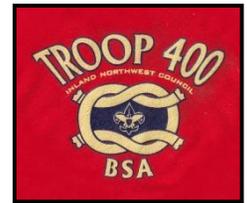


# Scouting Times

Troop 400  
www.troop400.net  
April/June 2013



## Your Troop in Action

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

### Pacific Lakes

The troop spent the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup> camping at Pacific Lakes in central Washington. The weather was great and the Scouts worked a lot of great skills. This is a "dry" lake so no chance of falling in, but a great place to go climbing on the rocks across the lake!

### Spring Camporee and Camp Cowles

The Troop went to Camp Cowles in April to participate in Scout competitions with troops from the Grizzly district. This Camporee was one of the best examples of a Scout led event that the Troop has ever done. Not only did the Scouts place in almost every event, but they did an amazing job of living the Scout Oath and Law. Outstanding effort by everyone involved.

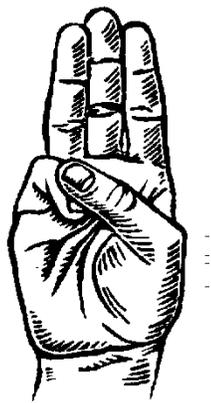
### Camp Sunrise

While our planned joint campout for May with Troop 420 fell through, we still managed to have a great time at Camp Sunrise. We performed a service project for Ranger "Mad" Jack, replenished our pioneering poles, and had a great lashings event. Great weekend everyone!

## Upcoming Events

Committee Meeting	July 15, 6:30 pm August 19, 6:30 pm
PLC	June 6, 6:30 pm July 11, 6:30 pm August 8, 6:30 pm
Campouts	June 28 – 30 August 23 – 24
Resident Camp – Camp Melita Island	July 28 – Aug 3
Court of Honor	Aug 26, 6:00 pm

*Above  
And  
Beyond*



## Summer Camp Countdown

Summer Camp at Camp Melita Island is quickly approaching. We have a strong turnout 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

We changed gears! We've swapped the wilds of floating the whitewater of the Salmon River with retracing the route of Lewis & Clark by paddling the upper reaches of the Missouri River. This means that the cost has gone down significantly as well! If you were not able to attend the whitewater trip due to cost, this trip is just a fraction of the cost. The trip is scheduled for the week of July 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Blake McKinley for more information.

## A Note from the Senior Patrol Leader

Hey every one,

This summer is going to be a great one for Troop 400. With Summer Camp, High Adventure, and Survival Games, we have a busy couple months ahead of us. I am impressed with the things Troop 400 has accomplished so far, like taking home an armful of ribbons at the Spring Camporee, and I am certain that we can achieve even more this summer with some dedication and enthusiasm.

Once again, this summer will be a fun one, and I look forward to working with the troop to further advance the ideals of Scouting.

*Matthew*



## Scoutmaster's Minute

As I announced at our March Court of Honor, I will be stepping down as Scoutmaster from Troop 400 effective August 31. As such this will be my last Scoutmaster Minute.

I've had so many memories with Troop 400 that I couldn't possible share them all here, but there is one I think is most pertinent right now. At the conclusion of my 1<sup>st</sup> troop meeting as Scoutmaster back in 2006, I stayed after the meeting, after everyone else had left the church, and went into the prayer chapel. I knelt at the railing and asked God to help me not screw this up (yes, those were the exact words I used). I've visited that prayer chapel many times since then, making the same request. When I look at our list of Eagle Scouts at the bottom of this page, I know that God has answered my prayers.

When I look back at my time with Troop 400; first as an Assistant Scoutmaster and then as Scoutmaster, I have many things to be thankful for. First and foremost, I'm thankful for my family and the love and support they have shown me even when I don't always deserve it. I'm thankful for Redeemer and the ministry here who has helped reconnect me to my faith and provided me opportunities to serve others through my faith in Jesus Christ. Finally, I'm thankful for Scouting. Scouting is one of the best programs for youth that I have ever had the privilege to be involved in. I have met some incredible people who have enriched and shape my life. Through Scouting, I've had the honor to be entrusted with our country's most import asset – your sons. For that I am truly grateful.

Over the past 17 years, Scouting has been a major part of my life. And while I can only wonder at the impact on the young lives I've touched, I know they've had an impact on mine. You see, I've gotten way more out of Scouting than anything I've ever put in. Scouting has made me a better father, a better leader, a better man.

I still get excited after every Troop meeting. I look forward to every campout and still measure my success in life by how much time I spend in the outdoors. I'm still in awe at seeing the discovery in the face of a young man when he conquers what he felt was an insurmountable challenge. I still feed off the energy that these young men bring to *every single thing they do*. You see, Scouting lets me be a kid all over again. Before he died, my father-in-law, Bill Fisher, told me the years he was Scoutmaster in Davenport, WA was some of the best years of his life. I know what he means.

So why step down? With my youngest son's Scouting career winding down, I want to focus more attention on his last year at home (sorry Ben!) as well as focus more attention on the youth ministry here at Redeemer. Also, it's time for Diane to stop being a "Scout Widow". Most importantly, I feel that I can step aside knowing that you have an outstanding group of adult leaders that will take Troop 400 to new heights. I am particularly excited to announce that our next Scoutmaster will be Terry Fossum. I have never met anyone with more passion and energy for youth than Terry. With your help and support, he is going to do great things!

While I'm stepping down as Scoutmaster, I can't step away from Scouting. I've asked to be on the Committee of Troop 400 and they've agreed (they'll probably regret that...) I still plan on playing a role with Troop 400 and if Terry can stand it, still go on a few campouts.

I'm fond of saying that Scouting is a journey, not a destination. My journey has been an amazing one so far and I look forward to still working with all of you along the Scouting trail.

With love and unending gratitude,

*Gary*



### Eagle Scouts, November 2006 to Present (my time as Scoutmaster at Troop 400)

Jefferson Carpenter, November 20, 2006  
Michael Engle, January 17, 2007  
Adam Tomcho, March 6, 2007  
Drew Schlieder, April 17, 2007  
Christopher Choate, September 17, 2008  
Nathan Hutchens, March 24, 2009  
Stephen Zeller, April 21, 2009  
Christopher Davisson, April 28, 2009  
Jeffery VanKeulen, May 20, 2009

Tyler Tveit, October 15, 2009  
Adam Blyckert, December 17, 2009  
Steven VanKeulen, February 2, 2010  
David Covillo, April 20, 2010  
Christopher Covillo, October 12, 2010  
Devan Morgan, December 14, 2010  
Anthony Goodwin, April 26, 2011  
Jonathan Helm, November 2, 2011  
Jacob Hills, January 10, 2012

Pierce Oeflein, March 7, 2012  
Nicolas Cantrell, June 27, 2012  
Mitchell Hutchens, July 27, 2012  
Derek Helm, February 5, 2013  
Taylor Smith, February 19, 2013  
Hunter Simpson, February, 20, 2013  
Benjamin Hutchens, March 26, 2013  
Ryan Hammond, May 22, 2013