

[Troop 317] 8-26-12 NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue, 9/28 @ 7PM: Troop Meeting
Tue, 9/4 @ 7PM: Troop Meeting & Open House
Sat, 9/8 @ 7:30AM: Merit Badge Clinic (details below)
Sun, 9/9 @ 12:30PM: Committee Meeting (adults)
Tue, 9/11 @ 7PM: Troop Meeting
Fri, 9/14 @ 6PM: Troop Campout (details below)
Tue, 9/18 @ 7PM: PLC Meeting & Joining Day (new scouts)
Tue, 9/25 @ 7PM: Troop Meeting
Sat, 10/6 UNITE Food Drive
Sun, 10/7 @ 12:30PM: Committee Meeting (adults)

Next Court of Honor will be February 12, 2013. Date is TBD.

ANNUAL DUES

As you're aware, our Scouting year runs from August to July. As such, Troop dues are due and payable as of August 1 (although they've just been added to your account last week). These dues cover BSA national registration, Boys Life magazine, and the basic operating expenses of our Troop (badges, patches, uniform insignia, calling post, storage rental, email and websites, etc). We've deliberately designed this annual fee to be as small as possible. Our Troop has historically operated on a "break-even" basis, and it is our design to continue to do so.

The good news is that we will NOT be raising annual dues this year. The current rate is \$85 for this next Scouting year (August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013), per Scout. The Troop will continue to pay the BSA Fees for registered Adults. There is no allowance for partial year participation. If you have funds in your Scout Account, you may certainly use those funds to pay this amount.

We continue to steward our Troop resources well, with consistent oversight and input from the Troop Committee.

The next time you log on to www.troop317.net, you will see that we've added the annual dues to your account, and you can pay them online. We ask that you pay them in a timely manner, to avoid unnecessary extra effort on the part of our volunteer adults.

If you have questions, please contact luke.vancleave@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting your sons through this Scouting ministry. It's going to be a GREAT year for Scouting!

UNITE FOOD DRIVE

Every year, our Troop is privileged to participate with the UNITE efforts around our community. This year, we will once again be conducting a food drive for the Hands of Christ Food Coop by collecting food at the local Kroger grocery store.

More details and registration will be forthcoming, but **SAVE THE DATE of Saturday, October 6**, so you can bless the city!

OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW SCOUTS

Troop 317 is having an Open House for prospective new Scouts and their parents at 7PM Tuesday, Sept 4, 2012 in the Sixth Street Café. For details see troop317.com

MERIT BADGE CLINIC

With the start of school comes the start of our new Scouting year and I wanted to make you aware of two merit badge clinics that are coming up soon. The first is at **Johns Creek United Methodist Church**. It will be held on Sat, 8 Sept, from 7:30AM to 5:00PM. This clinic provides two sessions for the Scout to work on up to two different merit badges. They offer a number of merit badges, include several that are Eagle required.

The other is **Merit Badge University** to be held on Sat, 20 Oct, from 7:30AM to 12:30PM at Kennesaw State University. I wanted to make you aware of the opportunity so that you can put it on your calendar if you're interested. This one usually has a lot of offerings so be watching. More information (including pre-requisites) and registration for both of these clinics can be found at www.meritbadge.info.

Several of our past and present Scouts have attended both of these clinics and they have said that they are good. These are good ways to work on needed merit badges (even if you don't finish at the clinic) and get some good training. Another great year for Scouting is ahead - so Be Prepared!!

YIS, Mark KraH

POPCORN FUNDRAISER

(Reply to Darlene Penner at darpenner@yahoo.com)

Troop 317 Popcorn Sale starts now!

The *Popcorn Sale Kick-Off* is planned for August 28th and we'll hand out sales packets during that time. However, we realize that a number of Scouts hope to start selling as soon as possible. Therefore, if your Scout wishes to start selling right away, he can:

1. Pick up a sales packet for door-to-door sales any time during the Patrol Leader Meeting this coming Tuesday, August 21st (this meeting is for leadership only, but anyone can come to pick up their packet).
2. Start selling **on-line** immediately. Your scout can go on-line to <http://scouts.trails-end.com>, to sign in or create an account, and then send emails to distant friends and family asking for their support. Your friends and family order on the website, the popcorn is delivered directly to them, and your scout receives the sales credit! This is a great way to include out of town relatives in your scout's fund raising. Plus, Trails-End offers a diverse national product-line that's different from your paper order form. If your Scout is aged 13 or older, BSA encourages him to set up his own on-line sales account. For Scouts under age 13, please have a parent assist.

NEW: Once your scout has set up an on-line sales account he can sell online with his (or your) mobile device. The mobile device allows Scouts to take credit card orders anytime, anywhere. It's FREE and available to download for iPhones, iPads and Android phones.

- Scouts can go to scouts.trails-end.com to download the mobile app to their mobile device.
- Scouts sign in to the mobile app with the account they created to sell on-line
- Customers make a purchase through the mobile app. The product is shipped directly to the customer and the Scout gets credit for the sale.

Remember that all sales (door-to-door and on-line) count towards Scout rewards and help your scout earn money for his scout account!

Why Sell Boy Scout Popcorn?

1. To give back to Scouting (Trail's End returns over 70% to local Scouting)
2. Gain valuable experience in setting and pursuing goals
3. Enhance communication skills

3. To embrace the life principle "A Scout is Thrifty" and earns his way

How Can I Encourage My Scout to be "Thrifty"?

Last year Troop 317 had \$8,000+ in popcorn sales! Of this, over \$2,100 went straight into the sellers' Scout accounts to help pay for Scout-related expenses (i.e. annual dues, monthly camp-outs; summer camp; uniforms, anything Scout-related).

Troop 317 has another great year of outings planned! What a blessing to your Scout and your family finances if he can contribute to his Scout account through popcorn sales to help offset the costs (or attend an outing that wouldn't otherwise have been included in the family budget).

Should my Scout set a sales goal?

Only 44% of parents say their Scout set a sales goal. Scouts who set goals average **\$626** in sales. Scouts with no goal average \$304 in sales. Support your Scout by helping him set a goal.

How does my Scout earn money for his Scout Account?

Troop 317 will receive 35% of your scout's sales. The Troop will deposit 75% of this amount into your scout's individual Scout Account and the remaining 25% is used to help offset general operating costs.

If, for example, a scout sells \$1000 of popcorn, the troop would receive \$350. The troop keeps \$87.50 and \$262.50 is credited to your scout's individual Scout Account. Last year, several scouts earned enough to pay for summer camp as well as a few extra outings!

Program Details:

Please review Popcorn Sale Program details/dates as well as a listing of anticipated costs for upcoming outings (helpful during goal-setting) on the Troop website: www.troop317.com:

- 2012Troop317PopcornProgram.pdf
- BoyScoutOutingCosts.pdf

You can find additional information and resources at www.atlantabsa.org or at www.trails-end.com.

Please contact darpenner@yahoo.com with any questions. If your Scout cannot pick up a sales packet at the August 21st meeting and wants to start selling door-to-

door before the Sale Kick-Off on August 28th, please let me know and we'll work something out.

Thanks for supporting our boys and BSA!
Darlene Penner

SEPTEMBER CAMPOUT

Be Prepared!

On September 14th we set out for another adventure in the North Georgia mountains at Vogel State Park near Blairsville GA. This campout is for EVERYONE! We will have activities available for those who do not want to actually backpack. Read further and get prepared for a great time in God's world.

The goal of this campout is for every Scout in Troop 317 to learn backpacking skills which will improve their general camping skills. This does not mean that everyone needs to "go backpacking", but that some will be learning how to backpack and generally be better campers. That means that every Scout can participate regardless of experience or available equipment.

To help accomplish this, we hope to breakup the participants into 3-4 groups:

Beginners: 2 nights in basecamp, 5 mile hike with small packs.

Novice: 1 night basecamp & 1 night trail camp, 4-8 miles total backpacking on Sat & Sun.

Experienced: 1 night basecamp & 1 night trail camp, 10-12 miles total backpacking on Sat & Sun.

ad-Venture-rs: 2 nights trail camping, 10-15 miles total backpacking, early Friday departure(?).

As for equipment, you can get it - don't let that hold you back. Also there is no need to run out and spend tons of money - it can be borrowed, shared, purchased at reasonable costs, etc. We will discuss this over the coming weeks in meetings and other communications. Most importantly focus on some good fitting and "broken in" hiking shoes or boots. The rest can be worked out (borrowed, purchased inexpensively, etc).

Get your shoes and packs (and your feet and back) ready for another great Troop 317 backpacking weekend. Throw on those boots and any pack (with some weight) and practice NOW!

GET prepared!

THANKS,
Gregg