

Eagles' Nest



Troop 713

September 2005 Newsletter

Available at www.troop713.org

New beginning

Welcome to the new Scouting Year with Troop 713. Just a glance at the calendar on Page 3 will be enough to realize that we have a full year of fun, adventure, learning and leadership opportunities ahead.

In this edition of the Eagles' Nest, we have included some basic information about Troop and Patrol operations and some individual resources.

Thanks!

This is a good opportunity to thank our Chartered Sponsor, Council 5052 Knights of Columbus. They provide our meeting place, lots of material support and special recognition for our Scouts who earn the Eagle rank.

Growing the Troop

People sometimes approach us when we are in uniform to ask us about registering a son with our Troop. New Scouts and transferring Scouts are always welcome in T713. If you have the privilege of representing our Troop to a prospective new Scout or parent, keep in mind that there is no obstacle to joining.

For instance, we are Catholic-sponsored, but we welcome Scouts of all faiths and we respect the faith practiced by each of our Scouts.

Another example is the cost of Scouting. This should not be an obstacle for anyone. There are resources within our Troop to help with expenses and there are people in the community who would be glad to make scouting financially possible for a Scout in need.

When people ask about the cost, remember that we have experienced uniforms available; there are lots of opportunities to earn money for the Scout's troop account; scouting teaches resourcefulness.

713 goes GREENer

Troop 713 will adopt some new practices this fall in an effort to help the environment and to explore all the ways we can enjoy the outdoors without USING precious resources.

Some of the adult leaders took a short course at summer camp in the national movement known as Leave No Trace (LNT). Several of them hope to take an advanced course for LNT trainers this fall.

The principles of LNT are:

- Plan ahead and prepare for outdoor experiences
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimize impact of campfires
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors in the outdoors

Some will say, "Those sound a lot like the four points of the BSA Outdoor Code."

That's right, and it's no coincidence!

Boy Scouts of America is a principal partner in the LNT movement.

How does LNT fit in our operations as a troop? Our Scouts will learn and apply the principles of LNT in our activities on campouts. That may mean campfires are not routine, but reserved for special occasions. It will mean we will carry less equipment on outings in order to reduce fuel consumption and to keep vehicle impact on parks to a minimum. As we replace equipment, we may wish to acquire smaller tents, smaller stoves and lighter cooking

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Going green (continued)

utensils and carriers.

We expect to set a good example for others who share the outdoors with us. We expect to learn and experience more of what nature has to offer because our activities will be more in harmony with the environment we share with the rest of God's creation.

Best of all, practicing LNT will help our Scouts grow up conscious of our impact on the environment and ways to make that impact as slight as possible.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about outdoor ethics is encouraged to visit www.lnt.org.

It's good to know:

Texas State Parks prohibit the gathering of firewood. The reason is that standing dead trees and branches support all sorts of habitat-related functions for various life forms, the most notable being nesting opportunities. Dead wood on the ground also provides special habitats and then helps restore vital nutrients to the soil as it decomposes.

Hikers are required to stay on established trails, even when the path is muddy or under water. If there is any chance of a wet, muddy trail, wear footgear that will protect your feet. Walk on the trail, not around it.

What to do when it's your turn as grubmaster

So you have Grubmaster duty for the next weekend?

First, the patrol prepares a menu. Then the grubmaster takes responsibility for carrying out the patrol's plan as faithfully as possible.

Once you have the answers to these questions, the shopping will be easy.

Keep in mind that Scouts in your patrol may be cooking for rank advancement, and coordination will be needed.

<i>QUESTION</i>	<i>ANSWER</i>
Is this a nutritional plan?	Scouts should understand and apply some of the principles of human nutrition (food groups, calories, etc.)
What will it cost ?	We budget \$10 per person for two breakfasts, one lunch, one evening meal.
How will we keep it safe ?	The troop has ice chests and drink coolers, but the Scout should include bagged ice in the budget as needed.
What will we need to prepare it?	Troop cook kits include standard pots and pans, utensils, dutch ovens, seasoning, cooking oil and cleanup soap and pads. The grubmaster must check equipment and supplies before the troop leaves the warehouse to make sure the needed items are loaded, that they are functioning and sufficient. (And don't forget paper towels!)
How much time will cooking take?	It is a good idea to have a general understanding of the schedule. For instance, if Saturday lunch will be on the trail, hot dogs would be a real hassle.
Is there something I can do at home to prepare ?	Scouts are encouraged to do some of the peeling, chopping and other procedures in the comfort of Mom's kitchen. Meat can be browned and frozen, seasonings can be combined, etc.
What will cleanup require?	The basic mixing bowl these days is a freezer-type Ziploc bag or generic equivalent. You can transport ingredients, mix in the moist components, even cook in a Ziploc and there is no bowl, mixing spoon or other equipment to clean up after. But there are plenty of traditional preparation tools in each patrol's cooking kit.

It just LOOKS a little loose

Scouts are really organized

Scouts are organized in Troops and then in Patrols. The typical patrol has 7-9 Scouts and this group functions with some autonomy when it comes to their mutual wellbeing. They choose and arrange their campsite; they plan, purchase and prepare their own food and they work together to be on time for various activities. Each patrol has a patrol leader and an assistant patrol leader who are responsible for seeing that the patrol's checklist of responsibilities is completed. In addition, a patrol has a grubmaster who is responsible for bringing and managing food for the campout. Patrol integrity and loyalty are important, and competitions are often conducted so that the patrols have an opportunity to develop their teamwork in structured situations. The patrol mascot (Scorpion, Antelope, Eagle) is a form of identity that can be

carried out with a Scout-made patrol flag, patrol yell and other spirit-building activities.

Our troop has a hierarchy of Scouts with responsibility for just about every aspect of our operations. We are a Scout-run troop, so for instance when a new Scout asks an adult for operational information, the adult typically should respond, "Ask your Senior Patrol Leader." That is because the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) has responsibility for all operations – patrol assignments, schedules, procedures, etc. Our SPL is a Scout who has had extensive formal training at the Council level and understands leadership principles and a great deal of procedural information pertaining to troop operations.

There are other troop roles as well including the Scribe, who preserves photos and notes from major activities, the Quartermaster, who gets the proper troop gear assembled and loaded for each outing.

Why we learn First Aid

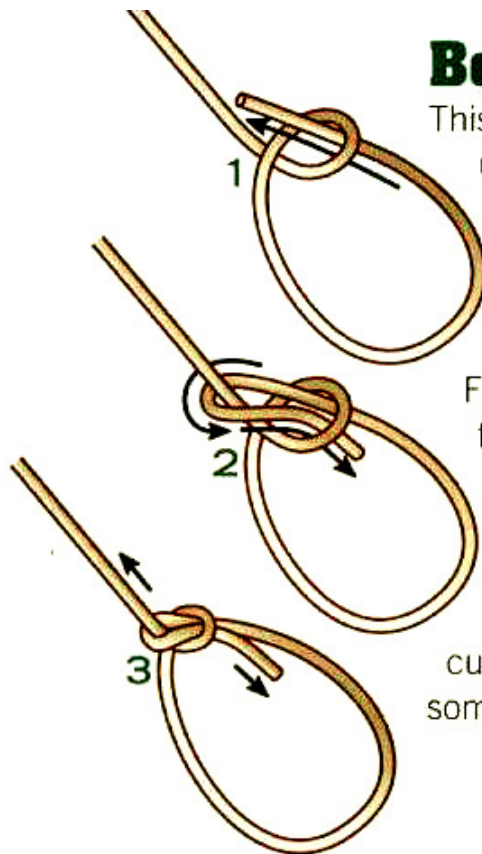
You have heard and read dozens of stories about how a Boy Scout is the first person on the scene and provides First Aid for a stranger who has had an accident or fallen ill.

People expect Boy Scouts to know how to tie knots, swim, save lives, camp, cook and do lots of other useful things in time of need.

That's why Scouts are required to learn certain skills for advancement through the ranks. Each time a Scout is reviewed for promotion, there are certain knots, First Aid techniques and other demonstrations of knowledge and skill that are required.

With respect to First Aid, Scouts acquire more difficult concepts and master more difficult techniques as they advance through the ranks.

Don't forget! Once a Scout has learned skills, say for Tenderfoot, he is expected to remember them when he stands for review for First Class, Star, Life or Eagle!



Bowline

This is one of the most useful knots in the outdoors, and it's great for securing one end of a rope to almost anything.

For instance: Use it for tying a tarp or wash-line to a tree, as a safety knot for climbing and scrambling, and as a rescue knot to haul someone out of a jam.

2005

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2006

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September 05

- 4 – MIC Blood Drive
- 12 – Troop meeting
- 16 – Campout Ray Roberts Water Ski
- 19 – PLC
- 26 – Court of Honor
- TBA – Den Chief Training

October 05

- 3 – Troop meeting
- 8 – MIS Fall Festival
- 10 – Troop meeting
- 14 – LNT Scouters only campout
- 17 – PLC
- 19 – Committee meeting

November 05

- 7 – Troop meeting
- 11 – Mountain bike campout
- 14 – PLC
- 16 – Committee meeting
- 28 – Troop meeting

December 05

- 5 – Troop meeting
 - 9 – Wilderness Survival
- ### January 05
- 9 – Troop meeting
 - 13 – Camp Simpson
 - 16 – PLC

February 05

- 5 – Scout Sunday
- 6 – Troop meeting
- 11 – Scouting for Food
- 13 – Troop meeting
- 15 – Committee meeting
- 17 – Deep Sea Fishing campout
- 20 – PLC
- 27 – Troop meeting

March 05

- 3 – Catholic Scout Retreat campout
- 6 – Troop meeting
- 20 – PLC
- 27 – Troop meeting
- 31 – 4 C's campout

April 05

- 3 – Troop meeting
- 10 – PLC
- 17 – Troop meeting
- 19 – Committee meeting
- 21 – Canoeing campout
- 24 – Troop meeting

May 05

- 1 – Troop meeting
- 5 – Camp Burnett Court of Honor campout
- 8 – Troop meeting
- 15 – PLC
- 17 – Committee meeting
- 18 – Round table
- 22 – Last Troop meeting

July 05

- 2 - 8 Summer Camp - Camp Pioneer