

TROOP 317

Johns Creek, GA

June/July 2008



Visit our Troop website at www.troop317.com for regular announcements and information updates

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Important Dates to Remember

June 3	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church -7:00 pm
June 8-14	Summer Scout Camp Woodruff Scout Reservation
June 17	NO SCOUT MEETING
June 24	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church - 7:00 pm Summer Camp MB Catch-up.
July	STAND-DOWN No Troop meetings or planned activities. Enjoy your Summer!
August 5	First Scout meeting of the new Scouting Year, Troop Elections
August 12	Court of Honor

May Trips Recap

In May, the Troop split up and went on separate trips. More experienced scouts went to Tree Climbers International near "Little Five Points" in Decatur, where they had a blast climbing trees. They camped at Lake Lanier and had campsites right next to the lake! The best part was the rope swing (even though Ross Thiele fell off!) and walking around the beach.

The newer scouts went to Camp Highland where they worked on Scout skills (knots, first aid, etc.). They had full access to the high & low ropes courses. According to some of the attending scouts, the best parts were the drop zone and the zip line. It was a great opportunity to learn to do things on their own. There was also a record turnout of new Scout dads who attended. Everyone had fun and it was a great experience.

A BIG "Hip-Hip-HUZZAH" to all the adults who helped to plan and execute on BOTH campouts!

Summer Camp

In June we do not have a regular outing. Instead, we have Summer Camp! Summer Camp is a great experience and it is a great way to advance because you can learn/review basic Scouting skills (Mountain Man program), earn (or partially earn) multiple merit badges, and have a great time whitewater rafting, riding horses and hanging out with your friends!

Summer Camp is held near Blairsville, GA at the Woodruff Scout Reservation. Woodruff is a clean facility with tons of natural beauty. The staff members are enthusiastic about scouting, which makes camp a lot more fun. This year, two of our own Scouts, Garrett Little and Nic Orangio, will be on staff at Woodruff.

There are many things to do at Summer Camp. During the morning, there are Merit Badge activities, where you work on merit badges throughout the week. While you may not complete the Merit Badge at camp, it's usually an easy task to complete them at home. Newer scouts will be doing Mountain Man where they fulfill many of the early rank requirements.

After the morning sessions, you can swim in the lake, go boating, water skiing, mountain boarding, mountain biking, do a ropes course, play in the giant field, do rifle/shotgun shooting, archery, go river rafting, or just hang out at the trading post or at your campsite. On Wednesday, we will go to the Nantahala to go whitewater rafting. The first and last days of camp they hold a campfire ceremony where there are funny skits and a big campfire. During the middle of the week, they have a flag retirement ceremony.

There are so many things to do that it is hard to choose what to do! You will definitely not be bored at Summer Camp.

Summer Eagle Projects

This summer we will all have an opportunity to help some of our Scouts earn their Eagle rank by helping them with their required Eagle project. Although it is usually hot outside and the work is physical, we have a good time and feel good about doing something meaningful, while we help another Scout reach their goal. Plus, there are usually donuts and other bribing foods. This is also a good way to fulfill our service hour requirements. So, be sure to check your email this summer. Some of the Scouts who are in the process of working on their Eagle projects this summer are:

Gavin Brand
Matthew Barker
Garrett Little
David Lumsden
John Russell Abernathy

Michael Barker
Trey Reed
Davis Mitchell
Drew Hettenbach

Newsletter Contributions

Contact Andrew Deitsch, our Troop Scribe, with any Newsletter contributions at:

andrew.deitsch@comcast.net! Thanks!

Helpful Scouting Links

Here are some helpful websites for more information on scouting in general:

<http://www.troop317.net>

<http://www.troop317.com>

<http://www.scouting.org>

<http://olc.scouting.org>

<http://www.meritbadge.com>

<http://www.meritbadge.org>

<http://www.boyslife.org>

<http://www.scoutingmagazine.org>

<http://www.miltonbsa.org>

<http://www.atlantabsa.org>

<http://www.macscouter.com>

Scout Spotlight

This month's scout spotlight is on Keegan Hanifen. Keegan is going into the 9th grade this fall at Norcross High School (Go Blue Devils!). Keegan joined Scouts in 2005 as a member of the Bobcat patrol. In an interview with Keegan, he said:

Andrew: "Why did you join Scouts?"

Keegan: "I wanted to have fun and some of my friends were doing it."

Andrew: "What is your favorite Scout memory?"

Keegan: "The Simpsonwood campout where some fellow scouts and I tied Trace Sells to a tree and then tied up Drew Hettenbach."

Andrew: "What has been your favorite Scout campout?"

Keegan: "The ski trip two years ago (to Sugar Mountain) was my favorite because it was so much fun skiing."

Andrew: "What do you like to do in your spare time?"

Keegan: "I like to hang out with my friends and swim."

Andrew: "Who has made the biggest impact on your scouting experience?"

Keegan: "Mr. Van Cleave, because he has helped the Bobcats advance so much and he loves scouting."

If you would like to see a particular scout in the spotlight, please contact, Troop Scribe, Andrew Deitsch.

2008-2009 – A Bang-up Scouting Year!

The PLC met on May 20 and selected the Troop activities for the next Scout year. Watersports, fishing, mountain biking, COPE, Scout skills, shooting, kayaking and snow-skiing are some of the activities planned for next year. Stay tuned for details.