednesday, October 16, 2002 at 7:00PM at the church. We strongly urge the parents of ALL SCOUTS in the troop to attend these meetings. The ongoing success of Troop 219 demands the dedicated involvement of many adults – including YOU!

● **Tents** (*a Scoutmaster's Minute*)

I would appreciate it if each family in the troop read this editorial fully before completing and submitting their re-charter commitment and fees.

The troop recently purchased several new tents, at a cost of many hundreds of dollars. Some of these tents were used for the first time at the Skill-O-Rama campout, others saw their second use. For at least the seven years that I've been associated with Troop 219, we have always had a standard for the setting and striking of tents and storage of parts while in use. This training begins for scouts on their first campout, and there were no shortage of "older" scouts at this campout. When it came time to strike camp, too many tents had parts misplaced or missing, and tents were mistreated -- our standards were not followed. Mr. Hussar reports that he has still not received any report concerning the missing tent bag that he asked all boys to search for. Beginning with the next campout, tents will be formally signed out by name to the boys using it, and checked back in by the quartermaster. Damage and abuse will have a direct financial consequence to the boys responsible. The information about the assignment of tents to Scouts will be maintained on an accumulating basis so that boys will be directly responsible to future users of each tent if it turns out to have been put away improperly, or dirty, etc.

Secondly, as we prepared for summer camp this year way more of an issue was made over tent partners than I will put up with into the future. I had hoped that this was a single issue that "went away" after summer camp but it came up again at Skill-O-Rama. I want to take this time to address it in finality and so far as I'm concerned it must not re-appear in the troop again.

The Scout Oath and the Scout Law are our standards, not esoteric ideals. I expect, in fact I demand, that within all scouting functions, all the boys of the troop will find ways to get along. The boys don't have to "like" every other boy in the troop – but they have to learn to deal with the boys they don't like. I will not accept from any Scout, or the family of any scout, requests or demands regarding tent partners at scouting events, including summer camp. I expect patrols to camp together and to set tent partners in whatever manner that patrol chooses to use, but the buddy system, designed to ensure the safety of scouts demands that scouts not sleep alone in a tent. I reserve to myself, my assistants and my elected junior leaders the right to change tent partners whenever there is a breach of discipline that would be best served by a separation of specific boys at a specific event. But members of our troop are Scouts and are expected to live the Scout Oath and Law and I will not entertain concerns of "anticipation" that do not have specific reliable evidence. I will not entertain concerns of personality conflict, etc. That is something boys are in Scouting to learn how to deal with. Boys may change patrols on request with the permission of both the SPL and the receiving patrol, but I reserve to myself, my assistants and my elected junior leaders the right to change patrol membership whenever the best interests of the troop or patrols is served. On Scouting functions I'm responsible for the health and safety of the boys present and if anyone, boy or adult, ever has a specific reason or evidence for being concerned about the health and safety of any Scout I **NEED** to be made aware of the specifics – but I won't be roped into family, school or community feuds nor will I permit the troop or the Scouts in the troop to perpetuate personal feuds at Scouting events.

If a boy is a "good scout" in every other way, but cannot or will not learn to get along with another member of the troop as necessary to deal with troop or patrol responsibilities, then I assert that he is not, in fact, a good scout. This is true for both Scouts involved in the dispute. If you're the one that feels so strongly against another member of this troop that you will not do what it takes to get along with that other Scout through and including sharing a tent for the 6 nights of summer camp, perhaps you should look at other Troops. As a general rule, if you personally can't accommodate the tent partner results of your patrol, maybe you should not attend the event.

With re-chartering upon us, I strongly suggest that you consider my position on this issue, which has not changed over my tenure as Scoutmaster. PARENTS: By re-chartering your son in our troop, you're agreeing to support this position.

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219