



## *News of the Troop #14*

- **Growth in the Troop.** As everyone is aware the troop has had quite a growth spurt (25 new scouts) and with this growth has come some growing pains. I know I've seen it in the last few troop meetings. To get through this, I need the support of the scouts, parents, and troop leadership. How can you help?  
  
Scouts – follow the directions of your patrol leader and assistant patrol leader; come prepared to participate and contribute in a meaningful way... bottom line – be a boy scout  
  
Parents – deliver your scout(s) to the meeting five minutes before the scheduled start time. Ask if they have their handbook, dues, and make sure they're in uniform (scout shirt buttoned/tucked-in with scout pants).  
  
Troop leadership – PLC: step up and run the troop and in particular the meeting. You developed the calendar and meeting plan. You're responsible to execute it. Start on time and move through the agenda as planned. Patrol leaders and ASPLs – support your SPL. Troop Staff - support the troop by being present to do your job. Assistant patrol leaders - help your patrol leader with your patrol and the meeting.
- **Venture Patrol/Older Scouts.** As it stands we have 13 older scouts that are currently “unassigned”. This is because these scouts have yet to organize and elect a patrol leader. I suspect this situation has something to do with either not wanting or needing the leadership position or they are too busy. Until this group of scouts organizes into a patrol with their own leadership, individually they can continue to attend troop meetings but they can not attend troop Big Events. Exceptions to this rule are those scouts serving as SPL, ASPL, and QM; all others are precluded from attending Big Events.
- **Signing off Requirements in Scout Handbooks.** As a reminder, only those scouts and adult leaders designated in writing by the scoutmaster can initial (“sign-off”) in scout handbooks that a scout has completed a rank advancement. Any scout can still instruct and train another scout in a skill, but only the designated scouts/adults can certify in the handbook that the skill was successfully completed. The listing of designated individuals is located on the troop website.
- **Troop Uniform.** I would like our 2<sup>nd</sup> year and above scouts to wear their scout shirt with scout pants to troop meetings. New scouts should wear their scout pants if they currently have them. Per troop policy, every scout should own scout pants by the end of their first year in the troop. Additionally per policy, sport shorts and open toe shoes are not to be worn to any scout activity. A new order of troop t-shirts has arrived. Cost is \$10. Scouts need to see the troop Quartermaster during meetings to purchase a shirt.
- **Cell phones and other electronic devices.** As a reminder, these devices are not to be brought to troop meetings and activities. Adult leaders will confiscate them if seen and return it after the meeting/activity.