



**25 AUGUST 2012**



# FAMILY PICNIC AND COURT OF HONOR

25 AUGUST 2012

## RANK ADVANCEMENTS

### TENDERFOOT SCOUT

Kody Pugachow  
Jake Koziarski  
Jake Arvay  
Matt Arvay  
Garrett Sedoris

### SECOND CLASS SCOUT

Sawyer Parks  
Jake Koziarski  
Jake Arvay

### FIRST CLASS SCOUT

Nathan Love  
Owen Parks  
Jake Koziarski

### STAR SCOUT

Tyler Ben

### LIFE SCOUT

Jarod Check

## MERIT BADGES

**Jake Arvay:** Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming  
**Matt Arvay:** Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming  
**Tyler Ben:** Art, Basketry, Cooking, Fingerprinting  
**Jarod Check:** Camping, Citizenship in the Nation, Climbing, Fly Fishing, Motorboating  
**Nathan Cobb:** Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming  
**Eric T. Davis:** Camping, Citizenship in the Nation, Motorboating  
**Sam DeSanto:** Archery, Canoeing, Environmental Science  
**Chris Dombrowski:** Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming  
**Josh Fischer:** Basketry, Fingerprinting, Photography, Space Exploration, Wilderness Survival  
**Zack Fischer:** Personal Fitness, Personal Management  
**Matt Johnston:** Pioneering  
**Daniel Kovach:** Camping, Cinematography, Geocaching, Kayaking  
**Jake Koziarski:** Citizenship in the Nation, Emergency Preparedness

<b>Nathan Love:</b>	Archery, Canoeing, Environmental Science, First Aid
<b>Tyler Lucas:</b>	Cooking, Small-boat Sailing
<b>Nathan Mattivi:</b>	Motorboating
<b>Ryan McGough:</b>	Climbing
<b>Dante Morgante:</b>	Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming
<b>Keith Myers:</b>	Camping
<b>Logan Negley:</b>	Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming
<b>Owen Parks:</b>	Citizenship in the Nation, Cooking, Motorboating
<b>Sawyer Parks:</b>	Archery, Canoeing, Environmental Science
<b>Nathan Pastorek:</b>	Fishing, Motorboating
<b>Ryan Pawloski:</b>	Family Life
<b>Steven Pawloski</b>	Family Life
<b>Billy Pendergraft:</b>	Archery, Climbing, Fly Fishing, Pioneering
<b>Kody Pugachow:</b>	Fingerprinting, First Aid, Sculpture, Swimming
<b>Joel Sanders:</b>	Archaeology, Archery, Fire Safety, Shotgun, Space Exploration
<b>Blaine Santi:</b>	Archery, Climbing, Pioneering, Small-boat Sailing
<b>Ian Santi:</b>	Archery, Climbing, Pioneering, Small-boat Sailing
<b>Garrett Sedoris:</b>	Basketry, Fingerprinting, Swimming
<b>Noah Susa:</b>	Archery, Canoeing, Environmental Science

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

### **Polar Bear Swim**

Jake Arvay  
Chris Dombrowski  
Dan Kovach  
Dante Morgante  
Logan Negley  
Garrett Sedoris  
Joel Erickson  
Jon Love  
Steve Morgante  
Shawn Sedoris

### **New OA Ordeal Candidates**

Tyler Ben  
Ricky Saffer  
Jason Young

### **Heritage Iron Man**

Jon Love

### **Biggest Fish at Camp Freedom**

Garrett Sedoris (16½" bass)

### **2012 Camp Freedom Adult Leader Service Award**

Evan Erickson  
Jon Love  
Rick Saffer  
Jason Young

### **Mile Swim, BSA**

Joel Erickson  
Jon Love

### **Gettysburg Heritage Trail Awards (\*partial)**

Jake Arvay	Daniel Kovach	Nathan Pastorek	Noah Susa	Jon Love*
Matt Arvay	Jake Koziarski	Billy Pendergraft	Noah Young	Ed Lucas
Tyler Ben*	Nathan Love*	Kody Pugachow	Bob Barrage	Rick Saffer
Jarod Check	Tyler Lucas	Ricky Saffer	Brian Check	Dave Santi
Eric T. Davis	Ryan McGough	Blaine Santi	Steve Kovach	Jason Young
Chris Dombrowski	Keith Myers	Ian Santi	Jeff Koziarski	

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. It is the responsibility of the Scouts present tonight to pass on the information discussed here to all Scouts who couldn't make it. It is the responsibility of all Scouts not present to check their e-mail for announcements, to actively seek out information that they missed by their absence, and to make all arrangements necessary to sign up for outings, pay fees, turn in needed forms and information, and anything else that needs to be taken care of at today's event.
2. As of today's Court-of-Honor, our Troop has earned 22 rank advancements (compared to 25 for this time last year) and 104 merit badges (compared to 162 for this time last year) during 2012. Congratulations, and keep up the good ~~work~~ fun! We would need a total of 37 rank advancements to reach 100% advancement this year. Since 1983, we've achieved 100% advancement (that is, the number of advancements divided by the number of Scouts on the roster at the beginning of the year) six times – in 1983, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2006, and 2008 – winning the William D. Boyce District Advancement Award (which no longer exists) for 1995 and 1998.
3. **Dues** are collected two times a year – in October and April – in the amount of \$17.00 each time. At the Scout's or parents' discretion, dues may be paid in full (\$34.00) in October (if you trust the Scribe to remember that you've already paid when April rolls around).
4. Copies of the **2012-2013 Birdville Troop 186 Program Calendar** are available today. Don't leave without one. And please post it somewhere where it will be seen and used. If you have questions about an item on the calendar, see the "2012-2013 Program" section of this Court of Honor program for further information.
5. Copies of the **blanket parental release form** are available today. It covers all outings for the duration of your son's membership in the troop. If you haven't done so already, please read it, sign it, and hand it in to Bob Barrage before you leave. Scouts will not be admitted to any Troop, District, or Council outings without a release on file.
6. Copies of the **Boy Scout Troop 186 Troop Operation Policy Statement** are available today. If you haven't done so already, please take two copies, read carefully, sign one, and return the signed copy to Bob Barrage at your earliest convenience. This is the same Statement that has been distributed at many previous Courts-of-Honor, so if you signed and turned one in already, you're done.
7. This Tuesday (August 28<sup>th</sup>) is our **last softball game** of the season. **Come at 6:30 PM** in case the police throw us out early. Be there to savor the last precious moments of summer. (And just think: only 280 more days to softball season.)
8. The **Troop Committee** will meet at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of September for their first meeting of the new program year at OLPH hall, hosted by the Santis. All adult leaders and other dads are welcome.
9. The troop will hold a **Cycling Weekend** on the Allegheny River Trail and Sandy Creek Trail, from Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>. Start making plans to attend. To make a reservation, pay your \$15 non-refundable deposit to Mr. Young as soon as possible. There is no charge for camping or program, so your \$15 will go toward food costs, which will be determined by the participants.
10. Our **"indoor" meeting schedule** begins Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Social Hall from 7:00 to 8:30, as usual. Bring your bikes for inspection. See you there!
11. The **Patrol Leader Council** will meet prior to our first indoor Troop Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, at OLPH at 6:00 PM. Each patrol should be represented, including a representative of the Den Chiefs and the Troop Guides and Instructors. This will be the first meeting of the new Patrol Leader Council that was elected at Summer Camp. A new era begins.
12. The Troop will hold our **Eleventh Annual Chicken Barbecue** on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at the Most Blessed Sacrament worship site. Keep selling those tickets and be sure to sign up for a shift. If you need more tickets, contact Evan Erickson as soon as possible.

13. **2012 Summer Camp portraits** will soon be available for viewing and purchasing on our Snapfish Group Room. Since we all need to make at least one purchase a year to keep our Snapfish accounts current, this is our opportunity to do so. (Of course, you can also purchase other pictures of Summer Camp, or any other outings on the site, or any year's Summer Camp portraits back through 2000, and can even design a photo book that Snapfish will print and bind for you.) There is no need to purchase prints of the "keys" to the group photos from Snapfish. Free copies will be available at troop meetings.
14. Finally, your Scoutmaster wishes to thank all members of Troop 186 and their families for a wonderful summer. He tells me that it's the most fun he's had since he's been Scoutmaster, but still thinks our best years are still ahead. Keep up the great work.





# FALL 2012 TROOP ROSTER

## TROOP OFFICERS

**Ian Santi, Senior Patrol Leader**  
**Blaine Santi, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**  
**Ricky Saffer, Senior Troop Guide**  
**Dan Kovach, Webmaster and Birdville Days Editor**

ASPL (Scribe)*	Eric T. Davis	Troop Guide	Tyler Lucas
ASPL (QM)*	Eric S. Davis	Troop Guide	Keith Myers
Scribe*	Tyler Ben	Troop Guide	Owen Parks
Quartermaster*	Ricky Saffer	Troop Guide	Billy Pendergraft
Librarian*	Ricky Saffer	Troop Guide	Michael Powell
Chaplain Aid*	Noah Young	Troop Guide	Steve Pawloski
Bugler*	Nathan Love	Instructor	Eric S. Davis
Historian*	Joel Sanders	Instructor	Billy Pendergraft
Historian*	Ricky Saffer	Instructor	Ethan Tady
Historian Emeritus*	Michael Powell	Troop OA Representative	TBD
Den Chief	Matt Johnston	JASM	Eric Bengel
Den Chief	Nathan Mattivi	JASM	Billy Pendergraft
Troop Guide	Tyler Ben	JASM	Gavin Roenigk

\* Offices so marked are for a six-month term. All other offices are for twelve-month terms. The next elections will be held **11 February 2013**, with all new 6-month terms beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

## PATROL ROSTERS

### DRAGON PATROL

**Zachary Fischer, PL 295-4806**

### BEAVER PATROL

**Ian Santi, PL 226-8724**  
**Billy Pendergraft, APL 575-2799**  
 Eric Bengel 294-2335  
 Jared Clinton 295-2259

### CHEROKEE PATROL

**Gavin Roenigk, PL 353-2381**  
**Steve Pawloski, APL 226-4848**  
 Eric S. Davis 353-2017  
 Michael Powell 295-9331

### COUGAR PATROL

**Jake Koziarski, PL 335-2533**  
**Ricky Saffer, APL 224-4134**  
 Josh Fischer 295-4806  
 Daniel Kovach 295-3522  
 Keith Myers 295-1599  
 Blaine Santi 226-8724  
 Ethan Tady 226-2302  
 Noah Young 226-4574

### LIGHTNING PATROL

Malique Nadzam, PL (412) 496-6613  
Matthew Johnston, APL 224-7261  
Austin Babinsack 226-3788

### VIPER PATROL

Eric T. Davis, PL 353-2168  
Jarod Check, APL 294-0197  
Tyler Ben 524-1918  
Tyler Lucas 295-2166  
Nathan Mattivi 294-0191  
Derell Nadzam (412) 496-6613  
Owen Parks 294-3130  
Nathan Pastorek 295-0096  
Ryan Pawloski 226-4848  
Mak Roberts 353-1153  
Joel Sanders 334-1204

### SQUIRREL PATROL

Nathan Love, PL 226-4626  
Ryan McGough, APL 339-0744  
Sam DeSanto 845-1219  
Sawyer Parks 294-3130  
Kody Pugachow 553-1068  
Noah Susa 889-3402

### FLYING EAGLE PATROL

Matt Arvay, PL 224-1946  
Dante Morgante, APL 295-5528  
Jake Arvay 224-1946  
Cameron Babinsack 226-3788  
Nathan Cobb 295-9332  
Chris Dombroski 224-0350  
Logan Negley 294-0098  
Garret Sedoris 295-2495

## **ADULT ROSTER**

### **CHARTERED ORGANIZATION**

#### **Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish**

Father James Mazurek, Executive Officer 226-4900  
Don Barch Sr., Chartered Organization Representative 226-0260

### **TROOP COMMITTEE**

<b>Eric Bengel, Chairman</b>	<b>294-2335</b>	Kevin Matjasko*	295-6528
<b>Joe Sadecky, Secretary</b>	<b>295-2838</b>	Steve Morgante*	295-5528
<b>Evan Erickson*, Treasurer</b>	<b>295-0481</b>	Mark Negley	294-0098
<b>Jason Young, Activities</b>	<b>226-4574</b>	Jeff Parks	294-3130
Francis Beresik	224-5037	Rich Ring	224-7759
Brian Check	294-0197	Mike Roenigk	353-2381
Mike Chelko*	295-2870	Rick Saffer	224-4134
Ed Friel	224-2443	Gerald Sanders	334-1204
Jeff Koziarski	335-2533	Dave Santi	226-8724
Joe Levish	295-0598	Shawn Sedoris	295-2495
Jon Love*	226-4626	Norm Walters*	226-1796

### **SCOUTMASTER STAFF**

<b>Bob Barrage*, Scoutmaster</b>	<b>226-1625</b>	Dylan Levish*	295-0598
<b>Dan Klemens, Advancement</b>	<b>295-9331</b>	Ed Lucas	295-2166
Don Barch, Sr.	226-0260	Mike Matjasko*	295-6528
John Davis	353-2017	Mike Mattivi	294-0191
Joel Erickson*	295-0481	Don Myers	295-1599
Isaac Fischer*	295-4806	Joey Sadecky*	295-2838
Adam Friel*	224-2443	Kevin Shaffer*	766-5385
Greg Huth*	353-2020	Fred Tady	226-2302
Steve Kovach	295-3522	Jim Turner, IV	226-2146

\* Eagle Scout (38% of adult staff)

**A Note to Parents:** If you're the parent of a Scout of Troop 186 and would like to be a member of the Troop Committee or the Scoutmaster staff, or if you have an area of expertise that's covered by the Merit Badge program and would like to be a counselor, get in touch with Evan Erickson. He'll provide you with all the information and paperwork you need. The cost of registration for one year is \$15.00 for members of Committee and Scoutmaster staff. If you'd prefer to be a Merit Badge Counselor without another position of responsibility, registration is free. Note that all adult volunteers, including merit badge counselors, must complete BSA Youth Protection training every two years (available at [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org)), and that registered adults other than merit badge counselors must complete a one-time position-specific training course (which can be arranged through the troop or district).



# 2012 - 2013 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> 2013. 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 slobbers 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 2012-2013 TROOP PROGRAM

### September 2012

Program Patrol: Patrol Leader Council. Service Patrol: Beaver.

- Monday 3 Labor Day – No Meeting
- Wednesday 5 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 10 Patrol Leader Council September and October Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 10 Meeting Program: Bike Inspection, Patrol Box Shakedown, and Cycling Weekend Preparation
- Tuesday 11 Troop Committee Meeting at OLPH, hosted by the Santis.
- 14 - 16** **Cycling Weekend on the Allegheny River and Sandy Creek Trails**  
*This outing includes tenting for two nights at a riverside campground along the Allegheny River Trail near Franklin PA. Bicycles can be rented in Franklin or, if transportation is available, may be trucked from home. Helmets are required for all participants in a Boy Scout cycling outing. The bike hike will probably cover at least 25 to 30 miles, and up to 50 miles, of flat, beautiful trail along the Allegheny River and Sandy Creek, with a stop for lunch along the way. There are tunnels, so bring a strong flashlight.*
- Monday 17** **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.*
- Monday 24** **Foil Cooking and Campfire at Harrison Hills Park, 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.*
- Saturday 29** **BMX at Northmoreland Park**  
*We'll spend the afternoon on 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 30** **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, trailer maintenance, 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. Maybe you can even be the chicken!*

## October 2012

Program Patrol: Beaver. Service Patrol: Cherokee.

- Monday 1 Patrol Leader Council November Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Monday 1 Meeting Program: Edible Wild Plants Presentation  
Tuesday 2 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Roenigks.  
Wednesday 3 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting  
Monday 8 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.*
- 12- 14 Troop 186 Backpacking Weekend**  
*This event will be held on the Laurel Highlands Trail in Ohio State Park, or on the Minister Valley Trail in the Allegheny National Forest, or on another trail selected by the Patrol Leader Council. Depending on how many adults sign up, programs can be planned for different levels of backpacking interest. Sell this trip to your dad to allow for maximum flexibility of program.*
- Monday 15 Meeting Program: Troop Music Night  
*Bring your instruments and your talents to OLPH for a night of music-making with your friends.*
- Monday 22 Meeting Program: Dutch-Oven Cooking at OLPH  
*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.*
- Monday 29 Allegheny County Morgue and Crime Lab Field Trip**

## November 2012

Program Patrol: Cherokee. Service Patrol: Cougar.

- Monday 5 Meeting Program: Hunting Presentation  
Tuesday 6 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the John Davises.  
Wednesday 7 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting  
**9 - 11 Troop 186 Nutbadge Weekend, Apache Lodge, Camp Anawanna**  
(Includes the Patrol Leader Council December 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.*
- Sunday 11 Flag Retirement Ceremony, Natrona Heights VFW**  
*In honor of Veterans' Day, and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Troop 186, we'll perform a solemn ceremony to dispose of worn-out American flags, in cooperation with local veterans.*
- Monday 12 Meeting Program: Troop History Night  
*Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, is our troop's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tonight, we'll celebrate our anniversary, and the long and distinguished history of our troop.*
- Monday 19 Highlands School Board Meeting Field Trip**  
*Once, I went to a fight, and a Highlands School Board Meeting broke out. Helmets are optional.*
- Tuesday 20 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.*
- Monday 26 First Day of Buck Season – No Meeting  
**Friday 30 Midnight Madness Bowling**

## December 2012

Program Patrol: Cougar. Service Patrol: Viper.

- Saturday 1 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 1 Free Lunch at McDonalds**  
*Show up, eat free, paid for by the Troop.*
- Saturday 1 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.*
- Sunday 2 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.*
- Monday 3 Roller Skating Field Trip**  
Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Barrages.
- Tuesday 4 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Wednesday 5 Patrol Leader Council January Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 10 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.*
- Tuesday 11 Family Christmas Dinner and Court-of-Honor, Patterson Hall, 5:30 PM**
- Monday 17 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 our Troop History Program buddies.*
- Monday 24 Christmas Eve – No Meeting
- Monday 31 New Years Eve – No Meeting

## January 2013

Program Patrol: Viper. Service Patrol: Lightning.

- Wednesday 2 Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting
- Monday 7 Patrol Leader Council February Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Monday 7 Meeting Program: Winter Camping Presentation
- Tuesday 8 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Sadeckys.
- 11 - 13 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. The Japeechen District Klondike Derby will be going on that weekend, and we can participate to the extent that we find fun.*
- Monday 14 Ice Skating Field Trip, PPG Place**  
*Skates are available for rent, if needed, and the snack bar is open.*
- Monday 21 Movie Night**  
*We may be going to the theater tonight, or we may be renting or borrowing 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.*
- Monday 28 Meeting Program: Hypnotist

## February 2013

Program Patrol: Lightning. Service Patrol: Squirrel.

1 - 3

### **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. With sufficient adult help, separate groups could split off for downhill skiing and snowboarding. 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 4

### **Swimming Field Trip**

Tuesday 5

Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Bengels.

Wednesday 6

Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting

Sunday 10

### **Scout Sunday Observation**

*As part of our celebration of the 103<sup>rd</sup> 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 11

Patrol Leader Council March Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Monday 11

Meeting Program: Midterm Elections and the Sixth 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 18

Meeting Program: Wood Carving Presentation

Tuesday 19

### **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.*

22 - 24

### **Troop Campout and Medieval Battle Weekend at Camp Bucoco**

*We return to Camp Bucoco for the fifth 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 25

Meeting Program: Ray Kowalski's Taxidermy

*Come to this meeting to see what species of dead animal Ray brings along. Sometimes, he invites Scouts to help him in the mounting process. Don't worry; he'll provide the drop cloths and aprons.*

## March 2013

Program Patrol: Squirrel. Service Patrol: Flaming Arrow.

Monday 4

Meeting Program: Compass Course

Tuesday 5

Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Levishes.

Wednesday 6

Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting

Saturday 9

### **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.*

Monday 11

Patrol Leader Council April Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Monday 11

Meeting Program: The Pop Lady

Saturday 16

### **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 total Eagle Scouts from 1961 until the merger that formed the Japeecheen 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 Japeecheen District from the very beginning. After attending our Eagle Banquet in 1999, future Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca wrote of his "appreciation for the outstanding job of 'delivering the promise' the way it was intended to be delivered. The vision of Scouting is certainly alive and well in Troop 186." Come to our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle Banquet and celebrate the remarkable success of our troop; a success we're all a part of.*

- Sunday 17**     **Fun Slides, Irwin**  
*According to the Fun Slides website, fun sliding is like sliding with your socks on wood floors, but on carpet. You'll wear smooth plastic skates that are strapped to athletic shoes, and have access to level areas for beginners, an "extreme" area for advanced carpet skaters, and everything in between.*
- Monday 18**     **Hospital Tour/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.*
- Monday 25**     **Fire Department Tour Field Trip**

## April 2013

Program Patrol: Flaming Arrow. Service Patrol: Beaver.

- Monday 1     Patrol Leader Council May Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Monday 1     Meeting Program: Rifle Shooting Merit Badge Bookwork and Range Safety Presentation  
*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.*
- Tuesday 2     Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Ericksons.
- Wednesday 3  
**5 - 7**     Japeechen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeechen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting  
**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 6**     **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, 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 8**     **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. Working together with our Cub Scout Pack, 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.*
- Monday 15**     **Scouting for Food bag distribution, week two**  
*As last week, be sure to dress for the weather.*
- Monday 22**     **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.*
- 26 - 28**     **Senior Scouts 50-Miler Canoe Trip, Pine Creek, the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania"**  
*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, the Clarion, or Redbank Creek. Lots of adult help is needed, so all dads are encouraged to participate in this breath-taking and memorable event.*
- Monday 29**     **Laser-Tag and Go-Cart Racing Field Trip Meeting**  
*This event, at Wildwood Highlands, near North Park, can include laser-tag, go-cart racing, miniature golf, arcade games, and lots of greasy food. Families are welcome.*

## May 2013

Program Patrol: Beaver. Service Patrol: Cherokee.

- Wednesday 1 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting  
**Monday 6 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). 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 7 Troop Committee Meeting at the residence of the Youngs.  
Monday 13 Patrol Leader Council June to August Planning Meeting at OLPH, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
**Monday 13 Ultimate Frisbee or Flag Football and Personal Fitness Merit Badge testing 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.*
- 17 - 19 Troop Campout at the Big Butler Fairgrounds**  
*We'll spend the weekend camping at the Big Butler Fairgrounds and spend Saturday fishing, cycling, and playing games at the Fairgrounds, and hiking around at nearby McConnells Mill State Park.*
- Monday 20 Bike Hike Field Trip Meeting on the Butler to Freeport Community Trail**  
**Tuesday 21 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 27 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.*
- Tuesday 28 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.*

## June 2013

- Tuesday 4 Scoutmaster's Eighth Wedding Anniversary**  
*The Scoutmaster will be unavailable today. Leave a message if necessary.*
- Tuesday 4 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 4 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.*
- Wednesday 5 Japeecheen District Roundtable Meeting / Japeecheen Chapter Order of the Arrow Meeting

8 - 9

**Troop Summer Canoe Trip, Buckaloons to Tionesta on the Allegheny River**

*All Scouts who have passed the Tenderfoot “Buddy System” requirement (9), the Second Class “Safe Swim Defense” requirement (7a in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition Handbook, or 8a in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 large island.*

Tuesday 11

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday 11

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

Tuesday 18

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday 18

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

Tuesday 25

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday 25

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

28 - 30

**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.*

Sunday 30

**School Bus Demolition Derby at the Big Butler Fair**

**July 2013**

Tuesday 2

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday 2

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

Tuesday 9

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, if necessary

Tuesday 9

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

10 - 13

**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.*

Saturday 13

**Go-Cart Racing at E-Racers**

Sunday 14

**Rope Swing Day at Nicholson Run**

*This is the same rope swing we canoe to from our Do Nothing For Free campsite.*

Tuesday 16

PLC Annual Program Planning Meeting, Harrison Hills Park, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, if necessary

Tuesday 16

Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset

Thursday 18

**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.*

21 - 27

**Summer Camp, Heritage Reservation, Old Allegheny Troopsite**

*This is the big one. Just be there.*

Tuesday 23

**Summer Raft Trip, Youghioghny 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 11<sup>th</sup> edition Handbook, or 8a in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.*

Tuesday 30

Softball, 7:00 PM – sunset

## August 2013

- Tuesday 6  
**9 - 11** Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset  
**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, fishing, swimming, rope-swing breaks, and outpost camping are also usually available. We will return to Nicholson Island, near the Clinton Dam, where we stayed for the first time in 2011. Because this outing requires canoeing to and from our island campsite, all participants must have passed their BSA "Swimmers" test.*
- Tuesday 13 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset  
Tuesday 20 Softball, 7:00 PM - sunset  
**Friday 23 Lernerville Speedway**  
*The Scoutmaster will be bringing his earplugs.*
- Saturday 24 Family Picnic and Court-of-Honor, Harrison Hills Park**  
*The 2013-2014 Troop 186 Program Calendar will be distributed, and we begin the new program year. Show up 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 25 Kennywood**  
*This is our troop's fourth trip to Kennywood. Bring your whole family. If you lose track of the Scoutmaster, check the Potato Patch first.*
- Tuesday 27 Last Softball Game, 6:30 PM - sunset  
*Sigh.*