



# Troop Trails



The Official Newsletter of Troop 303 Oceanside, New York

<http://www.orgsites.com/ny/bsa-troop-303/>

December 2009

Where does the time go? Here we are loosening our belts from Thanksgiving, with the Holidays looming just around the corner, and our Troop is humming along wonderfully. We had eight boys earn their Space Exploration merit badge at the Cradle of Aviation museum. The highlight of the day was launching the rockets they had built in the approaching dusk. Nothing like the orange fire of a rocket engine in the dark, well until it lands on the roof of the museum at least.

## Bluenose Training

For those who are planning to join us for the first time at the annual Bluenose winter camping event (Feb 13-15), you MUST attend the training on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 5:00pm at Chaminade HS Auditorium. You must be at least 13 years old and First Class to attend Bluenose.

## Oceanside Care Center

We are planning to go to the Oceanside Care Center again this year to celebrate the Holidays with the residents. We will go on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in place of our regularly scheduled Troop meeting. Please plan to meet there at 7:30pm.

## Ski /Snowboard Trip

We are planning a trip to Mt. Peter, NY in January to ski and snowboard. We are planning to go on a Saturday.

## Winter Court of Honor

We will hold our Winter Court of Honor on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are close to a rank advancement, or if you have been working on a merit badge, be sure to complete it by the end of December so you are assured of being recognized in January.

## Patrol Method (cont'd)

We recently reorganized the shed where we keep all the Troop camping equipment. In doing so, we have created individual Patrol Boxes to be used for cooking on overnights. Each Patrol will be issued a Box and can personalize the contents to suit the Patrol. Then they will always have that bottle of special hot sauce or a roll of paper towels when we are out camping.

## Troop Equipment Swap

I had an idea the other night as I was sorting through the accumulated camping equipment in my cellar and garage. Some of it is duplicate and some has been out-grown, so I thought I could donate it to one of the younger boys in the Troop. Then I wondered if other families had similar equipment in their cellars and garages.

So, do you think that we have enough gear between all of us to begin a Troop equipment exchange? We could keep a log of surplus equipment, the families of the new boys could request equipment, and hopefully we could make a match.

If you have extra camping equipment that your son has outgrown; backpacks, sleeping bags, etc. please contact one of the Leaders and let us know what you have. I think this could be the beginning of a great recycling drive within Troop 303!

As always, please feel free to call one of us.

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