

Scouting Times

Troop 400

www.troop400.net

December/January 2010



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	Steven VanKeulen
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader	John Helm
Scribe	Brian Choate
Historian	Matthew Merrick
Quartermaster	Wes Helm
Chaplain's Aid	Taylor Smith
Troop Guides	Davis Hill
	Ben Hutchens
Den Chief	Jacob Hills
Troop Instructors	Noah Lobdell
	Scott McKinley
Patrol Leaders:	
Mountain Men	BJ Smith
Eagles	Garret Major
Jackalopes	Hunter Simpson
Geckos	Evan Oeflein
Wolverines	Ryan Hammond

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 18th. Activities included advanced video-gaming and midnight battle ball. Congratulations to Tyler Durall who, against great odds, won the prestigious Scout Survivor challenge!

High Adventure Update

One of the highlights of our Scouting year is the high adventure trip held during the summer. This year, the Scouts have chosen a 50 mile backpacking trip in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This trip will offer a great alpine experience with spectacular views and a true wilderness challenge that will test a Scouts mental *and* physical toughness. We will be leaving for the wilderness on August 13th for 6 days. Due to the physical nature of this trip, the BSA national height and weight guidelines will be enforced. See the new BSA medical form for more information on these guidelines on our website at

<http://www.troop400.net/documents/MedicalForm.pdf?attredirects=0>

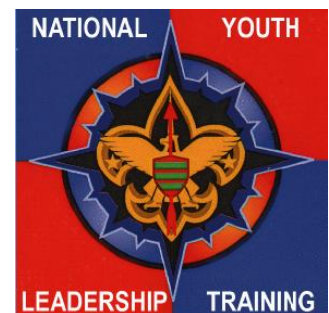
National Youth Leadership Training

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 21. 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 21
- Currently hold, or eligible to hold, a unit level leadership position in the troop (SPL, ASPL, etc.)
- Have at least 15 days and nights of Scout camping experience including at least one long term camp
- Submit a completed interest form and a \$25 nonrefundable interest fee to the Council

Deadline for nominations is February 28th. For more information click on the following link:

<https://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=4723&orgkey=778>



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.**

Upcoming Events

Troop Leadership Training	Jan 12, 6:00 pm
MLK Holiday – No Meeting	Jan 18
Committee Meeting	Jan 25, 6:30 pm
Klondike Derby	Jan 22 – 23
Webelos Invitational	Feb 6, 9:00 am
Patrol Leader's Council	Feb 9, 6:30 pm
President's Day – No Meeting	Feb 15
Campout	Feb 26 – 28
Committee Meeting	Feb 22, 6:30 pm

A Note from the SPL

Members and Parents of Troop 400:

Hello, I am Steven Van Keulen. I am a 16 years old Life scout currently going through the Eagle rank approval process. I have been in two different troops during my seven years of scouting and have experienced multiple styles for leading a troop. I have served as an Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Historian, and Senior Assistant Patrol Leader.

As Troop 400's newest Senior Patrol Leader, my goal is to help the troop be better organized, reduce miscommunications, and hold leadership positions accountable for their responsibilities to their fellow scouts. I will be introducing the phone tree to the troop facilitate this goal. An effective phone tree encourages all scouts to be better prepared. I will also be introducing new methods to help the scouts get to know each other better, especially as we receive our newest troop members at Crossover. I hope to encourage greater participation in all Troop events.

Thank you for supporting me as the new SPL. I hope the next six months will be a superlative time in Troop 400.

I will see everyone Monday on the 4th.

Thank you.

Steven



Summer Camp Update

Mark your calendars for the week of August 1 - 7! This is the date Troop 400 will be going to summer camp at Camp Easton on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene. Our Troop hasn't attended summer camp at Easton for many years so this year's experience will 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).



Scoutmaster's Minute

Makin' Memories...

On my nightstand I have a picture of my oldest son, Nate, and I on one of his first campouts in Troop 400. It was a blustery, windy day and we were standing on top of Steamboat Rock outside of Coulee Dam, WA. He was so eager and enthusiastic – just trying to take in all of the new experiences Scouting had to offer. It's a memory that always brings a smile to my face.

Since that time I have had the privilege to go on many great adventures with Troop 400. It's been a remarkable journey. You would think that with all the events I've been on with the troop, things would begin to get a little routine – you know, been there, done that. But I can tell you that every event brings a new adventure and a new memory that I will always cherish. For me, that's one of the big draws of Scouting – it gives you so many opportunities to make a new memory.

I encourage every Scout to take every opportunity to make a new memory in Scouting. It will be something they will cherish their whole lives. I also encourage you as adults to get involved in your child's Scouting endeavors. It will be a decision you will never regret, and it may just create a few memories that you will always cherish.

Gary

