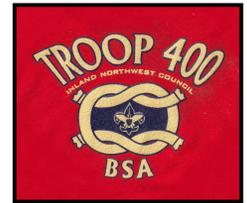


Scouting Times

Troop 400
www.troop400.net
August/September 2009



Your Troop in Action

What a summer this has been! Here has been what's going on in Troop 400 over the past few months.

Summer Camp at Fire Mountain

We set a new record (again!) for participation at summer camp this year! Thirty two scouts and twelve adults attended camp at Fire Mountain. The week started off wet, but turned into beautiful weather by the end of the week.



Special thanks to our SPL, Steven, for doing an outstanding job making sure everyone had a great time!

High Adventure – Whitewater rafting the Salmon River

Seventeen Scouts and eight Scouters tackled the white water of the Salmon River in central Idaho. The trip ranged from gentle, winding sections to wild whitewater. Down time included camping along the river and jumping off cliffs into the nice, cold water!



Blossom Lake

August found our troop hiking into Blossom Lake. Several members of the troop decided to do a day excursion up to the top of a nearby ridge. It was an amazing view! On the way down, they met up with Troop 420 (a troop that meets just down the road from us) who was on a trip in the region as well. I guess great minds think alike!



Hub Lake

Twelve scouts and seven adults hiked into Hub Lake, a small alpine lake in the St. Regis area of Montana the 2nd weekend of September. The hike was a real challenge, but the reward was worth the exertion. Highlights of the trip included fishing for trout and exploring an old abandoned mine shaft sunk into the side of the mountain above the lake.

Summer Camp 2010

It's never too early to start talking about Summer Camp. At Troop 400 it is the Scouts themselves who determine where they go for Summer Camp. A committee was formed in August and the results are in! The troop has selected Camp Easton on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene for next year's



summer camp. The date has not been determined yet, but begin planning now for a great time at Easton!

Upcoming Events

PLC	Sep 9, 6:30 pm
Committee Meeting	Sep 21, 6:30 pm
Popcorn Sale Begins	Oct 2
PLC	Oct 14
Committee Meeting	Oct 19
Fall Camporee	Oct 16 – 18
Pumpkin Plunge	Oct 31

Popcorn Sale Gears Up

At troop 400, we hold only a few fundraisers a year – the biggest of which is the popcorn sale in the fall. Popcorn is a great fundraiser for the troop and a great fundraiser for the Scouts - 2/3rds of the profits from popcorn flow right back into a Scout's personal account! With this money a Scout can buy personal equipment (stoves, tents packs) or pay their own way to camp.



Special thanks to Diane Hutchens who has agreed to be our popcorn kernel this year! As in year's past, we will be setting up a booth at a local grocery store at the start of the sale. Stay tuned for more details.

The 2009/2010 Calendar is now available for viewing! Visit our web site at

www.troop400.net

A Note from the Senior Patrol Leader

As many of you know, this has been a great summer for Troop 400. We first went to summer camp at Fire Mountain, and, although I wasn't there personally, we had a great time. Many merit badges were earned, and many requirements signed off. Soon after, our troop went white water rafting down the Salmon River. This was a high adventure trip, and some of the most fun I have ever had. Recently our troop has been on two backpacking excursions; both trips were...enlightening as well as fun. Hopefully your boy has taken part in some of our activities.

As I stated in my last letter, our troop has made a decision as to where we will be camping for summer camp next year. We will be camping at Camp Easton; the date is still undetermined.

Overall we had a fruitful and fun summer and look forward to an exhilarating autumn.

Adam



*Above
And
Beyond*



Scoutmaster's Minute

Living in the Northwest, we are blessed with an abundance of outdoor opportunities. This summer alone, we visited a coastal region (as evidenced by the amount of rain we experienced at Fire Mountain), rafted a wild river through the high desert, and hiked into pristine alpine lakes. These trips offered a wide range of experiences and challenges. My hope is these trips sparked an interest and appreciation of our outdoor world for everyone who attended.

Scouting can offer a glimpse into a wide range of interests, whether this comes from our outdoor program or the merit badge offerings. It's like stepping up to a buffet line – there are a lot of choices and they are all there for the taking. But we as adults can only offer up the choices – it's up to the Scouts themselves to get in line and load up on all the goodies! I always tell our Scouts that you get out of the program what you put into it. The more active you are in Scouting, the more rewarding and interesting the program is.

My son, Nate, who turned 18 last year and is now off to college, was home recently and had a great piece of advice for his younger brothers. It is advice I'd like to share with all of our Scouts:

Stay in the program. It makes all the difference.

That's all he said, but it speaks volumes about his experiences in Scouting. You see, Nate, like almost everyone I've talked to that was once in Scouting, now sees what he was able to accomplish through the program – what Scouts meant to him.

Through Scouting, you are able to experience things and accomplish things you may never have had the opportunity to do otherwise. Some of these may spark an interest that will last a lifetime. So take Nate's advice. Stay in the program. It makes all the difference.

Gary

