

Scouting Times

Troop 400

<http://rdltroop400.tripod.com>

February/March 2009



Your Troop in Action

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

Sledding at Mount Spokane

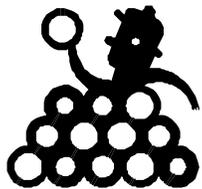
The troop went sledding at the Bear Creek Lodge at the entrance to Mount Spokane State Park.

The scouts had a great time sliding down the groomed hills on the lodge provided inner tubes, but especially appreciated to tow rope that took them back up to the top of the hill!



Camp Cowles

Our February event saw the Troop head up to Camp Cowles for a weekend of fun in the snow. Due to the heavy snowfall earlier this year, the Scouts had to do plenty of work clearing their



sites before they could set up camp. All the snow made for great sledding. There was also a small fish pen near the swimming dock that the Scouts were able to visit and feed the fish. The hot showers were also a nice touch!

New Medical Forms

The Boy Scouts of America have revamped their medical forms. These new forms are required for youth and adults to participate in Scouting activities. Where in the past there were 3 separate forms required based on the event, these have been combined into one form. In addition, the new rules required annual physicals for participation in resident camping (greater than 72 hours in length) whereas the old rules allowed for exams every 3 years.

The new form will be required for all 2010 events. We are encouraging all Scouts to begin using them now. The new forms can be found at our web site at

<http://rdltroop400.tripod.com/MedicalForm.pdf>

The Outdoor Code

*As an American, I will do my best to
be clean in my outdoor manners,
be careful with fire,
be considerate in the outdoors,
and
be conservation minded*

Parent Information Night

What's a blue card? What's a patrol? How is the troop organized? If you're a parent of a new Scout (or even one who's been around for awhile) and have questions about Scouts in general and Troop 400 specifically, then come to our parent's information night. This meeting will be held April 27th, 7:00 pm at Redeemer.

Summer Camp Update

This year the Scouts have chosen to attend Fire Mountain Scout Camp as their week long summer camp. This camp is a favorite of the troop and the Scouts are really looking forward to a great week. Camp is scheduled the week of July 12th. Costs are \$220 per Scout and \$55 per adult. Below are key dates to ensure your space at camp:



Nonrefundable Deposit of \$50

April 1st

Final installment of \$170

May 15th

Court of Honor

Our Court of Honor is quickly approaching. This special event showcases the achievements of our Scouts since our last Court of Honor. We will be conducting the ceremony in the church worship center starting at 6:00 pm. A potluck breakfast will be held immediately following the Court of Honor. Below is the list of patrol responsibilities for the potluck:

Mountain Men

Utensils, Condiments,

Butter, Syrup, Sugar

Jackalopes

Fruit & Juice

Geckos

Cereal & Milk

Wolverines

Breakfast Meats

Thank you Greg Hills

Greg Hills, our advancement chair for the last three years has stepped down to focus more attention on his other committee responsibilities. Greg became every Scout's favorite committee member as he was the person they needed to contact in order to schedule their Boards of Review. As advancement chair, Greg also made sure that all the advancement and merit badge records were up to date.

Lori Patchett has volunteered to take over this important position. Welcome Lori!

Upcoming Events

PLC	Mar 10, 6:30 pm
Committee Meeting	Mar 16, 6:30 pm
Campout,	Mar 20 – 22
Court of Honor	Mar 23, 6:00 pm
Spring Break begins (no meeting)	Mar 30
PLC	April 14, 6:30 pm
Committee Meeting	Apr 20, 6:30 pm
New Parent Orientation	April 27
Spring Camporee, Camp Cowles	Apr 24-26

A Note from the SPL

Here are a couple of things we are working on in the troop:

We have been working on building Troop teamwork by doing several team building exercises. These exercises should help us in future campouts.

We are looking again at our official troop uniform. Last year we changed the troop hat from a beret to an outback style hat. We are thinking about changing hats once again. This decision will be decided as a troop.

We are also beginning to have several scouts start planning their eagle projects. These projects will require a lot of effort from all the scouts as we will need many volunteers to make these projects successful.

March is the month when we start welcoming Cub Scouts who have crossed over into our troop. We are excited to welcome these newest members to our troop. Our first group of scouts will be coming from Pack 420.

Welcome new Scouts!

Mitch



Scoutmaster's Minute

In our SPL's note this month, Mitch talked about the work the troop has been doing to build more troop cohesiveness.

Boy scouting is unique in that it takes young men from various ages and backgrounds and puts them together to solve problems. A year ago we began a journey to better fulfill the promise of Scouting to these young men by moving away from age based patrols to mixed age patrols. These mixed age patrols, while the traditional patrol method developed by its founder, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, had not been used in some time by our Troop. There were a lot of discussions (sometimes heated) on the wisdom of putting boys of different ages into the same patrol. I don't need to tell you the differences between an 11 year old scout and a 15 year old scout – they can be significant! But we at Troop 400 feel that the true strength of a troop lies in its ability for the older, more experienced scouts to mentor the younger, new scouts. This is what being a boy led troop is all about.

So, how are we doing? That's a great question and one that I'm not sure I can answer yet. To be sure, there have been some challenges along the way. We didn't reorganize our existing patrols when we went to this new structure so currently our mixed age patrols are predominately the same age with just a few younger members. I would like to congratulate the younger members of all of our patrols – you've done a great job!

We will be adding new scouts in the coming months and after some adjustment time to the Troop, they will be incorporated into our existing patrols.

I'm sure there will be new challenges we haven't yet faced. All I know is that as a Troop, we will face these together and overcome them together – that's what being a team is all about.

Gary

