

December 9, 2010



## Troop 49 Open House

Welcome to the Troop 49 open house. We have designed the evening to provide you and your sons an idea of how fun, rewarding, and engaging boys scouts can be. We are glad to have you here with us and hope you find it a good use of your time.

We have collected a number of "frequently asked questions" as new scouts and families have joined our troop in recent years. Answers to those questions have been compiled into a FAQ document, and we have posted it on our web site for your review. <http://www.thepathfinders.org/> We hope the answers help you make an informed choice about Boy Scouts in general, and Troop 49 in particular. You will find today's presentation on our site as well.

Should you have additional questions, we are available for follow-up at any time. Please feel free to send an email to [bsatrop49@hotmail.com](mailto:bsatrop49@hotmail.com), and we'll get back to you promptly, either by phone or email, whichever is more convenient for you. If you prefer, you may call me directly at 201.417.3379.

Again, thank you for your time this evening.

Yours in Scouting,

*PZB*

---

Paul Zakrzewski, Scoutmaster  
TROOP 49 - THE PATHFINDERS

### How does Boy Scouts differ from Cub Scouts?

First and foremost, boy scouts isn't just a bigger version of cub scouts. In cub scouts, the activities are planned and run by parents with a high level of parental involvement and supervision. Teaching is generally accomplished from adult to child. In boy scouts, instruction is often from senior scout to more junior scout. As goals are reached by a scout, it is the more senior scouts who must "sign off" completion of the junior scout's work. This approach affords leadership opportunities for senior scouts, and reinforces learning as scouts pass along knowledge to more junior scouts. In this respect, having an organization with a wide range of ranks is beneficial as there are more opportunities for the younger scouts to learn from experienced individuals, and there is a more fully complete set of role models.

### How does one progress in scouting? What is the process?

There are seven ranks in boys scouts: Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd class, 1st class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Scout through Tenderfoot are largely about scouting - mastering basic skill and competencies. From First Class through Eagle, the experience is much more about leadership. Rank progression in scouting is accomplished through completion of various educational and experiential milestones described in the Boy Scout Handbook. Progression is largely a self-paced process. Scouts learn and demonstrate competency in such things as first aid, fire safety, equipment safety, rope and knot skills, and cooking skills. In addition to these fundamental skills, scouts earn merit badges covering more involved and complex topics. Accumulation of basic skills, merit badges, and time in rank determine the pace of one's progression.

### How many scouts do you have in your troop?

We have 60 scouts currently registered with the troop. They are distributed by grade and rank as shown below:

| Rank         | Number    |
|--------------|-----------|
| Scout        | 12        |
| Tenderfoot   | 2         |
| 2nd class    | 5         |
| 1st class    | 14        |
| Star         | 5         |
| Life         | 16        |
| Eagle        | 6         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>60</b> |

| Grade        | Number    |
|--------------|-----------|
| 6            | 10        |
| 7            | 10        |
| 8            | 10        |
| 9            | 8         |
| 10           | 4         |
| 11           | 11        |
| 12           | 7         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>60</b> |

### You have a big troop. Will my son just get lost?

This is a great question, and it comes up often. It's a very important issue to understand. As noted earlier, unlike cub scouts, boy scouts relies on older scouts teaching skills to younger scouts. In addition, boys scouts is "scout led", meaning that the boys are largely self governing. They run the weekly meetings, cook for themselves on campouts, and in general self-manage. The opportunity to have senior and more experienced boys available to instruct more junior scouts is pivotal to scout learning - for both the junior and senior scouts. Instructing others is a wonderful and effective means of truly mastering the subject matter. By teaching junior

scouts, senior scouts set an example, gain presentation and leadership skills, and "pay back" for the time when more senior scouts instructed them.

We make a concerted effort as a leadership team to set aside time for more seniors to help juniors. We hold occasional "advancement" meetings with the specific intent of focusing on the needs of more junior scouts to help them along the advancement path. Of course, this works both ways. The junior scouts need to do their homework and be prepared to demonstrate skills, or to ask for help in areas they have yet to master.

In addition to the teaching aspect of scouting, effective use is made of organizational hierarchy to reinforce leadership skills. The boys operate in smaller groups called patrols. Each patrol will have a leader which in turn reports to a senior patrol leader - the senior-most scout in the troop. This organizational scheme scales well as the troop grows, affording opportunities for the scouts to gain formal leadership roles.

Aren't meetings with 60 scouts chaotic? They would be if everyone came to all of the meetings. As busy as the older scouts are, it's very unusual to have a meeting larger than about 20 scouts. Whether it's a camp outing or a meeting, the number of boys in attendance varies. They are available for some meetings and not for others. Winter cabin camping or the "unlimited class" pinewood derby may draw a large attendance. A twenty mile hike may only draw four or five boys who have their sights set on achieving a specific merit badge goal.

So, there's really no reason to fear that your son will get lost. Quite the contrary - a larger troop has lots of resources and lots of opportunities for your scout to interact with and learn from more senior scouts.

### **When does your troop meet?**

We meet once per week during the school year on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:15 in Connors Hall at OLPH in Oakland. In addition, we camp out one weekend per month. Campout dates are established in concert with the local school calendar, and are selected to minimize conflict with school activities.

### **How many meetings does my son have to attend?**

There is no hard and fast answer. Scouts are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible, but like most of us, scouts are busy people. They are engaged in sports and academic extracurricular activities as well as family events. As a rule of thumb, scouts should plan to attend at least half of the troop meetings. At the lower ranks, higher attendance may be required to achieve the scout's advancement objectives as laid out in the Boy Scout Handbook.

### **How often do you have campouts?**

We camp out once per month while school is in session. In addition, many members of our troop take advantage of summer camp and other summer activities. More about that later.

### **You do lots of trips, do I have to go on all of them?**

Certainly not. We do find that the kids who only go to the meetings tend to be less involved, develop fewer relationships with other members of the troop, and struggle to advance. Also, it is generally accepted within scouting that the kids who don't go on trips tend to drop out of the program. Younger scouts tend to attend

more trips. They find more adventure in it, have more to learn, and need to develop their skills to advance. We typically have 12-18 scouts on any given trip. More attend trips to the more popular destinations such as whitewater rafting or winter sledding; fewer come along if it is a location that is visited often, or conflicts with a busy time.

### **Where do you go? What do you do?**

We work hard to create an activity at the destination in addition to the campout itself. Below is a list of some of our recent destinations and associated activities.

- Gettysburg PA - Harley Davidson factory tour, Gettysburg battlefield tour
- Kitatinny PA - sledding and winter camping
- Camp Glen Gray, Mahwah NJ - scout advancement, Pioneering Merit Badge
- West Point NY - tour of the Academy
- Williamsburg, Virginia - Historic Williamsburg (planned spring 2011)
- Battleship NJ - Sleepover aboard the battleship
- Battleship MA - Sleepover aboard the battleship
- Delaware river- river rafting
- Sandy Hook - Tour of the Coast Guard station, bicycle ride

We post a trip report for each of our outings. Those can be found on our web site at:

<http://www.thepathfinders.org/Pathfinders/TripReports/TripReports.htm>

### **What does a typical trip cost?**

We try hard to keep the costs of trips low; often only \$15 or \$20, depending on the destination and the expenses incurred. Obviously, longer trips are more expensive, as are those where we visit a place that requires admission. For example, in November of 2010, we toured the Harley Davidson manufacturing plant in York, PA, followed by a campout in Gettysburg. We left very early on Friday morning, and returned Sunday afternoon. The cost per scout for this trip was only \$50.

### **Do I have to spend a fortune on gear to attend these trips?**

No, a perfectly suitable external frame backpack can be purchased at [Campmor](#) for as little as \$40.00. A mess kit is another \$10, and a good sleeping back will cost between \$40 and \$70 dollars. You are likely to have already most of the other gear required. Certainly, for the first few trips, go easy and get some experience before investing in a pile of new gear.

### **Do you have summer camp or other summer activities?**

Troop 49 has adopted Camp Turrell in Cuddlebackville, NY as our summer home. In 2011, summer camp will be held Sunday, July 24 to Saturday, July 30. While completely optional, this is a great time for kids to develop keen outdoor skills, earn essential merit badges, and have a terrific time with their friends. Mention Turrell to one of our scouts who has made the trip, and watch them light up. Ask them about it, and be prepared for lots of great stories.

In addition to Turrell, many older scouts take the opportunity to spend a week in a High Adventure camp, such as Floodwood on the lakes of New York's Adirondack park, or in the high desert mountain environment of Philmont Scout Ranch - 214 square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness. Other scouts elect to visit Sea Base - a Scouting opportunity aboard a sailboat navigating the beautiful waters of the Florida Keys. If this isn't enough, every other summer, it has become a Troop 49 tradition to camp on Nantucket for four or five days. We'll be on Nantucket in July of 2011. Finally, every four years, Jamboree is held. This summer, it was held at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia welcoming some 40,000 scouts from all over the U.S. We had 8 scouts from Troop 49 attend this year.

### **What kinds of boys seem to do well in scouting?**

Scouting appeals to a broad range of boys. We have boys who excel at academics, those that excel at sports, and every variety in between. There doesn't seem to be a stereotypical scout. A love of the outdoors is clearly a common characteristic amongst all scouts.

### **What role does the Merit Badge process play in scouting?**

This is another question we get asked quite often, and its critically important. While scouting is most often recognized as an opportunity for boys to get outside and be active, it is far more than that. Essential to the scouting is the core concept of education and leadership development. The merit badge process provides a tremendous opportunity for learning and development outside of the school environment. As part of the advancement process, scouts earn merit badges when they demonstrate comprehension of certain subject matter or mastery of a particular skill. There are over 150 subjects for which a scout can earn a merit badge. To earn a badge, the scout will have to:

1. Study a proscribed set of materials
2. Complete a set of assignments, often selecting a few tasks from a larger list. Some of these assignments may involve teaching others something they have learned through their studies.
3. Pass a test administered by a merit badge counselor demonstrating mastery of the assigned subject matter.

The Boy Scouts of America produces booklets for each of the merit badges. In addition to acting as a study guide, the books also include the criteria for passing the exam. There are no surprises. All of requirements are laid out clearly in the front of the book.

Scouts are required to contact the merit badge counselors themselves to make the necessary arrangements to demonstrate that they have mastered the materials. These counselors are all volunteers - usually parents of scouts - who have expertise in their particular subject matter. This system provides a tremendous opportunity for your child to interact with an adult who is neither a familiar parent nor a teacher, and to learn useful life skills. By contacting, meeting with, and responding to these unfamiliar adults, scouts develop confidence, assertiveness and personal satisfaction. A list of the merit badges currently offered to boy scouts is listed in the appendix.

### **What is a court of honor, and what is its role in scouting?**

The Court of Honor is scouting's mechanism for rewarding and encouraging scouts on their path of personal development. We gather three times a year - September, February, and June - to recognize the progress and

achievements our scouts have made. Rank advancements, merit badges, and other unique achievements are all recognized at the Court of Honor. It's a terrific way to showcase what the scouts have accomplished, and it provides a showcase example for scouts as to what is possible. Family members are encouraged to attend and celebrate the progress the scouts have made. You are welcome to attend to see what they are like.

### **Do many scouts achieve Eagle rank?**

In 2010, Troop 49 will graduate 10 Eagle Scouts. We're very proud of our record of Eagles graduating from Troop 49. Since our troop was formed in 1963, we have celebrated the accomplishments of 66 Eagle Scouts. It must be said, however, that Eagle isn't for everyone, and isn't the only reason to join scouting. Many scouts participate in scouting, learn loads of valuable skills, and have a tremendous amount of fun and camaraderie without ever earning Eagle rank.

### **You have a big troop. Do you have a big staff to help manage them?**

We do. In addition to Paul Zakrzewski, our Scoutmaster, we have 12 registered Assistant Scoutmasters. These adults are a critical component in our program, and allow us to expose the scouts to so much. In addition, there other adults engaged in the less visible but equally important business side of the organization doing things such as planning and executing fund raising, managing logistics, acting as sponsors for Eagle scouts, and the like.

### **I hear people using the terms "program" and "committee". Can you explain the difference?**

As explained above, the "program" side of the adult leadership focuses on the scout-facing activities that we do, including planning of weekly troop meetings, monthly campouts, and summer activities. The "committee" side of the leadership staff ensures that the business of running a 50+ scout troop goes off without a hitch.

### **What do I need to do as the parent of a scout?**

We do ask a few things of our parents. First and foremost, we need your encouragement for your child. We need you to take an active role ensuring that your son gets to meetings on time, and is prepared. We also have several fund raising activities through the course of the year, each of which require a couple hours of your time. For example, we sell funnel cakes at the Oakland carnival. Parents are asked to donate at least one shift - about 2.5 hours - to help the effort. That may mean setup, cleanup, cooking, cashiering, or helping to purchase supplies before the event. Honestly, we have a terrific time and it's not a big schedule imposition. Often, people work several shifts because they enjoy the camaraderie and get much satisfaction from helping out.

If you wish to be more involved, you are very welcome (encouraged) to come on campouts and help make those events successful. Looking for more? We welcome assistant scoutmasters or committee members to become part of the formal organization that makes all of this possible.

### **What kind of professional skills do our parents and leaders bring to the table?**

- Sales and marketing
- Engineering
- Chemists
- Software engineers
- Profession chefs
- Finance
- Lawyers
- Medical field
- Swim instructors
- Aerospace engineer

These skills allow us to develop and execute a wide range of enrichment activities for the boys and help prepare for merit badge progression.

**How do you communicate with the parents and scouts?**

We distribute a weekly email to our parents and scouts - The Pathfinder. For your convenience, a recent copy of The Pathfinder is included in the appendix of the on-line version of this document.

**If I want to read more, where should I go and what should I read?**

Our website: <http://www.thepathfinders.org/>

Northern New Jersey Council site: [http://www.nnjbsa.org/openrosters/view\\_homepage.asp?orgkey=945](http://www.nnjbsa.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=945)

BSA Website: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/BoyScouts.aspx>

Merit badge worksheets: <http://usscouts.org/mb/mbindex.asp>

# THE TROOP 49 PATHFINDER

October 25, 2010

- 
1. October 29 Troop Meeting - OLPH
  2. Nov. 4 No School - No Troop Meeting
  3. Nov. 11- Troop Meeting Tracking Merit Badge Requirements below
  4. Nov. 18 – Troop Meeting Part 2 of the Aviation Merit Badge Field Trip
  5. Important Wreath Sale Update
  6. December Troop Committee Meeting Reminder
  7. Upcoming Camping Trip Deadlines
  8. Trip Reports Posted on the Troop Website
  9. Camp Acorn Dance – Help Needed
  10. World Scout Jamboree 2011
  11. Philmont Trek 2011 Announcement
  12. BSA Alumni Newsletter
  13. SAT/ACT Software Available Free to Scouts
  14. Upcoming Dates to Remember
- 

At this week's Troop meeting we will be doing the EDGE and Merit Badge presentations.

This Saturday was James Megin's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. It was a great event and congratulations to James on this great accomplishment

As always your input is very important. If any adult would like to become a Merit Badge Counselor or get involved in any way please contact myself or any of the leaders for information. We also need help for trip coordinators. We are here to help but need volunteers that would be willing to help us in the planning of some of the upcoming trips.

Yours in Scouting,

Paul Zakrzewski - Scoutmaster  
201.417.3379

## **1. Oct 28 Troop Meeting – OLPH**

### **Clarification on the EDGE Requirement**

Although some scouts demonstrated the EDGE principles at the presentation on Wednesday, a specific scout skill must be taught in order to gain proper signoff on the requirement. EDGE is explained on page 53 of the Scout Handbook. Following are the requirements from the handbook:

**Tenderfoot Rank:** Using the EDGE method, teach another *person* how to tie a square knot.

**Life Rank:** While a Star Scout, use the EDGE method to teach a younger Scout the skills from ONE of the following six choices, so that he is prepared to pass those requirements to his unit leader's satisfaction.

1. Second Class - 7a and 7c (first aid)
2. Second Class - 1a (outdoor skills)
3. Second Class - 3c, 3d, 3e, and 3f (cooking/camping)

4. First Class - 8a, 8b, 8c, and 8d (first aid)
5. First Class - 1, 7a, and 7b (outdoor skills)
6. First Class - 4a, 4b, and 4d (cooking/camping)

At the weekly meeting on 10/28, be prepared to give a 3-4 minute presentation using the EDGE technique. Scouts looking to achieve the Tenderfoot rank can teach someone to tie a square knot. Star Scouts going for Life can teach 1 of the requirements above provided they can be done in 3-4 minutes - so a partial "signoff" can be accomplished. There will not be sufficient time to complete the entire requirement. Any questions contact Matt Folkerts at [banbroccoli@yahoo.com](mailto:banbroccoli@yahoo.com). If you have presentations for any Citizenship Merit badges they can also be presented at this meeting.

## **2. Nov 4 No Troop Meeting**

**There will be no Troop Meeting Nov 4 due to Schools being closed.**

## **3. Nov 11 Troop Meeting – Tracking Merit Badge**

For the November 11 Troop Meeting we will be doing the Tracking Merit Badge as a Troop. This is one of the four Centennial Badges and it has to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Below are the requirements for the specific badge. All requirements must be completed and turned in on the night of the meeting to qualify. I will be taking your completed requirements at the meeting and reviewing them after and will provide the Blue Cards back to you at the next meeting.

We will discuss 1, 2, 3, 4 at the meeting and #3 explained, #4 explained, and #5 evidence must be turned in for counselor's review.

Requirements:

1. Demonstrate by means of a tracking game or otherwise, ability to track skillfully in shelter and wind, etc., showing how to proceed noiselessly and "freeze" when occasion demands.
2. Know and recognize the tracks of ten different kinds of animals or birds in his vicinity, three of which may be domestic.
3. Submit satisfactory evidence that he has trailed two different kinds of wild animals or birds on ordinary ground far enough to determine the direction in which they were going, and their gait or speed. Give the names of animals or birds trailed, their direction of travel, and describe gait and speed; or submit satisfactory evidence that he has trailed six different kinds of wild animal or birds in snow, sand, dust, or mud, far enough to determine the direction they were going and their gait or speed. Give names of animals or birds, their direction of travel, and describe gait and speed.
4. Submit satisfactory evidence that he has tracked a human being and deduced from the trail whether it was man or woman, young or old, the gait or speed, and also give any other information deduced.
5. Submit evidence that he has scored at least 30 points from the following groups: Group (f) and 4 of the 5 groups (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) must be represented in the score of 30 and at least 7 points must be scored from (a), (b), or (c). Make a clear, recognizable photographs of:
  - a. Live bird away from nest – **4 points each**
  - b. Live woodchuck or smaller wild animal – **3 points each**
  - c. Live wild animal larger than woodchuck – **4 points each**
  - d. Live bird on nest – **3 points each**

- e. Tracks of live wild animal or bird – **2 points each**
- f. Make satisfactory plaster cast of wild animal or bird tracks with identification imprint on back of cast – **2 points each**

#### **4. Nov 18 Troop Meeting – Finish Aviation Merit Badge Field Trip**

For those who attended part 1 of the Merit Badge, we will be completing the Aviation Merit Badge by visiting an actual hangar and seeing the aircraft up close. You must be prepared with your foam plate airplane at this meeting. All remaining requirements will be detailed in next week's edition of the Pathfinder.

#### **5. Important Wreath Sale Update**

##### **Wreath Sale - Correction!**

Tally Sheets and money (that you have collected) are due November 11, NOT the 18th! Late sales will be allowed until the 18th. You can submit a 2nd Tally sheet at that point. However, we need an idea of total sales by the 11th to determine how many decorations to prepare. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

November 11 - Adults needed to assemble Decorations

We need any available adults/family members (siblings OK) to come down to OLPH at 8:00 to help wire pine cones, twist up berry sets. The more the merrier, the faster we'll be done. This is important, because if we don't get the decorations assembled before the wreaths arrive on the 23rd - we'll be doing it then, and wreath pickups will occur even later that night as they won't be ready.

Please consider donating your time to this important fundraiser which directly assists your sons. Thank you.

#### **6. December Troop Committee Meeting**

Troop Committee Meeting, Dec. 5, 7:30 - D'Elia Building, Rec Field

Our next Troop Committee meeting will be held Sunday, December 5. Any adult is welcome to attend, observe and/or participate to see what goes on in planning the troop program for all of our sons. We are in need of volunteers to maintain our successful program and assist the Scoutmasters and Scouts. There are many activities requiring a minimal amount of time to help contribute to your son's success. Please contact any Troop Committee member with any questions.

#### **7. Camping Trip Deadlines**

We have some deadlines coming up for future camping trips. Please register prior to the deadlines posted below. These are expected to be great trips so don't miss out.

*Battleship Massachusetts, January 15-16, 2011 - Fall River, MA*

RESERVATIONS CLOSED FOR THIS TRIP

*NJ State Police Camporee, May 20-22, 2011 - Sea Girt, NJ*

RESERVATIONS CLOSED FOR THIS TRIP

Gettysburg National Historic Site and Battlefield Hike, November 5-6-7, 2011 - Gettysburg, PA (Added October 7, 2010)

RESERVATIONS CLOSED FOR THIS TRIP

BSA Adventure Base 100, County College of Morris, Randolph, NJ (Updated October 6, 2010)

This is not a Troop trip, but information is available on the Troop site if you are interested in attending this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary travelling road show.

All trips can be accessed at: <http://www.thepathfinders.org/>

## **8. Trip Reports Posted**

After each of our trips the Scoutmaster in Charge writes up a trip report for each. We have reports currently through the Northern New Jersey Council Camporee. These reports are a great way to read up on the great adventures our Scouts embark on each month.

<http://www.thepathfinders.org/Pathfinders/TripReports/TripReports.htm>

## **9. Camp Acorn Dance – Help Needed**

There is a camp that I have been involved with for nearly three years known as Camp Acorn. It is a camp for individuals with disabilities, and was first mentioned to me by a mother of a Mahwah Boy Scout. They have invited us to help volunteer at their monthly dances, once a month from 7 to 9. The dance involves each scout choosing a camper to attend, and aiding them throughout the night. I can provide rides as needed.

The dances are scheduled as such:

Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 14, Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 13

If you would like to help, please contact me at [aurorafire5@yahoo.com](mailto:aurorafire5@yahoo.com)

Will Nedds

## **10. World Scout Jamboree 2011**

Be a part of Simply Scouting, the 2011 World Scout Jamboree on the fields of Rinkaby, not far from the town of Kristianstad, in the province of Skåne, southern Sweden. Hosted by The Swedish Guide and Scout Council, the 22nd World Scout Jamboree will run from July 27-August 7, 2011. The purpose of the event is to bring together Boy Scouts, Venturers, leaders, and staff to share international friendship and adventure for personal growth and development.

The upcoming World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby, Sweden, promises to be one of the best ever. With 40,000 Scouts expected to attend from six continents and more than 114 countries, it's going to be a world-class event, one you can be a part of if you start planning now.

At Rinkaby, you will get to live and learn with fellow Scouts and leaders from around the world. You'll be housed in tents along with the BSA contingent, but you'll soon venture out to mingle with tens of thousands for two weeks of activities and adventure. That's right, a world fellowship exercise on an enormous scale!

Questions??? George Boothby 201-476-1319 [Boothby.george@gmail.com](mailto:Boothby.george@gmail.com)

## **11. Philmont 2011 Trek Information**

Now that our busy summer of 2010 is coming to a close, it's time to start focusing on next summer's adventures! Troop 49 will be going to Philmont in July of 2011. There are a few open spots left on the trek.

Anyone interested in attending please contact Mr. Dente.

## **12. BSA Alumni Newsletter**

Below is a link to the BSA alumni newsletter -- *AlumniAlive!* which is published four times a year:

<http://www.scouting.org/alumnialive.aspx>

You can register as a BSA Alumni at: <http://www.scouting.org/alumni.aspx>

It explains the benefits of joining.

Mr. Folkerts

## **13. SAT/ACT Software Available Free to Scouts**

In alliance with the Boy Scouts of America, eKnowledge is offering SAT and ACT test prep programs valued at \$200, free to Boy Scout families. The eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance is made up of educationally focused foundations, as well as a group of professional athletes from the National Football League and Major League Baseball that includes Warrick Dunn and Chipper Jones. The eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance has provided more than 120,000 SAT/ACT prep programs to families all over the United States.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/eKnowledge.aspx>

## **14. Dates to Remember**

November 5-6-7 – Gettysburg and Harley Davidson Plant Tour

November 20-21 – Adventure Base 100 Scout Tour in Floram Park NJ

December 10-11 - Glen Gray Camping and Pioneering Merit Badge qualification.

January 15-16 – USS Massachusetts Battle Ship overnight

February 18-19-20 – Kittatiny Scout Reservation Sledding

+++++

TO HAVE ANYTHING SCOUT RELATED PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKLY PATHFINDER PLEASE EMAIL [bsatroop49@hotmail.com](mailto:bsatroop49@hotmail.com) WITH THE WORDS TROOP ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE SUBJECT LINE. Please have it in by Sunday evening so we can consolidate all messages into one.

The Troop geocache is now online at [geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)! Check out the following link:

[http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache\\_details.aspx?guid=c84f7c93-2dba-48b4-a0fe-497a3f220825](http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=c84f7c93-2dba-48b4-a0fe-497a3f220825)

Troop Calendar: <http://www.thepathfinders.org/Pathfinders/calendar.htm>

Boy Scout Troop 49, Oakland NJ

"The Pathfinders"

[www.ThePathfinders.org](http://www.ThePathfinders.org)

## Merit Badges

- \* American Business
- \* American Cultures
- \* American Heritage
- \* American Labor
- \* Animal Science
- \* Archaeology
- \* Archery
- \* Architecture
- \* Art
- \* Astronomy
- \* Athletics
- \* Auto Mechanics
- \* Aviation
- \* Backpacking
- \* Basketry
- \* Bird Study
- \* Bugling
- \* Camping
- \* Canoeing
- \* Carpentry (2010 Centennial)
- \* Chemistry
- \* Cinematography
- \* Citizenship in the Community
- \* Citizenship in the Nation
- \* Citizenship in the World
- \* Climbing
- \* Coin Collecting
- \* Collections
- \* Communications
- \* Composite Materials
- \* Computers
- \* Cooking
- \* Crime Prevention
- \* Cycling
- \* Dentistry
- \* Disabilities Awareness
- \* Dog Care
- \* Drafting
- \* Electricity
- \* Electronics
- \* Emergency Preparedness
- \* Energy
- \* Engineering
- \* Entrepreneurship
- \* Environmental Science
- \* Family Life
- \* Farm Mechanics
- \* Fingerprinting
- \* Fire Safety
- \* First Aid
- \* Fish and Wildlife Management
- \* Fishing
- \* Fly-Fishing
- \* Forestry
- \* Gardening
- \* Genealogy
- \* Geology
- \* Golf
- \* Graphic Arts
- \* Hiking
- \* Home Repairs
- \* Horsemanship
- \* Indian Lore
- \* Insect Study
- \* Journalism
- \* Landscape Architecture
- \* Law
- \* Leatherwork
- \* Lifesaving
- \* Mammal Study
- \* Medicine
- \* Metalwork
- \* Model Design and Building
- \* Motorboating
- \* Music
- \* Nature
- \* Nuclear Science
- \* Oceanography
- \* Orienteering
- \* Painting
- \* Pathfinding (2010 Centennial)
- \* Personal Fitness
- \* Personal Management
- \* Pets
- \* Photography
- \* Pioneering
- \* Plant Science
- \* Plumbing
- \* Pottery
- \* Public Health
- \* Public Speaking
- \* Pulp and Paper

- \* Radio
- \* Railroading
- \* Reading
- \* Reptile and Amphibian Study
- \* Rifle Shooting
- \* Rowing
- \* Safety
- \* Salesmanship
- \* Scholarship
- \* Sculpture
- \* Shotgun Shooting
- \* Signaling (2010 Centennial)
- \* Skating
- \* Small-Boat Sailing
- \* Snow Sports
- \* Soil and Water Conservation
- \* Space Exploration
- \* Sports
- \* Stamp Collecting
- \* Surveying
- \* Swimming
- \* Textile
- \* Theater
- \* Tracking (2010 Centennial)
- \* Traffic Safety
- \* Truck Transportation
- \* Veterinary Medicine
- \* Waterskiing
- \* Weather
- \* Whitewater
- \* Wilderness Survival
- \* Wood Carving
- \* Woodwork