

TROOP 317

Johns Creek, GA

October 2009



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

October 2009 – At a Glance

October 2-4	Compassion in Action Weekend
October 6	Troop Meeting Welcome NEW Scouts! Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm New Parent Orientation Sixth Street Café – 7:00 pm
October 13	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm Merit Badge Counselor Info Sixth Street Café – 7:00 pm
October 20	Troop Meeting Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm
October 18	POPCORN SALES DEADLINE
October 23-24	Troop Outing – Cheaha St Pk Bank Parking Lot – 6:00 pm Return Sunday 2:00 pm
October 27	PLC Only Perimeter Church – 7:00 pm Troop 317 High Adventure Mtg Sixth Street Café – 7:00 pm
October 31	Merit Badge Clinic Perimeter Church – 8:30 am

November Campout

November's campout is going to be all about FIRE and FOOD. **IRON CHEF 317** is our theme, and once again, we are going to challenge ourselves by preparing all meals for the weekend over open fires (no campstoves).

The weekend will culminate in a Saturday Night **IRON CHEF** competition, where each patrol will display their skills by preparing a meal, with only the ingredients that they are given. Meals will be judged, and PRIZES will be awarded.

FIRE and FOOD – I love it!!

Silver Comet Campout Recap

The September biking trip was another huge success. Camping out at “the Rock” in Rockmart, GA, the Troop split into several biking ability groups. These groups biked anywhere from 7-25 miles!

Unfortunately, the rain continued on Saturday afternoon, and the much anticipated time trails were canceled. However, the campers still had a great time shooting potato cannons, initiating Frisbee tosses, and working on Scout skills under tarps.

For dessert, the Troop was treated with a little of Mr. O's not-quite-famous Pumpkin Crisp hot from the Dutch oven. On Sunday morning, Mr. Mitchell (our Troop Chaplain) concluded the outing with a brief talk on the Scout Oath.

Oh, by the way, the rumors about masked men roaming the campsite late Friday night are simply that – rumors. Ask Brenden Laible and Ross Thiele for more details.

Troop 317 Uniform Closet

Getting too big for your uniform? Need a larger uniform? Troop 317 has kicked off our Uniform Closet – and it's open for business. Scouts who need a larger uniform can donate their old one, and get a larger size. Pants, shirts, belts and socks are all available.

To inquire about available sizes, send an e-mail to uniforms@troop317.com.

To donate to the uniform closet, bring your old uniform to any Troop meeting, and give it to one of the Adult leaders.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have a newsletter contribution, contact our Troop Scribe, Caleb Maier, with your article. Thanks!

Some Thoughts on the Scout Uniform

Scenario: You play for a baseball team. You join, play well, and practice regularly. One day, you decide that the baseball pants are ugly, and you just wear the jersey and sweatpants to the game. Will the coach allow you on the field to play? I don't think so!

Why then, do some of our Scouts believe it to be acceptable to wear half a Scout uniform to a meeting or other Scouting function?

The Boy Scouts of America are pretty clear in their stated requirements for a uniform:

1. A uniform shirt (long or short-sleeved), with all patches and insignia appropriately attached;
2. Uniform pants or shorts;
3. Boy Scout belt (the switchback pants have a built-in belt – but it's still a belt);
4. Official Boy Scout socks (various styles and sizes)

For Troop 317, the cap is optional, BUT, if a cap is worn, it should be a Boy Scout Uniform cap (sorry to all the Auburn, Florida, Georgia, BassPro, etc. fans).

The Troop policy on neckerchiefs and merit badge sashes is that they are only to be worn to formal functions (Star/Life SMCs and BORs, Courts of Honor, Eagle Courts of Honor, Scout Sunday, Veteran's Day, etc.).

The Order of the Arrow sash is to be worn ONLY at OA functions. It is not to be worn or draped over the belt at non-OA functions (including Courts of Honor, etc.)

So – why the Uniform? Here are several good reasons:

Personal equality – The uniform represents a democratic ideal of equality; bringing people of different racial, economic, religious, national, ethnic, political, and geographical backgrounds together in the Scouting tradition. Although we are different, we are all the same; we have the same belief in the scouting principles; we are one with the same uniform.

Identification – The uniform identifies youth and adult members of the Boy Scouts of America, visible as a force for good in the community. When properly and smartly worn, the uniform can build good unit spirit. When worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.

Achievement – The uniform shows the wearer's activity, responsibility, and achievement. What each youth or adult member has accomplished with program opportunities can be recognized by the insignia worn on the uniform.

Personal commitment – The uniform is a constant reminder to all Boy Scouts and adults of their commitment

to the ideals and purpose of the Boy Scouts of America. The uniform encourages them to take Scouting seriously. The uniform is one way of making visible members' commitment to our duty to God and country, our duty to others, and our duty to ourselves.

Pride in your organization – Wearing the uniform properly is saying I believe in the Scouting movement and its principles. I am proud to be a part of it.

Responsibility – The Scout must get all the pieces together and actually want to wear them. Boys in scouting do not get dressed by their parents, so the boy has to remember he has a meeting, and that the uniform is the right thing to wear. It is his obligation to wear the uniform and wear it smartly.

Accountability – I am in uniform. I am a Scout! You can count on me! I will do my best to do my duty! By wearing this reminder I will remember to follow the Law and Oath.

Let's strive for HIGH STANDARDS as we wear our uniforms proudly!

Electronics Policy Update

To further address the continuing electronics issue, the Troop 317 Committee has adopted the following update to the “No Electronics” policy:

At the beginning of meetings and campouts, Scouts will be given a chance to “come clean” about any devices in their possession and turn them in. Any item seen after the initial “come clean” period will be confiscated, and the Scout's parents will be called to come retrieve their Scout from the event and take him home.

This includes Troop meetings and PLCs. It also applies to campouts. Electronic devices include music players (CDs, radios, tape players, iPods, MP3 players, etc.), cellphones (including camera phones), electronic games, and other entertainment items.

Troop 317 is not unique in this policy. Many of the Scout Troops with whom we interact also struggle with the distraction that electronics provide. In a frantic world, having one meeting a week, and one weekend a month where your Scout is not constantly interrupted by beeping, vibrating and music is not a hardship – it's a blessing!

For convenience and emergencies, every parent can reach their Scout through his ASM, or one of the adult leaders. In addition, there are plenty of phones available for Scouts to call parents, should the need arise.

Parents, the Troop leadership is looking to YOU to catch this at home BEFORE it becomes an issue at a meeting or a campout. Thanks for your help!