



Signs Up!!!

Troop 101 Newsletter

August, 2003



Troop 101 is Growing

As of August 1, 2003, Boy Scout Troop 101 of Pearl River, LA has ten registered scouts. We are expecting additional scouts to join before school starts and we will be conducting a Round-up of all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Creekside Jr. High School in early September. Our leaders are striving to make Troop 101 the Best Troop in Cypress District and the Southeast Louisiana Council. Good job recruiting, scouts! Keep it up!

Family Day

Troop 101 Family Day at Five Lakes Campground in Bush was a huge success. Eight scouts, six adults and one potential scout participated in a day of fun and learning. The scouts worked on the BSA swim test, canoeing skills, scout skills and the buddy system. The canoe races provided fun entertainment. We all enjoyed a picnic style lunch of sandwiches, chips, cookies, fruit, and drinks. Thanks to Ms. Elaine for putting everything together for our first outing as Troop 101.

Scout Handbook

Each scout must have a copy of the Boy Scout Handbook which is available from the Scout Shop or the Slidell Army Surplus. A scout cannot earn his Scout rank until he has his handbook. The troop also recommends getting a copy of the 2003 Merit Badge Requirements book.

Monthly Dues and Personal Account

The monthly dues of \$5.00 begins in August. You may pay more than one month at a time. This is recommended so we do not have to remind you at every meeting to pay your dues. The dues help the Troop purchase rank badges, merit badges, patrol patches, leadership patches for scouts and adults, and any other materials needed to run the troop. We will be starting several fund raisers so each scout can earn money for his personal account. The money in his account will pay for dues, camping or activity fees, recharter fees, uniforms, and camping equipment.

Troop Elections

Patrol leaders will be elected at the August 27th meeting. By that time, we will have two patrols, the Dragons and King Cobras. If you are interested in running for patrol leader for your patrol, let Derek know. We will hold troop elections every three months. In order to give everyone an opportunity to be a patrol leader, we ask that you not run in consecutive elections, once you have been patrol leader. There are other leadership positions that need to be filled: Asst. Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, Troop Guide, Historian, and more. For a complete list, consult the handbook.

USS Alabama

The troop's first overnight trip will be on the USS Alabama Battleship on August 16th. Permission slips are out and need to be returned as soon as possible. We need a minimum of 15 scouts and male adults to attend, so invite your friends. Extra permission slips are available and the cost will be the same for anyone who attends. The permission slip also tells you what you need to bring and the time we leave and return.

Future Camping Trips

A calendar will be provided with dates and places of the year's upcoming camping trips and activities. We are waiting for the school's calendar. The following trips are tentatively scheduled. In September we will be camping at the Mary Ann Brown Preserve in St Francisville and hiking in Clark Creek Natural Area in Mississippi. The scouts will earn the Geology merit badge. In October, we will camp at Fountainbleau State Park in Mandeville and ride the Trace to Abita Springs and back for a 25 mile bike hike. This is part of the cycling merit badge. In November we will spend the weekend at Fort Morgan in Alabama. On Saturday we will take the ferry to Dauphin Island and visit the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Estuarium/Public Aquarium and take in the sights. The scouts will earn the Oceanography merit badge plus have a great time spending the nights in the Fort. December's camping trip will be at a horse ranch in Picayune, Ms. Where the boys will earn the horsemanship merit badge. In January we will venture over to DeSota State Park in Alabama for some rappelling adventures. Look for permission slips for all the information you need on each trip. Doesn't it sound like we are going to have lots of fun?

Garage Sale

The Troop is having a garage sale on Saturday, September 6th from 8:00am to 2:00 pm at the Pearl River Lions Club. Please donate any items you have to the sale; you can bring them to the troop meetings. Please ask friends, family, and neighbors to donate their unwanted items. We can help pick up items too. The troop will need volunteers on Friday to setup and on Saturday to work the garage sale and to clean up after the sale. Please let Elaine or Don know how you can help. The funds raised from this sale will purchase camping gear, and supplement costs of camping trips.

Six Flags New Orleans

Scout Day at Six Flags will be held on Saturday, September 20th. The ticket price for the day is \$14.99 (plus 1.35 tax). The park will be opened to scouts, leaders and their families only. Come out and experience the 14 new attractions, including 2 new roller coasters. We will be collecting for this event and sending the money in together.

Two Ways to Earn Money Now

Troop 101 has two fund raiser to help the scouts raise money for their personal accounts. We are selling Gourmet Lollipops and Papa John's Pizza coupon books. The lollipops are sold for 50¢ each and 25¢ of each sale will go into the scouts personal accounts. The coupon books are sold for \$3.00 and \$2.72 of each sale will go into the scouts personal accounts. (100% of all profits go to the scouts.) ALL money collected must be turned in to Troop 101. A scout cannot keep their portion of the sale. Checks are acceptable, make payable to Troop 101.

We Need Leaders

A strong troop requires many leaders. While we have a well trained and enthusiastic scoutmaster, Don Krause and Elaine Krause as the Troop Committee Chair, we need more leaders. We need help. Do not be afraid to sign up as leader or to teach a merit badge. We had no scouting experience when we started seven years ago, but we read lots of information, talked to other scouters, and attend training. We will help you any way we can to become a good leader. Consider a position as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Member, Advancement Chairman, or Merit Badge Counselor. Registered adult leaders attend camping trips at no charge.

Merit Badge Counselor

There are 121 merit badges in the scouting program covering a wide range of interests including astronomy, photography, art, computer, geology, medicine, small boat sailing, wood carving, and wilderness survival, to name a few. There will be at least one merit badge worked on at every troop meeting, especially the Eagle required ones. Please look at the list of badges and decide which ones you could teach. The troop supplies any materials and supplies needed.

Scout Vespers

Each scout meeting will be closed with a closing circle and the with the singing of the Scout Vespers:

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfires fade away.
Silently each Scout should ask:
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Everything to be prepared?

And now, may the great scoutmaster of all the great scouts, be with us till we meet again.

BE PREPARED!!!

Until everyone learns the words, we will leave them in the newsletter.

Troop 101 Website

Troop 101 is on the web. Our website can be visited at www.lascouts.net/troop101. The site will be updated regularly with information about upcoming events. Newsletters will be available online and there are also a number of useful scouting links.



Scoutmaster's Minute

Neckerchief: The Oath and Law you wear

The importance of the Scout Oath and Law can be found using your Neckerchief. The neckerchief is the last part of your uniform that you will put on when you are getting dressed for a scout meeting or function. It is no coincidence that the neckerchief has 3 sides, just like the three parts of the Scout oath. Hold the neckerchief in your hands and slide the longest side through your fingers and say "On my honor, I'll do my best. To do my duty to God" The first and longest side is to remind you of your long standing duty to God. When you wear your neckerchief, this whole side is hidden from view, just as your faith is deep inside you. But without that faith, there is no strength for the rest.

Hold the neckerchief by the point and run the next side through his fingers and say "and my country, and to obey the scout law; To help other people at all times...." This shorter side is to remind you of your duty to help others. Remember it is some of this duty that shows to others, just like part of this side of your neckerchief shows. So, do your duty to others well so that people might see the good work you do in the name of Scouting.

Run the last side of the neckerchief through your fingers and say "To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." The last side represents your duty to your self. This shows to others as well. They will know that by seeing your uniform, you are a young man who is physically fit, has a strong moral foundation and who is not apt to fall easily into temptations.

This is a means by which you can remember the Scout Oath, every time we put on our uniform. The neckerchief can also be used to remember the Scout Law.

While wrapping the neckerchief up for wear, wrap it tight in small twists, 12 in fact. And repeat the 12 points of the Scout Law as you did so. Then as you placed your neckerchief around your neck for wear, the elements of the Scout Oath and Law are with you. They are in fact part of you.

*Adapted from a story by:
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