

Direct Service E-Mail News



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2010 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

www.bsajamboree.org

THE EAGLES' NEST

The rank of Eagle Scout was bestowed on 75 Direct Service Scouts in 2008 and we are honored to recognize the following Scouts who have earned the rank since our last newsletter.

NAME	Troop #	Location
Christopher Lawrence Comstock	7	Singapore
Kyle Rowan Hennington	500	Moscow, Russia
Jad Yousef Ireifej	Troop 806	Amman, Jordan
Taylor W. Johnson	1	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Ahmed M. Abdel Karim Lavenue	1	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Axel Conrad Loehden	222	Penang, Malaysia
Scott James Merkley	970	Doha, Qatar
Joseph Anderson Oakley	Lone Scout	Guangzhou, China
Evan David Pals	970	Doha, Qatar
Jason Andrew Perez	Lone Scout	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Braden Todd Romney	28	Chihuahua, Mexico
Leighton Kreg Romney	28	Chihuahua, Mexico
Ross Wallace Smith	701	Cairo, Egypt
Timothy E. Sperry	Lone Scout	Siguatpeque, Honduras
Allan Erasmus Yoganathan	818	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

NEW UNITS JOIN DIRECT SERVICE

Join us in welcoming the following units to the Direct Service family:

- Troop 1966, chartered by the LDS Branch of Shekou, Shenzhen, China
- Troop and Pack 870, chartered by The Church of Jesus Christ in Alice Springs, Australia
- Troop 826, chartered by the Naval Support Activity in Manamah, Bahrain
- Cub Scout Pack 3456, Caltex American School, Pekanbaru, Indonesia
- Troop 511, American Chamber of Commerce Canada West , Calgary, British Columbia, Canada

ATTENTION ARROWMEN, NOAC IS COMING!

On August 1-6, 2009, more than 7,000 Arrowmen from across the U.S. will gather at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., for the 30th National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). Direct Service Arrowmen are invited to participate in the fun and excitement of the Order's largest national event. A two-and-a-half minute promotion video is available on the OA Web site, www.oa-bsa.org

Direct Service has been allocated 12 slots for youth and adults. Those members of Gamenowinink Lodge interested in attending need to apply soon as we have until March 1, to fill our slots. After March 1, the slots will be released to other councils. Attendance is open to all Arrowmen who are registered members of BSA and have their council's approval. The conference fee is \$395 for youth and adult members who pay their fees by May 31, 2009. After May 31, the fee will increase to \$450. Direct Service OA members interested in attending this year's NOAC should contact Terry Meyers (terry.meyers@scouting.org) as soon as possible.

BSA CAMP STAFF OPPORTUNITIES

By Kevin Vendeland, Troop 455, Jakarta, Indonesia

Picture this: You roll out of your comfy bed to the sounds of birdsong and the touch of crisp, clear mountain air; enjoy a breakfast that someone else has prepared for you; take a refreshing shower; head off with friends to a pristine mountain lake; sail all day, return for a delicious dinner prepared for you; enjoy a campfire under the stars, and roll back into your comfy bed at the end of the day – and get paid for it!

This is what I have done for the last couple of summers working on camp staff at Camp Hi Sierra in the California mountains. This summer, I helped develop and staff a sailing program – and that's no exaggeration – I got paid to teach sailing all summer! It's a great opportunity to work with younger Scouts, teaching them skills that you have picked up in your Scouting career. Our staff was a coed Venture crew, with Scouts from all over the world working with us. It's a great way to spend two months, making decent money and great friends.

The easiest way to find out about working on staff is to contact a camp you have attended and get an application.

BSA 2010 – A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



The Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary represents much more than a date on the calendar. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tell the entire story of Scouting in America, to celebrate our rich heritage, and to instill a deeper appreciation for the important role that Scouting will play in shaping our country's future. A century of the finest outdoor and leadership experience a boy could have!

This tradition lives on at the pinnacle of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting – the 2010 National Jamboree! From July 26-August 4, 2010, yesterday will merge with tomorrow at the greatest Scouting event of the century. This jamboree will attract 43,000 Scouts and leaders. Imagine 18,000 tents and 3,600 patrol kitchens popping up in a matter of hours making Jamboree City the fastest growing city in Virginia, if not the world! It is the opportunity of a lifetime, one you will never forget. To learn more about this exciting event, visit www.bsajamboree.org. You'll be glad you did!

Direct Service will be sending one troop (36 Scouts and four leaders) to the jamboree. Although 2010 seems a long way off, our planning is well underway. If you know of a Scout who might like to be part of this fantastic event, please let us know. Spaces are still available and will be filled on a first come, first served basis so don't delay.

DIRECT SERVICE SCOUTS IN ACTION

TROOP 8, CARACAS, VENEZUELA

On November 14, 2008, members of Troop 8 visited Taller de Educación Laboral "Dora Bargeño," in Caracas, Venezuela, where they presented materials donated by the American Embassy's charity association, Helping Hands.

The "Dora Bargeño" vocation school is run by the Venezuelan federal government and specializes in teaching children with Downs Syndrome the skill of bookbinding so they can prepare for future employment. The troop was warmly welcomed by teachers and students and they hope to form a lasting relationship with the school in the future.

NEW LONE SCOUT DISCOVERS ADVENTURE IN CANADIAN WILDERNESS

Being a BSA Cub Scout in northern Ontario, Canada, means being a Lone Scout. But for Christian Johnson, 8, and his father and Lone Scout Counselor, David Johnson, that means taking full advantage of the adventures the Canadian wilderness has to offer.

Some of their outings this year have been touring the science and mining museums in Sudbury, Ontario; exploring the architectural and historical wonders of Canada's capital city of Ottawa; and hiking and cycling through the superb trails of northern Ontario.

The highlight of the Cub Scouting summer was a four-day canoe trip down the Mattawa River. The Mattawa is a natural passage through the Algonquin Highlands between Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa River and provided a vital link for natives and early Europeans between the Ottawa River and the Great Lakes. The ancient paddling route was used for centuries by the Nipissing nation for trading, hunting, and gathering. Early 17th century French voyageurs considered the Mattawa as the most challenging section of the Voyageur Waterway, the main canoe route used by fur traders, between the Atlantic Ocean and the northwest. It was Canada's main highway of exploration and commerce for more than 200 years. The Mattawa river environment has changed little from the time of the Voyageur and still includes nine portages around rapids, falls, and between lakes.

TROOP 969 CAMPS AT THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

By Natalie Brown, Committee Member

Living in Shanghai, China, provides some unique camping opportunities for members of Troop 969. On November 7, 2008, a group of 32 including 17 Boy Scouts, four Cub Scouts, and 11 adults embarked on an experience of a lifetime, camping at the Great Wall of China. The trip started at the Shanghai North Train Station for an overnight train ride to Beijing in sleeper cars.



The train ride itself was just the beginning of a fabulous adventure with the Scouts spread throughout the train car playing cards, eating snacks and enjoying fellowship. The group arrived in Beijing at 7 a.m. Saturday where a bus was waiting to take them on the two-hour drive

to the Great Wall.

After arriving at the Wall, the Scouts set up camp, quickly ate a warm lunch and prepared for the hike on the Great Wall. The section of the Wall where the Scouts hiked was a remote area that had not been restored, which made the hike quite challenging with narrow paths, falling rock and wobbly stones. It was a very cold, cloudy and blustery day, but the exertion of the hike rapidly warmed up the group. Everyone felt a huge sense of accomplishment to reach the historical tower where the Scouts paused for photos before the trek back down.

The day concluded with a traditional Boy Scout campfire complete with skits and songs. It was hard to leave the warmth of the campfire when it was time for sleep as the temperature had dropped to below freezing. But as Scouts should be, they were prepared!

The following morning, the Scouts awoke to a beautiful frost-covered field and a bright blue sky. The intense sun and a hot breakfast helped warm up the chilled Scouts. With a little time to spare, the Scouts went for a second hike on the Wall and more photos under the clear skies. What a fantastic day!

After a quick lunch, the group boarded the bus for the return trip to Beijing and then a two-hour flight back to Shanghai. An amazing adventure for all! You know how you know when you've had a great trip? When everyone asks, "When can we go again?!"

NEW PACKS OFF TO A GREAT START

Cub Scout Pack 1911, Guayaquil, Ecuador

Even though Cub Scout Pack 1911 has only been chartered since last October, it already has had some great adventures. On November 21-22, all 15 members of the pack participated in its first camping trip to the Cerro Blanco Nature Preserve.

Their first day of activities included a safety briefing and orientation of the camp site. After that, the boys assisted in setting up the camp and an hour-and-a-half hike into the preserve. During the evening, they feasted on hot dogs, beans, and potato chips around the campfire. After the meal, they played games, sang songs and roasted marshmallows over a blazing fire. The pack received a pleasant surprise that evening when members of the Korean community arrived with pizza and soft drinks for the boys.

On the second day, the group made their breakfast of omelets by putting the egg mixture in plastic bags and dropping them in pots of boiling water. They really enjoyed making their own breakfast. They then prepared some trail mix so they would have energy for the day's two-and-a-half hour hike. Along the way, they heard wild screaming monkeys, saw large tarantulas, and learned several facts about their surroundings and the preserve. The day ended with an awards ceremony where the boys earned their Cub Scout and Tiger totems.

Cub Scout Pack 3456, Rumbai, Indonesia

Like Pack 1911, Cub Pack 3456 has only been in existence for a short while, but Den Leader Robbin Mallett tells us that the boys and parents love Scouting. In the last two months, they delivered gift baskets to four needy Indonesian families. The boys also helped out at a Christmas party held for children from local orphanages.

Their pack meetings are fun, too. Recent meetings included an awesome jungle jeep day, and a remote control airplane and rocket day at the Chevron helipad. For spring, plans are already in the works for a blue and gold banquet, pinewood derby, family campout, and raingutter regatta.

FLYING WITH EAGLES – BSA Troop 07 Sailing in Phuket

By Andrew Moody, Star Scout

Eagles soar, and so did BSA Troop 07 of Singapore as they attended their second fall sailing adventure to Phuket, Thailand October 5-10, 2008. Besides fishing, camping, kayaking and swimming, this year's adventure included the addition of a double Eagle Scout project, as two Troop 07 Scouts, Corbin Weber and Dymock Dibb, worked toward obtaining scouting's highest rank.

Twenty scouts and leaders flew into Phuket, and then headed out to Phang Nya Bay to meet up with the Merdeka, a 90 foot (27.43 meter) sailboat. It was a fantastic start to a week of high adventure, jumping off the bow of the Merdeka free-fall for 16 feet and watching the commercial fishermen spear barracuda!

The trip was not without danger as falling coconuts were rampant in camp. Locals came by to clear them and the husks were used for our campfires at night. During the wilderness survival overnight on the beach of Koh Nok one night, a Scout had a serious wake-up call when he found a Malayan water monitor sitting on his chest. Fortunately it was harmless and scurried off when he woke. A few thunderstorms passed through our camp as well, but nothing managed to spoil the adventure.

Eager to earn their Eagle ranks, Weber and Dibb guided the troop and local volunteers in the renovation of a local school on the small island off Phang Nya Bay. Corbin passed out the scrapers and paint brushes, then went to work repairing doors and building new shoe racks for the students. Dymock's project included the repair and repainting of the school's metal railings and the building of new picnic tables for students to have their lunches. They also put up a new tether ball pole for the playground and taught the kids how to play. Despite the work, there was still plenty of time to horse around and the local kids provided plenty of opportunities. Seeing the smiles on the school kids faces when the collection of school supplies were distributed gave the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily," a whole new meaning.

As swimming is a big part of this trip, stroke by stroke, several Scouts earned the Mile Swim, Snorkeling and Kayaking patches. The crystal clear waters were perfect and the Scouts swam among beautiful coral and alongside yellow-lipped sea snakes, urchins, anemones, clown fish and starfish. Kayaking into the limestone caves and exploring the many types of stalagmites was also an amazing adventure in darkness. With only our headlamps to lead the way, the caves were both eerie and exciting.

Earning merit badges is also a big part of the trip and the Sailing and Fishing merit badges had never been so alluring! Thanks go to our outdoor activities leaders, Scott Weber and Neil Dibb, who guided us through the week and provided for many Scouts a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. I thought this was a good example of what the Boy Scout organization is anywhere – developing the whole person by learning to adapt to new environments, training in new skills, becoming a leader, helping others and making life long friends.

When our family migrated to Singapore a year ago, it was a wonderful surprise to find myself on a Boy Scout campout within weeks of arrival. The old saying, "Birds of a Feather Flock Together," has proven true. It amazes me how many Boy Scouts troops are scattered all over the world. May Boy Scouts never get on the "Endangered List!!!"

CREW 2935 HOSTS HAUNTED HOUSE AND HALLOWEEN PARTY

Story: Emily Simon, Photo: Jayle Ewing and Nick Anderson



We might not look like your average Venturers here in Crew 2935. Our Venture Crew is based in an oil company compound in the deserts of Kuwait, which is home to a diverse mix of nationalities: Americans, Saudis, Kuwaitis, and many others. This multicultural blend is reflected in the activities we participate in. What other Venture Scout group would help to host a Gurgian Party (think Halloween meets the Muslim feast of Ramadan), or take a recreational trip out into the Arabian Gulf on a dhow? We even take part in Spring Camping, spending a night out in the desert – a tradition among the Arabs to get back to their Bedouin roots. Our troop numbers about 15, and our activities range from fundraising dinners to social events. We hone our leadership skills by hosting community-wide events such as Halloween carnivals and scavenger hunts. It is definitely an unusual setting over here in Kuwait, but we make the best of it and aim to help our community, learn a little about leadership, and experience some of the diverse culture that surrounds us - all while having fun in the process!

Troop 222 Consul General Visit

By David Loehden, Scoutmaster

Consul General Charles Wintheiser from the American Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was at Dalat International School on October 10, 2008, to assist the American community in Penang, Malaysia, with passport and other issues. The Scouts in Troop 222 who were working on their Citizenship in the World merit badge arranged to meet with Wintheiser to discuss requirement No. 6 on how the United States government is represented abroad and the functions of the American Embassy.



Besides processing passports, birth certificates and notarizing documents, some of the things the Scouts learned were that the Consul was here in Malaysia to help Americans who may get into trouble or need help. For example, if an American gets arrested for breaking a Malaysian law, the Consul will help make sure the American is treated fairly in the Malaysian judicial system. The Scouts learned that when you live or visit a foreign country, you are subject to the laws of that country.

Another area that the Consul helps Americans abroad is when a person is sick or hospitalized. The Consul is there to help the American get proper treatment and help notify family back home. After our meeting, Wintheiser was going to a hospital in

Penang to visit an American patient. Senior Patrol Leader Reagan Mahoney thanked Wintheiser and presented him with a Direct Service Council shoulder patch. Wintheiser said he was a First Class Scout and collected patches. It was evident that Wintheiser demonstrated the Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in his life. Troop

