



Troop 1333 Newsletter

January 2009

Troop 1333 Scouts and Parents,

With 2009 already off to a running start, I thought it might be a good idea to provide a 'State of the Troop' letter to let everyone know what we accomplished in 2008 and what we envision for the coming year.

First, let's wrap up 2008. It was a banner year for recruiting as we had 43 new scouts join our troop, far exceeding both our goals and expectations. Each year we move further into the boy-led troop concept originally intended by the founder of Boy Scouts, Lord Baden-Powell and the results of a boy-led troop are amazing to see.

2008 - by the numbers:

84 Rank Badges

- (30) Scout
- (22) Tenderfoot
- (16) Second Class
- (4) First Class
- (4) Star
- (4) Life
- (3) Eagle
- (1) Bronze Palm

233 Merit Badges

- 43 different badge types
- 55 Eagle required merit badges

132 Special Awards

The troop has qualified for the 2008 Centennial Award (replaces the Quality Unit Award) and all scouts and leaders will receive a shoulder patch for their uniform.

SUMMER CAMP – T1333 attended 3 summer camps in 2008. With the unanticipated growth of the troop, we did not reserve enough slots at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch (BTSR) and another group went to CIMA's Cockrell River Camp. The third camp was a high adventure trek to Northern Tier.

Special thanks go to the leaders who spent their vacation time to accompany the scouts to these camps and in particular to Daree Stracke and Rita McCrory who served as health officers at BTSR for the entire camp.

Check out the pictures from each of these camps using the following links:

CIMA - http://www.bsatroop1333.org/cima_cockrell_2008.htm

BTSR - <http://www.bsatroop1333.org/btsr2008.htm>

Northern Tier - http://www.bsatroop1333.org/northern_tier.htm

2009 Summer Camp reservations have been made at Hale Scout Reservation in Oklahoma for July 5-11. We have reservations for 60 scouts and 10 leaders so

there will be room for the number of scouts anticipated to attend. You will soon be seeing requests for signups and deposits for this camp. Camp Hale's website is <http://www.halescoutreservation.org/>.

The High Adventure camp this year is at Sea Base in Florida in August. There are two treks – scuba and sailing and both are already full. The Sea Base website is <http://www.bsaseabase.org/>.

For 2010, T1333 has been awarded 2 treks to Philmont. Stan Bravenec's year in and year out persistence in applying for a trek has paid off and he is accepting RSVPs for these treks from scouts who will be 14 or older by the 2010 date.

CALENDAR - The troop calendar has been updated and is also available in MS Excel format. Upcoming events are listed on the home page at <http://bsatroop1333.org/> and Scoutmaster Landry sends a note weekly with reminders. The calendar is dynamic so it should be on your list of things to review at least once a week. The PLC has recently met and modified the calendar again through next summer and it is posted. Access the calendar at <http://bsatroop1333.org/schedule.htm>.

PARENT'S MEETING – This year's Parent Meeting is scheduled for January 25th from 4:30 – 6 pm in the FLC. This annual meeting is where we discuss the troop's organization and philosophy and answer your questions about the troop's operation. This meeting is also where summer camp signup and deposits begin, registration of new scouts, signup and re-registration for merit badge counselors, and much more. Please block out your calendar and plan on attending.

BOARD OF REVIEW – A Board of Review Request Form is available at http://bsatroop1333.org/bor_form.htm. Scouts, use this form to request your next Board of Review. Using this form will help the Board of Review coordinator know how many team members are needed for the Board of Review date. You must complete your Scoutmaster conference prior to the date of your BOR. This policy gives you the opportunity to properly prepare for both and results in a more successful BOR. BOR dates are listed on the Troop calendar. Remember to wear your FULL uniform and *Be Prepared*. Special thanks to all parents who participate as BOR Team members and special recognition to Pauline Ramsey for heading up the BORs; she's done a great job. If you are interested in serving as a BOR Team member (training provided FREE!), contact Pauline.

MERIT BADGES – We now have 18 adults as troop counselors covering 78 merit badges. We will be having a signup and re-registration (required annually by BSA) at the January 25th Parent's meeting. The entire list of counselors and merit badges can be found at http://bsatroop1333.org/mb_counselors.htm. A merit badge counselor training presentation is available at http://bsatroop1333.org/Merit_Badges/MB_Counselor_Presentation_060707.ppt - WARNING - this is a large file. If you are interested in becoming a troop merit badge counselor, see the merit badge page for details at http://bsatroop1333.org/merit_badges.htm

LIFE TO EAGLE - The Life to Eagle Committee has been very successful in mentoring T1333 Life scouts on their Eagle Leadership Service Project write-ups and several have received compliments on their write-ups from the District Review representatives. The purpose of this committee and the meetings is to assist Life Scouts in their quest for Eagle by holding brief workshops, project plan guidance, reviewing plans before going to the District for approval, and any other aspect of the Eagle process. Check out the Life to Eagle resources at

http://bsatroop1333.org/life_to_eagle.htm. The next meeting scheduled for January 25th from 7-9 pm in FLC 116. Sandy Y'Barbo has been instrumental in leading the Life to Eagle Committee that resulted in 3 more Eagle Scouts being added to T1333's Eagle Nest in 2008 but she can use some additional assistance from detail-oriented parents in the project reviews. **Recent T1333 Eagle scouts are also needed to assist with this committee.**

PHOTOS – After most events and activities, photos will be posted as a reminder of the fun and good times. 2 or 3 scout leaders take the majority of the pictures but we are starting to get more taken and shared by the scouts. We've even given a camera to a scout at camp and let him roam so we get their "perspective" on a campout. If you have any pictures to share, we'd love to add them to the site for all to enjoy. Check out Troop photos at <http://bsatroop1333.org/photos.htm>.

TRAIL TO 1ST CLASS – The Trail to 1st Class page, http://bsatroop1333.org/trail_to_1st_class.htm, was created to assist the newer scout as he moves along from Tenderfoot to 2nd Class to 1st Class rank – known in Troop 1333 lingo as T21. The T21 program works by systematically planning campouts and activities with the PLC to maximize the opportunities for achievements required by the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class ranks while tracking the progress of each scout to see how each is progressing. Participation in troop activities and campouts in the first year is highly encouraged. All scouts move at their own pace and parents should not be too concerned if other scouts are receiving rank before theirs unless they appear significantly behind. James Y'Barbo, with the support of the other scoutmasters has used the T21 program to keep the scouts on track for their 1st Class rank, which averages a 12-13 month time frame.

VENTURE CREW – Troop 1333 was recently awarded a charter from BSA for a Venture Crew. The purpose of the Venture Crew is to provide an avenue for high adventure activities for older scouts. To join the Crew, you must be 14 years old and a 1st Class Scout. You can still earn your Eagle while a member of the Crew and will continue to interact with the troop by providing skill instruction and mentoring to younger scouts. Stay tuned for more information on the Venture Crew's activities as they happen. Stan Bravenec, with the support of John Landry and assistance from Tamela DeMaranville, was instrumental in the realization of this goal.

FUNDRAISING – This year's smoked chicken fundraiser, along with the Fall Festival food sales (new opportunity this year), netted \$5166. This money is budgeted toward awards and recognition items, equipment purchases and repairs, and other troop operation expenses. It takes nearly everyone in the troop to make this fundraiser a success but special thanks go to James Y'Barbo for leading the smoked chicken cooking and Daree Stracke and Mindy Renfro for the Fall Festival coordination. Once again, Pauline Ramsey and her staff of troop moms made the Troop Dinner fun for all.

Popcorn Fundraiser – The scouts sold \$2360 of popcorn this year. The proceeds from the popcorn sales go to the scout's account and are generally used for summer camp payments or registration fees. Kim Medina has been heading the popcorn sales for several years and has done a great job in helping the scouts earn their own money for camp. Thanks go to David Gibson for picking up the entire popcorn order and delivering it to the Scout Hut.

The Troop website, www.bsatroop1333.org, is updated every couple of days so check back frequently, especially the Calendar and News area. Your feedback on the website is encouraged - this is YOUR website and we want to make it useful to you.

As a final comment for parents, please be sure to let your scout see this e-mail as well as all others from the troop that are intended for the scout. It is important that the scouts take ownership of their Boy Scouting careers with mom and dad in a support role, not a lead role as was the case in Cub Scouts. If an e-mail is addressed to your scout, be sure to have them answer it. As a parent, I realize it is much easier to respond for them but your scout will be much more involved and successful when he is the one communicating. If a scout or a parent has a question about the program (e.g. What merit badges do I need for the next rank? When is the next PLC meeting?; How much is the campout fee?; What time do we return from camp?), have the scout send the e-mail or make the phone call. This will help them with their communications skills and confidence as they report back to you with the answer. The feedback we get from scouts at Boards of Review tell us they like less adult involvement and being allowed to do things themselves. Trust them, they can do it. As the unofficial troop motto states, "If a Scout can do it, adults don't."

There are so many people that make the troop run (from Scoutmasters to Committee Members to involved parents) it is hard to name them all in this newsletter. These folks mentor you (Scouts) and your sons (parents), spend their free time and vacations on scouting, work behind the scenes to make a fundraiser successful, a Board of Review a positive experience, outdoor activities and camping fun experiences, a Court of Honor a memorable event, and untold hours on making Troop 1333 the best it can be. They know who they are and if you know who they are, take a minute to tell them "thank you" -they are the ones who make your son's scouting experience a positive one.

I would like to end this newsletter with a big THANK YOU to John Landry, Troop 1333's Scoutmaster. As Scoutmaster, John has made a huge commitment to the troop over the past few years and much of the growth and improvement in the troop can be attributed to his efforts. We have gravitated to a fully implemented boy-led, adult-supported troop that incorporates high adventure activities into the outdoor programs. John demands compliance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law from all scouts equally and mentors those that sometimes need extra guidance on this path. John works hand-in-hand with the committee to provide a high level of transparency in how the troop is run. Thank you John.

If you made it this far, thank you for taking the time and interest. Have a great week.

Yours in Scouting,
Mike Zarella
Troop 1333 Committee Chair
Venture Crew 1333 Committee Chair