

# Troop 219 Informational Handout

([www.troop-219.org](http://www.troop-219.org) or [www.troop219.org](http://www.troop219.org))

- **POPCORN ORDERS DUE TONIGHT**  
**SIGNUP FOR ELECTRONIC CAMPOUT DUE TONIGHT**  
**2004 BOY SCOUT REGISTRATIONS DUE TONIGHT**

Lots of things are due tonight. Money from your popcorn order is due tonight. You must make special arrangements with Mr. Miller if you cannot have the money delivered tonight. Similarly, your signup for the Electronic Campout is due tonight. Mr. Miller has extra forms – if you know that you will be attending but your form is not turned in yet, see Mr. Miller.

Your re-registration in the Boy Scouts of America along with 2004 troop dues and 2004 OA dues if you're paying them through the troop are also due tonight. **DO NOT ALLOW MONEY** to prevent you (or your son) from being active with the troop – we can provide a variety of options if costs are or become a hardship. This is true for registration and also for activity fees including summer camp. See Mr. Cox or Mr. Miller if there are problems or financial concerns.

- **TROOP LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

Nominations for Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), and campaigning for this position are the order of business at tonight's meeting. To be considered for the position, a Scout must be at least First Class Rank. As you have seen much more so over the past year, the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) really does run the program of the troop. So the SPL job is extremely important. Consider the responsibilities of this position carefully before you decide to run, and as you decide who to vote for. Elections for SPL will be held next week, followed by elections of Patrol Leaders, and appointment of all other troop leadership positions. Remember, all appointed positions expire as of the end of next week's meeting. As Scoutmaster I will not interfere with the free election of the troop, however I will act with some speed to remove any elected leader whose lack of performance interferes with the forward movement of the troop.

- **TROOP JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING (SMJLT)**

All elected leaders are required to attend (and all appointed leaders as well as general troop members are invited to attend) Troop Junior Leader Training, scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2003 from 9AM – 2PM at the church. Because of the blood drive, we'll be holding the sessions upstairs. There is no charge for this activity, and lunch is provided by the troop. Remember that a substantial objective of this activity is team building among the new leadership rather than anything special about the presented material, so if you are an elected leader, you are expected to attend regardless of whether you've attended before.

- **BLOOD DRIVE – SERVICE PROJECT**

The church is holding a blood drive on Saturday, December 6, 2003. They have requested three Scouts be available to help unload the truck and bring stuff in and set it up at 7:30 AM. This will take approximately 90 minutes. The church would prefer older [larger] Scouts who can handle the equipment. They also need about 90 minutes worth of help from 3 Scouts at 3:00 PM. **NOTE HOW NEATLY THIS CORRESPONDS TO THE TROOP JLT SESSION THAT SAME DAY!!!, HINT, HINT, NUDGE, NUDGE...**

- **ELECTRONIC CAMPOUT**

If you're going, meet at 6PM in the southwest corner of the Fenton Kmart parking lot with your gear, and finished with dinner. We will need several parents to help transport Scouts and gear to and from camp. We'll be staying in 1/2 of Nottingham, the camp dining hall, and I've rented the big commercial kitchen for our use as well. You may bring computers, televisions and video games. Leave home video games that are grossly inappropriate for a Boy Scout function. There will be a service project for the camp, and I will be cooking for the troop – so expect to eat well.

**IMPORTANT:** If you plan to attend both the NH District Swim program and also attend the Electronic Campout, special transportation arrangements will be necessary. We may need some parents to help transport these boys as well. Make sure that you've spoken to the Scoutmaster before you leave tonight's meeting.

## ● NEW HORIZONS DISTRICT SWIM PROGRAM

Three sessions begin **THIS FRIDAY** at the pool in the *Grand Blanc Middle School*, as follows:

- Friday, November 21, 2003 (7PM for Lifesaving; 8PM for Swimming MB & Scout Ranks)
- Friday, December 12, 2003 (7PM for Lifesaving; 8PM for Swimming MB & Scout Ranks)
- Friday, January 9, 2004 (7PM for Lifesaving; 8PM for Swimming MB & Scout Ranks)

You must attend all three sessions for the Lifesaving Merit Badge. Generally, two sessions are required for Swimming Merit Badge. You may also complete 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and/or 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rank swimming requirements here. You must bring a completed and signed Merit Badge application with you – if you're completing a partial, bring that partial MB form with you, not a new one if you want to receive credit for what you've already done.

**IMPORTANT:** If you plan to attend both the NH District Swim program and also attend the Electronic Campout, special transportation arrangements will be necessary. We may need some parents to help transport these boys as well. Make sure that you've spoken to the Scoutmaster before you leave tonight's meeting.

## ● Troop Activity T-Shirts

The deadline for ordering troop t-shirts has expired. Since orders have not yet been received for 40 shirts, the ordering deadline is still open. Submit your order NOW.

## ● Troop Committee Meeting

Attendance at troop committee meetings has been sparse these last few months. A strong troop committee is important to assure that the goals of the troop are met and to keep the Scoutmaster in line. The next troop committee meeting is Thursday night, December 11, 2003 at 7:00PM at the church. We strongly urge the **parents of ALL SCOUTS in the troop to attend** these meetings. Just because you attend does not mean that we'll put you to work; and even if we do, we won't ask for anything you can't handle. The ongoing success of Troop 219 demands the dedicated involvement of *many* adults – especially YOU!

## ● WHY BE A MEMBER OF TROOP 219? (a Scoutmaster minute)

Attention span and related behavior issues have taken up much of the attention of the PLC these past months. Now, with troop registration coming due I think that some words are appropriate. So long as I'm Scoutmaster, the troop program generally will follow the BSA basics and guidelines. There's a great deal of room within that envelope for the Scouts to control the program, and the boys in the troop learn the principles of Scouting, outdoor skills, leadership skills and character traits from MANY sources within the program. BUT TO DO SO, they **must take action**. Scouts cannot repeatedly [only] show up at meetings unprepared and expect to just "absorb" all these great Scouting ideals. They must work for them. Being an active member of Troop 219 requires effort well beyond just attendance at Monday meetings and summer camp. 90+ years of history demonstrate clearly that the patrol method works, but patrol members must live up to their responsibilities to their patrols. This is happening only too rarely and unpredictably at the moment.

To address this in part, I have delegated to Patrol Leaders substantial input in the advancement of Scouts in their patrols. As of tonight, I require Scouts to have the support and recommendation of their patrol leader to complete the "scout spirit" advancement requirement usually determined at the Scoutmaster conference. The SPL will report on behalf of patrol leaders. I expect that this recommendation will be withheld for Scouts who do not live up to the needs and expectations of their patrol.

Most importantly, as you fill out the paperwork and pay for another year in the troop, ask yourself whether you intend to really be a net asset to your patrol and the rest of the troop or if you're just wasting everybody's time and money. I'm confident and I promise that if you act as a net asset to your patrol and the troop, the experience over time will repay you with all of the benefits that the Scouting program has done for so many others over the past years. Don't just grow older with the troop – grow UP with it!

Larry Zimble  
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219