

Troop 219 Informational Handout

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

● **LAST HANDOUT FOR 2003 – WHAT'S COMING UP**

- Next week is "game night." Scout uniform is optional. Bring board games, card games, etc.
- There will be no regular meeting Monday, December 22 or Monday December 29.
Everybody have a safe and happy holiday!!!
- Regular meetings resume, Monday, January 5, 2004.
 - DUE THAT NIGHT: **Klondike Signup Forms and money**
- **SATURDAY, January 10 from 11AM – 3PM is a Klondike Sled repair session @ Mr. Hussar's. If you're going to Klondike we expect you here too.**
- Friday, January 16th at 6:00PM we meet to travel to Klondike.
- There is no regular meeting Monday, January 19, 2004
- Sunday, February 8 is Scout Sunday – we'll be hosting a pancake breakfast for the Presbyterian Church – same as last year except that your worksessions will be in shifts rather than everybody all the time. THIS IS A MANDATORY ATTENDANCE EVENT!

● **NEW HORIZONS DISTRICT SWIM PROGRAM**

A new third session has been added to replace the November 21st session that was cancelled because Life Guards failed to show up. What was originally scheduled to be the second session will now become the first session. All sessions are at the pool at the **GRAND BLANC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- 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)
- Friday, January 30, 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 2nd Class and/or 1st 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.

● **KLONDIKE DERBY – JANUARY 16-18, 2004**

We'll be in the same facility as last year, again sharing with Troop 212 (this is the same facility as we just held the electronic campout). Cost is \$25 per Scout. A permission slip/signup form is attached. Patrol equipment lists and other information are being handed out tonight. **Signup deadline is Monday, January 5th 2004** that's the first meeting back after Christmas break!

Additionally, there is a **sled repair session** scheduled for **Saturday, January 10th** beginning at 11AM at Mr. Hussar's house. The sleds are in no condition to be used this year without significant repairs. If you're planning on going to Klondike – BE HERE TO HELP!

● **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.** Election procedures permit every eligible candidate to be elected, but that is rarely the result. 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. If you do not complete the Ordeal at one of these conclaves, your election expires.

Troop 219 currently has about 30 youth and adult OA members. Our youth and adult members have been movers and shakers within the Lodge and we've produced several Lodge and Chapter officers in past

years. Our OA Troop Representative is Matt Rybar. I'll publish a list of Scouts that meet membership requirements in the January 26th handout. At this time, I have no reason to withhold my recommendation from any of the Scouts now currently eligible.

● **UPCOMING OA ACTIVITIES**

If you are a member of the OA there are several important activities coming up – see the OA Troop Representative for details. These events are not open to non-OA members.

- Saturday, December 20 – **Lodge Ceremonies Team** meeting @ Mr. Zimbler's office 10AM
- Saturday, January 10 – **OA winter workday** at Camp Holaka 9AM
- Sunday, January 11 – **OA Banquet** @ Mayfield Twp Hall, tickets are \$15 6:00PM
- Saturday, January 24 – **Bidaban Bowling Bash** @ Grand Blanc Lanes 3:PM

SECTION CONCLAVE will be in Toledo the weekend of 4/30, 5/1 & 2. Cost will be around \$35 – you really should attend one of these (no work, just fun).

NOAC 2004 (National Order of the Arrow Conference) will be held at Iowa State University, Ames, IA. July 29 – August 5. Another outstanding event – you would be able to attend this conference if you are elected and complete the Ordeal in May. Final costs will be near \$400. \$100 must be paid by April 23rd. \$5 anytime holds your spot. Like a National Jamboree, attendance at a NOAC is a truly memorable experience.

- **TRAIL TO EAGLE**
- **SILVER BARS JLTC**
- **NATIONAL JAMBOREE 2005**
- **MACKINAC ISLAND SCOUT SERVICE TROOP (MISST)**

APPLICATION FORMS AND OTHER INFORMATION CAN BE SECURED ON OR VIA LINKS FROM OUR TROOP WEB SITE.
AGE 13 AND FIRST CLASS RANK ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH OF THESE SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

REMINDER – if you want to attend Trail to Eagle Camp in 2004 you should have your application submitted before December 31st. Even now, you might not be assured of a spot, but at least you can be high on the waiting list.

The troop will pay ½ the cost of attending Silver Bars JLTC for 2 or 3 particularly eligible scouts at the discretion of the Scoutmaster. This week long course beginning June 20, 2004 is worth every penny of the [by March 31st] \$145 cost even if the troop will not pay half. The experience, the camaraderie, the leadership and outdoor skills that you practice are regularly sold for thousands of dollars to corporations on a regular basis. Payment is due by March 31st for the discounted price.

Both Jamboree troops are full, but with enough interest a third troop may be formed – it's NOT TOO LATE to get your application in to the Council Office. ***THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!!***

I cannot recommend the MISST experience enough to Scouts. Even though you'll miss a week of school, you'll learn more from this experience than you will ever miss – AND YOUR SCHOOL WILL AGREE! We've never had a situation where a school has failed to grant excused absence for this experience.

● **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next troop committee meeting is Thursday, December 11, 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