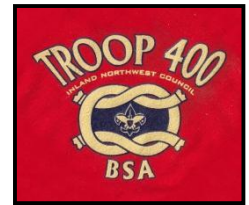


Scouting Times

Troop 400
www.troop400.net
June/July 2012



Your Troop in Action

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

Twin Lakes

The troop spent the weekend of May 18th camping at Twin Lakes in central Washington. The weather was great and the Scouts worked on their fire starting skills. Many of the participants earned the coveted broken match – starting a fire using 3 different methods. An awesome camp fire was held Saturday night and everyone had a great time.

Upcoming Events

PLC	July 11, 7:00 pm
Committee Meeting	July 16, 6:30 pm
Final Shakedown Hike for High Adventure	July 21
Final Pack Check for High Adventure	July 27, 6:00 pm
Resident Camp – Easton	July 29 – Aug 4
High Adventure	Aug 11 – 16
Committee Meeting	Aug 20
Campout	Aug 24 – 26
Court of Honor	Aug 27, 6:00 pm

Merit Badge Counselors Needed

Do you have a particular interest or ability? Chances are there is a merit badge for it! The purpose of the merit badge program is to let Scouts examine a wide range of subjects to see if they would like to pursue them as a career or a vocation.



Troop 400 is continually looking for adults who can share their knowledge with our Scouts. Who knows, the badge you teach may spark a lifetime interest with a Scout!

While there is a particular need for counselors to teach eagle required badges, any badge is welcomed. There are over 100 merit badges to choose from, so you're sure to find one that interests you! Contact Gary (570-3721) with questions.

Summer Camp Countdown

Summer Camp at Camp Easton is quickly approaching. Thirty four Scouts are attending camp the week of July 29. We have a strong turn out for camp and this will be a great opportunity to showcase how special Troop 400 is.

Scouts must have a current physical in order to go to camp. Forms can be downloaded from the troop web site, so get those physicals up to date.



High Adventure Update

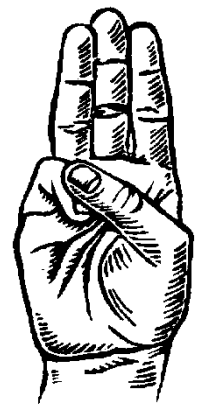
Our high adventure trip is in final preparations! The Scouts are doing a 50 mile backpacking trip in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Updated physicals are required for everyone going. Time is short, so get those physicals completed!



Important Dates

High Adventure Meeting	Monday, July 16, 8:00 pm
Mt Spokane Shakedown Hike	Saturday, July 21, 8:00 am
Final Pack Check	Friday, July 27, 6:00 pm
Departure for Eagle Cap	Saturday, August 11, 5:30am

*Above
And
Beyond*



A Note from the Senior Patrol Leader

Hello every one,

This is my last SPL Article, so I just want to thank everyone who helped me while I was the SPL. You were all great. I just want to say thank you to everyone who gave me the honor and the respect of being Troop 400's Senior Patrol Leader. It meant a lot to me. If I can be your Senior Patrol Leader again, I definitely will, and I recommend that every scout work toward being elected as the SPL.

Thank you

Tyler



Scoutmaster's Minute

One of the highlights of the Scouting year is our annual trip to a week long resident camp. This year the Scouts have chosen to go to Camp Easton on Lake Coeur d'Alene. It will be a great time and the Scouts will no doubt bring home many merit badges and rank advancement. This time of year is also very special in that this is the time where our new Scout Patrol, the Hornets, will disband and merge into our regular scout patrols. This is sure to be an exciting and nervous time for these Scouts. Since their introduction into Boy Scouting, the Hornets have been grouped together in a new Scout Patrol with a Troop Guide to help them with the transition to Boy Scouting. They have made significant progress and now it is time for them to fully assume the responsibilities of being a regular member of the Troop.

You may wonder why we choose to structure our patrols as mixed aged patrols. I can tell you it wasn't an easy decision to make. There are many arguments to be made on the merits of the mixed age patrol structure versus the age based patrol structure. We wrestled with this decision several years ago to switch to mixed aged patrol but ultimately switched for the following reasons:

- There are better opportunities for interaction and mentoring between our more experienced Scouts and our less experienced Scouts if they are in the same patrol.
- The mixed aged structure was the one used by Robert Bayden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. It is a time tested structure and one that helps foster the boy led model of scouting.

As parents and mentors of our newest Scouts, you may have questions or concerns about this upcoming transition. Rest assured my primary goal is to provide an encouraging and supportive environment where your son can experience the promise of Scouting. In the upcoming weeks, I will be visiting with each Scout in the Hornet patrol to get a sense of what his desire is for his patrol home.

The patrol structure is the primary structure in Scouting. I look forward to working with you to help make this transition a success.

Gary

