



The 359er

Official Newsletter of Boy Scout Troop 359, Wilbraham, MA

Summer 2011

Save the Date



**Permission Slip Due
September 1st**

Gettysburg National Military Park Trip October 8th - 10th, 2011

Troop 359 will be traveling to Gettysburg, PA to visit Gettysburg National Military Park. The Troop will be staying at Camp Conewago, a Boy Scout Camp approximately 10 miles from the battlefield. More details about our trip itinerary and what to pack for the trip will be provided as we get closer to the date, but preliminary details are as follows:

- Saturday October 8th** : Depart at 7:00 a.m. from St. Cecilia Church
Bring snacks and a bag lunch
Troop will cook dinner at camp and, if time permits, visit park for a night tour
- Sunday October 9th**: Visit Gettysburg National Military Park, Visitor Center, Monuments, historic Battlefields, and cemetery where President Lincoln delivered Gettysburg Address
Troop will eat breakfast at camp and pack a bag lunch
Bring money to eat dinner in town
Bring spending money for souvenirs
- Monday October 10th** : Troop will eat breakfast at camp then depart Gettysburg
Bring money for lunch along the trip home
Plan to return to St. Cecilia by early evening - will call when return to church.

Cost: \$45 for registered Scouts and registered Adults



Scoutmaster Minute

Dear Parents and Scouts:

I hope you all are having a safe and enjoyable summer. A few weeks ago, eight of our scouts and four adults experienced a new and adventurous summer camp at Hidden Valley Scout Reservation in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH. In addition to working toward merit badges, scouts took part in many activities, such as assault boat wars, where scouts had to try to sink other boats, particularly counselors' boats. They also participated in rifle shooting, free swim, making fried dough, an orienteering course, where our scouts set a record time by finding all twelve points in less than an hour, and other camp wide games. Meals were excellent, and the staff was super fantastic (if your scout went to summer camp, ask him to demonstrate "super fantastic") with many songs during the meals and at the closing camp fire. The week was filled with fun activities that kept our scouts busy all day throughout the week. Please consider joining us next summer for a week long summer camp filled with fun and excitement at Hidden Valley!

We have a lot of activities planned for September. Check out the Calendar of Events section in this newsletter. Our first meeting will be on September 1st at the Parish Center. I would like to have one parent of each scout to attend for a brief meeting to kick off our Troop year. This also is the date that the permission slip for the Gettysburg Trip is due. If you want to attend this trip, you must get your permission slip and money turned in as no late permission slips will be accepted. September is also the time we host the Webelos Scouts at Reds to teach them what Boy Scouting is all about. I am looking forward for an exciting year and hope you all will, too.

See you on the Trail to Eagle,
Mr. Lynch, Scoutmaster

Advancement News



CONGRATULATIONS TYLER HALL

For earning **Eagle Rank**,
the highest rank in Scouting

Congratulations also to our Scouts who attended summer camp. They completed 13 Merit Badges, C.O.P.E., and the Polar Bear Swim.

Mark Your Calendar



September 29th Court of Honor 8:00 p.m.

Troop 359 Court of Honor and Parent Night is Thursday September 29th. The regular Troop meeting will start at 7 p.m., with the Court of Honor starting at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center of St. Cecilia Church. One parent of each scout is asked to attend, but all are welcome.

Calendar of Upcoming Events and Meetings

September

- 1st: Troop and PLC Meeting; also
Parent meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.
in the Parish Center
- 7th: Committee Meeting
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Parish House
- 8th: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 10th: Fall Recruitment Day
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia Church Parking Lot
- 15th: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 16th thru 18th : Webelos Weekend
Reds in Monson
- 22nd: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 23rd thru 25th : Catholic Retreat
- 29th: Troop Meeting/Court of Honor
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center

October

- 5th: Committee Meeting
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Parish House
- 6th: Troop and PLC Meeting; Troop elections
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 8th thru 10th : Gettysburg Trip
- 13th: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 15th : Harvest Festival (raindate the 16th)
3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Fountain Park
- 20th: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center
- 22nd: Junior Leader Training Meeting
Time/Place to be announced
- 27th: Troop Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Parish Center

Recruitment Opportunities for Rank Advancement

Ever look at your First Class rank requirements? One of the requirements is to invite someone to a Troop event. Take a look at our Events Calendar and please consider inviting a friend to one of our meetings. The friend must be between the age of 11 – 18 years old, completed the 5th grade or have completed the Arrow of Light.

Also, Troop 359 is holding a Recruitment Day on September 10th at St. Cecilia's parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to show what scouting is all about. We will have a model camp site set up and some cooking demonstrations. We will need scouts and adults to help with this, so please volunteer.

Service Opportunity

The Wilbraham Cultural Committee is holding its annual Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday October 15th (rain date October 16th) at Fountain Park.

This is an opportunity to earn Service Hours as Troop 359 will be actively participating at this event. The Troop will have a model camp site set up, have a knot tying demonstration, will assist with guiding trail walks, and attend to the bon fire, as well as other volunteer and recruitment activities.

Volunteers Needed!

Check out our Troop website at www.troop359.org for permission slips and calendar!

