

# RED AND BLACK

Welcome back Scouts!! I hope that you are ready for an exciting year filled with friends, fun and adventure!

Registration: Some of you may have received notification that the National Council has raised the membership fees for scouting. The Troop Committee has decided that we will not raise our rates to reflect the National increase this year.

Please submit payment for the 2013/2014 Scout year to either Mrs. Zeggert or Ms. Whimple by the 11/4 Troop Meeting. Rates are:

\$50 per scout (please contact Mrs. Zeggert or Ms. Whimple if you have more than one scout) \$6 for Boys Life (optional)\$10 dues for Order of the Arrow members\$20 per adult

Youth Protection: As a reminder, all adult leaders are required to have a current Youth Protection Training on file in order to be registered with the troop. The training is good for 2 years. Please check your certification to ensure you are up to date.

In addition, all parents are strongly encouraged to take the training, whether you plan on registering as an adult or not, so that you are familiar with the Boy Scout policies regarding youth and adult interaction. Information about the training, instructions on how to take the training, and a link to the Guide to Safe Scouting can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>.

Once you have taken the course, please print off a copy and turn it in to Mr. Bianconi.

Volunteers: As discussed in the parent meeting in September, the troop is in need of parent volunteers in the following areas:

**Troop Committee** - The Troop Committee has not had any new members in a couple of years now. The Committee provides administrative support for the troop, plans activities along with Scoutmasters, and performs Boards of Review for scouts looking to advance. We meet once per month. Boards of Review are scheduled for 3 times per year during troop meetings, but also can occur occasionally on an ad hoc basis if requested.

**Assistant Scoutmasters** - Assistant Scoutmasters work with the scouts during meetings, meet with scouts to sign off requirements, and provide adult supervision on campouts (there is a ratio of adults to scouts that needs to be maintained on each campout). A large number of our Assistant Scoutmasters have older scouts. Parents of younger scouts are particularly encouraged to register as Assistant Scoutmasters to ensure the continued ability of the troop to plan camping outings.

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**ADULTS**, we are making some changes this year. Starting this year, we are requiring all adult leaders to become fully trained for their position. Any returning assistant scoutmaster or committee member next year who is not fully trained will not be able to register. We will not have any forms to fill out. Once we receive your troop dues, an account will be created for web access to the troop database that we use for advancement and activity tracking. Access will be read only. Once you receive your login information, we ask that you check your personal information to ensure that your contact information and everything is up to date.

Troop Committee Members: There are 3 required training classes for this position. All 3 can be taken online:

- Youth Protection Training- This is Scouting- Troop Committee Training

Assistant Scoutmasters: Training for this position includes:

- Youth Protection Training (online)
- This is Scouting (online)- Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training - Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills

Dates for training classes that are not administered online can be found on the [Twin Rivers Council site](#), along with registration instructions (note that this page lists New Leader Essentials as required - This is Scouting has replaced that). The troop reimburses the cost for these training events, so the only investment you need to make is your time. **Registration fees** will remain \$20 for this year. However, if you are fully trained for your position (or are registered for any remaining training you have), dues will be waived. Moving forward, fees will only be waived if you participated in at least 6 troop events as a leader during the prior year (i.e. camping, roundtables, committee meetings, boards of review).

If you have any questions on all of this, please ask either Mrs. Zeggert or Ms. Whimple. Mrs. Zeggert has the current training record for all current registered adult leaders if you are unsure of your training status.

**PLEASE** check the troop website [www.troop246bsa.org](http://www.troop246bsa.org) for more detailed information.

Meetings take place at the Clifton Park Elk's Lodge #2466  
695 Mac Elroy Road, Ballston Lake, NY

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| OCTOBER                     | NOVEMBER                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 14 NO MEETING               | 4 MEETING                     |
| 21 COURT OF HONOR (class A) | 11 NO MEETING (VETERAN'S DAY) |
| 28 MEETING                  | 18 MEETING                    |
|                             | 25 ETHNIC DINNER              |
|                             |                               |