



2010 - 2011 PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION & DEFINITIONS

The program calendar's source: Each Spring the Patrol Leader Council, a body of Scouts elected by their fellow Scouts, produces a Program Survey that is filled out by all Scouts in attendance at the May Family Picnic Dinner and Court of Honor. Based on the results of those surveys, and the PLC's own discretion, the full outline program described below and printed in the Troop Program Calendar is planned out by the Patrol Leader Council during the Annual Program Planning Meetings that, this coming year, will occur on June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and July 5th, 12th, and 19th 2011. In short, this program comes from the Scouts.

Meeting Program: This is the principal focus of the meeting night. The presenter or presenters may be Scouts, members of the Troop's adult staff, or outside guests as determined by the Patrol Leader Council at their monthly planning meetings. Usually, the "Meeting Program" is **not** the responsibility of the "Program Patrol" for the month.

Scoutcraft Theme: This is a secondary focus of the meeting night, which usually occurs in a 15-minute period between announcements and Patrol Corners. The Patrol Leader Council determines the general subject matter during Annual Program Planning, but specifics are up to the patrol responsible for the presentation, with the approval of the PLC at a monthly planning meeting. This session **is** the responsibility of the "Program Patrol" for the month.

Program Patrol: The patrol responsible for the month's "Scoutcraft Theme" sessions. See above.

Service Patrol: The patrol responsible for preparing the meeting room as necessary, and for cleaning up after the meeting. This doesn't mean that all other patrols have license to be slobs when they're not the Service Patrol. The Service Patrol's responsibility is to see to it that all Scouts in attendance do their part to keep the meeting room clean.

Meeting times and locations:

Between Labor Day and Memorial Day:

Troop Meetings: Mondays, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, upstairs at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall building, Tenth Ave. and Carolina Ave., West Natrona ("Ducktown")

Patrol Leader Council Meetings: First Mondays, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall building before the regular Troop Meeting, or as otherwise indicated on the Troop Program Calendar.

Committee Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 PM, at the residence of a Committee member to be announced, or as otherwise indicated on the Troop Program Calendar.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day:

Troop Meetings: Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM (or sunset), at the Rachel Carson Grove at Harrison Hills Park (at the end of the upper, or right-hand road).

Patrol Leader Council and Committee Meetings: As shown on the Troop Program calendar or additional as needed, with time and location to be announced.

Outing times and locations: *Departure and return schedules for outings are announced at Troop Meetings. Keep in contact with your Patrol Leader if you can't make it to every meeting. All outings except for Summer Camp depart from and return to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall unless specifically announced otherwise. Summer Camp departs from and returns to the Plaza Parking Lot across from Blessed Sacrament. Some field-trip meetings meet at OLPH, some meet at the field-trip location, and some meet at other rendezvous points, as announced in advance at meetings.*

Responsibility for participation: *Yours. Don't expect anyone to call you with an invitation, or with any program information, for that matter. Your copy of the Troop Program Calendar is your personal invitation to participate in every event on that Calendar. If you need information about upcoming meetings or outings, it's your responsibility to come to a Troop meeting or make a phone call. For your own safety, never tell your Scoutmaster, "But I never knew about it."*

Note on the reliability of this program plan: *Those who have been actively involved in Troop 186 for any length of time know of the Scoutmaster's fanatical devotion to the Patrol Leader Council's programming decisions. Though the occasional meeting or Court-of-Honor may shift around in very rare situations, outings don't. These are the dates. They are carved in stone, cast in iron, written in blood in the book of ages. Plan your vacation time with confidence. If a particular outing is impossible on the date reserved, either a new program is developed for that date, or the outing is canceled outright. The dates don't change. Period.*

THE 2010-2011 TROOP PROGRAM

September 2010

Program Patrol: Patrol Leader Council. Service Patrol: Mule.

- Wednesday 1 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 6 Labor Day – No Meeting
- Tuesday 7 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Bengels
- Monday 13 Patrol Leader Council September and October Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 13 Meeting Program: Cycling Weekend Preparation and Bike Inspection
- 17 - 19** **Cycling Weekend at Ohiopyle State Park**
This outing includes tenting for two nights at the Ohiopyle State Park campground. Bicycles can be rented in Ohiopyle or, if transportation is available, may be trucked from home. Helmets – which are required for all participants in a Boy Scout cycling outing – can be signed out for free at the bike rental place. The bike hike usually covers about 25 to 30 miles of flat, beautiful trail along the Youghiogheny and Casselman Rivers, with a stop for lunch along the way. Additional program has included geocaching, and swimming down the Natural Waterslides. We'll stop at PNC Park on the way home for Pirates Scout Day.
- Sunday 19** **Pirates Scout Day at PNC Park versus the Arizona Diamondbacks**
March onto the field before the game, wave at yourself on the Jumbotron, enjoy delicious food, cheer the pierogie races, try to catch the flying tee-shirts and hot dogs, and drink in spectacular views from the most beautiful ballpark in the majors. There will also be a ballgame. Participate in this outing as part of our Cycling Weekend, or meet the cyclists at PNC Park.
- Monday 20 Meeting Program: Campaganza Preparation
- 24 - 26** **Campaganza at Moraine State Park**
As a part of the nationwide celebration of the Centennial of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, the Greater Pittsburgh, Bucktail, Chief Cornplanter, French Creek, Juniata Valley, Moraine Trails, Penn's Woods, Potomac, and Westmoreland-Fayette Councils will join forces this weekend for a huge, Jamboree-style outing that's expected to draw over 10,000 Scouts to the banks of Lake Arthur. Program will include an Arena Show, fireworks, boating, archery, leatherwork, Scoutcraft demonstrations, patch trading, Ultimate Frisbee, cooking demonstrations, and more. Short of a full-scale National Jamboree, nothing like this has ever been attempted in this part of the country. Be there, and be part of history.
- Monday 27** **Dutch-Oven Cooking and Campfire, Harrison Hills Park, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
The Troop will provide the fire and Dutch Ovens, but everyone should bring his share of the food and supplies. If participants coordinate their menu planning with other patrols, we can cook a wide selection of deserts, breads, and main courses to share. We get special permission to stay in the park after dark; so don't let your parents pick you up early.

October 2010

Program Patrol: Mule. Service Patrol: Dragon.

- Monday 4 Patrol Leader Council November Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Monday 4 Ultimate Frisbee at Highlands Golden Rams Field
We'll meet at OLPH for opening and announcements, and then walk over to the football field for our game.
- Tuesday 5 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Roenigks
- Wednesday 6 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Saturday 9 Frisbee Golf Picnic at Knob Hill Community Park**
Bring your Frisbee, a backup Frisbee, long pants, a machete, and a writing instrument (if you actually want to keep score). Unlike some of our previous Frisbee Golf outings, this one will take place on an official, competition course, not on one of the crazy cross-country belly crawls that the Scoutmaster sets up on his own. Come and see how the game is really supposed to be played. Also unlike some of our previous Frisbee Golf outings, this will be a full day event, giving us plenty of time to finish the whole course, and to enjoy a picnic lunch, too.
- Saturday 9 BMX at Northmoreland Park**
After finishing a refreshing round of Frisbee golf, why not head over to the track at Northmoreland Park and peddle around in a circle until the sun goes down. Remember to bring your helmet, because they're always required on Boy Scout cycling outings.
- Sunday 10 Chicken Barbecue at Blessed Sacrament Church**
This is our only fundraiser of the year that goes solely to the Troop treasury, paying for things like new equipment, and the extra on-time-payment discount for Summer Camp. Be sure to sign up for a shift and be there for the fun and food.
- Monday 11 Astronomy Field Trip, Wagman Observatory, Deer Lakes Park**
Keep your fingers crossed for a clear night. If not, we'll have the Laser-Tag program one week early and try again for a clear sky on the 18th of October.
- Monday 18 Laser-Tag Field Trip Meeting**
This event, at Wildwood Highlands, near North Park, includes laser-tag, bowling, arcade games, and lots of greasy food. Families are welcome.
- Monday 25 Meeting Program: Caving and Hiking Preparation
- Saturday 30 Caving Day at Laurel Caverns**
*We return to the cave after a two-year absence for this one-day outing. This event will **not** include merit badge classes in Climbing, Geology, or Forestry, but will be one-hundred-percent grunting in the dark. There is no way to get dirtier on a Boy Scout outing.*
- Sunday 31 Historic Pittsburgh Hike**
This hike of roughly ten miles goes through and around downtown Pittsburgh, the North Side, the South Side, Mount Washington, and the Strip District, including a ride on the Monongahela Incline and the "T", using a guidebook somewhat reminiscent of the Gettysburg trail guide.

November 2010

Program Patrol: Dragon. Service Patrol: Beaver.

- Monday 1 Allegheny County Morgue and Crime Lab Field Trip**
- Tuesday 2 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the John Davises
- Wednesday 3 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 8 Patrol Leader Council December Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 8 Meeting Program: Troop History Night
Thursday, the 11th of November, is our troop's 68th anniversary. Tonight, we'll celebrate our anniversary, and the long and distinguished history of our troop.
- Thursday 11 Flag Retirement Ceremony, Natrona Heights VFW**
In honor of Veterans' Day, and the 68th anniversary of Troop 186, we'll perform a solemn ceremony to dispose of worn-out American flags, in cooperation with local veterans.

- Monday 15** **Highlands School Board Meeting Field Trip**
Once, I went to a fight, and a Highlands School Board Meeting broke out. Helmets are optional.
- Tuesday 16** **Greater Pittsburgh Council Eagle Recognition Dinner**
This is for all Scouts who passed their Eagle Board of Review from November of last year through October of this year (roughly). If you get an invitation from the Greater Pittsburgh Council, but you haven't yet been honored at our Troop's Eagle Banquet, don't assume you'll get another invitation next year: you won't. Take advantage of this event. The company is interesting, the food is great, and it's free.
- 19 - 21** **Troop 186 Nutbadge Weekend, Apache Lodge, Camp Anawanna**
 (Includes the Patrol Leader Council January Planning Meeting)
All Scouts who hold a troop or patrol office are invited and encouraged to attend this event, including Assistant Patrol Leaders. All adults and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters are also invited and encouraged to staff the event by serving as a discussion leader for a 30-minute session each. All involved, both staff and trainees, will learn a lot and have a lot of fun in the process. And they'll get their nuts.
- Monday 22** **Roller Skating Field Trip**
Monday 29 First Day of Buck Season – No Meeting

December 2010

Program Patrol: Beaver. Service Patrol: Cherokee.

- Wednesday 1 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 6** **Night-Vision Factory Field Trip**
- Tuesday 7 Troop Committee Meeting (and Evan Erickson's 50th birthday) at the residence of the Barrages
- Wednesday 8** **Family Christmas Dinner and Court-of-Honor, Patterson Hall, 5:30 PM**
- Saturday 11** **Troop Geocache Maintenance**
We'll visit the Geocache that our troop hid in February 2008 (Birdville Cache #1, waypoint GC18PCJ) and perform any necessary maintenance, including adding more stuff to the stash, so bring lots of cool trinkets to jam in there.
- Saturday 11** **Climbing/Rappelling**
This one-day event will be held locally, at a professionally operated indoor establishment selected by the Patrol Leader Council. Depending on availability of counselors, it may be possible to complete part or all of Climbing Merit Badge at this outing.
- Saturday 11** **Midnight Madness Bowling**
- Monday 13 Meeting Program: Story Teller
- Monday 20 Meeting Program: Troop Christmas Party and Game Night
Bring your favorite games and snacks, and four first-class postage stamps. We'll fill out, address, and stamp Christmas cards to the same Troop History Program buddies to whom we sent post cards from Summer Camp.
- Monday 27 Christmas Vacation – No Meeting

January 2011

Program Patrol: Cherokee. Service Patrol: Cougar.

- Monday 3 Patrol Leader Council February Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 3 Meeting Program: Winter Sports Presentation
- Tuesday 4 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Sadeckys
- Wednesday 5 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- 7 - 9** **Winter Sports Weekend at Kooser State Park and Snow-Tubing at Seven Springs**
We'll be staying in log cabins built during the Great Depression high in the Laurel Highlands, and then traveling the short distance to Seven Springs Resort's snow-tubing area. Conditions permitting, hiking, sledding, and cross-country skiing are also available in Kooser State Park, and our cabins will be along the main skiing and hiking trail.

- Monday 10** **Ice Skating Field Trip, PPG Place**
Skates are available for rent, if needed, and the snack bar is open.
- Monday 17 Meeting Program: Indian Lore
We'll be visited by French and Indian War era re-enactors who will share their knowledge, experience, artifacts, and (sometimes) food with us.
- Monday 24 Meeting Program: Winter Camping Presentation
28 - 30 **Winter Camping at Pioneer Cabin, Camp Twin Echo**
We'll be staying in our favorite cabin at Camp Twin Echo (a Scout camp near Ligonier) at the top of our favorite sled-riding hill. Depending on conditions, hiking, Frisbee Golf, and cross-country skiing are also possible.
- Monday 31** **CPR Certification at the Alle-Kiski Medical Center**
Knowing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques is not only a requirement for First Aid Merit Badge, but also for every aquatics merit badge taught at Summer Camp. The card you'll earn at this meeting will tell your counselors that you've completed that requirement already. The time you save will be your own. The life you save may be your Scoutmaster's, or even someone you care about.

February 2011

Program Patrol: Cougar. Service Patrol: Viper.

- Tuesday 1 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Santis
- Wednesday 2 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Saturday 5** **Troop Orienteering/GPS Egg Hunt**
We'll convene at Harrison Hills Park and organize into teams, with each team opening an envelope to find one set of instructions to find one plastic Easter egg. Once found, that egg will be opened to find one more set of instructions to find the next egg, leading the teams through the park toward a common end point. The three courses will be set up with the option of using GPS technology to find the eggs. The first team to reach the secret end point wins. If the Patrol Leader Council chooses, the event can conclude with a cookout dinner and campfire.
- Sunday 6** **Scout Sunday Observation**
As part of our celebration of the 101st anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, we'll be attending Mass at the Most Blessed Sacrament worship site this morning.
- Monday 7 Patrol Leader Council March Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 7 Meeting Program: Midterm Elections and the Fourth Annual Troop Pie Eating Contest
All offices with six-month terms will be up for grabs, including ASPL-Scribe, ASPL-Quartermaster, Scribe, Quartermaster, Librarian, Chaplain Aide, Bugler, Musician and Historian. Then, we'll eat pie.
- Monday 14** **Glow Golf at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall**
Is there a more romantic way to celebrate St. Valentine's Day?
- Tuesday 15** **Family Social, Court-of-Honor, and Summer Program Kickoff, Patterson Hall, 5:30 PM**
Be ready to make your Early Bird payment for Summer Camp tonight. The usual information on Summer Camp and the Summer Canoe Trip will be distributed.
- Monday 21 Meeting Program: Yoyo Guy
25 - 27 **Troop Campout at Camp Bucoco**
We return to Camp Bucoco for the third year in a row during the same weekend that a mob of armored medieval warriors will be beating the tar out of each other in the woods. You've got to see this.
- Monday 28** **Movie Night**
We may be going to the theater tonight, or we may be renting a movie and watching it at the meeting room. The Patrol Leader Council will decide when the available movies are known. Stay informed, and feel free to campaign for your favorites.

March 2011

Program Patrol: Viper. Service Patrol: Lightning.

- Tuesday 1 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Ericksons
- Wednesday 2 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting

- Monday 7 Patrol Leader Council April Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 7 Meeting Program: Reptiles and Amphibians
- Monday 14 Meeting Program: Turtles
- Monday 21 Meeting Program: Pennsylvania Game Commission Presentation
- Saturday 26 Troop 186 Eagle Banquet, Patterson Hall. Practice 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Banquet 5:00 PM**
Birdville Troop 186 led the William D. Boyce District in Eagle Scouts from 1961 until the merger that formed the Japeechen District in 1999, or the last 38 of the 42 years our old district was in existence. All indications are that we've led the Japeechen District from the very beginning. Come to our 54th Annual Eagle Banquet and celebrate the remarkable success of our troop; a success we're all a part of.
- Monday 28 Meeting Program: Hunting and Gun Safety
Learn how to avoid accidentally shooting someone, including yourself. It may be possible to complete the non-shooting requirements for Rifle Shooting Merit Badge during this meeting. The shooting requirements can be completed at the upcoming Field Sports Weekend.

April 2011

Program Patrol: Lightning. Service Patrol: Mule.

- 1 - 3 Field-sports Weekend, South Buffalo Sportsmen's Club**
Past outings have included instruction and practice with rifle, pistol, flintlock muzzle-loader, bow-and-arrow, and shotgun. We've helped to clear brush and stock the pond with trout. Also included have been such additional events as canoeing and unscheduled swimming in the pond. All of these program opportunities will probably be available again this year, but let's try to cut down on the swimming.
- Saturday 2 186 Bridge-Crossing, South Buffalo Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 PM**
The Braves, bearing torches, appear around the bend in the rifle range road and proceed to the ceremonial site, past those assembled there, through the middle of the Troop, to the lakefront. The Braves shout a signal over the water. A flaming arrow descends from the roof of the pavilion into the fire-lay, lighting the council fire. Be there to see what happens next. (Better yet, there are plenty of parts for everyone and, if not, we'll make more up. Please volunteer to join the ceremonial crew and be a part of the big show. If you'd like to make yourself a costume, see Mr. Beresik for source material. We still could use more costumes.)
- Monday 4 Patrol Leader Council May Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 4 Meeting Program: Scouting for Food bag distribution, week one
As part of the Council-wide effort, we'll be collecting food to be delivered to the food bank operated by the Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, Natrona Heights. We'll be distributing bags to homes in our community for two weeks, and will then return on the third week to pick them up again. Be sure to dress for the weather.
- Tuesday 5 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Levishes
- Wednesday 6 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 11 Meeting Program: Scouting for Food bag distribution, week two
As last week, be sure to dress for the weather.
- Monday 18 Meeting Program: Scouting for Food bag collection
Bag collection usually takes less time than distribution, so come ready for game time after we've filled up the cars. Drivers will be needed to help transport the food we collect, which last year totaled over two-thirds of a ton, so invite your parents to come along. Once again, be sure to dress for the weather.
- Monday 25 Meeting Program: Edible Plants
- 29 - 30 Senior Scouts 50-Miler Canoe Trip, Clarion River**
All Scouts who will be 14 years old or who have participated in at least two troop canoe trips and one troop whitewater rafting trip are eligible to participate in this trip. Depending on water levels, this trip might be moved to one of our other 50-Miler streams, like the West Branch Susquehanna River, Pine Creek, or Redbank Creek. Lots of adult help is needed, so all dads are encouraged to participate in this breath-taking and memorable event.

May 2011

Program Patrol: Mule. Service Patrol: Dragon.

- Sunday 1** **Senior Scouts 50-Miler Canoe Trip concludes**
Monday 2 **Foil Cooking and Campfire, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
The Troop will provide the fire, but everyone should bring his own food and supplies. You can just bring a light snack, or plan a full dinner. We get special permission to stay in the park after dark; so don't let your parents pick you up early.
- Tuesday 3 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Youngs
Wednesday 4 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
Monday 9 **Miniature Golf / Driving Range Field Trip, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
We'll head out to Stony Creek Golf Center in Plum for an evening of miniature golf and related fun.
- Monday 16 Patrol Leader Council June to August Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Monday 16 Meeting Program: Backpacking Preparation and Shakedown
Those who plan to participate in the upcoming Backpacking Weekend should pack their packs (leaving space for their share of food and group supplies) and bring them to the meeting tonight to be checked out.
- 20 - 22** **Troop 186 Backpacking Weekend at Minister Creek**
This event will be held at the Minister Creek Recreation Area of the Allegheny National Forest, which is a free camping area to all who carry in their gear, so cost will be for food only. Depending on how many adults sign up, programs can be planned for different levels of backpacking interest, with short-hikers staying behind at a base camp, and long-hikers heading farther into the wilderness. Sell this trip to your dad to allow for maximum flexibility of program.
- Monday 23** **Frisbee Golf at Deer Lakes Park**
Bring your Frisbee, a backup Frisbee, long pants, a machete, and a writing instrument (if you actually want to keep score). As with our full-day event last fall, this is an official, competition course, not one of the crazy cross-country belly crawls that the Scoutmaster sets up on his own, though we'll probably only have time to finish nine holes. Come and see how the game is really supposed to be played.
- Tuesday 24** **Family Picnic Dinner and Court-of-Honor, Harrison Hills Park, 5:30 PM**
In addition to being recognized for awards earned since the February Court of Honor and receiving updates on Summer Camp and the rest of the upcoming program, Scouts in attendance will have the opportunity to fill out Program Planning Surveys to assist their Patrol Leader Council in planning next year's calendar. Be there to have your say.
- Monday 30 Memorial Day – No Meeting
Please note that the Natrona Heights VFW will probably ask us to help with planting flags on the graves of veterans in preparation for this holiday. Days, times, and locations will be announced when the VFW lets us know of their plans.
- Monday 31** **Fishing Field Trip, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
We'll travel to a lake or stream of the Patrol Leader Council's choosing, but it will probably be the South Buffalo Township Recreation Association (the same place we hold Bridge Crossing). Bring snacks, and fire-building supplies if you want to cook your snacks or your fish.

June 2011

- Wednesday 1 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
Saturday 4 **Scoutmaster's Sixth Wedding Anniversary**
The Scoutmaster will be unavailable today. Leave a message if necessary.
- Tuesday 7 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
All holders of elected or appointed youth offices are invited and encouraged to gather at our summer meeting place an hour before regular meeting time to plan next year's troop program calendar. The meetings will continue until planning is complete. The success or failure of our troop – that is, whether or not we have fun – depends on what happens at these meetings, so don't leave it to someone else; take ownership of YOUR troop.

- Tuesday 7 **Begin Softball Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - sunset**
These meetings take place rain or shine. At the option of the Scouts in attendance, they can also feature ultimate Frisbee, kickball, croquet, bocce, or the like. But remember, just because we're playing games doesn't mean that these summer meetings aren't important. Crucial announcements are made every Tuesday night during the summer, and lots of preparation for outings goes on before and during the games. There are also lots of opportunities for advancement, with older Scouts available to assist those working toward First Class, counselors on hand to work on merit badges, the Scoutmaster ready to provide Scoutmaster Conferences, and members of the Committee available for Boards of Review for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. And, incidentally, it's a lot of fun.
- 11 - 12 Troop Summer Canoe Trip, Lewistown to Millerstown on the Juniata River**
All Scouts who have passed the Tenderfoot "Buddy System" requirement (9), the Second Class "Safe Swim Defense" requirement (7a in the 11th edition Handbook, or 8a in the 12th edition), and the First Class "Safety Afloat" and "Swimmer's Test" requirements (9a and 9b) by the trip date are eligible to participate. We return to this section of river after a seven-year absence. As with all our Summer Canoe Trips, this outing will cover about 30 miles of easy river during a two-day period, and involve one night of camping along the stream; in this case on a small, remote island.
- Tuesday 14 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Tuesday 14 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
 Tuesday 21 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Tuesday 21 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
- 24 - 26 Troop 186 Camp Out at Cook Forest State Park**
We return to Cook Forest after a two-year absence. A favorite outing of years past, this camping trip has included horseback riding, pioneering projects, go-cart racing, bumper boats, water-sliding, miniature golf, hiking, geocaching, canoeing, and advancement work. The more adults who participate, the more programs can be going on at once, so invite dad.
- Tuesday 28 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Tuesday 28 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

July 2011

- Tuesday 5 School Bus Demolition Derby at the Big Butler Fair**
Can we reclaim the title we won in 2008? Come and see.
- 6 - 9 OLMBS Summerfest**
We get free use of our meeting room at OLPH, as well as Patterson Hall for all of our indoor Courts-of-Honor. By selling lemonade for four days a year, we have an opportunity to pay our rent. Be there to do your part.
- Tuesday 12 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, if necessary
 Tuesday 12 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
- Thursday 14 Swim Tests at the Camp Guyasuta Pool**
It is highly recommended (and convenient) that all Summer Camp participants get their swimming test on this evening, so that our whole first day in camp isn't swallowed up at the waterfront.
- Tuesday 19 PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, if necessary
 Tuesday 19 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
- 24 - 30 Summer Camp, Heritage Reservation, Old Allegheny Troopsite**
This is the big one. Just be there.
- Tuesday 26 Summer Raft Trip, Youghiogeny River**
All Scouts who will be 12 years old, and have passed the Tenderfoot "Buddy System" requirement (9), the Second Class "Safe Swim Defense" requirement (7a in the 11th edition Handbook, or 8a in the 12th edition), and the First Class "Safety Afloat" and "Swimmer's Test" requirements (9a and 9b) by the trip date are eligible to participate. The trip features up to class III rapids, which are run, at normal summer water levels, in 4-person rafts (which should be avoided at all costs), 2-person duckies, and 1-person duckies.

August 2011

- Tuesday 2 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
Tuesday 9 Todd Sanctuary Field Trip, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
In addition to a nature hike, there's usually ample time for geocaching and playing in the creek. The Patrol Leader Council might also make arrangements for a guest tour guide to accompany us on our hike.
- 12 - 14 Troop "Do-nothing-for-free" Camp-out on the Allegheny River**
The high-intensity "DNFF" program usually includes eating, napping, eating, sleeping, and eating. Canoe trips through the locks, rope-swing breaks, and outpost camping are also usually available. We will return to the "Eternal Flame Camp" in Johnetta where we stayed in 2003, and 2005 through 2010.
- Tuesday 16 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
Tuesday 23 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset
Saturday 27 Family Picnic and Court-of-Honor, Harrison Hills Park, Noon - Sunset
The 2011-2012 Troop 186 Program Calendar will be distributed, and we begin the new program year. Show up at noon to participate in the afternoon program, which could include a pizza lunch, geocaching, a nature and ice cream hike, a softball game, a Frisbee-golf tournament, or anything else the Patrol Leader Council might dream up. The whole family is welcome for all or any part of the festivities.
- Sunday 28 Kennywood**
This is our troop's second trip to Kennywood. Bring your whole family. If you lose track of the Scoutmaster, check the Potato Patch first.
- Tuesday 30 Last Softball Game, 7:00 PM - sunset
Sigh.



Coming in 2012

- June 2012 Gettysburg Trip**
We will return for our troop's fourth pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Free Men after a four-year absence. Participants will earn a special award developed specifically for Boy Scouts who complete an outstanding self-guided tour of the battlefield and town. Come with us to stand silent in the cemetery where Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, to hike the battlefield, to visit Union and Confederate camps, to smell the black-powder smoke, to feel the concussion of cannon fire, to retrace Pickett's Charge, to walk in the footsteps of heroes who gave the Last Full Measure of Devotion.