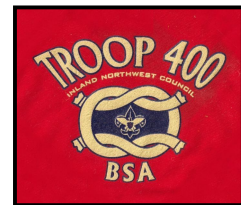


Scouting Times

Troop 400
www.troop400.net
April/May 2011



Welcome New Scouts

This is the time of year when we welcome many new Scouts into Troop 400. This year we're excited by the energy and enthusiasm these new Scouts bring to our troop. Welcome new Scouts, we're happy you joined us. Get ready for a great adventure!

Your Troop in Action

Here's what's been going on in Troop 400 over the past two months.

Cheney Wetlands

A small but hardy group of Scouts spent the weekend of March 18th camping on 500+ acres near Turnbull Wildlife Refuge. On Friday the troop hiked into a secluded site and was awoken Saturday morning by ducks and geese on a beautiful small lake they were camped near. Exploring the area and a great campfire made this outing one to remember



All-Nighter

Back by popular demand, the Scouts elected to do an all nighter at the church for their April event. Skills learned included advanced dodge ball and video gaming!

Fire District 8 Free Composting

Property owners were given the opportunity to clean up their yards and lessen this year's fire danger. Free dumping was offered through Fire District 9 and the Department of Natural Resources. The Scouts volunteered to unload vehicles and dump the material into bins that were hauled away to be composted. Special thanks to Haase Landscape for use of their property and Sunshine Disposal for the use of their bins.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Day – No Meeting	May 30
PLC	June 1
Family Fun Day	June 11
Committee Meeting	June 20

Summer Camp Update

Summer Camp is scheduled for the week of July 24th at Camp Pigott outside of Snohomish. We have a great turnout this year and everyone is looking forward to an outstanding week! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to go. As a reminder, the final payment for summer camp is due! Please contact Dana for information on making your camp payment.



High Adventure Update

Did you hear? We are having two high adventure trips this year!

- Trip 1: Sea Kayaking in the Puget Sound. This trip is scheduled for August 7 – 13. Scouts age 13 and 1st class are eligible to go on this event. We have 20 slots available and they will go fast. For more information, contact Blake McKinley.
- Trip 2: 50 mile backpacking trip in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. This trip is scheduled for August 19 - 24. Due to the physical nature of this trip, the BSA national height and weight guidelines will be enforced. For more information, contact Gary Hutchens

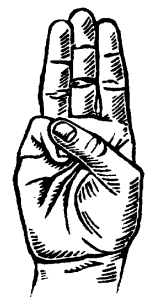
Medical Forms

With summer camp and high adventure coming up, it is time once again to update your Scout's medical records. Medical form can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://www.troop400.net/documents/MedicalForm.pdf>

If you have any questions, contact Adrienne Choate.

*Above
And
Beyond*



A Note from the SPL

These last few months have been pretty good. Our service patrols have put together some great skills that really emphasize the E.D.G.E. method. E.D.G.E. means Explain, Demonstrate, Guide and Enable. Our troop has improved our knot skills as well. At the last patrol meeting several people earned their red rope. There is a little rivalry between the Phoenix and Gecko patrols to see which patrol as a group can get their red ropes first.

One of the things I would like to see our troop improve on is patrol outings. I've announced it at a few meetings but no one has held an outing yet. Outings are important because they build patrol unity and spirit among the guys. I want to see all patrols have one by the end of June.

I'd like to give thanks to John Blyckert for organizing the flower sales. They were a great fundraiser and were a really good deal. For those of you who didn't sell this time, you should take advantage of it next year.

We have summer camp and two high adventures coming up soon. We will be going to Camp Pigott in western Washington. It's going to be a good time - let's win some competitions! The 50 mile hike and sea kayaking will be a blast as well. If you can, you should definitely sign up.

That's all for now, hope everyone is looking forward to summer, I know I am!

See you all next Monday,

Nick



Scoutmaster's Minute

Our Troop emblem is the square knot. The square knot is a very useful tool that can be used in many different settings. It is one of the 8 basic knots that all Scouts are expected to master, and usually the first one they learn. And while the square knot is a very useful knot, it is not the reason why we choose it as the symbol for Troop 400.

There are many names for the square knot (and a few of our scouts can recite each one of them) but its name as the joining knot best explains why it is our Troop's symbol. From a practical perspective, the joining knot is a very descriptive name – it joins two ropes together. But I like to think of the joining knot as a symbol in a much larger context.

As we welcome our newest Scouts into Troop 400, it is my hope and goal to provide a welcoming environment for young men to come and share in this grand adventure known as Scouting. To be sure, there will be bumps along the way – challenges to be overcome. As with life outside of Scouting, these are inevitable. It is my hope, though, that the skills these young men obtain through Scouting can help them cope with these challenges – whether it be learning a new skill (like tying a knot for the first time) or dealing with more complex problems.

Scouting is a brotherhood that can last a lifetime. And just like the square knot, it can be the tie that binds us together!

Gary

