



Troop 61 Newsletter

October 2012



# October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 World Vegetarian Day Meeting	2	3	4	5	6
7 PLC Meeting	8 Columbus Day Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14 Popcorn Show-n-Sell at Wawa on Old Bridge Turnpike	15 Meeting	16	17 Committee Meeting	18	19	20
21	22 National Nut Day Meeting Popcorn orders due	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26 Sandy Hook	27 →
28 →	29 Meeting	30	31 Halloween			

# November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 All Saints Day	2	3 Car wash
4 Day-Lights Savings Ends  PLC Meeting  Car Wash	5 Meeting	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans' Day	12 Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Meeting	20	21 Committee Meeting	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26 Meeting	27	28	29	31	

Scouts & Scouters,

Attached is the permission form for the Shakedown campout September 21-23 at Washington's Crossing. This is an extremely important event & we expect all scouts to make their best effort to participate. This is one of the first events this year that the Webelos are invited to join, with a parent.

Unfortunately, with the religious holiday this weekend & the other meetings with the school board, we're very short on time for meal planning for the campout. There is no regular Troop meeting on Monday. Those not celebrating the holiday please join us at the library at 7:30pm for menu planning. Everyone attending please send a headcount to myself & Mr. G ([hgalbraith@verizon.net](mailto:hgalbraith@verizon.net)) so we know how much food to buy.

Committee Meeting for Wednesday is Canceled. Alternate time is still being explored.

Your patrol leader will inform you of shopping schedule for Wed or Thursday. If you are camping you should be shopping with your patrol. If you cannot make it to the shopping time, please notify your Patrol leader & copy your SPL so they know not to wait for you. (Adult patrol leader will let adults know who to contact - Dan doesn't care if we can't shop. :-) )

Despite the strange preparation schedule I'm sure it will be a great trip - just watch for any hurricanes that will cause flooding (again!!)

Katherine



**Boy Scouts of America  
Troop 61  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
Central New Jersey Councils  
Permission Slip**



To: Parent(s) or Legal Guardian

Permission slip is needed for participation in:

Activity: **2012 Shakedown Camping Trip.**

Location: Washington Crossing State Park, Site B

Date: 9/21/10 to 9/23/10

Departure from: **Fire House** on Ryders Lane/Dunhams Corner Road, 5:45 PM (Friday)

Return to: **Fire House** on Ryders Lane/Dunhams Corner Road, Approximately 11 am (Sunday).  
Please make sure we have a number to reach you, as return time is approximate.

**Return Permission Slip by:** Troop meeting at Library on 9/17 (or [hgalbraith@verizon.net](mailto:hgalbraith@verizon.net) before 9/17)

**Overview & information:** Shakedown trip where we set up & test as much of our camping gear as possible. Site is close to home in case equipment fails. Many hands will be needed! All scouts should plan to attend at least a portion of the weekend.

Only cost will be patrol food. (For Webelos w/ parent, \$3 per person fee).

- Bring personal sleeping & eating gear, appropriate attire.
- Patrols will provide date/time of food shopping, which is mandatory.
- Time to renew med forms: all medications must be listed & shown to Scoutmaster.

Focus of activities will be advancement. Please bring your book & know what achievements you most urgently need (first aid, map & compass, fire building, etc.) Other available activities include Visitors Center & Museum, Johnson Ferry House, Nature Center, and 15 miles of trails on 140 acres. See <http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/washcros.html> for more info.

--These events will not be part of our campout. If you are staying Sunday with a parent just let us know so we separate out your gear.—

**Optional: BIKE HIKE** (pre-teens - adult) Sunday September 23, 1:30 p.m. Take a guided bicycle ride up the Delaware & Raritan Canal Towpath toward the Lambertville wing dam (approx. 13 mile round trip). Meet at the Nelson House parking lot. Bring your own bike and helmet. Advanced registration required after 8/21. Call the Nature Center at (609) 737-0609.

**Optional: TELESCOPES FOR AMATEURS** (pre-teen - adult) Friday September 21, 7:30 p.m. This session will trace the historical development of the telescope. We will also describe the types of telescopes and eyepieces used by amateurs as well as their important properties such as aperture, focal ratio, magnification, and telescope mounts. The use of binoculars will be described. Mention will also be made as to which type of telescope is most useful for observing the sun, moon, and planets, as well as stars and star clusters, and

deep-sky objects like nebulae and galaxies. Instructor: David W. Letcher, Amateur Astronomers Assoc. of Princeton. Advanced registration required after 8/1. Enter the park at the Phillips Farm (group camping) entrance on Bear Tavern Rd. Meet at Nature Center.

**Return Permission Slip by:** Troop meeting on 9/17 (or [hgalbraith@verizon.net](mailto:hgalbraith@verizon.net) before the 17th)

**Troop 61 Permission Slip**

Activity: **2012 Shakedown Camping Trip** with optional bike hike.

Location: Washington Crossing State Park, Site B

Date: 9/21/10 to 9/23/10

Parents: **Will you be able to camp with us?**  Yes  No **Drive?**  Yes  No

Permission is hereby given for (names) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

to attend and participate in the above trip and activity. In granting permission, I hereby absolve Troop 61, The Boy Scouts of America and its representatives from any liability in connection with this trip and activity.

Furthermore, in the event of a medical emergency, I hereby give my permission and authority to the Scoutmaster or his designated representatives to obtain emergency medical treatment for my child/children.

In case of emergency I/we can be reached at Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ .

Further Comments, special situations: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Information:

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**THIS PERMISSION SLIP MUST BE SIGNED BY PARENT(S) OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**

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*Signature*

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One of nature's most beautiful creatures is the Monarch Butterfly. It is easily identified by its black and orange colors. The butterfly usually uses the milkweed plant as the host plant for its eggs. The butterfly also uses other plants for food, one example would be the Joe Pye Weed, which is native to New Jersey. When Winter comes, the butterflies fly south to Mexico, where they lay more eggs. The eggs hatch, the caterpillars grow and go through metamorphosis to become butterflies. The younger butterflies fly back in the spring while the older ones usually die before reaching their destination. If you keep an observant eye this Autumn, you might be able to see one before it heads south.

**By: Josh F.**



# Nature requirements

By: Evan B.

Name three ways in which plants are important to animals. Name a plant that is important to animals that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.

Name three ways in which animals are important to plants. Name an animal that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.

Explain the term "food chain." Give an example of a four-step land food chain and a four-step water food chain.

Do all the requirements in FIVE of the following fields:

(a) Birds

(1) In the field, identify eight species of birds.

(2) Make and set out a birdhouse OR a feeding station OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during a period of one month.

(b) Mammals

(1) In the field, identify three species of wild animals.

(2) Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild animal.

(c) Reptiles and Amphibians

(1) Show that you can recognize the venomous snakes in your area.

(2) In the field, identify three species of reptiles or amphibians.

(3) Recognize one species of toad or frog by voice; OR identify one reptile or amphibian by eggs, den, burrow or other signs.

(d) Insects and Spiders

(1) Collect, mount, and label 10 species of insects or spiders.

(2) Hatch an insect from the pupa or cocoon; OR hatch adults from nymphs; OR keep larvae until they form pupae or cocoons; OR keep a colony of ants or bees through one season.

(e) Fish

(1) Catch and identify two species of fish.

(2) Collect four kinds of animal food eaten by fish in the wild.

(f) Mollusks and Crustateans

(1) Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans.

(2) Collect, mount, and label six shells.

(g) Plants

(1) In the field, identify 15 species of wild plants.

(2) Collect and label seeds of six plants; OR the leaves of 12 plants.

(h) Soils and Rocks

(1) Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile.

(2) Collect and identify five different types of rocks from your area.

## **Merit Badges**

**By: James A.**

There are a lot of nature-related merit badges available for scouts to take. One of the easiest merit badges for first-year scouts to take is Nature. The Nature merit badge is a very general one which touches on many different topics, but the work for each topic is relatively simple. Other easy nature-related badges include Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Oceanography, and Weather. While the book work for these merit badges is pretty simple, many of them require one or more service projects, which make these great merit badges to do at summer camp. Other more involved badges are Bird Study, Mammal Study, Plant Science, and Reptile and Amphibian Study. These have more prerequisites, sometimes involving taking care of an animal as a pet. Finally, the capstone of the nature merit badges is the Eagle-required badge, Environmental Science. Being Eagle-required, it isn't easy to complete, going in depth in a multitude of topics, but as long as the prereqs are done, it can be taken and completed at summer camp or most merit badge fairs. In addition, patrol leaders can contact one of the many merit badge counselors in our district and schedule sessions to complete a merit badge. If there is a badge a few patrol members would like to work on, talk to your patrol leader and let them know. Earning merit badges outside of scheduled events is a great way to get ahead, just remember to work on rank requirements as well, especially if you are below First Class.

## Popcorn! Popcorn! Popcorn!

Mrs. Blake, Popcorn Kernel in Training

### Important popcorn dates

<b>Now</b>	Popcorn sale begins
<b>Sun 10/14 12-3</b>	Show-n-Sell at Wawa on Old Bridge Turnpike
<b>Mon 10/22</b>	Popcorn orders due
<b>11/11 (est.)</b>	Popcorn pickup



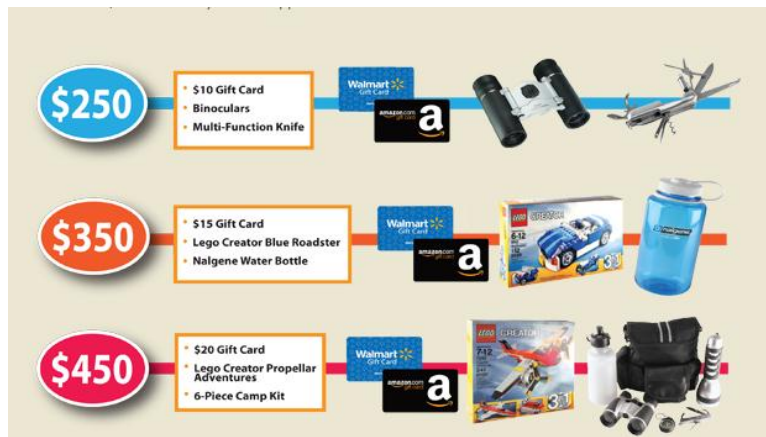
It's that time! Please start selling popcorn! We are trying hard for 100% participation... everyone sells *something*.

Popcorn sales are a big fundraiser for our troop, helping with our expenses. Last year everyone needed to sell \$150 or pay \$50 as a buy-out. This year's numbers have yet to be determined by the committee (so parents should be sure to attend the meetings). Earn great prizes! Sell in person! Sell online! Sell to your parents' employees! Sell lots for a scholarship! But NEVER sell alone!

Some of the prizes are below. We'll have a Show-n-Sell at Wawa on October 14 – please sign up – do so at either the troop meeting, or by email. Show and sell counts for your goal, of course.

Wawa, 656 Old Bridge Turnpike (near Edgeboro Road), South River, Sunday, October 14

Time slot	Scout 1	Scout 2	Adult
12:00 – 1:00			
1:00 – 2:00			
2:00 – 3:00			



## **TROOP WEB SITE**

If you forgot our calendar of outings, or if you want to see pictures of recent camping trips or even Eagle Projects, you should go to

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

The Troop Newsletters are also posted there. -Mr. Weibel