

TROOP 850 NEWS

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Merit Badge Challenge Reminder

The first of three Merit Badge Challenge sessions will take place on Saturday, February 4 at Fairfield High School. We will meet at 7:15AM that morning and drive up together; **drivers are needed!!** Please call Mr. Matthews if you can help. We will return to St. I at about 12:30PM. The other sessions are scheduled for February 11 and March 11. Please remind your Scout to prepare the blue cards and return envelopes in advance of the first session.



Summer Camp Heads Up

The Troop will be attending Summer Camp this year the week of July 9 — 15. We are looking into the possibility of trying an out-of-town camp which will only be possible if we can get enough adult commitments for the full week — more on that when plans are firm. In the meantime, no matter which camp we choose, “early bird” deposits of \$50 will be due by February 28 to secure any available discounts (usually a \$20 or more savings).

2006 Calendar

A copy of the 2006 Calendar is enclosed and is also available on www.troop850.org.



JANUARY CAMPOUT: KLONDIKE!!

The Whitewater District Klondike Derby will once again take place at Camp Friedlander the weekend of January 27 — 29 and Troop 850 will be there to compete with all the other troops. This is always a favorite with the boys. A permission slip is enclosed.

HELP!!

Planning for the Spaghetti Dinner is now underway. A large part of the success of past events is the gift basket raffle managed by Connie Peace (thanks, Connie!!). She is looking for medium to large baskets to use for this purpose. If you have a basket to donate, or know anyone who does, please call Connie at 574.6673. More on the Spaghetti Dinner later.

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday is always the first Sunday of February, or February 5 this year. The Troop is asked to participate as a group in the Noon Mass. Please plan for you Scout to attend.



Missing Equipment



After each campout, each Scout is responsible for taking all or part of a tent home, drying and cleaning it, and returning it at the next meeting. Unfortunately, we are still missing several tents and tent poles from the last couple of campouts. Parents, **please** look around for the missing items and send them in with your sons at your earliest opportunity so that we have enough tents for our next campout.



Website Additions!!

You will notice a new feature on www.troop850.org. -- an online art gallery featuring original artwork of Troop 850 outings by our own Roy Steiner. Selected works from 2005 (Mr. Steiner's "white period") are posted for your viewing pleasure. We'll be adding his 2005 works in coming weeks and we're looking forward to Roy's impressions of 2006 as well. Click on "Art Gallery" on the left side of the homepage.

HIGH ADVENTURE NOTES

For those participating in our West Virginia kayaking trip June 17 — 23, please note:

- We haven't completed a final budget yet, but the final cost should be about \$500. This can be paid at any time on or prior to May 31. Partial payments are fine any time.
- As a true aquatic adventure, proper preparation is essential!! The following activities are **MANDATORY**: April 11 Troop meeting, May 23 Troop meeting, "shakedown" weekend (dates TBA), and the June 3 Troop meeting.