



Troop 993 News



Volume 11, Issue III

March 2003

Troop Leaders

SPL Paul
ASPL Wesley
ASPL Thorsten

Cougar PL
Cody

Dragon PL
Phillip

Eagle PL
David

Falcon PL
Danny

Wolverine PL
Randy

Adult Leaders

Scoutmaster
John Leckner

ASM's First Class Program
Bill Convery

Kim Thompson

ASM Mid Level Program
Paul MacDonald

ASM Venture Program
Glenda Holcomb

Check us out on the web at
www.bsatroop993.org

Troop leadership



There is one thing that makes Scouting different from all other youth groups.

What makes Scouting special is that Scouts make the decisions!

Baden-Powell made it very plain in Aids to Scoutmastership when he wrote,

"The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the Patrol Leaders."

This is real decision making power. And not it's not just Patrol Leaders. All of the troop leadership positions have a hand in making the Troop run. Sound cool? It really is! The adults are there to provide support but the Scouts make the decisions.

Who are the Troop Leaders? Look on the first page of every newsletter, you will find the leaders on the left.

What do I have to do as a leader? Because being a leader is more than just sewing on a patch we have put together job descriptions for the troop leadership positions. They will give you a good idea of what each job is all about and what you will be required to do. All Troop Leader job descriptions are on our website at [http://www.bsatroop993.org/](http://www.bsatroop993.org) Click on Our Troop and then click on Leadership positions on the left.

What positions are available? This one's easy, Every April and October, the Troop holds elections for most positions. Our next election is scheduled for April 28th. There are a whole bunch of other leadership positions in the Troop open now, look at the web site for more information.

There has been an issue of some Scouts holding a leadership position for far longer than six months, this is OK if the Scout wants the position and is active in his position. To ensure this is the case, ALL Leadership positions currently

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Published monthly by BSA Troop 993.
For the latest and most current information, please consult the Troop 993 website located at <http://www.bsatroop993.org>
Click on the Calendar link.

Want quick updates by e-mail?

Mr. Leckner can get quick troop updates and newsletters to you if you submit your e-mail address to him at:

Scoutmaster@bsatroop993.org

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Troop Activities Page



Troop Calendar

Mar 3	Troop Court of Honor (7:00 pm)
Mar 9	Eagle Court of Honor (2:00 pm)
Mar 10	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Mar 12	Venture Training (7:00 pm)
Mar 13	Load out for Campout (7:00 pm)
Mar 14-16	Rifle & Shotgun MB Campout
Mar 17	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Mar 24	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Mar 25	PLC & Committee Mtg (7:00 pm)
Mar 28-30	Venture Camp out
Mar 29	Creek Clean up (9:00 am)
Mar 31	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Apr 7	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Apr 9	Venture Training (7:00 pm)
Apr 10	Load out for CampOree (7:00 pm)
Apr 11-13	Spring CampOree
Apr 20	Easter Sunrise Service (6:00 am)
Apr 21	Troop Meeting (7:00 pm)
Apr 23	Venture Training (7:00 pm)
Apr 25-27	Venture Camp out
Apr 26	New Scout Orientation (9:00 am)
Apr 28	Troop Meeting & Elections (7:00 pm)

March Activities

The troop will make another trip into wild and wonderful West Virginia. This time to learn about firearm safety, marksmanship and to work on the rifle and shotgun merit badges. The Troop is fortunate to have had a repeat invitation for several years to use the NorVa Rod and Gun Club's facility to conduct this training. The facility is a very safe, well maintained and well equipped shooting facility with 3 ranges.

Other activities for the month include our annual Little Hunting Creek cleanup. This is an excellent chance for Scouts to learn first hand about waterway pollution and earn community service hours.

We have two special events this month, our Troop Court of Honor on March 3rd and an **Eagle Court of Honor** for Chris on March 9th. All Scouts, Scouters, Scout families and friends are invited to attend these Courts of Honor.

April Activities

The Troop campout for April will be the Spring CampOree. This is a District level event where all the Troops from Colonial District will be camping together. More information on this campout coming soon!

As we have done for at least the 13 years, the Troop will participate in the Easter Sunrise Service at Mount Vernon. Our job is to set up the chairs for the service, hand out the programs and usher visitors to their seats before the service. We also take down the chairs after the service. Then everyone heads over to Wesley Fellowship Hall for a delicious pancake breakfast cooked by the Methodist Men. All Scouts and their Families are invited to join us for this event.

New Scouts and their parents will want to make sure they attend the New Scout Orientation on April 26th. This class is a goldmine of information for any Scout or Parent new to our Troop.

Troop elections will be held April 28th. Any Scout wishing to serve the Troop in a leadership position needs to get their application in before April 21! Applications are on our website or ask Mr. Leckner for one.

Advancement/Merit Badge Report

Congratulations to the following Scouts for recently completing their rank advancements:

JP Eagle Scout Gold Palm
George Second Class

Congratulations to the following Scouts for recently completing their Wilderness Survival merit badge :
David C, Jonathan C, Chris H

Danny H, David K, Cody M and David S. Congratulations to JP for completing the Coin Collecting merit badge and to Andrew G and Thorsten S for completing the Snow Sports merit badge .

Troop Leadership cont:

(Continued from page 1)

filled within the Troop will end in April. Any Scout currently serving in a leadership position must re-apply if he wants to continue. Any Scout may fill out an application for a position as long as he is qualified.

Do I have to be a Leader? All Scout ranks above first class have a position of responsibility requirement, so yes, sooner or later you will need to help lead the Troop.

Who do I talk to if I want a position? Here's how to be considered for a position. First read the job descriptions, qualifications, and job responsibilities. Then decide what you want to do and talk it over with your parents. You can also talk it over with other Scouts who have served in that position. Finally, get a troop job application form, fill it out, have your parent(s) read and sign it and turn it in to the Senior Patrol Leader or the Scoutmaster.

Important Summer Camp Information

The big snow storm of February has created a major scheduling problem with summer camp. Fairfax County schools were closed for a week because of the snow storm, due to the missed school days, the school system has moved the last day of school from June 20th to June 25th. This has a major impact on summer camp as we were planning on attending camp from

June 22nd to June 28th. The Troop Leaders are trying to come up with alternative plans for summer camp and would like your help. We have several alternatives listed on our web site and would like your input. Please take a moment and help our Leaders make the best decision for ALL Troop 993 Scouts. The internet address is: http://www.bsatroop993.org/summer_camp_2003.htm

Announcements

Thank you Scouts

Wesley United Methodist Church wishes to extend its appreciation to Troop 993 for doing a great job of removing snow on Tuesday, February 18. Scouts Paul H, Jonathan C Miles M, Randy D, John R, Andy G, and Robert R. Scouters John Leckner, Bill Convery; and parents Margaret, and Chris showed up at the church with snow shovels and high spirits and cleared the sidewalks around the church. As you recall, a large amount (over 14 inches) of snow fell in the local area during the weekend. In less than two hours, the participants finished the job and had pizza and coke afterwards. Again, thank you. *William Convery Chartered Organization Representative.*

Philmont 2003

The Philmont Crew has been selected!!! Patrick D, Danny H Cameron T, Grant L, Thorsten S, Cody M, Robert R, JP, Greg S, and Jules K. The Advisors will be Glenda Holcomb and John Leckner. For more information, go to our web page: <http://www.bsatroop993.org/Venture%20Pages/Philmont%202003/Philmont%20page.htm>

Venture Crew Spring Mulch Sale

The Venture Crews that will be going to Philmont this summer will be off setting their costs and earning there way westward by selling premium grade double shredded hardwood mulch. If you normally buy mulch from a garden center or

home improvement center please consider buying this years mulch from the Venture Crews. They will be selling 3 cubic foot bag for \$3.00.

OA Elections

Order of the Arrow (OA) Elections will be held soon. The OA is The Boy Scout Honor Society to which membership can only be attained by being elected into the Order by the scouts in your troop.

Merit Badge Jamboree

The Colonial District Merit Badge Jamboree held on February 22 was a huge success for those Scouts who braved the rain and floods. Job well done to Scouts David C, Brian C Jonathan C, Randy D, Danny and Phillip H, Jonathan K, Cody M, Miles M. Phillip M, Ian R John and Robert R. Andrew S, Thorsten S and Chris V A very sincere thank you to Assistant Scoutmaster Paul MacDonald for coordinating this event!

March Birthday's:

A very Happy Birthday to Scouts Joshua F, Andrew G, John J, Andy P, Mike H, Phillip H, and Bradley W.



C/O Wesley United Methodist Church
8142 Richmond Avenue
Alexandria, Va. 22309

To the Parents of:



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Scoutmaster's Corner

Wow! What a busy month February has turned out to be. Troop meetings, Philmont training, a week of missed school, a merit badge jamboree, and just a little bit of shoveling snow!

Speaking of snow and missed school, we are in a bind for summer camp. We are scheduled to go to summer camp on June 22nd. That won't work now that school has been extended. We are working on alternatives and will keep you informed. For the latest news, visit our web site and click on summer camp.

Still on the subject of snow, I want to thank the Scouts and the parents who helped shovel the sidewalks at Wesley Church. This act of community service is what Scouting is all about, helping others. Thanks to Bill Convery for setting up this opportunity to serve.

Moving on to March, I want to personally invite ALL Scouts and their Families to the Court of Honor on Monday, March 3rd and to a very special Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, March 9th. The Troop Court of Honor will be at the Fellowship Hall and starts at 7:00 pm. The Eagle Court of Honor will be at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary of Wesley Church. An

Eagle Court of Honor is only held when a Scout reaches the rank of Eagle and only 2-4 % of Scouts attain this rank. In the last 3 years, Troop 993 has been blessed with the opportunity to hold 6 of these Courts of Honor, this will be our seventh.

The Troop still needs Scouts to help with this Court of Honor. Please contact me at 703-360-1768 if you can help.

Did everyone read the article on Leadership Positions? If not, please do. Leadership is an integral part of Scouting that no Scout can do without parental support. The new Leadership application requires that both Scout and Parent agree to the commitment a Troop Leadership Position entails. We will be asking parents of Scouts interested in a Leadership Position to help their Scout in this matter. All Troop Leadership Position Job Descriptions and the Leadership application can be found on our website at:
<http://www.bsatroop993.org/Leadership%20positions/Troop%20993%20Scout%20Leadership%20Positions.htm>

Yours in Scouting,
John S. Leckner
Scoutmaster