



# PIONEER TIMES

TROOP 196

DECEMBER 2007

## SCOUTMASTER CORNER

The new year is almost here and the time to start thinking about a New Year's resolution is right now; rather than wait until New Year's Eve to hastily come up with a lofty goal that hasn't been thought through! I hope some of you resolve to bring up your grades in school by keeping up with homework and paying better attention in class. Or maybe you can be more helpful around the house and take on a few chores without being told. I'm sure your parents would be delighted with those resolutions.

In Scouting, we make a resolution almost every time we meet. Each time we repeat the Scout Oath or Law, we're resolving to do our best to do our duty and to make ourselves the best citizens we can be. As Scoutmaster, I'm inclined to think that resolving to follow the Scout Oath and Law can be the most important resolutions you can make - now and in the time to come. The Oath and Law cover almost everything that makes a good man and a good citizen. So, as each of you starts the New Year, remember the significance of the Oath and Law and think about what we're saying.

Have a wonderful time over the holidays during this season of giving and share the joys of being with family and friends. I hope to see everyone at the Camp Pioneer Holiday Dinner!

Yours in Scouting,  
*Dave Mack*  
 Scoutmaster  
 Troop 196



*We have a new Eagle Scout in the Troop!!!*



**Jim Hull was nominated to National Council of the Boy Scouts that he be designated an Eagle Scout effective December 1, 2007!**

**CONGRATULATIONS, JIM...IT IS WELL DESERVED!**

## Troop Website Updates

[www.scoutingpages.org/us/pa/troop196](http://www.scoutingpages.org/us/pa/troop196)

**Troop Meeting Plans** - The scribe has a new assignment to distribute notes from the monthly Patrol Leader Conference (PLC) where specific plans are made for the upcoming full Troop meetings. Look at the top right side of the screen for information.

**Forms** - A couple new forms have been added at the bottom of the right side. Tax Exempt and Medical Forms for those 40 years and older.

## Avoid Taxes - - Legally !!

When making purchases for the troop, remember to avoid sales taxes by using the tax exempt form found through our website. Our site simply links to the approved form provided on the Keystone Area Council website.



## Help Wanted for District Klondike

Adults or senior scouts interested in helping out with the District Klondike February 2, 2008 are asked to contact Diane Bollinger Home 737-5813, cell phone 329-6318, Work 605-3699 [dlbolinger@hotmail.com](mailto:dlbolinger@hotmail.com) or [diane.bollinger@navy.mil](mailto:diane.bollinger@navy.mil)



### HOLIDAY DINNER AT CAMP PIONEER

#### December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dinner on Saturday is open to Scouts and their families. Please contact Matt Messinger at [messyguy72@yahoo.com](mailto:messyguy72@yahoo.com) by Tuesday Dec 11 so we can plan for the proper amount of food. To defray cost to the Troop, we will be sending an email with a list of foods that you could donate. The Troop is leaving for Camp Pioneer from our normal meeting place on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> around 6:30 pm. Donations can be sent along with them if you wish. Once we have the number of people and a list of donations, we will purchase the rest of the supplies.

### **CAMP PIONEER BRICKS**

If you were present at the 50th Anniversary of the Troop in September or have been to Camp Pioneer since then, hopefully you've seen the engraved bricks that surround the flag pole. Not only have these bricks provided much needed funds to maintain Camp Pioneer, but they provide a means to recognize and honor those people who are a part of Troop 196 or have, at one time, been involved with the Troop. Costs associated with maintaining Camp Pioneer have risen over the last several years, principally with the cost of insurance. If you haven't already done so, please consider ordering an engraved brick for your family, scouting son, or loved ones. This makes a great Christmas or birthday gift that will last forever. In so doing, you will also be contributing to help make Camp Pioneer an excellent place to camp not only for our Troop, but for those who rent our facilities and who help pay for maintaining the property. Forms for ordering bricks may be found at the Troop meeting, through the Troops web site, or by contacting Rick St. Louis, Campmaster, at 728-3115 or via email at [rsstlouis@msn.com](mailto:rsstlouis@msn.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

-  **Troop Meetings December 3, 10, and 17<sup>th</sup>.** Meetings are 6:30-8:00 pm at the Hampden Township Facilities Building.
-  **Roundtable Meeting December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Adult Leaders are invited to the District Roundtable the second Thursday of each month at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church 300 E. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg. December topic is Wilderness Survival.
-  **Holiday at Camp Pioneer December 14-16<sup>th</sup>** – Gift exchange Friday night (nominally around \$15) Scouts (and interested adults present). Bring Class A Uniform for Saturday dinner. Meet at 6:30 pm at Facilities Building for car pool to camp.
-  **Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting for December** will be at Camp Pioneer during the Holiday Weekend.
-  **Merit Badge College January 5<sup>th</sup>.**  
Scouts are responsible for own transportation. Lunch items are available for purchase or bring your own.
-  **Troop Meetings January 7 and 14<sup>th</sup>**  
No Meeting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
-  **Klondike at Camp Pioneer January 18-20.** Sign up for Klondike competition.
-  **January 24<sup>th</sup> Troop Committee Meeting**  
There is no committee meeting for December. All parents are welcome to attend 7:00 pm Navy Depot Officer's Club. (Dinner is at 6:00). Contact Marc Tosiano beforehand to ensure your name is added to the gate roster.
-  **Winter Backpacking January 25-27**
-  **Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>** will be at the Scoutmaster's house 7:00-8:00 pm.