



Welcome New Scouts!

Troop 41 is pleased that you have chosen us as your troop. You will find useful information on our website at www.ktctroop41.org as well as this newsletter.

Merit Badge Nights

Our next Merit Badge Night will be February 29 and starts a new Merit Badge. Upcoming merit badge nights March 21, April 25 and May 23.

March/April Camping Trip

Our camping trip for March 18-20 will be at Camp Moses located in Russell, MA. There will be a presentation at the Springfield Armory. Our camping trip for April 15-17 will be at Camp Resolute.

Committee Meetings

Most committee meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 8. For those of you new to the troop, any adult is welcome to come to these meetings. An email will go out each month stating where the meeting will be held. Please just let the host know you are attending so they can have enough seats.

Calendar at a Glance

Upcoming Trips

March 18-20 Camp Moses
April 15-17 Camp Resolute
May 20-22 Mt. Monadnock
June 10-12 Camp Greenough Canoe Trip
Summer Camp Week 3 July 24-29

Events

Masonic Meal Nights
March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1
First Church Yard Cleanup
March TBD
Yard Sale St. Stephens Church
May TBD

Meetings

Troop Meetings
March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 25,
May 2, 9, 18, 23, and June 6, 13, 20, 27

Merit Badge Nights
February 29, March 21,
April 25 and May 23

PLC Meetings
March 23, April 27
May 25 and June 22 at 6:30 pm

Committee Meetings
March 8, April 12,
May 10 and June 14 at 7:00 pm

For an updated calendar go to our website
www.ktctroop41.org and click the calendar link.

Masonic Meal Night

Are you looking for a way to help pay for summer camp? We are looking for 4-5 volunteers to help serve dinner at the Masonic Hall the first Wednesday of every month. The money collected from the Masons is split between the boys and are used for camp credits. We have enough scouts for our March meal night, but please sign up for the April 6 meal night online at www.ublodge.org/troop41.

Summer Camp – Believe it or not...

It's time to start thinking about summer camp! Even though our week at summer camp isn't until July 24-29, it's important to start planning. For those scouts new to the troop, summer camp registration is through the troop, not done individually. The exception to this is if you register for an extra week of camp, or for a different week. However, all scouts are strongly encouraged to participate in summer camp. It is a great way to earn merit badges, learn scout skills and have fun!

Speaking of merit badges, this is one of the reasons we need to start planning now. Some of the merit badges offered at summer camp have some requirements that must be completed by the scout before attending camp. There are a few of these that must be done over a span of time. Jim Watson will be working with scouts to sign them up for merit badges. Some troop meetings in April will focus on camp merit badges. New scouts will receive recommendations for what to take their first year. All paperwork for camp, including the parent handbook (which contains which merit badges are offered, what the pre-requisites are and which requirements must be done before camp) are on the Camp Resolute site. Links can be found on our own website.

Important dates to note for camp include the 'early bird' deadline. The cost of summer camp has gone up this year and is \$415/week if paid by May 1st, or \$455 after May 1st. We are offering a payment option this year. If you'd like to make installments each week, see Elizabeth Young for details.

Spring Fundraiser

Every spring Troop 41 holds a yard sale at St. Stephen's Church. We ask that you donate what you can to help this event. This is the best time of year to get that attic or basement cleaned. Donate your old treasures to benefit our troop. This event will take place in May. Details to follow.

Service Activity for First Church

Troop 41 will be doing our annual clean-up for First Church some time in March. As our Chartering Organization, First Church provides us space to meet, and other valuable support. We will be cleaning up their grounds in preparation for spring. Please bring brooms, gloves, shovels, blowers and wheel barrows. This is usually done before Easter, however, since Easter is early this year, it will depend on the weather. Date to follow.

Order of the Arrow Elections

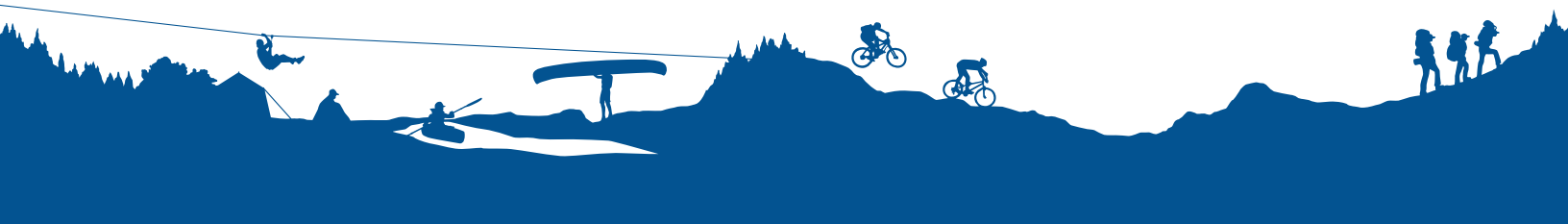
Troop 41 elections for Order of the Arrow (a Boy Scout honor society) will be held in early March.

Friends of Scouting

Our Friends of Scouting campaign will start soon. Friends of Scouting, the council-level annual giving campaign, attracts the funds that help your council provide vital programs and services to Scouts and Venturers. It's often a council's largest source of income — money that goes toward life-changing experiences for young men.

Uniforms!

Being in uniform for all of our scout meetings is part of attendance! For the benefit of our new scouts, our uniform consists of the beige Class A Shirt, and 'official' green scout pants. Scouts should always 'be prepared' in uniform for Scoutmaster Conferences or Boards of Review. We understand that it can be difficult and expensive to keep growing boys outfitted in uniforms. Paul Gadd runs a 'recycling' program for scout uniforms to help keep our scouts outfitted properly. He brings the uniforms to many meetings and to the troop court of honors (June 11th is the next one). Class B T-shirts (such as the red ones) may be worn to other scout events such as some community service events and Eagle Scout projects and on Merit Badge nights



First Church Rewards

Our chartering organization, First Church, has an ongoing fundraiser which benefits them without costing us an extra cent! Please consider purchasing some cards to benefit the organization that provides a home for Troop 41. Linda Warren from the church will be coming to our meeting the first Monday of every month. The next gift card day will be March 7. Below is an explanation of the program provided by First Church:

This program was started as a fundraiser for the First Church operating budget. We purchase discounted gift cards from a national vendor and then sell them at full value.....realizing a small profit from each card. The amount that we get varies for each vendor....ranging from 2.5% to 13%. The contribution percentage is shown on the vendor list.

We welcome your participation in this program. Keep us in mind for all of your normal shopping needs.....groceries, hardware, restaurants, fast food, etc.

Cards will be available for purchase at our regular meeting the first Monday of each month. If there are particular cards that you want, please email an order to me at lwarren52@verizon.net.

Movie gift cards make great gifts. The list of local vendors who participate is available from Linda Warren.

Fun Fact of the Month

Cherophobia is the fear of having fun.

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