

Troop 219 Informational Handout

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

- **Klondike Derby – January 17, 18, 19**

Registration was due LAST WEEK. There are currently 10 boys signed up, making one patrol for the trail, Devon Vaughn and John Cohoon will be staffing the hidden city of Attu – you'll need your orienteering skills to find us! This is a COLD WEATHER activity – Scouts will be outdoors for at least 6 – 8 continuous hours, weather notwithstanding; and no scouts will be allowed “on the trail” unless properly dressed and prepared for the weather. We'll be staying indoors at Nottingham, the new dining hall, sharing space and meals with Troop 212.

Show up with all your personal gear (and any patrol gear you're responsible for) at 6:00PM THIS FRIDAY, January 17, 2003 at the K-Mart Parking lot (the usual gathering place), having eaten dinner. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TIN FOIL DINNER FOR SATURDAY LUNCH!!!!** Make sure you have adequate and proper clothing for the cold weather. Make sure you have everything else that you must bring to assist your patrol on the trail. I expect that we'll be back at K-Mart around 11AM on Sunday morning.

- **Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard Information Meeting January 15th**

Details were in last week's handout – remember that the informational meeting is this Wednesday night at 7:00PM at the Tall Pine Council Office. This is the place to get all the information and also sign up.

- **Order of the Arrow (OA) Troop Elections – January 27**

The Order of the Arrow is the **National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America**. Eligible Scouts are elected as *candidates* for membership by their fellow troop scouts (often a majority of whom are NOT members of the OA). A scout is eligible to be elected if he meets all three of the following: (1) attained at least 1st Class Rank; (2) has completed at least 15 nights of BSA camping in the past two years, including one (*and only one*) long term camp of at least 5 nights (summer camp); and (3) they receive the endorsement of the Scoutmaster. There is no minimum age for a scout who meets these three criteria. Scouts (and Scouters) must be under age 21 at the time of election. Elected candidates must complete the Ordeal experience over one of these two 2003 weekend conclaves to become members: Spring at Camp Tapico, May 16, 17, 18 OR Fall at Camp Holaka, September 19, 20, 21. Candidates pay \$30 to attend their first conclave which includes Lodge dues through the end of the year, arrow sash, pocket flap, handbook, and meals. Transportation is almost always available from one of the troop adults attending.

Troop records show the following Scouts meet the eligibility requirements for membership: **Chad Brandon, Eli Davis, Ken Foley, Mike Holcomb, Kevin Humphreys, Mark Humphreys, Nick Stewart, Devon Vaughn, Zach Wisniewski.** Any one, several, or *every* eligible Scout(s) *could* be elected into membership candidacy based on how the boys in the troop vote. Personally, I'd like to see *every* one elected.

If you believe that you should be on this list but were omitted, see me right away so that we can correct the records or adjust your expectations.

- **Scout Sunday Church Service and Pancake Breakfast – February 2, 2003**

This year, on Scout Sunday (February 2nd), the troop will live up to the twelfth point of the Scout Law in the following way: Early in the morning we will hold a pancake breakfast at the church. Scouts will help cook, serve and clean up (you'll be fed, too) After that, we'll attend the 10:30AM service upstairs and assist with ushering, reading or any other services we're asked to perform. Scouts should arrive at the church by 7:00AM, or earlier, in full Scout (Class A) uniform.

All Scouts are expected to attend, in full uniform. I expect you to make whatever arrangements you need to fulfill your own, different religious responsibilities either beforehand or afterward IF attending this service does not fulfill your personal devotional requirements. Because of the importance of this particular point of the Scout Law as well as the importance of showing appreciation to our sponsoring organization, I will weigh participation in this particular activity heavily in considering the “scout spirit” advancement requirement for all ranks. Co-incidentally, the pancake breakfast is expected to result as a fundraiser for the troop (9th point of the scout law).

- **Fundraiser District Pinewood Derby – February 7**

We will need several Scouts and Adults to attend the District Pinewood Derby on Saturday, February 7th. These Scouts will help sell pinewood derby stands and also run some games to keep the cubs busy while they're not racing. FULL SCOUT (CLASS A) UNIFORM IS EXPECTED. Attendance at the Pack 286 event was *disappointing*, but the financial results were not. I certainly hope we'll make a *much better showing* here.

- **Tapico Winter Cabin Campout cancelled**

An administrative error *at the Tall Pine Council office* has resulted in the cancellation of our reservation for the new Troop Cabin, planned for the family winter fun weekend on the troop calendar for February 6-8, 2003. Alternative arrangements were offered to us that could not meet our needs.

- **Silver Bars JLTC**

The Silver Bars JLTC course curriculum is an outstanding, one-of-a-kind opportunity to really learn and practice leadership skills in a way unsurpassed at achieving its goals. Both Mr. Hussar and Mr. Zimble can provide detailed answers to any questions you may have. The website www.silverbars.org has information about the course and forms. The next Silver Bars course will run from June 23 – 29, 2003 at **CAMP HOLAKA** in Lapeer, at a cost of \$175 (\$145 if paid by March 31). I passed out applications to eligible Scouts several weeks ago. *If you're interested, its time to signup NOW!!!*

- **2004 Philmont Trek(s)**

Reservations will be accepted shortly for one of two treks to Philmont during the summer of 2004. Watch for more information in council line and as soon as I have more data it'll be in these handouts and on the website.

- **2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree**

Tall Pine Council is currently beginning the steps to prepare for the 2005 National Jamboree. At last word, 27 scouts had already reserved spots. All boys currently in the troop are eligible so long as you stay registered. A \$50 deposit is required to hold your spot with the council troop. The \$50 is non-refundable BUT it is TRANSFERRABLE so it's a good idea to sign up now – there's virtually no risk. Total cost is expected to be around \$1,300. The National Jamboree is an experience not to be missed. It's held at Ft. A.P. Hill just outside of Washington DC every 4 years. Some 35,000 scouts from all over the world attend and there's just too much to describe in a troop newsletter. The trip usually includes one or more side trips to fun and/or historic places on the way to and/or from the Jamboree site. It's an outstanding event and an experience Scouts will remember all their lives. More information will follow but you won't be able to wait too long to reserve a spot. See me for the official sign-up sheet.

- **OA Chapter Meetings and Adult Roundtable**

REMINDER -- The next meeting of the Bidaban Chapter of the OA is Thursday February 13, 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, Mr. Witzgall, Dr. Waters and sometimes others too.) – they are usually more than willing to provide you with transportation there and back! – *if* you ask in advance.

- **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next troop committee meeting is this Wednesday, January 15, 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 – especially YOU!

- **Finding & Contacting the Scoutmaster**

If you need to contact me outside of scouting events, it's usually *NOT* a good idea to call my house. The quickest and most effective way to contact me is by email – taxwiz@ftmn.com; the second most effective way is to call my office at 810-695-8484. Even if you have to leave a message (*which is likely*), you'll get a quicker response than if you leave the message at my house. In a dire emergency, or while we're in the field, my cell phone is 810-814-2472. This works; sorry for the inconvenience – I'm not hiding out, I just have a hectic work schedule (and a hatred of telephones).

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219