

Troop 219 Informational Handout

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

- **LOST**

One Scout, Garrett Stewart cannot find his Scout Uniform since returning from Bluespring Caverns. If you attended the Cave Adventure, please re-check all your stuff to make sure you do not have Garrett's things. Also, two Scout Handbooks have been missing since about two meetings ago. Make sure that your book is your own – that your name is on the EDGE and that you bring your book to every meeting and also TAKE IT HOME from every meeting. Anyone having any information about the missing things, see me or Mr. Hussar.

- **HIKEATHON & HIKEATHON Campout – Paperwork and money due NEXT WEEK!**

Hikeathon paperwork was part of the March 24th handout (and is available online). Get your sponsors NOW – the **sponsor sheet with money must be turned in to the troop NEXT WEEK – Monday, April 14, 2003.**

ADULT hikers use a special adult sponsorship form and earn "unit bucks". See Larry Miller for sponsorship forms.

- **DORCHESTER INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD CAMPOREE (DIBC)**

Final cost is \$35. Dorchester signup sheets are due April 28th. Make sure that you read the information in the last handout (March 24) or online and have the appropriate identity papers available.

- **SUMMER CAMP is not far away.**

ALL of the fee for summer camp is due on or before Monday May 12. Payments after that date will require an *additional \$30 late fee* imposed by the Tall Pine Council. Total cost for Summer Camp this year is \$205 for boys and \$85 for Adults, which includes the cost of the mandatory pre-summer camp/Court of Honor campout scheduled for May 30 – 31 at Dr. Waters' property.

- **CHEAP Summer Camp Physicals!!!**

\$15 camp physicals will be performed by Dr. Edwin Delange on APRIL 9, 2003 (***THIS DAY ONLY***) at his office at 3273 Davison Road, Suite 2, Lapeer, MI; **from 5:00 PM until all are completed**. Make sure that you arrive AFTER 5PM but BEFORE 6PM and be prepared to wait. Nonetheless, this is a great opportunity if you need a physical and cash is tight. BOTH youth and adult Scouts are accommodated, wear shorts and a t-shirt. See the Scoutmaster for more details.

- **Council High Adventure – Philmont Trek – June 26 – July 10, 2004**

A Philmont Trek sponsored by Tall Pine Council is available for signup NOW! It will fill quickly. Total cost is expected to be around \$800. A \$100 deposit is due by April 14, 2003. Philmont is the ultimate Scouting adventure. See the Mr. Miller for special signup sheets.

- **Order of the Arrow Section C2A Conclave – May 3, 4, 5**

Our Lodge is part of seven lodges from Flint to Port Huron south to Findlay, Ohio. This past year ALL SEVEN lodges earned the National Quality Lodge designation. The lodges get together for a Conclave weekend of fun, fellowship and training (no arduous labor) this year at D Bar A Scout Ranch, in Metamora, MI, just down the road from our own Camp Holaka and physically located within the boundaries of Tall Pine Council. Cost is \$29 if paid **NOW**. That rises to \$34 up to 1 week before conclave. This event is open only to members of the Order of the Arrow (not recently elected candidates) and is a great fun weekend. Additionally, at D Bar A, we'll be staying in cabins!!!

- **OA Lodge Spring Conclave – May 16 – 17 – 18, Camp Tapico**

Our own OA Lodge will be holding the annual Spring Conclave beginning at 6PM on Friday, May 16, 2003 at Camp Tapico. THIS IS THE EVENT that newly elected Ordeal Member candidates have been waiting for and this is the event for you not to miss. If you're planning on going, whether you're already a member or you're first going to experience the Ordeal, and you need a ride up and/or back from camp – NOW is the time

to let someone know about this need. At least four troop adult, if not more will be attending and can provide transportation in one or both directions – but we need to know.

• Troop Committee Meeting

The next troop committee meeting is Wednesday, April 16, 2003 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!

Fair Weather Scouting (*a Scoutmaster minute*)

The weather this weekend was pretty bad. The seven boys who came out for our Orienteering Day at Dr. Waters' property did not find their work easier from the cold, the wind or the ice. But show up they did and the end result was one of our higher quality training experiences. Exercises that looked easy on paper in a troop meeting were considerably more difficult on live terrain.

This Orienteering Day was the first time we'd tried to anything like it as part of the troop program in many years. This outdoor hands-on event was the culmination of special indoor skill presentations about orienteering that had been the center of the past several weeks' troop meetings leading up to Saturday's activity. That's a Boy Scout Troop program plan right out of the book – troop meetings with meaningful skill instruction all designed to prepare for a related outdoor activity. I'm very proud of the PLC for the leadership they've showed in getting this kind of program planned and implemented. Some of the boys who attended this Saturday will have earned the Orienteering Merit Badge. Not because we worked on the badge in the troop meeting, but rather, because we dealt with and caused those boys who participated all the way through to exhibit the activities that the badge required, among other things, over the course of the past several weeks. Advancement should come as the *result* of the program, not because advancement is the *focus* of the program. And so my point:

Boys want to earn advancement. Yet in spite of the entire troop being involved in the troop meeting training, only nine Scouts signed up for Saturday's event; and, had the weather been nice, probably a few more would have made a last minute choice to attend anyway. That's fair weather scouting; and its not what our troop is about.

Because weather can't be controlled, it can never be completely ignored. But it need not interfere except in extraordinary circumstances. Sometimes the weather actually creates its own dangers (like a severe electrical storm), and sometimes it creates so much interference that the goals of a particular activity cannot be met. Such was the case with the polar bear campout scheduled this past February. Particular weather patterns, common for February winters was needed and didn't happen, so the event was cancelled. Too often we look at weather and spend too much time considering its inconvenience. The scouting motto: "be prepared" is our approach and the Scouting program is designed to cause Scouts to learn to deal with events, no matter what the weather is.

I'm very proud of the boys who showed up; and pleased that for once everyone was mostly dressed for the weather we actually had. These boys left Saturday evening with a well earned (and tired) feeling of accomplishment. But if you're going to wait on the sidelines and participate only in those activities that happen to catch your eye, and then only if it's not too inconvenient, and then only if the weather's good, then you're a "fair weather scout" and your Scouting advancement as well as your personal growth will be less because of it.

Larry Zimblar
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219