

Troop 219 Informational Handout

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

● Scouting for Food Bag Dropoff & Bluespring Caverns MARCH 8th

Our trip to Blue Springs Caverns is only 12 days away. It should be a phenomenal experience for everybody who attends. The following twenty (20) Scouts and Adults are signed up to attend this overnight caving adventure: *Joe Sulfaro, Jacob Chalut, Kenny Pigott, Mike Holcomb, Nick Stewart, Garrett Stewart, John Murray, Anthony Vig, John Cohoon, Chad Brandon, J T Waters, Bill Sarosy, Jonathon King, Steve Congdon; Mr. Zimpler, Mr. Sulfaro, Mr. Holcomb, Mrs. Sarosy, Mr. Cohoon, Mr. King & Dr. Congdon.* Some of these names have not yet paid in full – final payment is due immediately. In addition, each person should bring at least \$20 cash to cover dinner Saturday, lunch Sunday and any souvenirs.

You'll need to **bring a sack lunch with a drink for the drive on Saturday.** We'll probably only stop at a rest area for lunch to conserve driving time. It's at least a 7 hour drive from Fenton to the caverns, maybe more if we run into traffic or weather, both of which are very unpredictable this time of year. I'll be contacting the adults attending to coordinate drivers and vehicles.

Attending the cavern overnight adventure requires that you bring the following personal equipment:

- 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, or other waterproof sleeping pad
- Warm coat (even in Fall and Spring)
- A good attitude!

Temperature in the caverns is a cool 50 degrees at all times, warm by the standards of our current temperatures, and it's gotten colder than that some nights at Tapico during summer camp. So make sure that your clothing and sleeping gear will accommodate this temperature.

Meet at the church on Saturday March 8th at 7:30AM (yup that's real early). We'll drop off the Scouting for Food bags in our assigned area and then leave immediately for southern Indiana.

There might still be some opportunity to attend this activity.

● Scouting for Food Bag Pickup

We'll meet at the church on Saturday March 15th at 9:00AM, probably lasting until about 11AM. Adults are needed to assist in this activity by driving.

● OVERDUE Merit Badge Books

The troop spends a significant sum each year maintaining our library of Merit Badge books. This library is a convenience to the Scouts in the troop, saving them almost \$3 of expense for each merit badge book that they're able to use. With this convenience comes a responsibility. Merit badge books must be checked out properly and returned timely.

Currently there are a large number of books checked out and not returned. A list of Scouts who have an outstanding obligation to the troop library is being posted on the bulletin board. Every Scout should review this list and resolve any outstanding obligations with the troop librarian (Mrs. Cohoon & Chad Brandon). Unresolved library obligations will be charged to Scout's accounts in the near future, at the cost of replacing the unreturned books.

● SUMMER CAMP is not far away.

It's time to sign up for Summer Camp. Last year the PLC considered carefully all options and decided that we will be returning to Camp Tapico, Pioneer Campsite during the week of July 13 to July 19.

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. A suggested payment plan was published in October along with the summer camp signup form, but no-one has yet used it. The ability to pay at the rate of \$25 per month is gone, now at least \$50 per month (February, March, April & May; or \$68.33/month March, April and May) is needed – making sure that all payments are made on or before the May 12 deadline.

Mr. Miller has extra Summer Camp signup forms.

The announced deadline to apply for campership funds has also passed. If you need to secure campership funds, please let **Mr. Cox** know right away. We do not want any boy to be unable to attend camp for financial reasons; and there are multiple sources from which we might secure funds. It'd be a real shame if we can't find the money because you waited too long to ask. All campership requests are kept in complete confidence.

● **CHEAP Summer Camp Physicals!!!**

Scouts and Adults attending summer camp must have a completed Tall Pine Council health form filed with the troop on or before Memorial Day. This is the four page form, and can be downloaded from the troop web page (note that the copy on our web site is a materially better print quality than the copy on the Tall Pine Council web page). As part of being completed in their entirety, Scout health forms MUST bear a physician signature dated on or after July 20, 2000. The same is true for adults under age 40. Adults age 40 and over must have a physician signature dated on or after July 20, 2002. Parent signatures for Scouts must be less than one year old (but there are three separate places to sign, once each year)

\$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 half of only the insurance co-pay I just paid for a physical with my own physician. It's a great opportunity if you need a physical and cash is tight. BOTH youth and adult Scouts are accommodated, wear shorts and a tshirt. See the Scoutmaster for more details.

● **Order of the Arrow Calling Out Ceremony**

A team will visit our troop meeting Monday, March 3 to conduct a calling out ceremony recognizing those scouts that were elected into membership this past January 27th.

● **Pack 158 Crossover– Yesterday**

Three new Scouts are joining our troop from Pack 158. Please help them feel welcome.

● **Pack 286 Crossover– Sunday, March 16th**

We'll need several Scouts to assist with this crossover – plus you get fed at the Pack's Blue and Gold dinner. Sign up at Mr. Miller's table.

● **STAR SEMINAR – March 10th**

Star & Life Rank Scouts: A STAR SEMINAR is scheduled next Monday, March 10, 2003 probably in the Owosso/Corunna area. Attendance at one Star Seminar is required **after reaching the rank of STAR** but **before a LIFE rank Scout may begin his Eagle Leadership Service Project**. You must call the council office (810-235-2531) to tell them you're coming and find out the exact times and location where it's to be held.

● **CPR Saturday, March 22nd**

CPR and First Aid Training (with AED, *Automated External Defibrillator*) will be conducted Saturday, March 22nd at Baker College from 9AM until 5PM at a cost of ONLY \$10 per person. This is an OUTSTANDING training opportunity at a fantastic price. See Mr. Hussar for more details.

The troop Pioneering Day originally on the calendar for this date is being ***rescheduled*** by the PLC not only because of this conflict but also because this winter's severe and extended cold are expected to continue and be too distracting from the tasks at hand.

● **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next troop committee meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 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!

Larry Zimble
Scoutmaster-Boy Scout Troop 219