

June 2010 Newsletter

First things first, I want to apologize to all the people who gave articles to me but haven't found them in the newsletter. Because of the amount of articles I received, I had to combine some articles and omit others. People who sent me articles that were not published were Louis, Brad, Patrick, and Jacob, so please remember them when you are looking at the writers of the articles. Thank you.

On a higher note, we have some previous campouts that the troop went to, these trips were the trip to Six Flags Great Adventure, the trip to Dingman's Ferry with canoeing and kayaking, and the trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Six Flags Great Adventure

By Josh, Matt T, Erik, and Kenny (Edited by James)

The trip to Six Flags was great. Six Flags has a campground in the back that is pretty cool. At the campsite we were cooking food and building fires, but the real fun is at the park. Some of the rides were King-Da-Ka, Bizzaro, Runaway Train, Log Flume, and Skull Mountain. There were also a lot of games. The trip to Six Flags is one that will always be remembered.

Dingman's Ferry

By James (That's me!)

In May, the troop went to Dingman's Campground in Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania. We had a campsite on a hill overlooking the Delaware River. The campsite was kind of sandy but it was alright. On Saturday we canoed/kayaked on the Delaware. We stopped for lunch on an island in the middle of the river. After that we played frisbee and had dinner. On Sunday when we were packing up we found very large bugs hiding under just about everything. Dingman's Ferry is definitely a campout I would like to do again.

Gettysburg

By Paul, Mr. Galbraith, and James

This past weekend, we went to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The campground was kind of crowded and a little wet when we got there, but we survived the night. The main event of the campout was the hike on Saturday. The hike was ten miles long and went around the Gettysburg battlefield. There were large rocks that we climbed on and we had lunch at the top of a large hill/mountain thingy. Back at the campsite we played frisbee, football, and wrestled. Overall it turned out to be a great campout.

There is a five part patch that Scouts and Scouters can earn by hiking the Gettysburg Heritage Trail. I've been to Gettysburg three times now and if you see me at the Troop 61 Picnic marking our 50th anniversary you'll see me wearing the patch. It features a bust of President Lincoln with Gettysburg written beneath it. This is earned by touring the visitor center (I toured the old one which is now closed) as well as the nearby National Cemetery. Then there are the two trails. The nine mile Billy Yank which some of us just walked on 5 June 2010 and the four mile Johnny Reb. The final two parts of the patch are as follows:

Five white horizontal stars on a red background. This is from touring the Eisenhower Farm the home of former General (how many stars?) and former President Dwight Eisenhower. The Historic Gettysburg trail is a walk through the town itself. For those of you that recently visited Gettysburg or those that wish to go but could not this time we should consider another trip to this town which is so important to our nation's history.



From a Weekend to a Week

By Efren (With commentary from James (I know, I know but he walks right into half of these))

With a little blurb from Mr. Galbraith at the end

Summer is starting, and where there is summer, there is also summer camp. For some of us, this has probably been our 4th, 5th, maybe 6th (7th, 8th, 12th, 37th) year camping like this. But for others, it may be their first, so here are some helpful tips to help you on your journey to summer camp:

1. Bring swimming trunks and a towel. You will be doing a swimming test to see what type of swimmer you are (it is mandatory, for the most part (don't tell them that, then they won't do it, duh!)).
2. Bring money. Usually there is a Scout store that you can go and buy a lot of things to your heart's content. Just remember not to overdo it (if you do you could get mugged. Not very likely in a Boy Scout camp but anything's possible).
3. Know which merit badges you will be taking, and finish the prerequisites before going to camp. Since merit badge signup is online (talk to Mr. G for any merit badge questions), you should have no problem knowing what merit badges you are going to take, and finish the prereqs before camp starts. You will not get the merit badge if the prereqs are not done, so keep that in mind (should probably keep it on paper too).
4. Bring soap, shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. This is not a day or two of camping, it is a week. Bring something to wash yourself up with so that you don't reek for the entire week (and you'll be thrown out of the campsite, I'm not kidding, we will pick up your cot and move it out of the campsite, we've done it before). Also bring enough clothes for the entire week.
5. Bring something to occupy your time. This means a book or two, a pack of cards, or something of the sort. Do not bring electronics. Sure, you can keep it safe within your pack; but if you lose it, don't come crying to the Scoutmaster (Ok, that's just mean, most people our age wouldn't come crying to Mr. G, it'd be more of a dignified failure, unless they're REALLY attached to that electronic device (which begs the question of why you'd bring it in the first place)).
6. Get to know the camp, especially if it is your first time in the camp. Getting to know where everything is will ease your burden of travel (if you're really worried about burden of travel then you're going to the wrong camp, it's a BIG camp, they recommend bringing a bike just to get between merit badge classes).

(Some other points. First of all, at the beginning Efren, you said the "journey to summer camp" and though these things would be very useful, I think the most important thing would be a car. Also, don't bring any food unless you have food allergies, because I KNOW you will keep it in your tent and it will get raided by animals. Last year a tent 50 ft. away from me got attacked by a bear. Now, it was pretty funny, but it wouldn't've been if someone got hurt, so don't mess around with that kind of stuff. I would go as far to say that you shouldn't even buy candy there,

but some people feel the need to buy candy whenever it's available to buy, even if they don't have enough money for it. Haven't figured that one out yet...)

Above all, use common sense (common sense...ha! Common sense is a joke!). Make sure to remember all your usual things you need to pack (like a sleeping bag!) (And rain gear!), plus merit badge stuff, if you are working on them, since it is a long drive from here to Rodney. Hopefully, you will have a fun time at camp and a fun and safe summer. (Speaking of safe, make sure you bring a large water bottle/canteen. There was this really corny saying at KMSR about this that actually made a lot of sense: A dehydrated scout is a dead scout, and dead scouts have no fun!).

Summer Camp is July 25, 2010 at Camp Rodney. Those of us that have already applied are now registered by name with the camp and I'm working on adding the scheduling for each scout. I'll also work up blue cards. We'll need medicals that are dated within 12 months and a tour permit. We'll also need to take along a copy of our Troop insurance certificate. Real exciting stuff. The real excitement is rolling into camp loaded with our gear for the week and even a bicycle.

Anyone still interested in going should contact me at once.

And now a Really Long Blurb from Mr. Anderson

With some help from Buckskin.org

Made smaller to save paper

One of the first (and most important) questions every parent of a new Scout asks is: "What do I need to buy for my son?" Good question! Unfortunately, this critical topic is handled in only very general terms in your son's Scout Handbook and Fieldguide. Every Scoutmaster has seen his share of beginner Scouts absolutely atrociously outfitted despite the expenditure of hundreds of dollars by well meaning parents - a financial disaster for the parents and a physical disaster for the Scout! It is not enough to know that your son needs a sleeping bag or a flashlight - the specifics are vital - and you also need to know what not to buy. Herein is a summary of my thoughts on how best to proceed in outfitting your Scout.

Lesson Number One: Your boy is going to lose things! Most items that are small, dark colored or (sadly, but true) extremely desirable to Scouts in other Troops tend to have unusually high mobility. Therefore, it is in your best interest to: A) Customize all gear with name tags or specific markings (yellow paint, etc.); B) Buy bright colored lower quality substitutes for younger Scouts (ages 10 through 13); C) Avoid camouflage or other dark gear that blends into the scenery; and D) Keep your patience.

Lesson Number Two: "Buy to Size." Don't subject your son to a "Bataan Death March;" although you'll be tempted to buy oversized equipment ("He'll grow into it") or surplus military gear ("It was good enough for Guadalcanal..."), don't do it! Overweight or oversized gear will run your boy right into the ground - and a few months later, you'll be yard selling everything off at 5 cents on the dollar because: "I really don't like Scouting very much."

Troop versus Personal Gear

What the Troop provides: Basically, all group oriented gear is bought, maintained, and replaced by the Troop. This includes tents and ground cloths, dining flys (tarps), cooking gear, wood cutting equipment (axes, saws, etc.), area lighting (Coleman@ lanterns, etc.), rope, full sized First Aid kits, and for virtually all activities, all food.

What the Scout provides: All personal gear; this includes (at a minimum), a duffel bag (eventually a backpack), a three season sleeping bag, a foam pad (full size for the sleeping bag) or air mattress (much more expensive),

personal eating gear (bowl, fork and spoon, cup, canteen), a flashlight, proper clothing, proper footwear, rain gear, standard personal Scout gear (a decent knife, a compass, eventually a personal first aid and personal emergency kit) and items for maintaining personal cleanliness. Most of these items are addressed in somewhat more detail below. Other specific items, e.g., swimming trunks, helmets, etc., may be required for particular outings.

Understand immediately that proper outfitting of your son requires time, effort and (of course) money! There are a *few* short-cuts that are not short-changes, but they are limited! Taking the philosophical view, however, dollars spent now can lead to a lifetime of enjoyment and satisfaction - on a relative basis, camping gear (and Boy Scouting) can be a pretty good bargain.

Obviously, however, on the short time-scale, certain compromises between quality, expense and the simple reality of a rapidly expanding Scout must be made. Unless you have several interested boys in your family, it is difficult to justify purchasing costly equipment that will be outgrown in 18 months or less; on the other hand, you don't want your son to suffer in the great outdoors with defective junk!

Yes, you can do this without bankrupting yourself. The general recommendation is to purchase the highest quality equipment that you can whose use is not dependent on the size of the scout - some of us still have some equipment that our parents acquired for us when we were 12 years old. These items include, e.g., a flashlight, knife, compass, foam pad, mini first aid kit, canteen and Scouting/outdoor books. Keep Lesson One in mind.

For equipment that **will** be outgrown - pack, sleeping bag, rain gear, outdoor clothing, etc., you have three choices - bite the bullet and buy high quality, buy cheap (in most cases, a really bad idea) or buy used; Look in the "local neighborhood" type papers or while driving around on the weekends for multi-family garage sales - you can get incredible deals from people that bought \$1000 worth of gear and went camping twice. Similarly, some parents sell off their gone-to-college children's "junk." You can find all sorts of Scout gear, especially gear suitable for small Scouts, at garage sales. Another good place to try are former Scouts, those who quit after age 12, 13 or 14; most parents are sympathetic to these type requests, and will not gouge you on prices (not a bad place to look for semi-used uniforms, either). Certain beginner gear (e.g., a small pack) may be available from the grown-up senior Scouts still in the Troop - ask! (You too will eventually be looking to sell off or give away your own grown-up Scout's beginning equipment!).

Now let's get specific

Start out by reviewing the lists in the Boy Scout Handbook (Chapter 8 and 9) and Fieldbook (p. 147-169).

The Backpack: You can generally hold off on this until your son actually wants to participate in backpacking events - usually a year or two down the line, although some boys want to jump in immediately. When you do go for it, get an external frame backpack that fits your son. Firmly resist buying oversize! Make sure it has a padded hipbelt, padded shoulder straps and support webbing across the back. Don't buy an internal frame "mountaineering" pack; they're hotter than blazes (cause they lay flat on your back) and the lack of an outside frame makes strapping on sleeping bags, foam pads and tents a royal pain in the behind. Yes, they feel very comfortable **in the store** and the salesperson will rhapsodize eloquently over how marvelous they are - **Don't!** If you're buying a used backpack (a much more sensible option), make sure that there are no cracks in the welds (the one thing that can't be repaired); if the pack-bag itself is really ratty, i.e., all the zippers torn out, etc. (a common reason why people dump the whole pack), you can usually easily mail-order purchase a replacement bag (at 1/3 the price of a new backpack) or have the zippers/rips repaired by a seamstress. The more side compartments on the bag, the better - they help your son keep things separated and organized.

The Sleeping Bag: Get a three season bag (rated to about 20-30 degrees F; weighing less than 4 pounds) and (if desired) a flannel liner; the latter can be easily custom made by anyone with a sewing machine. Get a synthetic (Hollofil II, etc.) bag as opposed to down; they are less expensive, nearly as warm, nearly as light, and - most importantly - are still reasonably insulating when wet (down is useless when wet!). The flannel liner is for very warm nights (use it alone on top of the sleeping bag) or very cold nights (inside) and is conveniently removed and washed (which extends the life of the bag). Most bags come with a waterproof nylon stuff bag; if not, purchase one - they're usually inexpensive.

The Foam Pad: Avoid a cheap (beach) air mattress!; they weigh far too much and are easily punctured. The latest (and greatest) ideas are the new "Ridge Rest" (or equivalent) foam pads; they provide about a 15°F differential between the ground and the sleeping bag, plus they're very light. They come in two sizes (48 and 72 inches); they last forever, so you're better off buying the full 6 foot version unless you've got younger boys to eventually inherit the 4 foot version. There is also a new type air mattress called a Therm-a-Rest, which are self inflating and marvelously comfortable, but very expensive. If you get one of these, make sure your name is marked on it in large letters.

A Pillow: Not really necessary! Buy the small cloth stuff bag (commercially available, or make your own) for your son to fill with clothing or a jacket. If you insist on an inflatable pillow, still get a small cloth stuff bag that it will fit into; otherwise, it just slides away (plastic on plastic!). Most camping stores now sell a "backpacker's pillow," which you may prefer - again, not cheap. If you have small, lightweight pillows lying around the house, they'll also do (however, note that they'll get dirty.)

Eating gear: Don't bother buying the old army/Boy Scout Mess Kit - no one uses them anymore. You'll doubtless see plenty of these being virtually given away at garage sales, but don't be tempted! Everyone can more than get by with a medium size bowl and cup - both in durable plastic (lightweight and much easier to clean). Likewise, avoid the classic "knife, fork and spoon" kit; instead, get the heavy duty Lexan® polycarbonate utensils (fork and spoon only!) - lightweight and virtually indestructible. All of these can and should be marked with indelible pens - mixed up gear is a perpetual headache at campouts. Use fingernail polish or scratch initials; indelible pens work fine for virtually all plastic, but will need occasional renewal.

A Canteen: Get a translucent plastic 1 quart canteen (easy to see how full, whether it's got a flavored drink in it, and also whether or not he picked up any interesting items (leaves, etc.) when filling it at the last waterhole!). Avoid metal canteens (too heavy, react with some acidic drink mixes) and opaque plastic models.

Flashlights, etc.: Don't buy the 5 "D" cell police head-buster special - it weighs a ton and the boys don't need them. Get a 2 "C" or 2 "D" cell flashlight in a bright color (yellow is best.) Also avoid the very popular "Mag-Lites®;" they are surprisingly heavy and quite expensive (Warning!, your boy will doubtless want one!). Watch out, good flashlights are prime rip-off candidates; in addition, the all black ones are very easily lost. If you end up with a dark colored model, use bright fluorescent yellow or orange spray paint to customize it and make it easy to spot; remember to mark your name on the body.

A common additional light are the small wide-beam lights (about the size of a cigarette package) which are excellent for use inside a tent at night. These are sold at Camping stores and (oddly enough) at most auto-parts stores.

Clothing: Seemingly trivial but actually the toughest subject to address! Most beginning Scouts carry: A) Far too much, and B) the wrong type of clothing. Briefly, synthetics and wool clothing are much better than 100 % cotton fabrics; hot weather clothing should be light colored to reflect sunlight, cold weather should be dark; avoid pullovers - use button down shirts instead, they can be unbuttoned for cooling; in cooler weather, *dressing in layers* is far more versatile than using heavy duty one piece clothing (the latter has only two options: Broil or Freeze!). Blue jeans and blue jean jackets (or any other heavy weight cotton clothes) are extremely poorly suited to outdoor use; cotton is actually a negative insulator when wet - meaning you're better off wearing nothing at all rather than wet cotton.

All clothing should be packed into nylon stuff sacks to keep them dry; bring one extra empty stuff sack to separate used from new through the weekend.

Footwear: - Not at all critical until your son begins to attend backpacking events. Once he does, however, this is your highest recurring expense. Your son will grow out of his boots long before he wears them out!; however, you really can't compromise on footwear on the trail. Cheap, shoddy boots cause rapid blister formation and utter hiking misery - a surefire recipe for a horrible backpacking experience! Likewise, *you cannot buy used boots* unless they were only worn once or twice - footwear that's been broken in on someone else's feet are far worse for you to break in versus a brand new pair of boots.

Look for reasonable quality leather or "High Tech Hiking" (not "Walking") boots that come up to about mid-ankle (for support); the soles should have a fairly aggressive tread design for proper purchase on wet, sloppy trails (Vibram® lugs or similar, also see below). The instep should have good arch support - bad boots are usually flat. Buy oversize! - your son will be wearing a thick pair of socks while wearing the boots (bring along a very thick pair of socks when going out to buy your son's boots!) Careful, most boots are standard width, if your son has a wide foot (see below), you may have to special order or look elsewhere.

Finally, don't pitch those old worn out sneakers (unless he's outgrown them)! This is what the guys wear around the campsite itself. Keep a pair in the pack in a plastic bag (otherwise, he'll be using his brand new Air-Jordans in 6 inches of mud!).

Rain Gear: Although everybody hates them, the standard issue poncho is still about as reasonable as you can get. Full rain suits are a no-no; any activity and your boy is just as wet - from condensation and sweat - because they do not breathe. Some of the newest technology raingear (e.g., Gore-Tex) is breathable, but A) costs an unbelievable fortune; and B) doesn't hold up all that well under pack-straps or in heavy brush - Don't bother (and don't let Grandparents buy it either).

For backpacking, most backpacks are moderately rain resistant; rainproof pack covers are available or can be fashioned at need from heavy duty garbage bags. A good combination includes a windproof, water resistant jacket, a pack cover, a lightweight poncho, and a waterproof hat with a brim - this is versatile enough to handle up to very heavy driving rains (which we probably wouldn't hike in anyway). Some guys also take along lightweight nylon "wind" trousers for additional protection of legs in heavy rain.

Optional personal Scout gear

A Knife: For young Scouts, buy a reasonable quality folding lock-blade knife with about a three inch blade. The lock-blade prevents closing on fingers - probably the most common cause of cuts on new Scouts. Avoid the myriad "el-cheapo" Boy Scout and Swiss Army imitations - which don't hold an edge, break with serious use and rust at the first hint of rain. Don't go overboard - it's quite probably not going to make it past the first summer. As mentioned above, bright colors and marking the name/Troop number on the body will greatly assist knife longevity.

We recommend a real knife for older Scouts, e.g., a folding Buck or its equivalent. A good knife can have the owner's name put on the handle by an engraver - this is a nice way to customize. This is an item that can last a lifetime (I've still got mine from age 15). Don't buy one for your younger boy, who hasn't yet gotten over the thrill of throwing knives at trees or into the ground; call a mature 15 a good cutoff. Definitely avoid large sheath knives (illegal at Buckskin B.S.A. functions except for cleaning fish). They are heavy and awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish and all the various military blades (especially the double edged "commando" varieties). In addition, note that all boys go through at least one love affair with a humongous Bowie Knife or its equivalent; don't bother buying any of these - they're totally useless. The knife should have a blade length of no more than 4 inches max. Finally, don't buy your son his own personal hatchet, axe or saw - these are provided by the Troop (and aren't used all that often anyway).

A Compass: A standard compass is all that's necessary - no need for the gold plated model with 200 functions. A green or black colored military compass won't last even one campout. Definitely mark it with your son's name - most compasses look mighty similar! (Use a magic marker on the case, then cover it with a piece of Scotch tape.)

Personal Cleanliness: This includes a small roll of toilet paper in a plastic bag (wet toilet paper isn't very useful!), washcloth, small towel, soap (in a small plastic container; some guys bring a squeeze tube of liquid soap - much more convenient!), and toothbrush. It's much more sensible to purchase separate items and keep them in the pack; if the Scout uses his everyday home materials, he'll forget them in the pre-campout rush. Note: Realistically, all he'll use on a weekend campout is the toothbrush.

Other optional or "seasonal" personal stuff no one ever remembers: Insect repellent, suntan lotion, sunglasses, small sewing kit (with extra buttons), shoelaces and Scout book (for new Scouts working on advancement).

Things not to pack: Radios, Walkmans, electronic games, extra food (especially drinks or fresh fruits - they weigh a ton!), anything in glass, any aerosol type sprays (deodorants, insect repellent, etc.), gambling materials, excessive money or very valuable watches, jewelry, or 'heirloom' knives.

Things not to wear: Any military garb, any clothing with imprinted socially unacceptable logos or messages.

Things not to pack in: Footlockers, Duffel bags without handles, suitcases or (except for summer camp) boxes.

Packing: For "car-camping", packing in a medium sized duffel bag is perfectly adequate. It's preferable to use the type that zip down the sides, allowing easy access to everything without having to empty the entire bag out the end.

If your son insists on a backpack for going on every event, fine - but keep in mind some of the following "advanced" concepts: [Note: A lot applies to normal packing as well.]

Packing the Backpack: Packing is an art in itself. Although an experienced backpacker's setup may look haphazard, it most certainly is not! You should probably assist your son in his first few tries (until he gets the hang of it). General comments: Try to keep the same items in the same place each time you pack; this way it's obvious when something's missing. Keep heavier items higher and closer to the back; this way the weight of the pack is more centered above your son's center of gravity (which makes the pack much easier to carry). Along similar lines, try to match the weight side-to-side in the pack. Use mesh or large, clear plastic bags as organizers; this way, it's obvious what's inside with a glance. The canteen, toilet paper, rain gear, flashlight, insect repellent, suntan lotion, sunglasses and any trail snacks should be placed in the outside pockets for quick, easy access. Most backpackers tie their sleeping bags on the lower frame and their foam pads on the top. Leave some room in the very top of the bag for Troop gear - this will be severely limited for newer and smaller Scouts, but we like everyone to share the weight around.

Upon his return home, have him unpack immediately; don't let those wet sneakers, candy bar wrappers and funky clothes ferment for a week or two! Empty and wash the canteen; rewash all cook wear and utensils. After everything's been accounted for and cleaned, put it all in one spot (the same spot every time) for the next campout. [Don't, however, pack it all up in a "ready-to-go" mode - let things air out and stay fresh and dry.]

If something's missing, don't panic - ask around the Troop (especially his last tent mates) for a recall. Usually, someone's recovered it and is looking for the rightful owner.

New Ideas Section

Now, I don't know whose idea it was to come up with this section, but it wasn't mine. In the future, if you have any new ideas, tell your patrol leader and make sure he writes it down and he'll present the idea at the next PLC (if he doesn't then you can pester him about it for a month, just don't tell him I said this). However, because so many people wrote articles about new campouts, I'll include them this time. Also, none of the articles had titles, so the crazy titles the articles have are my ideas (however, if anyone is offended by the title of an article, make sure to tell them it wasn't my idea).

Skiing and Such

(tripping, falling, crashing, being fatally injured, sent to the hospital, surviving, going skiing, tripping, falling, crashing, etc.)

By Matt R

(With commentary again ☺)

I happily enjoyed (well it'd be kind of weird if you unhappily enjoyed) going skiing in places such as Mountain Creek (the troop hasn't gone to Mountain Creek in years). I really hope to go to another skiing place (we've been going to Hunter Mountain for a few years, I don't know where you've been). Some other activities I would like to do are paintball, SCUBA diving, and stuff like that. It would also give the boys in the troop more experience and teach everyone new things.

The SCUBA Shpeel

By Bryant

[Start of Shpeel] We should go SCUBA diving. It's a great trip that emphasizes good lungs, muscles, and mental strength. There are great places to go SCUBA diving even where we live. There are also some great places around the world to SCUBA, but those are a little far for us. [End of Shpeel]

Military Masquerade

By Dan

I think one place to revisit to go camping is Lakehurst NAS. Even though it seems to rain there a lot or is very hot it is a very nice place to camp. We can fish and teach scout skills to the newer guys. Maybe run into another band of terrorists on the run. And should it rain we can always see who can bowl high score.



THE REMINGTON 1740

No, Seriously.. Get The Hell Off Of My Porch!

Another site worth another trip is Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. We'll need to see if the place is still there.

They were scheduled to move into Virginia but I don't remember the date. The Proving Grounds are an important part of our nation's military history.

And a field of tanks, assorted armor and artillery is something I think most scouts enjoy walking through.

Announcements

Because the year is at an end, a calendar would be a large waste of paper. So instead, we have some announcements from the troop administration.

As the Scout year is winding down for most of you, you can probably remember all the different outings you've been on, or outing you've never gone on but wanted to go, or outings we've never been to but wanted to go to. You may also look back at our Monday meetings and realize that there may be certain things you would have liked to do, like a merit badge or an activity. Well, here's your chance. Submit any ideas for campouts, outings, or Monday meetings to your Patrol Leader, who should then come with all of their ideas to the next PLC in September. Make next year as fun as the last! ~**Efren**

The troop has some used uniforms available for any of the newer scouts. These uniforms are smaller sizes. If you have any questions please talk to Mr. Anderson (if you don't know who that is then talk to someone who you do know that knows Mr. Anderson and they can direct you to him).

Summer Camp 25 July 2010 at Camp Rodney. Those of us that have already applied are now registered by name with the camp and I'm working on adding the scheduling for each scout. I'll also work up blue cards. We'll need medicals that are dated within 12 months and a tour permit. We'll also need to take along a copy of our Troop insurance certificate. Real exciting stuff. The real excitement is rolling into camp loaded with our gear for the week and even a bicycle. Anyone still interested in going should contact me at once. ~**Mr. Galbraith**

Editor's Notes

This is the part where I ramble until I reach the bottom of the page. Just so you know, if you are looking for the end of the newsletter, you passed it as soon as you read the large bold **Editor's Notes** heading. You should only read this if you have nothing better to do like cook dinner or something similar (one time you should read this is if you're being asked to do something by your husband/wife/kids/parents/in-laws/dog/computer/octopus/flying radioactive squirrel). On the topic of notes, this newsletter was a little different because Efren made everyone give me articles at the last meeting. Unfortunately, lots of these articles were about the same things and others weren't about anything at all (they were worse than my rambling, which is saying something...). Also, this newsletter had a lot less pictures than normal. This is mainly because Mr. Anderson gave me this 6 page article that I condensed down to 3 ½ by using smaller font. Not that Mr. Anderson's article isn't good, there's some important stuff in there, it's just long. Back to rambling. For anyone in the troop who is required to write an article (anyone holding a leadership position) you don't always have to write. You could create a word find or crossword puzzle. I know one thing we did at KMSR was they had mind games for us to play during breakfast (it might have been better if they gave it to us at lunch, just because we were all asleep at breakfast, but whatever). Oh, have any of you heard about the new Avatar movie? Not the one with the blue monkeys, the American anime one about the last airbender. When I heard that a new avatar movie was coming out, I was really excited. Then I saw it was blue monkeys, then it's like...what is that? So now I really want to see the last airbender movie. Oh, and did you notice how the plot to the blue monkey Avatar movie was exactly the same as the plot to Pocahontas? I always liked Disney movies but at least you could come up with a good plot. It was just like Star Trek! Great special effects and stuff but no plot! Oh, and, the enterprise had WAY too many weapons. In the original series all they had were a single phaser bank and a set of photon torpedos. The new Enterprise has 6 phaser banks and torpedo launchers. And they fired a lot faster. Seriously, the enterprise was designed for exploration, not war. Whatever. This is the end.