



SMOKE SIGNALS



October 2010

The Official Newsletter of Troop 555

Sponsored By: Knights of Columbus #1414

Scoutmaster's Thoughts on...

by Mr. Brown

Who Are Your Leaders?

Time is coming to choose leadership positions again, as it does every six months. How do you go about selecting your leaders? Do you just pick your friends? Well that's hard, because everyone is a friend in scouting. The condition of your troop depends on the leadership you choose. You can have a good time and outstanding activities if your leaders are following guidelines and rules set by the contracts they have for their positions. These leaders will receive training, and advancement opportunities by fulfilling those contracts.

Nomination

You should consider if the person you are nominating would be able to complete the position they are running for. When you nominate someone, you are doing two things. You are:

- Asking for their leadership, and
- Assisting them to become leaders by experience

You might think about helping someone with a position that has an easier contract to fulfill it for the first time.

Getting Nominated

How do you get nominated for a leadership position? Choose a position you would like. You might want to pick more than one, but not too many. Find out the qualifications you need to complete your selected contracts. Next, tell your scout friends before election day, so they can consider who they want to nominate. You may nominate your current leaders for a second term, or other scouts for a new position. Remember! It is your troop, and your obligation to choose your leaders. If you are selected as a nominee, be ready to give a short speech about why you would like to be elected. Be serious and plain. Tell the scouts how you plan to do your best to complete your contract. Don't joke around and don't brag on yourself.

Voting

Voting is your opportunity to choose leaders for the next six months. Remember! Every scout has to complete at least three leadership positions to advance to Eagle Scout. An active scout should complete more contracts.

Scouting is FUN! Help choose your leaders to make Scouting FUN!

Viper Patrol Report

By Isaac Smith

I think our patrol is doing great! We are all being good scouts. We, by now, all know how to cook and where most everything is. The only let-down for me was that there were only TWO SCOUTS at the last trebuchet tuning session. We got farther than we have ever gotten though.

Quartermaster Report

By Will Connor

We need to take better care of the equipment in the garage. An example would be cleaning the cooking utensils after we're done cooking, because I had to send five cooking materials home with scouts. They weren't too thrilled, but I wasn't going to clean it. We're going on the fourth week, and two people haven't brought their troop gear back. We also need to take better care of the zippers on the tents, so we're not cold in the winter and not wet when it rains. If you pull the zipper up slowly, it won't get stuck and start ripping. So again, be careful with the scouting equipment. Thank you for reading.



Picture 1: Peterloon's amazing laser show



Picture 2: The 2010 Peterloon Patch

What merit badge would
YOU like the Troop to offer
next?
Please submit your
requests to Connor Boyle.

BINGO!

Bingo Sign-ups
Earn \$35 plus TIPS!!
You also earn \$15 additional dollars for
the Troop!
Sign-up sheet is available at every
meeting.

For more information contact
Mrs. Luehrmann, 812-546-5811

Your space could be **HERE!**

Do YOU have an article for the newsletter???
Do YOU want to submit pictures or comics or other
visuals?

Do YOU like to earn flodderbucks???
Then talk to the Scribe! (Connor Boyle)

Thanks to all who submitted articles! The
more articles you submit, the more
awesome this newsletter becomes. Don't let
yourself be without an opinion! If you
would like to have an article in the
newsletter feel free to ask! In future
newsletters, I hope to have 5+ pages of
information. In the following month, I
need:

- A Religious article (Chaplains' Aid)
- List of checked out library books
- At least ONE article from EACH
Patrol Leader

I am confident that we will be able to
achieve this goal.

Also, if you would like to receive this
newsletter by email, let me (Connor Boyle)
know, and I will send it out!

Thanks a lot!

Peterloon 2010

Here is what your fellow scouts have said about their time at Peterloon:

This was the Vikings' first Peterloon. Here are my opinions. The arena show was pretty cool. I loved the lazars. The music was also awesome! I'd like to mention a particular older scout who used my catchphrase, "I've been told that." The activities were extremely fun, but it was very cold.

– Alex Hahn

I had a lot of fun. I got a splinter in my fingernail. It hurt bad, but I still had fun. I fell asleep during the lazer light show. I look forward to the next Peterloon campout.

– Matt Allman

WE HAD A LOT OF FUN!

– Vikings

It was a great team-building outing. I loved every second of it.

– Isaac Smith

I 100% agree with Isaac. I do agree. He is right. It was fun. I had a good time.

– Nick Green

Peterloon was quite exciting. The amazing race was very fun. We got to do various activities, most of which had nothing to do with scouting. I heard that rappelling was quite fun. Mid-morning and afternoon were also fun. Some of the activities were also fun, like tomahawk throwing. Peterloon was awesome.

– IanFox

Peterloon was fun. It was also cold. The light show was okay. We didn't win anything. We did the amazing race where we ran to a bunch of stations. It was tough, but it was still fun.

– Jose Burgos

We got back home Sunday afternoon tired, hungry, and really dirty. Peterloon, the best way to describe it one word, awesome. We didn't come back from one of the greatest campouts ever with just our dirty socks. No, we came back with memories that will last a lifetime. We got there friday night around 7:30. After setting up the cooking area (thanks to Daniel and David) and putting up an amazing gateway (which was only made from five logs) we finished our campsite by putting up all the tents. With our campsite finished, we turned in for some much-needed rest.

(Peterloon Continued)

Saturday morning was in the frigid temperatures. The picture of half the troop huddled around a single lamp will remain a staple image of Troop 555. After breakfast, all of us were eager to show off our scouting skill in the revised Simon Kenton Relay Race, A.K.A. "The Amazing Race." Unfortunately, there were no real scouting skills involved in the race, but we had fun anyway. We then went back to camp to eat some delicious meatloaf and mashed potatoes made by our adults. We then split into groups of about four, and went to the action center to take part in the day's activities. Some of the activities included tomahawk throw, canoe portage, and walking on air. The day concluded with a laser lights show and the winners of the day's competitions. The next morning, we cleaned up, went to mass, and started the ride home... extremely late. We had fun though, and that's all that matters... right?

- Ben Seiwert

Here's A Challenge:

You are standing at an intersection of Country roads. One says 1050 N, and the other says 325 E. You are heading where CR 200 W meets Baseline Rd. Assuming a perfectly rectangular grid of roads, and further assuming that you will walk only on the road, how far will you have to walk?

If you think you know the answer, submit it to the next newsletter, and we'll see who's right!

Last Month's Answer: The South Pole

Check out the troop
website at:
www.555bsa.org

Weekly Meeting Planner:

November Theme: Science

Monday 1st of November – Committee Meeting

Opening and Closing		Flaming Burros
Skills Instruction	Drug Awareness	
Patrol Meetings	Week 4 of Punkin Chunkin	
Inter-Patrol Activity	Paper Towel Building	Cyclones
Leave No Trace		Vikings
Reminder: Proper COH Attire and Demeanor		

Monday 8th of November – COH | Begin Wreath Sales

Setup		Vikings
Opening and Closing		Pine Trees
Leave No Trace		Everybody EXCEPT Vikings
Food:	Drinks: Cyclones	Salty Snacks: Flaming Burros
Fruits: Pine Trees	Dessert: Vipers	Plates and Cups: Vikings

Monday 15th of November – PLC | Pack Meeting

Opening and Closing		Cyclones
Skills Instruction	Geocaching	Vipers
Patrol Meeting	Week 1 of Climbing/Cooking	
Game	Dodgeball	Flaming Burros
Leave No Trace		Pine Trees

Monday 22nd of November – Popcorn Distribution

Opening and Closing		Vikings
Skills Instruction	Most Abused Gear	QM
Patrol Meeting	Week 2 of Climbing/Cooking	
Inter-Patrol Activity	LEGO Challenge	
Leave No Trace		Vipers

Monday 29th of November

Opening and Closing		Vipers
Skills Instruction	Climbing	Cyclones
Patrol Meeting	Week 3 of Climbing/Cooking	
Game	Ultimate Frisbee	Pine Trees
Leave No Trace		Flaming Burros