

Troop 219 Informational Handout

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

● NEW HORIZONS DISTRICT SWIM PROGRAM

The last session is scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2004 (7PM for Lifesaving; 8PM for Swimming MB & Scout Ranks). All sessions are at the pool at the **GRAND BLANC MIDDLE SCHOOL**. If/when you complete a merit badge, make sure that if you get the signed form back, give it to me, or to Mr. Hussar.

● KLONDIKE DERBY

We had the best turnout for our troop in several years, we put two sleds on the trail; and for the third time in a row, at least one of our patrols finished "in the money." Congratulations to our "SOMBRERO" patrol led by Andy Weston for taking second place in this year's Klondike. We have the same living arrangements already reserved for next year; and next year, we're assigned dinner and Saturday cracker barrel.

● Scout Sunday Church Service and Pancake Breakfast – February 8, 2003

The twelfth point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent." Being reverent means many things but within the Boy Scouts, it starts with a personal belief in God and a strong respect for the religious beliefs of others. Our troop is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church although I believe that only a minority of our troop membership belongs or attends worship services at this church. The fact that this does not matter and that no one is expected to change their religious affiliations or practices is one of the great strengths of Scouting.

This year, on Scout Sunday (February 8th), 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 11:00AM service upstairs and assist with ushering, reading or any other services we're asked to perform. Scouts should arrive at the church before 7:00AM in full Scout (Class A) uniform. Breakfast will be served from 7AM – 10:15AM. We'll also need several Scouts to help Saturday night with setup – see me or Mr. Hussar.

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 IE 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).

● TROOP ORDER OF THE ARROW ELECTIONS

Elections into the Order of the Arrow are held annually. Our troop election has been scheduled for Monday, February 2 at the normal troop meeting. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society and it is an honor to be elected from your troop. **There is no minimum age to stand for election, however candidates must be First Class rank or above, must have 15 nights of camping within the past 2 years (including one and only one long term camp of 5 or more nights), plus the recommendation of the Scoutmaster.** Surprisingly, we have only three Scouts eligible for election this year. Many Scouts who might otherwise be eligible fail to meet the necessary nights of short-term camping. Both as Scoutmaster and as an active Arrowman, I'm disappointed at these results. If you believe that you were omitted from eligibility in error see me NOW!

Eligible Scouts this year are: John Murray, Andrew Weston & Devon Vaughn. Election procedures permit every eligible candidate to be elected. After election, candidates must complete the "Ordeal" to become a member. There are only two opportunities to complete the Ordeal – the weekend of May 21-22-23, 2004 at Camp Tapico or the weekend of September 17-18-19, 2004 at Camp Holaka. We can always find you transportation if you need it! If you do not complete the Ordeal at one of these conclaves, your election expires. Two Scouts whose election expired last year *may* have failed to meet the camping requirements to stand for re-election this year – so consider these requirements very carefully.

● WEBELOS VISITS AND CROSSOVER CEREMONIES

It's that time of year – we'll be visited by various Webelos dens, from various Cub Scout Packs in the vicinity. Currently I've been contacted by several packs that have not visited us in the past. In addition to our old friends from Packs 158 and 286, we'll probably be visited by Webelos from Packs 270, 711 and 220.

Aside from Skill-O-Rama, we don't have any special open house for Webelos – we invite them to see us as we really are – so, as usual, meet your program obligations, behave as proper Scouts and welcome our visitors. Whether these Webelos join our troop or not, we owe them a proper Boy Scout experience.

As of today, we're invited to attend the following scheduled Blue&Gold banquets and Crossovers, we'll need several Scouts in full uniform at each of these events. We'll have sign-up forms available with Mr. Miller.

- Pack 158 – Lake Fenton – Sunday, February 22nd at 2PM
- Pack 220 – Holly Academy – Saturday, February 28th
- Pack 286 – St. John's Catholic Church – Sunday March 28th

● BLUE SPRING CAVERNS TRIP – MARCH 13 & 14 -- PAYMENTS DUE!!!

Permission slips were due long ago. The troop has already paid a non-refundable \$10 deposit for 30 scouts and adults to attend. FULL PAYMENT OF THE \$60 activity fee is due by February 26th. We'll have a special meeting for everybody that's going to the caves on Monday, March 8th during the troop meeting. There'll be a separate handout with an equipment list closer to the event. IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP, I've included a permission slip with this handout. As of several months ago we had filled our 30 slots, but as the money is due and the date approaches, I expect some drops – sign-up now for the waiting list – first come, first served.

On Saturday, March 13th, we'll meet at the church at 7:30AM to dropoff bags for Scouting for Food. After the bag delivery, we'll leave for Bedford, Indiana (about a 7 hour drive). You must participate in Scouting for Food to attend the cave campout (siblings and parents are excepted). I'll be contacting the adults who are signed up to arrange drivers over the next few weeks.

● SCOUTMASTER ABSENCES

It's no secret what I do for a living; I even got my picture on the 12/31 Flint Journal business page. This year, changes to my business require me to pay more attention to it; and during the busy tax season of February and March this will require me to miss a variety of regular troop meetings and other troop activities. I will make myself available at other times if you need a merit badge, or Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement or to review your Eagle project plan, etc. and to parents when necessary – call my office (do NOT call my home) at 810-767-7000 or email me at rottenbelly@cuwe218.org or taxwiz@ftmn.com and we'll set up a time and place that will work. Beginning with the April 5th troop meeting I expect to be back to regular attendance. I have scheduled to attend the following troop meetings during February and March: Feb 2, Mar 8, Mar 22, and I will be at the Scout Sunday activity and also taking my daughter to BlueSpring Caverns with the troop (hey, I need *some* time off).

Bidaban Chapter Meetings: First Thursday of each month at the same time/place as District Roundtable meetings. See Mr. Zimbler or Mr. Hussar if you need transportation.

● Troop Committee Meeting

The next troop committee meeting is Thursday, February 12, 2003 at 7:00PM at the church. A greater level of participation by the parents of ALL SCOUTS in the troop is needed! The ongoing success of Troop 219 demands the dedicated involvement of many adults – especially YOU!

Larry Zimbler
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219

Bluespring Cavern Overnight Adventure

March 13th through March 14th, 2004

PERMISSION SLIP & HEALTH FORM

(return IMMEDIATELY, payment due by Monday, February 23, 2004)

cost will be \$60 including admission transportation and meals

**NOTE: We reserved 30 slots with a non-refundable deposit, and we can NOT increase this number. So sign up early – the first 30 slots are already reserved waiting list spots are filled thereafter
DON'T WAIT, RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!!!**

REGISTRATION: Adult or Scout's Name: _____

Method of Payment:

Troop Account _____

Check (# and amt) _____

Cash _____

_____ has my permission to participate in Scouting for Food Bag Dropoff and the troop

(name)

overnight at Bluespring Cavern in Bedford, Indiana on Saturday, March 13, 2004 and Sunday March 14, 2004. Note that Bedford, Indiana is approximately 30 minutes south of Bloomington, about a 7 hour drive each way. Bluespring Caverns ALSO has a separate permission slip which is required.

SEE THE SPECIAL ACTIVITY FLYER ON REVERSE

Gather at the church at 7:30AM Saturday morning. Scouts will leave directly following the Scouting for Food bag dropoff on Saturday March 13, 2004. **Participation in Scouting for Food that day is a requirement for attendance. Participants need a sack lunch for the trip south.** Return pickup at the Church approximately 3:30 PM Sunday afternoon. Parents are invited to attend – drivers will be needed and gasoline will be subsidized for adults who drive Scouts in addition to their own.

In case of emergency, notify:

Name		Relationship	
Address:			
Primary Phone:	()	Alternate Phone:	()
Physician Name:		Physician Phone:	()
Health Insurance Company:		Policy Number:	

- This scout takes no medications and has no known allergies.**
- This scout takes medication or has allergies as follows:** *(Attach additional pages if necessary)*

The health information contained herein is correct so far as I know and the person herein described has permission to engage in all prescribed activities, except as noted above. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the medical provider selected by a designated representative of Troop 219, Boy Scouts of America to authorize emergency medical or surgical treatment, routine non-surgical medical care, hospitalize, secure proper anesthesia, or to order injection(s) for my child. The person herein described is in good health, has all required immunizations current, and I assume the health responsibility for the individual.

Parent/Guardian Signature		Parent/Guardian Signature	
X		X	
<small>Print Name</small>	<small>Date</small>	<small>Print Name</small>	<small>Date</small>



A unique event for scouts & other youth groups!

Come join us this winter for a unique winter camping experience - one hundred feet underground! Explore America's longest underground river by boat; then walk, crawl, and climb through an undeveloped part of the Caverns not seen on our regular tours. Camp overnight in Canyon Hall, high above the hidden banks of Myst'ry River. Bluespring Caverns' "Overnight Adventure" is a program specially designed for youth ages 9 to 16. We hope to permit each participant to experience and enjoy the "living cave".

The Program



- Enter the cave at 7PM EST for campsites in Canyon Hall.
- Explore Myst'ry River in the Caverns aboard our custom electric tour boats.
- Explorers walk, crawl, and climb along undeveloped side passages with the aid of their own lights, led by our staff.
- We demonstrate the ways and means of safe cave exploration during the Demonstration Hour.
- Our underground slide show brings to view the far reaches of Bluespring Caverns, presenting more of the fragile beauty of the underground wilderness.
- "Lights Out" in the cool 50 degree temperature of Canyon Hall.
- "Lights On" precedes breakfast. Then return to the light of the surface at 9AM

Facilities

On the Surface: Limited picnic tables, open areas for organized activities. Restrooms and Visitor Center open one hour prior to program start time.

Caverns: "Cave Inn" snack bar with sandwiches, snacks and soft drinks.

Nearby: Hiking trails and shelterhouse facilities are available at nearby Spring Mill State Park. Restaurants of all types are available in the area for the evening meal prior to the "Overnight Adventure".

For Participants and Parents

Bluespring Caverns "Overnight Adventure" is an experience in the natural world. For the enjoyment and safety of all, we insist that participants follow the directions of our staff, who will supervise each part of the experience with assistance from your group leaders. Rowdy behavior will not be tolerated.

Our "wild tour" in an undeveloped section of the Caverns can be considered moderately strenuous and may not be suitable for individuals with severe handicaps or who are not in reasonably good physical condition. As in all adventure programs some scrapes and bruises are possible - especially when rowdy behavior or disregard for rules is involved.

Equipment Checklist

The following items are necessary for each person on the "Overnight Adventure"

- Flashlight (electric light source)
- Old clothing and boots or sneakers for wild caving plus another change of warm clothing and shoes
- Warm sleeping bag and a plastic ground cloth
- Warm coat (even in Fall and Spring)
- A good attitude!

Basic Rules of the Cave

- 1) No running or horseplay is allowed at any time in the Caverns.
- 2) The Caverns are protected by Indiana Law. Nothing is to be removed or disturbed.
- 3) All persons must follow instructions of Bluespring Caverns personnel and should plan on staying for the entire program. No "wandering" is allowed.
- 4) No cooking is allowed. Candles and gas lanterns may not be used in the Caverns. Snacks are available at our snack bar.
- 5) We expect general courtesy and a good attitude from every participant.