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You may use the space bellow to figure out what that means

Hello fellow citizens and illegal immigrants and people who aren't citizens but also aren't illegal. Welcome to...ok figure out what the title says and then you'll know what you've been welcomed to. If you don't know Morse Code, ask someone who does (but not me).

This month we are going to be doing things a little differently. You may ask why? Well my answer is: BECAUSE I CAN. Actually I did it because I normally write about the upcoming campout first, but I thought about it and there isn't much to say on that topic. Sorry, I'm rambling...again.

The newsletter will also be on the Troop's website:  
<http://www.pack61eastbrunswick.org/Troop61/troop61.html>

## Scoutmaster's Variable amount of time

(It's normally Scoutmaster's Minute, but not everyone reads at the same speed, and I have no idea if this would take a minute to say)

By Mr. Galbraith (if it wasn't by Mr. G, there'd be some questions I think)

I've got some nice photos from the hike at Forestburg. Look for 'em on our website once I figure out how to move them from the camera to the web. I know I've got a cable around here somewhere....

Much of December will be devoted to preparation for the Klondike Derby being held in January. At our cabin in KMSR over December 10-12 we'll work on fire building and flag raising. Also for those of you who need the compass requirements or may be a bit rusty we can go over the KMSR compass course. It is a short hike within the camp while navigating from point to point via compass settings. Be sure to bring your books.

While at KMSR we'll also look into doing a small service project for the camp.

The cabin is equipped with a wood stove to keep us warm. The bunks are of sturdy wood construction. This is a step up from lean to camping.

Cooking is done outside and my suggestion for this trip for the Saturday evening meal is foil meals. For those of you who've never cooked this way let me explain. What you do is prepare a dish that you wrap in heavy duty foil. Then it is placed in the embers of a well established campfire to cook or more properly roast. If you want to do this it would be a good idea to look up some foil meal recipes and try one out. This can be done individually or as a patrol.

## The Klondike

By Efren

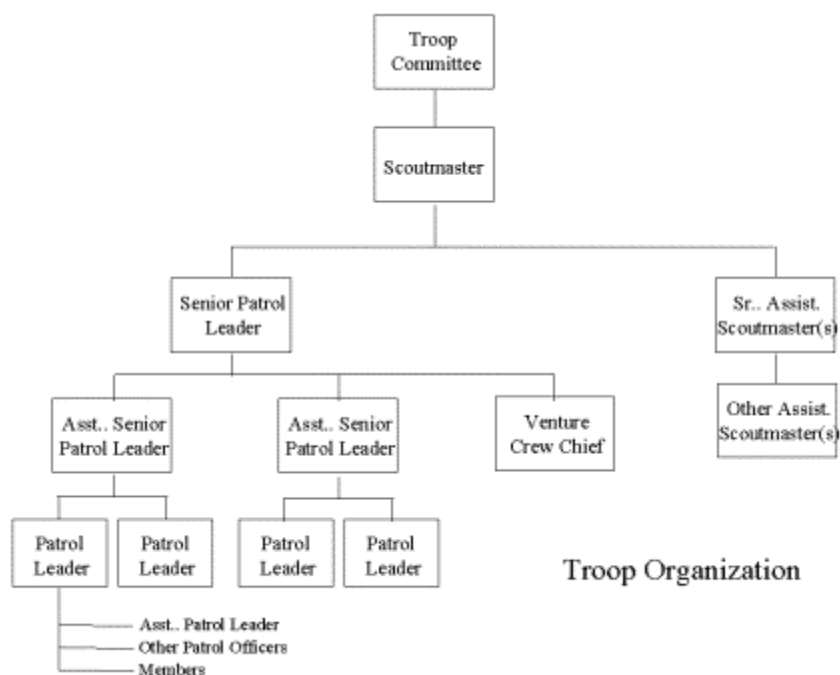
The Klondike Derby, in case you're new or have forgotten, is an annual event held usually every January to test Scouts on their scout skills. Over the past years, we have been acknowledged for having one of the fastest times in both fire building and Devil's Canyon (more on those later), but that is just about it. We as a troop need to step up our game and actually WIN a title, for any station, as well as successfully raising the flag. We will start Klondike prep on the meeting of November 29, and will keep practicing until we go to the Klondike (January 22). Here are the following stations that we usually encounter in the Klondike:

- **Flag Raising:** the very first thing we do to start off the competition. We construct a flag made up of 3 wooden poles and tied and lashed together with rope, with the troop flag on it. We will run through the different steps of getting the flag up (it's not necessarily about time, but how long the flag can hold up)
- **First Aid:** the person in charge gives different scenarios, and you simply have to give the correct first aid to the victim of the story. The simplest and should be the easiest, since it is all talk. Sometimes we may have to show how to bandage a person up, so be mindful of that.
- **Fire building:** One of the few things we actually excel at, the premise is simple. You have a pit with two poles at either side with string tied around both poles, one closer to the ground, and one higher up. We must use ONLY natural kindling/fuel to make our fire, and the kindling cannot go past the lower string. After we light it (no matches, a flint and steel), it has to burn the second string. There are questions about fire building as well, so you must know some aspects of how to build a fire.
- **Knots:** Some variation to this one. Sometimes you have to tie a bunch of knots, sometimes you are given a rope with a bunch of knots on it, and you have to identify what the knots are. Since knots and lashings are our weaker subjects, then we should be focusing more on these. It's also important to just practice tying a rope if you have a chance.
- **Lashing:** Almost the same as knots, but usually you would have to lash two objects together (or just lash the rope around a really big stump) and try to move it. Since this is a weak point of ours, we will be spending time on lashing and knots more.
- **Map and Compass:** Another weak spot of ours, since very few people can use a compass correctly with a map. The instructor will usually ask to first orient the map north, followed by giving the bearing of a certain place. This is another weak spot of ours, so practice makes perfect.
- **Devil's Canyon:** Another event where we excel at. The objective is simple: we tie a rope to our sled and send it down a steep hill (ravine? don't know the technical name). All scouts come down to the sled, and we are timed as we all climb back up to the top and haul the sled up the hill. Not that much preparation needed for this, just don't wear bad shoes.

# Chain of Command and Communication

By Mrs. Anouna

The “chain of command” revolves around the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and his Assistants (ASPLs), who lead the scouts in conducting the program. The ASPLs serve as the channel of communication between the patrols and the SPL. The SPL then serves as the main channel of communication to the adult leaders. Scouts with questions or needing assistance, or guidance, should go first to their patrol leader, who in turn should go to the ASPL, who in turn should go to the SPL, who then should go to the Scoutmaster or other member of the adult staff. The success of the program is dependent upon the effectiveness of the patrol, junior and adult leadership.



Every Troop has a group of adults whose main job is to back up the Scoutmaster and help him run a good Troop. The Troop Committee acts as the “Ways and Means” committee of the Troop. It is the Committee’s responsibility to provide the resources needed to run the Troop’s Scout Program, including advancement and outdoor programs, handling the Troop finances, working with parents, overseeing the safety procedures utilized and doing whatever they can to help the Scoutmaster do his job. They assist the Scouts in raising funds and keeping records. They recruit other adult leaders, run Boards of Review, assist in Courts of Honor and oversee Troop communications. A good committee supports its Junior Leaders and Scoutmaster. Its role is not to run the program.

**Take home message:** scouts who have a question (what is for dinner, can I go to the trading post, can I have seconds?) – should first ask their patrol leaders, then the SPL, and as a last resort, the Scoutmaster. Scouts should never ask the Committee Chair a program question. If she has an answer, it's probably wrong. She can, however, answer in excruciating detail about how the paperwork is processed for various trips, why Council wants us to sell popcorn instead of poinsettias, what adult training is required for boating, etc., if anyone is interested.

As in most organizations, communication is important so that everyone is informed of the news and events of the Troop. Information flows through several channels in Troop 61. Scouts are responsible for listening to instructions at meetings and understanding and remembering or recording them. The notebook and pencil will help this. The calendar in the newsletter and website should keep Scouts and adults apprised of the scouting activities for several months in advance.

The Scoutmaster is responsible for informing the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and other Adult Leaders. The SPL is responsible for informing the ASP, Patrol Leaders and other youth. Patrol Leaders are responsible for informing their members about Troop events and special requirements, instruction or equipment needs. Scouts are responsible for transmitting messages to parents. (Parents – if you have questions, first ask your scout! When he doesn't know, ask your scout to ask his patrol leader. Ask the patrol leader to find the answer. That's his job!)

The Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, and officers of the Troop Committee may, on occasion, inform parents directly. We try to refrain, but email is quick & convenient, especially when weather or schedules change last-minute.

From time to time, a directory of Troop 61 membership will be issued. Keep it with the family phone book. If your address, phone number, email, etc. should change, please notify the Committee Chairperson.

## Troop Elections

By me ☺

For the last two years, we have held elections for leadership positions in the troop (why we didn't before is for a different time). The elections this year will take place at the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The positions being voted on will be Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Patrol Leaders may also be elected. To be eligible to be elected to SPL or ASPL, you must have the acquired the rank of First Class, have been in Boy Scouts for at least

1 year, and been in the Troop for at least 6 months. There are no requirements to be a patrol leader, but if you are not yet First Class, your patrol will be assigned a Troop Guide to assist.

People who want to be elected to a leadership position should state reasons why they should be elected. This includes Rank, years in Scouting, leadership training (NYLT, Den Chief Training), and anything other reason you think you're better than everyone else (because it really is a popularity contest, just not in the normal sense).

Good luck to you all, and may the best young-adult-working-to-become-an-adult win. That sounded better in my head.