



News of the Troop #8

- √ **Vale Church Spring Clean-up:** The troop is supporting our chartering organization's Spring clean-up on Saturday morning, April 12. Scouts should wear long pants, scout shirt or scout-themed t-shirt (eg: Goshen), and work gloves. It's been requested that scouts bring items such as rakes, wheelbarrows and shovels. This event counts as a troop activity and service hours for advancement. I hope to see many of you there to show our appreciation to Vale Church for chartering our troop. Scouts should let their patrol leader know if they will attend. Patrol leaders need to turn-in a patrol list to the SPL.
- √ **Whitewater Rafting/Camping Big Event, April 25-27:** This is a total troop Big Event – all scouts (even if they don't meet the age/size/weight requirements) and adults/parents are encouraged to attend. There will be something for the younger scouts to do – possibly hiking or a less strenuous river trip (this is still being worked). The plan is to gather at the church at 3:30 and be on the road by 4:00 – this would require some to check out of school a bit early. I hope this won't preclude a scout from attending. If so, we could look into having a late-group drive up on Friday. Don't wait until the last minute to sign-up for this great activity. There is a limit to the number of rafts the outfitter can provide. Contact Mr. Doug Pinkham if you have not signed up yet. Scouts must also let their patrol leader know if they will attend. Patrol leaders need to turn-in a patrol list to the SPL at the April 14 troop meeting.
- √ **District Spring Camporee, May 16-18:** The Camporee will take place at our council facility, Camp Snyder. The theme is "Tribal Challenge". An extract from the Camporee notice describes it as such: *A weekend based on survival in the wild, with tests and activities based on the Scout Handbook, Wilderness Survival Merit Badge, the TV show "Survivor". Scouts will be given a list of items to bring in their "survival kits". Contests and games will be based on learning how to act as a patrol, survive in the wild, and accomplish some tasks that come from the Scout Handbook so that some advancement can be recorded. Patrols will be encouraged to build and carry unique torches bearing their troop number and if by patrol, their patrol totem. Once they complete a challenge, they will be given a gee-gaw for it. Once complete with the day, the torches will be lit and placed by the "tribal fire".* Make plans now to attend and start thinking about your patrol torches.
- √ **OA Call Out Ceremony, May 17:** The Order of the Arrow Call Out ceremony will occur at the Saturday night Spring Camporee "tribal fire". All of our scouts that were eligible during the March 3 OA election should make plans to attend this special calling out ceremony. Parents are welcome to attend also.
- √ **Summer Camp and Merit Badge Sign-up, June 22-28:** It is still not too late to sign up for summer camp and pick your merit badges before you arrive at camp. At this point we already have 25 scouts attending. Don't miss out on this trip to the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Contact ASM John Carstens if you have not signed up yet. Mrs. Sandy Cary is collecting merit badge sign-up sheets for forwarding to camp. Signing up for a merit badge is not required but makes it more likely you'll get to earn the merit badges you want. For more information about Camp Durant visit their website at: http://www.campdurant.com/Summer_Camp_Info.html.
- √ **New Assistant Scoutmasters:** The troop is very fortunate (along with your scoutmaster) to have two new Assistant Scoutmasters. Charlie Frederick, our newest Eagle Scout and 18 years old, and Andy Livelsberger, dad of new scout Corey and also an Eagle Scout, have both volunteered to take on this important leadership position. Thank you.