

Scouting Times

Troop 400

<http://rdltroop400.tripod.com>

December/January 2009



Troop Leadership

Troop 400 is led by a group of young men who have been elected by their fellow Scouts to serve in a leadership capacity for a six month term. Beginning in January, the following Scouts assumed the leadership for the Troop:

Senior Patrol Leader	Mitch Hutchens
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader	Adam Blykert
Scribe	Pierce Oeflein
Historian	Devan Morgan
Quartermaster	Josh Patchett
Chaplain's Aid	Davis Hill
Troop Guide	Cody Machtmes
Troop Instructors	Jamie Adair
	David Covillo
	Chris Choate
OA Representative	
Patrol Leaders:	
Mountain Men	David Covillo
Jackalopes	Anthony Goodwin
Geckos	Nick Cantrell
Wolverines	Taylor Smith

These Scouts will be in these positions through June. Please thank these Scouts for their service to the troop!

Troop 400 Outdoor Program: We put the "Outing" in "Scouting"

Here are a few things that have been going on in Troop 400!

Twin Lakes

Our November event was a "no stoves" campout held on BLM land outside of Harrington, WA. Only cooking over an open fire or in a Dutch oven was allowed. This campout usually results in the best eating of any of our monthly events and this one was no exception!



Scout All-Nighter

This perennial favorite of the Scouts was held on the night of December 19th. Activities included advanced video-gaming and midnight battle ball. There was a Dutch Oven cook off with bragging rights going to Davis Hill for his bean dip.

Thanks to Pierce Oeflein for organizing this event.

Summer Camp Update

Update Alert!! The date of summer camp has changed! Summer camp is now the week of July 12 – 18. This is one week earlier than what we told you in the last newsletter. Troop 400 will be going to summer camp at beautiful Fire Mountain Scout Camp outside of Mt. Vernon, WA. This is the troop's favorite summer camp destination and this year's experience is sure to be memorable. We're still in need of adults who want to spend a week acting like a kid again! For more information contact Gary (570-3721).

High Adventure Update

Our high adventure trip is going to be amazing this year! We are doing a whitewater rafting trip on the Salmon River and jet boating through Hell's Canyon. The dates for this event are set (July 21 – 25) and fundraising started in earnest in December. Help support our scouts as they raise funds for this fantastic event.



National Youth Leadership Training

National Youth Leadership Training is an intense, 6 ½ day outdoor experience for youth leaders. Training will be held at Camp Cowles the week of June 15. Now is the time to start planning if you want to go. Minimum criteria to be considered for this training are:

- 13 years old and 1st Class by June 15
- Currently hold, or plan to soon hold, a leadership position in the troop
- Submit a completed interest form and a \$10 nonrefundable interest fee to the Scoutmaster
- Completed troop leadership training
- Complete and return the registration packet by April 18

Space is limited!

If you're interested in NYLT, please visit with Scoutmaster Gary as soon as possible.



Upcoming Events

Troop Leadership Training	Jan 13, 6:00 pm
MLK Holiday – No Meeting	Jan 19
Committee Meeting	Jan 26, 6:30 pm
Winter Campout	Jan 30 - 31
Snow Cave Campout	TBA
Patrol Leader's Council	Feb 10, 6:30 pm
Webelos Invitational	Feb 14
President's Day – No Meeting	Feb 16
Sled Day, Mt. Spokane	Feb 21
Committee Meeting	Feb 23, 6:30 pm

A Note from the SPL

Hello troop and parents. I am Mitch Hutchens and, as some of you might know, I am 14 years old and have been in the troop for about 4 years. Currently, I am a Life scout working on my Eagle rank. I have been an Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol leader in the Jackalope patrol several times along with being the troop Quartermaster and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

As Senior Patrol Leader, I have a few goals I would like to accomplish. The first, of course, is that everyone has fun and feels welcome in the troop. Another goal is to make troop and patrol meetings more fun and productive. For this, I will be looking to the older scouts to help the younger ones.

I will try and do my best as your SPL. I can't predict the future, or make everything perfect, but I will work hard to make the troop better.

Mitch



The Scout Oath:

**On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally
awake, and morally straight.**

Troop Website

Do you ever feel frustrated that your Scout isn't giving you enough information on upcoming events within the troop? Do you ever wonder when the next campout is? If you answered yes, then check out our web site! Here are just a few things you'll find:

- Troop Calendar
- Advancement Requirements
- Pack and Grubmaster Checklists
- Photo Galleries of our latest events

Come check out the goings on at:
<http://rdltroop400.tripod.com>

Scoutmaster's Minute

Is it me or do we have a lot of snow this year?! It seems like every day I'm out shoveling my driveway. I love the snow, but sometimes I wonder if it would be better to live in Arizona!

Even though I occasionally grumble about our weather, this area we call home is truly amazing. Not only are we blessed with four distinct seasons, but in just a few hours, we can experience the mountains, the desert, or the ocean. We truly are blessed to live in the Inland Northwest.

Right now we are in the grips of winter. A lot of people hunker down during the winter and just try to get through it. Winter, though, can be a magical time. Not only is there an abundance of recreational opportunities, such as skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobiling, but winter is a great time of year to go camping.

I know what you're thinking, and trust me, I used think the same thing. "Camping in the snow? I don't think so..." The reality though, as many of your sons can attest, is that winter camping can be a great adventure. If you are prepared and have the right equipment, winter camping can be a blast.

It can be a little intimidating for someone to go winter camping for the first time, but that is what Scouting is all about – pushing yourself beyond what you thought you were capable of doing.

So get out there and enjoy the snow. It will be spring before you know it!

Gary

