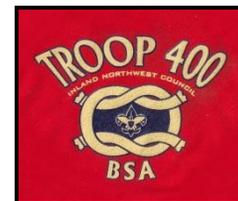


Scouting Times

Troop 400

www.troop400.net

September/October 2011



Your Troop in Action

What a summer this has been! Here has been what's going on in Troop 400 over the past few months.

Grand Coulee

We had a great turnout for our May campout near Electric City. For those Scouts working on their golf merit badge, ASM Brad Smith led a group to the local golf course to get in 18 holes. For those who stayed back in camp, we built an amazing tower and hung a US flag from it.

Family Picnic

With so many family events at the start of the summer, rather than have a weekend campout, the Troop held a family picnic and potluck at Liberty Lake State Park. The weather and food were great!

Camp Pigott

Our week long summer camp this year was held at Camp Pigott outside of Snohomish, WA. It was an amazing week with over 130 merit badges earned as well as a special message to the camp from astronaut and Scoutmaster Mike Fossum aboard the International Space Station! To view this great message, click on the following link: <http://www.mikeroweworks.com/2011/09/boy-scouts-learn-they-can-shoot-for-the-stars/>



High Adventure – 50 Mile Sea Kayak on Hood Canal

10 Scouts had an amazing opportunity to kayak 50 miles in the Puget Sound as part of a high adventure program put on by Camp Parsons in the Chief Seattle Council. The Scouts began the trip at Camp Parsons learning the skills needed to operate a single person kayak and then headed out for the week. Great food and great scenery was experienced by all participants and they agreed this was one of the highlights of their summer.

The 2011/2012 Calendar is now available for viewing! Visit our web site at www.troop400.net

Upcoming Events

Popcorn Sale Begins	Oct 1
Board of Review	Oct 3
PLC	Oct 5
Fall Camporee	Oct 14 – 16
Committee Meeting	Oct 17
Pumpkin Plunge	Oct 31
PLC	Nov 2
Scouting for Food	Nov 5
	Nov 12
Boards of Review	Nov 7
Campout	Nov 18 – 20
Committee Meeting	Nov 21
Court of Honor	Nov 28

Service Patrol

During our calendar planning meeting in August, the Patrol Leaders Council established the service patrols for the upcoming year. The service patrol has 3 main responsibilities for the month.

1. Develop skills to teach the troop.
2. Plan the month's campout.
3. Plan a service project for the patrol.

Below are the Service Patrol assignments for the year

Date	Patrol	Skill
Sep 2011	Narwhals	Backpack Cooking
Oct 2011	Jackalopes	Lashings
Nov 2011	Wolverines	Dutch Oven Cooking
Dec 2011	Geckos	Klondike Skills
Jan 2012	Geckos	Klondike Skills
Feb 2012	Phoenix	Knots
Mar 2012	Narwhals	1 st Aid
Apr 2012	Jackalopes	Team Building
May 2012	Wolverines	Fire Starting
Jun 2012	Phoenix	Cooking
Jul 2012	Geckos	Map & Compass
Aug 2012	Phoenix	1 st Aid

Popcorn Sale Gears Up

At Troop 400, we hold only a few fundraisers a year – the biggest of which is the popcorn sale in the fall. Popcorn is a great fundraiser for the Troop and a great fundraiser for the Scouts - 2/3rds of the profits from popcorn flow right back into a Scout's personal account! With this money a Scout can buy personal equipment (stoves, tents packs) or pay their own way to camp.



Special thanks to Carla VanKeulen who has agreed to be our popcorn kernel this year! As in year's past, we will be setting up a booth at a local grocery store at the start of the sale. Stay tuned for more details.

A Note from the Senior Patrol Leader

Hi my name is Hunter Simpson and I'm your new Senior Patrol Leader. My term runs from September thru February. I'm in the 8th grade at Horizon Middle school and I pride myself on making sure things get done.

I hope to improve our scout skills through my job as an SPL. I really do think that we can have a fun time doing scouts but when we need to get things done we'll get serious.

I will make sure all of our scouts feel comfortable in the Troop. I will follow the Scout Law and Oath to the best of my ability. I hope to do well for you as the SPL of your Troop.

Hunter



*Above
And
Beyond*



Scoutmaster's Minute

Boy this summer flew by! It seemed especially short due to our cold, wet spring which hung on way too long! When I was a kid, summer felt like it would last forever. I had plenty of time to do all the things I wanted to do – and then some. Now that I'm an adult, summer is condensed into about 3 weeks in August! Just as it really gets started, it's time for the kids to head back to school!

As my sons get older, I realize that summer isn't the only season that speeds up. It feels like only yesterday that I took my oldest son, Nate, to his first Cub Scout pack meeting at Pack 420. He's now in his 3rd year of college! In less than a year I'll send another son off to college as well. Where did the time go? It's hard to appreciate just how short a time you have with your kids until they (hopefully!) move out of the house.

Because I now realize how little time I truly had to make a difference in the lives of my kids, I understand why my involvement in Scouting was one of the most important things I have done as a parent. I've had the honor of seeing them grow and mature in ways that still amaze me. I've been a witness to many of their challenges and triumphs. I've gotten to share experiences with them that they (and I) will remember for our entire lives. And I got to experience this not only my sons, but with your sons as well. But I would have missed it all if I had chosen to sit on the sidelines.

As a parent of a Scout, the only thing I've ever asked of you is for you to take an interest in your son's scouting career. Help get him to the meetings. Encourage him to be active. Motivate him when things get tough. Now I'm asking you to do more. I'm asking you to *really* get involved. Become an adult volunteer. Spend a few days a month in the outdoors working with our kids to equip them with skills that can help them navigate through life.

Don't do it for the Troop. Don't do it for your son. Do it for yourself. Time is too short to sit on the sidelines. Before you know it, your son will be grown and gone. Don't look back and wish you could have spent more time with him. The clock is ticking...

Gary

