



TROOP 122 NEWS

The Best Troop That I Know

www.troop122opks.org



October 2012

*Troop 122 is proud to recognize Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church as our Sponsor.
We thank the GPCPC community for their generous support.*

Kicking Off a Busy Fall

We've had a busy six weeks to kick off Troop 122's new year.... new Scout leadership and patrols, camping at Clinton Lake and Bashaw Farm, Eagle Scout projects, our fall Court of Honor and current Webelos recruiting.

Yes, fall is a busy time for every family with band, sports and other conflicts crowding each weeknight. We look forward to as much participation as possible - thanks to all Scouts who have attended meetings and campouts. Thanks as well for such a great turnout of parents to Bashaw Farm, a favorite of our annual campouts. During the weekend, our camp trailer received more TLC from **Quarter Master Greg Highbarger**, who built additional shelves to keep our troop on the trail to proper organization.

The Bashaw campout also introduced our new **Troop Chaplain** parent, **Andrew Muller**, who is taking over from Gregg Riess. Our Scouts stepped up to their roles during this campout, and will continue to take ownership of Sunday services each month.

And we know- we're just back in the swing and requesting summer camp money! With apologies for the timing...the Heart of America Council (HOAC) runs summer camps and requires deposits in October. High adventure camps need confirmation from units across the country. So October becomes the default month for next summer. Thanks for your understanding.

Monthly Campout Early in October

Camping Activities Coordinator: Alan Adams @ 913-897-3721 - www.troop122opks.org
See useful campout notes on the website under Important Camp Information

October CAMP-OUT – October 12-14, 2012

- ▶ **When:** Friday, October 12- 14 – final signup **Monday October 8**
- ▶ **Where:** **Lake Olathe**
- ▶ **Activities:** Annual Camporee with Red Tail Hawk District
- ▶ **Cost:** \$15- camping; \$10 Food – to Patrol Leader
- ▶ **Volunteers:** Adult volunteers required – see Alan Adams
- ▶ **Sign-up:** Sign-up and details available at the Monday Troop Meetings

Please join us for this weekend's camporee at Lake Olathe. While it is not a typical campout, the weekend offers Webelos Scouts a 'one-stop' shopping event to meet with a range of troops in our district. It's a great opportunity to have some fun and show Webelos the camaraderie of Troop 122.

Why a Camporee? Fall is always the busy time for introducing Troop 122 to Webelos dens. As with any BSA troop, we need to recruit new Scouts every year. Thanks to **Bill Mahood's** diligent

outreach over the past three years, our troop reaches out to several packs each summer to invite them to camp with us in the fall. In addition to our personal campouts, we participate in Red Tail Hawk (RTH) Webelos Walkabouts and the district Camporee.

A note on camping for adults: we welcome all parents who would like to attend any of our monthly campouts. Join us on the Monday prior to the campout for our own meal planning for the weekend. We ask that **our adult campers take charge of at least one meal for the weekend**, which means food purchases and meal prep at the campsite. This is not as overwhelming as it might seem! Cold cuts for lunch counts (well cookies too). Your participation as a cook is a well-appreciated way to help during a weekend. Ask any leader for more details and join in on our Monday night planning each month. Thanks!

First Year Scouts: At Home Yet with Troop 122?

Are all first year Scouts feeling at home with our troop during this often confusing year? Thanks to **Bill and Shelly Mahood**, the troop provides a first year packet to help ease the transition to Boy Scouts from Webelos. We hope this information has been useful for you. Please let us know of any questions or concerns - any leaders would be happy to answer questions at Monday meetings or via email.

Allen Robertson, former Scoutmaster of Troop 122 and current Eagle Advisor, will also be taking on a new role as **Assistant Scoutmaster- First Year Scouts** this year. He will be reaching out individually to all first year Scouts through the next few months. We encourage all families to spend time with Mr. Robertson, for his perspective spans an entire decade of the evolution of our troop and he has been a mentor to countless Scouts through these years. With his own grandchildren now in Cub Scouts, he's still in for the long haul!

Eagle Court of Honor - November 3

An Eagle Court of Honor is scheduled for Saturday afternoon November 3rd at 2pm to honor Joe Bush, Garrett Long, Kellen Mahood, and Sam Roldan. **All Scouts are highly encouraged to participate** and arrive by 1:45pm; please wear Class A uniform.

Eagle Court of Honor (ECOH) ceremonies, coordinated by the parents of the honored Scouts, are a very special part of Troop 122. The programs feature four or fewer Scouts and include individual speakers who celebrate each new Eagle. It is an emotional experience to hear adults offer thoughtful observations about the growth of these young men. How many teens ever get to be the center of such attention? Each Scout also offers his personal reflections on the (often bumpy) trail to Eagle. If a younger Scout ever needs a reminder that persistence is worth it, these ceremonies will inspire you to keep going. And yes, a reception ends the day.

We thank **Gordon Harton**, who has served as a terrific source of guidance as ceremony advisor to troop parents over the past several years. While the ECOH format remains the same, each ceremony brings together a new group of parents to customize the event with their sons. Planning takes several months, including arrangements for group photos, video slide show (hint- start now to build an archive digital file of Scout photos, including those early days of Cubs); American flags, programs, musicians, reception, and memorabilia tables in the reception hall. Training for future wedding planning...

Likewise, **Bill Mahood** has also played *another* key behind-the-scenes role for our Eagles. He has taken on the task of notifying local and national dignitaries of the achievement of each individual who earns the Eagle rank in our troop. Scouts are delighted to subsequently receive letters from these officials and to compile a commemorative scrapbook.

Merit Badges

Scouts have several opportunities to continue with merit badges all year. Please be sure to **sign up this month** for our in-house forum on **December 8th**. This is a very convenient program for Scouts and we appreciate our Merit Badge counselors who teach each year. We need to know how many Scouts are interested to plan for the day. Please contact Rodrigo Roldan if you have more questions.

Red Tail Hawk's annual RTH Merit Badge Forum will take place over 3 Saturdays in January and February 2013. This is also an excellent way to keep momentum going to earn badges over the winter.

Reminder - before Scouts begin work on a merit badge, they need to have a troop leader **sign off on the blue card first**. Any leader can sign off on a card, especially if you catch them at a Monday meeting. Scouts simply need to remember to take this first step.

Finally, with any merit badge forum that Scouts attend, please be sure to **follow the requirements**. Some badges require advance or ongoing work. If a Scout is attending the RTH forum, please be sure to complete requirements before the last Saturday of the forum. Too many Scouts don't complete one or two requirements, and never follow up, which means that they don't receive the badge at all.

Question about merit badges or rank advancement? Mrs. Matches is available during Monday meetings. Please feel free to ask her advice. **Terri Matches** — www.troop122opks.org |Contact Us

Popcorn Fundraiser

Our annual popcorn fundraiser concludes October 24th so round up those orders. There's still time to earn significant cash for summer camp. Mike and Rene' Shanahan - Troop122 Popcorn Kernels

Summer Camps

Camps Draws This Month: Thanks to everyone who has sent their deposit for Bartle and Naish summer camps. We'll know the sessions we receive after the draws this month. We need deposits in order to request a certain level of slots at camp during the draws at HOAC. Our troop will then be responsible for payment on the number of slots we receive.

High Adventure: Two separate crews are scheduled to visit Ely in northern Minnesota in July. Please contact our coordinator, Mike Walden, through our website if you may be interested in more details, since a few slots are still available.

Red Bag to Come in December

Each year Troop 122 participates in the annual Red Bag program to provide Christmas gifts to needy families in the community. Our troop usually works with eight boys and girls, roughly the same ages of our Scouts. Look for more information in November when we receive the gift requests and sizes.

Our troop has been extraordinarily generous with donations each year; thank you for your support.

Mr. Robertson Heads to Panama

A note from Allen Robertson: I will be returning to Panama for my sixth visit in January 2013. My daughter Katie will also be along to help. We will be visiting several villages again, in Unión Santeña, Chimán, and the Wounaan Indians in Chepo. We will also take time to do some sort of work at the orphanage at Los Rios, just inside Panama City.

How can Troop 122 help?

- **Prayer for our group for safety of travel.**
 - This is the rain forest and our travel is predominately by boat and canoe over the Pacific Ocean and various rivers. (Yes, there are crocodiles there, but we try not to think about that...)
- **New non-prescription reading glasses.**
 - We distribute on an average trip 100 pairs of glasses throughout the various villages. Powers of 1.75, 2.00, 2.25, and 2.50 are the most common need. Costco has three packs of glasses that hold up well and are still a great value. Please, I 'prefer' to take new glasses to the villages, as opposed to used, and no prescription glasses please. I am not qualified to fit / distribute those.
- **Triple antibiotic ointment.**
 - Infections in the Rain Forest are a common occurrence and this simple medicine can ease a lot of suffering. The small medical clinics in these villages are not adequately staffed with this item and it is of tremendous value to the people. You can find generic tubes for \$1-2 at Dollar Tree.
- **Small Toys.**
 - Gently used Hot Wheels cars for the boys and small beanie baby toys for the little girls are a hit!

In past trips Troop 122 has always provided great resources to our teams for the people of Panama. I take great pride in wearing my Troop Green shirt in the villages and telling them of the gifts from Scouts and Scouters half a continent away. Please let me know if you have items to donate or would prefer to make a cash donation directly to Panama Mission Foundation, <http://www.panamamission.org/>

email: allenrobertson@everestkc.net

Calendar of Events

October 2012

- 1: 6:30pm PLC & 7:30pm Committee Meeting
- 4: 7pm RTH Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting
- 6: Webelos Walkabout
- 8: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 12-14 **Camporee**
- 15: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 29: **7pm Troop Meeting**

November 2012

- 1: 7pm RTH Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting
- 3: Eagle Court of Honor
- 5: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 9-11: **Campout weekend – TBD**
- 12: 6:30pm PLC & 7:30pm Committee Meeting
- 19: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 26: **7pm Troop meeting**

December 2012

- 3: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 6: 7pm RTH Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting
- 8: 8:30am- 2pm Troop Merit Badge Forum
- 10: **7pm Troop Meeting ... Red Bag**
- 17: **7pm Troop Meeting**

January 2013

- 3: 7pm RTH Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting
- 7: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 12: 1-4pm Red Tail Hawk Merit Badge Forum-California Trail Jr. High (first of 3 weekends)
- 14: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 18-20: Campout weekend --- Armory & Ft Riley, Manhattan, KS
- 21: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 26: 1-4pm Red Tail Hawk Merit Badge Forum
- 28: 6:30pm PLC Meeting and 7:30 Committee meeting

February 2013

- 2: Campout-IBEX
- 3: Scout Sunday
- 4: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 9: 1-4pm: Red Tail Hawk Merit Badge Forum
- 10-11: IBEX campout (tent)
- 11: **7pm Troop Court of Honor-Sanctuary**
- 15: **Campout – Bump City** (tentative)
- 16: Eagle Court of Honor (reserved)
- 18: 6:30pm PLC & 7:30 Committee Meeting
- 25: 7pm Troop Meeting

March 2013

- 4: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 7: 7pm RTH Roundtable and OA Chapter Meeting
- 8-10: **Campout Weekend**
- 11: 6:30pm PLC & 7:30pm Committee Meeting
- 25: **7pm Troop Meeting**

April 2013

- 5-7: **Campout weekend**
- 8: 6:30pm PLC & 7:30pm Committee Meeting
- 13: Eagle Court of Honor (reserved)
- 15: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 22: **7pm Troop Meeting**
- 29: **7pm Troop Meeting**

May 2013

- 3-5: **Campout weekend**
- 7: 7pm Troop Meeting
- 13: **7pm Troop Court of Honor – Shawnee Mission Park**

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