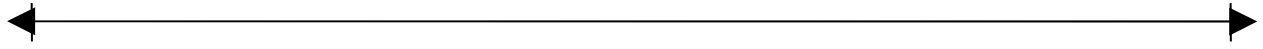


Troop 61 Newsletter

December 2011



We did this – a Scout is helpful.

To the Future

By Efren

This is a call to action.

The troop's senior boys are leaving soon, and the troop needs to grow. As a Scout, you must do certain things to ensure the troop's safety. First, you must recruit new people into the troop. Besides a couple new Webelos coming in every year, recruitment is the only way the Troop is ever going to grow. Ask your friends and neighbors if they want to join. If they say no, ask them again another time. Be persistent. It is not always fun starting out in a group with no one you know. Recruit people who have already gone camping or love the outdoors, since they will have an easier time being accustomed to camping and all the stuff we do.

Another thing some Scouts have to start doing is thinking about leadership. You must be First Class or higher to obtain and maintain a leadership rank, so for a lot of younger Scouts this means going through advancement. This does not mean, however, that you just work on it during campouts and troop meetings. This is a bad habit. Work on things at home. If you don't have materials, then buy some rope, some wooden dowels, or just use substitutions to PRACTICE AT HOME. It is imperative that you all practice at home, since some of the skills that you need are useful to everyday life. And do not try to put it off by saying it is not important. What happens when someone you know has a heart attack? Maybe he or she gets stung by a bee, or a smaller family member starts drowning. You should have the skills you learned as a Scout to be able to do something. I'm not saying that it should be a 30 minute study session (which would be a good thing during a Patrol meeting, but I digress). Keep your Scout book and whatever you are working on when you watch television. When commercials start, lower the volume and work on the knot you need practice with or the signs of a heart attack. Once the show starts again, you can stop and watch. If you need other facilities or help (like a pool, perhaps), ask other Scouts or look online for nearby pools, then contact a person who is either certified to work with the Boy Scouts, or ask a Swimming merit badge counselor if you can work on regular swimming advancement (doing the Swimming merit badge takes care of all the Swimming requirements for all ranks, by the way). ***This is a very important step. Please keep in mind that Mr. Galbraith and Mr. Kabadi are not mind readers. They cannot tell whether or not you know how to tie a bowline or know how to swim safely, so approach Mr. Galbraith and get the requirements signed off. Then go to Mr. Kabadi and tell him what you got signed off, so you can get credit for doing it.*** With my enormous digression out of the way, back to leadership. Some Scouts should step up in their involvement in the Troop, either by serving in a leadership position or by participating in campouts more often. Focusing on leadership, those who think they are well qualified to run the Troop, talk to either myself (Efren, in case you forgot) or Mr. Galbraith and we shall test you on your abilities. Other than that, take into consideration what a good leader is. I will admit, I am not that great of a leader. I have my strong points, and I have areas where I lack the inner power and charisma others may have. Look into yourself to see whether or not you have what it takes to lead.

This is a call to action. The survival of this Troop must be guaranteed, in order to preserve all of the activities that we do. Younger Scouts, think about this, please, and have more wonderful Scouting years ahead of you.

*If your attention span cannot fathom this enormous block of text right now, then here is a simplified version of what I wrote (you should still read the main article, as I thought I made some compelling points):

1. Recruit more people, be it friends, neighbors, or other people, and remember, a Scout is friendly.
 - 2a. Scouts should become more active, and a few should step up and hold a leadership position.
 - 2b. If you are not First Class yet, work on advancement **at home** as well as during meetings and campouts and get them signed off ASAP
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Got Rope?

By Mr. Galbraith

The pole in the attached photo is along my route to work. The pole snapped months ago and has been sistered to the other pole in the photo all this time. So the importance of knowing knots and rope and how to employ them effectively cannot be understated.

Keep working on the key knots:

- Clove hitch
- 2 half hitches
- Bowline
- Taut line hitch

Try a knot you've never used before. Take it to the next level and show your fellow Scouts at the next meeting or campout you attend.

Scout-Easy Gumbo

By Efren

The recipe for the gumbo I made in the last campout. Since it is relatively simple, feel free to experiment and add or subtract to your taste.

Makes about 4-5 servings.

Ingredients:

- 1 package Andouille sausage OR kielbasa (if you don't like the spiciness of Andouille)
- 3-4 tablespoons butter
- 3-4 tablespoons flour
- 1 yellow onion, roughly chopped
- 1 red onion, roughly chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, diced
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 can diced tomatoes OR stewed tomatoes
- 1-2 teaspoons Creole seasoning, plus more to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 box orzo OR cooked rice

Optional

- 2-3 cups shredded chicken

Directions:

1. Slice sausage into ½ inch slices, then cook over high heat in a pot for 5 minutes with a pat of butter until brown
2. Remove sausage with slotted spoon and into some paper towels to drain excess oil
3. Add enough butter to pot to equal 3 tablespoons, whisk in flour, cooking over medium high heat, whisking constantly, for 5 minutes
4. Add onions, celery, garlic, and bell peppers and cook 5 minutes, stirring often
5. Stir in chicken broth, then diced tomatoes, and Creole seasoning and salt and pepper
6. Bring to a boil, cover, and let it simmer for 5-10 minutes
7. Add sausage and chicken; simmer, covered, for another 5 minutes
8. Taste and season if desired, and let it simmer for another 5 minutes. If using rice, serve immediately. If using orzo, pour box into pot and let it cook for 8-9 minutes or until desired tenderness, stirring occasionally, then serve

If you want, you can do the following: add okra (add during step 5) or substitute shrimp instead of chicken (add peeled shrimp at THE VERY END, at step 7 and let it cook for 3-4 minutes).

See the Troop 61 Website

<http://www.pack61eastbrunswick.org/Troop61/troop61.html>

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1. AIDS Awareness Day	2. Campout @Rodney; First Quarter	3. Campout @Rodney
4. Campout @Rodney	5. Ashura; Waxing Gibbous	6.	7. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8.	9.	10. Human Rights Day; Full Moon
11. PLC	12.	13.	14. Waning Gibbous	15.	16.	17. Wright Brothers Day
18. Third Quarter	19. Winter Court of Honor	20. Waning Crescent	21. Hanukkah Begins; First day of Winter	22.	23.	24. Christmas Eve; New Moon
25. Christmas Day	26. Winter Break, No School; Kwanzaa Begins; Boxing Day	27. Winter Break, No school	28. Winter Break, No school	29. Winter Break, No school; Waxing Crescent	30. Winter Break, No school	31. New Year's Eve

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1. New Year's Day; First Quarter	2. Winter Break, No School	3.	4. Waxing Gibbous	5.	6. Epiphany	7.
8. Full Moon	9. Webelos Visit	10.	11. Amelia Earhart Day	12.	13. Waning Gibbous	14.
15.	16. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Third Quarter	17. Benjamin Franklin's Birthday	18.	19. Waning Crescent	20. Inauguration Day	21. Klondike Derby
22.	23. Chinese New Year; New Moon	24.	25.	26. Midterms; Australia Day	27. Midterms; Waxing Crescent	28. Challenger Remembrance Day
29.	30. Midterms	31. Midterms; First Quarter				Klondike Preparation Month

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. National Freedom Day	2. Groundhog Day	3. Blue Mountain Ski Trip (Friends & Family welcome); Candlemas	4. Blue Mountain Ski Trip (Friends & Family welcome); Waxing Gibbous
5. Blue Mountain Ski Trip (Friends & Family welcome)	6.	7. Tu B'Shevat	8. Boy Scout Day; Full Moon	9.	10.	11. Mattameechee Merit Badge Fair; Waning Gibbous
12. Mattameechee Merit Badge Fair	13.	14. Saint Valentine's Day; Third Quarter	15.	16.	17. Waning Crescent	18.
19.	20. President's Day, NO School	21. Mardi Gras	22. Ash Wednesday; New Moon	23.	24.	25.
26.	27. Waxing Crescent	28.	29. Leap Day			