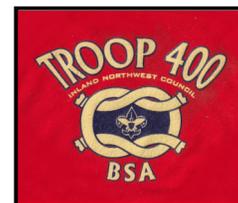


Scouting Times

Troop 400

www.troop400.net

June/July 2009



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 July, the following Scouts assumed the leadership for the Troop:

Senior Patrol Leader	Adam Blykert
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader	Steven VanKeulen
Scribe	Evan Oeflein
Historian	Josh Patchett
Librarian	Ryan Hammond
Chaplain's Aid	Garret Major
Quartermaster	Brian Choate
Den Chief	Jacob Hills
Patrol Leaders:	
Mountain Men	Tyler Tveit
Eagles	Scott McKinley
Jackalopes	Derek Helm
Geckos	Matthew Merrick
Wolverines	Davis Hill

These Scouts will be in these positions through December. Please thank these Scouts for their service to the troop!

Your Troop in Action

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

Grand Coulee

The troop spent the weekend of May 16th camping at the shores of Banks Lake outside of Electric City. The weather was great and the Scouts got in a 5 mile hike. After the hike, a few brave souls cooled off by taking a dip in the lake. As a service project, the Scouts cleaned up their heavily used camp site, hauling a full load of trash left by previous campers.

Wilson Creek

The Scouts spent a beautiful weekend in central Washington on BLM land near Almira. It was rumored there was t trout in the creek, but none were willing to offer themselves up for dinner. Even without fresh fish, the Scouts managed to have a memorable time with the highlight being a great campfire.

Troop Garage Sale

Saturday, June 20th, the Troop held its annual garage sale and car wash. While Hoopfest may have diminished the number of shoppers at this year's event, the sale still netted over \$700 for the troop!

New Web Site

If you're reading this newsletter via our web site, you've probably already noticed that we've moved! Our new web site, www.troop400.net, allows us greater flexibility and the ability to add more content than we were able to do on the old site (not to mention no more annoying banner ads). We will be adding more content in the coming months so check in regularly!

Upcoming Events

Committee Meeting	July 14, 6:30 pm
Resident Camp – Fire Mtn	July 12 – 18
Committee Meeting	July 20
High Adventure Trip	July 21 – 25
Calendar Planning Mtg	Aug 11
Committee Meeting	Aug 17
Campout	Aug 21 – 23

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 Fire Mountain is quickly approaching. Thirty four Scouts are attending camp the week of July 12. This is the best turn out we've ever had and is a great opportunity to showcase how special Troop 400 is.

Scouts must obtain a current (within the last 3 years) Class II 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

This year's high adventure trip is shaping up to be an unforgettable experience. The Scouts are white water rafting down the Salmon River starting July 21. Class III physicals are required for everyone going. Time is short, so get those physicals completed!



A Note from the Senior Patrol Leader

Parents and members of Troop 400:

My name is Adam Blyckert. I am 15 years old and have been in Boy Scouts for 5 Years. I have formerly held the positions of Patrol Leader, Librarian, Den Chief, Troop Guide, and Assistant Senior Patrol. I have been through National Youth Leadership Training, multiple Troop Leadership Trainings, and am a member of the Order of the Arrow. For the past six months I have been serving as Mitch's understudy, observing his leadership skills and relationship with the Troop. I am a Life Scout and plan to make Eagle during my term as Senior Patrol Leader.



As a member of troop, I have noticed a few opportunities for improvement, especially during troop meetings. The roots of these minor issues are: a lack of respect for fellow scouts, and a lack of planning ahead. As far as respect, I will be leading by example and will be encouraging the other Scouts to follow. I have ideas that will help us plan ahead. For example, I plan to form the 2010 summer camp committee this August with the goal of having a decision before November. I also would like to start our planning for campouts sooner. I hope to accomplish this with the help of the Patrol Leaders Council as it is they who will carry out any ideas and decisions made during the PLC meetings.

I thank you all very much for electing me into this position and I hope to serve you well.

Adam



Above And Beyond

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 Fire Mountain Scout Reservation in the Mount Baker Council. 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 Cobras, 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 Cobras 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 Cobra 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

