



TROOP 18 NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011

Theme: This month our theme is Orienteering.

Oreenteering Course: The one mile oreenteering course (required for first class) will be held on October 15th. Unless otherwise announced it eill be held at GTLC at 2 PM. If a scout has not done this requirment it is strongly suggested he attend. Older scouts are required to help set up and run the course.

Recruiting: PLEASE download our flyer and give it to schools and businesses and ask them to display it. I would also like us to plan on attending school open houses to recruit this summer. Any help in getting us before PTO's this fall for presentations would also be appreciated.

Communications: Make sure you watch for emails for you and your scout. Troopkit.com is up and running. **All** scouts will be required to register for all troop events through troopkit.com. {An email sent to a member of the scoutmaster corp. will not count as a registration.} Parents will then get an email asking for permission for their scout to attend. This replaces permission slips and must be responded to. Scouts can post suggestions to event agendas, menus and such at troopkit. If you are not planning to attend an event please indicate that on troopkit. This way we know everyone has made a decision. Also Patrol Leaders are to do their duty rosters there. Duty rosters are due the Wednesday BEFORE the camp out. If your scout does not have an email account please consider it. Also check out our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=106551724619&v=wall> The boys can post discussions here. Parents and scouts should also check the troop web site (<http://merlincentral.com/troop18>) often. I place a copy of the newsletter there as well as event details (more then on troopkit.com), handouts and more. The minutes from troop and PLC meetings are now posted to a blog (troop18scribe.wordpress.com). There is a menu choice that will lead you to the blog on the troop web site (<http://merlincentral.com/troop16>). All scouts and parents should check the minutes every week.

PLC: Scouts in leadership positions (PL, ASPL, PL and Scribe) should remember to attend the mandatory Patrol Leaders Confrence held the last Monday of each month at GTLC at 6 pm. There they will make plans for the following month. They also need to get together for 5 to 10 minutes after troop meetings to touch base. Patrol leaders should have a 10-15 minute training or activity planned for each troop meeting. Plans for the activity **MUST** be submitted to the scoutmaster **BY** the Friday evening preceding a troop meeting.

Questions?: Scouts must get in the habit of first asking their SPL or PI **FIRST**. Parents, please ask your scout first and then check the web site, troopkit and minutes. Many of the handouts I give the scouts are on our web site as well as other resources. If a parent still has a question then please see one of our scoutmaster corp. If it is your scouts questuion he needs to ask it.

Absent?: If a scout is not attending a meeting / activity or his plans change, **THE** scout should contact his patrol leader who will contact the SPL who will notify me. (for activities please change your status on troopkit for the event.) Scouts should then follow up after the missed meeting with their patrol leader on what they missed. A scout isd responsible for knowing what happened at the last meeting and what he will need for the next one. Patrol leaders **MUST** make sure their assistants are attending if they are not able to attend. It is the Patrol Leaders reponsibility to make sure the APL is up to speed for the meeting and is ready to do the patrol activity. A scout is held responsible for any information he may have missed when not attending a meeting. **REMEMBER, SCOUTING IS BOY LED!**

Survival Braclets and Belts: We have more paracord for anyone who wishes to make more braclets the troop can hand out to persective recruits. Please see Mr. Michael.

Mr. Michael will help anyone still having a problem wiuth their slatts rescue belt **AFTER** a troop meeting. You must request his help no later then the Friday before the troop meeting.

BOR: All Board of Review request must be submitted via trookit.com's BOR screen. If you had a scoutmaster confrence on Monday then the request should be sent by that Tuesday night. Ms. Janet will notify you as to

when your BOR will be held. You MUST be in full dress class A uniform for a BOR..

Scouts will need to bring a pack with supplies. The supply list will be given out at the troop meeting the **Tenderfoot Fitness Test Part II:** Scouts who have not earned their Tenderfoot rank will need to take a physical fitness test (see your handbook) and then repeat it after 30 days and show improvement. We will hold the second test on 10/10/11 in the beginning of the troop meeting. ALL scouts who do not have Tenderfoot or above need to attend. Scouts taking part in the test may wear class B uniforms that night.

Ding Darling: on the October 16th we will be taking part in the Ding Darling Days. We will be doing the flag ceremony. Ding Darling is getting back to us on other things they would like us to do at the event. Full Class A Dress Uniform. Troopkit sign up deadline: 10/10/11

Jamboree on the Internet: The Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) will also be held on October 15th - 16th. It is an opportunity to chat with scouts all over the world. I will be giving more information on this next month.

That's all for now but please keep checking our web site <http://merlincentral.com/troop18> and ask your son if he has any notices when he comes home from troop meetings.

Cub Extravaganza: Our October camping trip will be staffing the cub extravaganza on October 21 to 23.

Advancement tracking: Scouts can keep track of their advancements on Troopkit.com.

YIS

Michael Memoli
"Golden Arrow"
Scoutmaster Troop 18

