

RED N BLACK Monthly Newsletter

April/ May 2012

April

1	Palm Sunday/ Pancake Breakfast
2	Troop Meeting Order of the Arrow elections Summer Camp CAMPERSHIPS duel!
9	NO Troop Meeting (due to Spring Break)
10	Roundtable
12-15	Gettysburg Trip!
16	Troop Meeting
21	Intrepid Trip to NYC!
22	TC Meeting at Elks 7 pm
23	Troop Meeting
27-29	Outdoor Leader Training at Wakpominnee
27	Scout Sponsored Dinner at Elks
27-29	Tentative New Scout Overnight at Elks

May

4-6	Outdoor Leader Skills Training
7	Troop Meeting National Elks Youth Day/ PIZZA! Troop elections (to begin 8/2012)
8	Roundtable
13	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
14	Troop Meeting Scoutmaster Conferences
18-20	Spring Camporee at Saratoga Fairgrounds
19	OA Call-outs at Camporee
20	TC Meeting Elks 7pm
21	Troop Meeting SM Conf/ Board of Review
28	NO Troop Meeting/ Memorial Day

Troop 246 would like to welcome to our newest Crossover Scouts! Adam Laing, Aiden Brady, Gavin Stewart, Max Cummings and Zachary Stroud! We are all pleased to have you join us!

Troop 246 sponsored a **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning, April 1** at the CP Elks. We had scout volunteers work with the guests as servers, with set-up and clean-up and bussing tables. We thank the adult volunteers that helped out in the kitchen and cooked our fine feast! Thanks as well to the older scouts that helped out in the kitchen too. Always a good meal for a Sunday morning!

OA (Order of the Arrow) elections will be held during the Troop meeting on April 2. Scouts need to qualify for election into Scouting's National Honor Society. For more than 90 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long term resident camping, and for providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

The Order of the Arrow membership requirements are:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- After registration with a troop or team, have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.
- Youth must be under the age of 21, hold the BSA First Class rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, be elected by the youth members of their troop or team.
- Adults (age 21 or older) who are registered in the BSA and meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to the lodge adult selection committee.

Newly selected OA candidates will not be revealed until the Tap Out Ceremony at the Spring Camporee.

Boy Scout Gettysburg Trip Thursday April 12th 8:30am returning Sunday April 15th

All final arrangements are made and payments are in, scouts and adults are all set to go.....enjoy the trip and bring us back lots of great stories! Be safe on your journey.

INTREPID TRIP!! Troop 246 will be spending a day in NYC on Saturday, April 21, 2012!

Bus leaves early (5:45 AM) from Clifton Park and arrives at 10 AM at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in NYC. We'll spend 2 hours aboard the ship checking out all there is to see and do. If you are at least 48in. tall you can ride the Transporter Simulator too!

We'll leave the Intrepid at noon and arrive next at the American Museum of Natural History where we'll enjoy the exhibits, planetarium, take a journey to the stars and hit the IMAX Theater! We'll depart NYC just before 6 PM and head back to Clifton Park for a 10:30 PM arrival. **Enjoy the trip!**

Our new scout overnight will take place the weekend of April 27-April 29 (Fri to Sun). We've had great weather so far this (winter) so we'll hope to be as fortunate! All scouts participating will gather at the Elks Lodge in Clifton Park on Fri. night and set up camp behind the pavilion. A parent of the new scout must attend with your son. Scouts will be working on rank requirements during the weekend so be sure to bring along your scout handbook. Scouts should also get a blue card for the camping Merit badge from Mr. Murphy and have it signed by Mr. Lumpkins **before** the campout begins. This way all scouts will begin working on the requirements for this Eagle required MB too. Additional planning for the overnight will be done at future troop meetings.

Troop 246 will hold a scout sponsored dinner at the Elks on Friday, April 27. We need a scout who needs leadership hours to set up and organize the dinner. If you have a rank advancement in your future, step up to be the organizer of this event. See Mr. Lumpkins to sign up to organize. We'll also need scouts to help serve and adult volunteers to help cook and prepare the meal. Watch for sign-ups at troop meetings.

National Elks Youth Day will be celebrated on Mon. May 7 at our Troop meeting and the Elks will provide the scouts with a PIZZA party! Troop 246 thanks the Elks for their support throughout the year and we appreciate your recognition in this fun way!

It's never too early to prepare your Scout Health forms!! Scouts and adults each need an annual health form submitted to Troop 246 in order to participate in all the scout activities and events. If your form needs updating.....do it now! Don't wait to complete forms A,B,C and submit them to Mrs. Bianconi. Forms are available at the council website at: www.trcscouting.org.

SUMMER CAMP IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ FOR DUE DATES AND DEADLINES!

Summer Camp for Troop 246 will be **Sun. July 22 thru Sat. July 28, 2012** at Wakpominnee.

Full payment for Summer Camp is due by April 16 to Troop 246 (for the \$325. fee)

Payments after this date will increase to \$375.

New scouts will receive a due date extension for the \$325 camp fee if paid in full by June 1 (payment to Council because Troop 246 will have already turned in camp fees by this date).

All Scouts must have a Summer Camp Permission Slip completed and turned in.

All Scouts and adults attending summer camp must have **Medical forms A,B,C** completed and turned in for review by June 4.

All checks should be made out to : Troop 246

Be sure to review the Summer Camp Refund Policy.

ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL.....contact Mrs. Zeggert or Mrs. Colvin.

Scouts are once again invited to sell/purchase **Great Escape tickets this year!** Each ticket is good for one visit on one of the following days: May 19, 20, 25 – 28, 30, June 1-3, 6-10, 13-17 The cost is \$22.50 per ticket, and scouts earn \$5 in Scout credits per ticket sold. Scout credits can be used towards any troop event or summer camp. Scouts can purchase at the Park a special C'Mon Back ticket any day during the season for \$20 plus tax.

Tickets can also be upgraded to a season pass for an additional \$34.99 plus tax (at the park). Tickets can be ordered by contacting Mrs. Laing at wmlaing@nycap.rr.com or at weekly troop meetings and will be sold through June 10, 2012.

There are several scouts in Troop 246 that are working on their Eagle projects this spring! Troop 246 has a great record of helping out these Eagle candidates whenever they can and the candidates appreciate your help! Scouts will receive emails about work days, fundraising and any other assistance needed as they work on their various projects. Eagle candidates are also encouraged to utilize their teammates, church groups, school friends and other community organizations to assist in their projects. The Eagle projects presently underway include; Trail making at a local CP park, outdoor work and upgrades to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany, construction of a Veteran's Memorial sign in the town of Charlton and the creation of an Arboretum at a candidate's Elementary School. Watch for news and updates on these Eagle projects!

Have you enjoyed reading all the details of the events and updates of our programs and activities in Troop 246? Do you like receiving an updated calendar of events each month?? Would you like to see the **RED N BLACK Newsletter** continue each month?? We will need an adult or responsible scout to volunteer to prepare and distribute the **RED N BLACK Newsletter** beginning in September 2012. This is a relatively easy task and the format is pretty simple. The work is done at home. If you might be interested to work with Mrs. Clark for a month or two before taking the newsletter over in September, please contact Mrs. Clark with any questions or interest.

