

TROOP 317

Johns Creek, GA

April 2009



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

April 2009

Important Dates to Remember

April 7	Spring Break!! NO Troop Meeting Have a GREAT week!
April 14	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church - 7:00 pm
April 17-19	Patrol Outings Depart Friday 6:00 Arrive Sunday 1:00 Both at Bank Parking lot
April 21	Troop PLC Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm
April 28	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm

April Campout

Our next campout is the patrol-option campout. These Campouts are traditionally a BLAST, as each patrol gets to plan, choose and execute their own campout.

We are all looking forward to the weekend. Most patrols will go fishing, hiking or some other type of outdoor activity. Some patrols are planning to camp at a local nature preserve or state park.

Of course, some of the more thrill seeking scouts included airsoft, skydiving and underwater basket weaving for their patrol campouts! 😊 These ideas were quickly shot down at the PLC.

This campout is a great time for Scouts to take up responsibility in planning a detailed campout, and gain some fun experiences in return.

You should have heard from your patrol by now (via the patrol leader or ASM) as to what your plans are. Contact them for more details.

Camporee Recap

The Milton District Camporee was our March Troop outing. This year, we camped at Woodruff Scout Reservation, which was a great preview for Summer Camp. Many of us were returning to the beautiful camp in the north Georgia Mountains.

This year's Camporee theme was: **Scout vs. Wild.** During the morning we attended a number of different stations to learn survival skills. The afternoon was given over to free time, additional activities, and learning Scout skills. Scouts who are 14-years old and older could participate in a night-time activity.

On Sunday morning, the District sponsored a pancake breakfast. The cooks threw your pancakes at you, and you had to catch them on your plate! After breakfast, we held our own Troop 317 Worship Service in the Woodruff Chapel area, which was very cool.

If you liked the survival skills you learned or saw during this campout, you should plan on taking the Wilderness Survival merit badge.

As expected, it was a great time with the District, and we look forward to the next one.

Welcome, Pyrites!

Troop 317 has a new patrol, the Pyrite Patrol. Our Spring joining period is closed, and we have 8 new Scouts ready to experience Troop 317.

Their name, the Pyrite Patrol, reminds us all that there are many counterfeits in the world, so we should all be careful not to fall for counterfeits. Jesus is the real thing.

Summer Camp Info Past Due

If you're intending to go to Summer Camp, but haven't contacted Mr. Statham yet, you need to do so TODAY – tom.statham@comcast.net

Evolution vs. Creation

As part of the Troop 317 discipleship curriculum we cover three primary themes over the course of a Scouting year (August through June). This set, we will explore what it means to be “an available messenger to non-kingdom people.” This touches many times on the topic of apologetics.

Apologetics is a Greek word, a legal term meaning “to make a defense.” For Christians it means to make a case for Christ. **1 Peter 3:15** says that we are to “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*” As followers of Jesus Christ we are to be prepared to make a case for Christ and do this in a way that is approachable and respectful.

In his book *Rethinking Worldview: Learning to Think, Live, and Speak in This World*, author J. Mark Bertrand says Christianity as a worldview is founded on four theological or philosophical pillars: **creation, order, rationality and fear.**

This month we are looking at the first pillar: **creation.** We will touch on it in relation to evolution but more importantly focus on the Creator Himself. Remember that the goal of all Christian apologetics is to point to Jesus Christ, not to win an argument. Therefore we will spend most of our time in Scoutmaster Minutes and our worship service talking about the Gospel.

If you want to study more about this topic, I’d recommend *The Answer* by Randy Pope. This book not only addresses the “evolution vs. creation” debate but has a great appendix with additional reference materials listed.

Here are some passages of Scripture to meditate on related to this month’s theme: **Jeremiah 10:12, Psalm 33:4-9, Proverbs 8:22-36, John 1:1-3, John 20:24-29, Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:14**

For more information on Troop 317 discipleship curriculum go to www.Troop317.com/Discipleship or contact Troop 317’s Chaplain Tony Heringer at tony.heringer@infor.com

Scout Spotlight

This month’s Scout Spotlight is on Garrett Little and Nic Orangio. Both are Life Scouts and attend South Forsyth High School, where Garrett is a sophomore, and Nic is a junior. They have been in scouts for 5 years and are in the Chiefs patrol. Both Scouts also worked at Woodruff Scout Reservations during Summer Camp 2008.

In a dual interview with Nic and Garrett, they said:

T317: “Why did you work at Woodruff this past summer?”

Nic: “I wanted to work with my friends, and wanted to have good experience for my future resume’s.”

Garrett: “I felt like it would be a good experience, and wanted to try it out.”

T317: “How long will you two be working at Woodruff this summer?”

Both: “7 weeks out of a total of 9 weeks of summer.”

T317: “Who has made the biggest impact on your scouting career?”

Nic: “Winston Fullbright.”- (Woodruff buddy)

Garrett: “Mr.O.”

T317: “What has been your favorite campout?”

Both: “Patrol campouts are the bomb”

T317: “What was your favorite memory from scouts and Woodruff?”

Nic: “Winston falling off the iceberg at summer camp.”

Garrett: “Cumberland Island when burning trees.”

If you’re at least 14 years old and are interested in spending some staff time at Summer Camp, talk to Nic and/or Garret about the opportunity.

You can find out more about Summer Camp staff positions (paid and unpaid) and the associated requirements by visiting the following website:

<http://atlantabsa.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1457&id=49080>

Newsletter Contributions

Contact Keegan Hanifen, our Troop Scribe, with any Newsletter contributions at:

keegan_63@comcast.net ! Thanks!