



# PIONEER TIMES

TROOP 196

NOVEMBER 2007

## SCOUTMASTER CORNER

As Americans, we have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. We live in freedom, most of us have an abundance of food and clothing, and we all have adequate shelter. We are as blessed as any people in the world, but sometimes we forget that and gripe that we don't have even more. Let's remember that a lot of the world's population goes to bed hungry in homes that few Americans would want to live in.

So it's good to remind ourselves occasionally that we are lucky and thank God for our blessings. That's what Thanksgiving really is, a time to give thanks. The Pilgrims started it more than 300 years ago when they gathered to thank God for a bountiful harvest.

Today Thanksgiving is a time for family gatherings around a groaning table followed by watching football games. There's nothing wrong with that. But it's important that we don't forget the real meaning of Thanksgiving. So when you sit down with your family for Thanksgiving dinner, take time to count your blessings and thank God for providing them.

Yours in Scouting,  
*Dave Mack*  
Scoutmaster  
Troop 196



## MERIT BADGE COLLEGE January 5<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>

**An excellent opportunity to earn Merit Badges over two Saturdays from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Registration and class scheduling is done on line on the Keystone Area Council Home Page and \$10 payment is sent directly to the Council Office. All fees must be mailed (or dropped off at the Scout Shop) within 2 weeks of registering.**



### Help Wanted for District Klondike

Mrs. B is looking for some adult or senior scout help to plan the February 2, 2008 Klondike. If you ever said "we should've done it this way" then this is your chance to come up with some new ideas. This will only take a few evenings (and of course the weekend). The better planned it is the smoother it will go. So please step up and volunteer. No experience required. Contact: Diane Bollinger  
Phone numbers  
Home 737-5813, cell phone 329-6318,  
Work 605-3699  
dlbolinger@hotmail.com or  
diane.bollinger@navy.mil



## Wreath Orders

Holiday Wreath orders are due by the November 5<sup>th</sup> Troop Meeting. \$16 each – specify tartan (plaid) or red bow. Each scout turning in an order form will be contacted to coordinate deliveries the week before Thanksgiving. \$2.50 per order will be credited to each scout's account.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Roundtable Meeting November 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. This month the topic is Backpack Cooking and December will cover Wilderness Survival.
- Camp Pioneer Clean Up November 9-11<sup>th</sup>.** The scouts and adults are needed on Saturday to help clear, cut, and split wood. Scouts will go up on Friday for the weekend and overnighiter adults are needed too. Adults are needed to help Saturday, be sure to sign up so we have a head count for lunch and write down the equipment you are bringing.
- Troop Meeting November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 Although Veteran's Day is being observed on Monday, school is in session and so the Troop meeting will be held; however, there will be no Troop meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. (There will be a PLC instead)
- Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Facilities Building 7:00 - 8:00 pm.**

- Appalachian Trail Hike November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 Wertzville Road to Route 850. Meet at the Facilities Building at 8:00 am Saturday. Class B attire and pack a lunch.
- No Meeting November 26 (Buck Day).**
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Troop Committee Meeting** All parents are welcome to attend 7:00 pm Navy Depot Officer's Club. (Dinner is at 6:00). Contact Diane Bollinger at [dbolinger@navy.mil](mailto:dbolinger@navy.mil) to add your name to the list at the gate.
- Wilderness Survival Weekend at Hidden Valley November 30 – December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Wear plenty of layers and bring your flint and steel to start a fire. (this is a change from the backpacking event shown on the calendar)
- Holiday at Camp Pioneer December 14-16<sup>th</sup>** – Dinner on Saturday is open to family and friends. A sign up list will be put out for food items to bring and we will roast turkeys on the open fire and probably deep fry one too.

## BATTLESHIP KIM'S GAME

Each patrol sets a table on its side as a barrier, so that the other patrols can't see behind it. On the floor mark a 7x7 grid, with horizontal axis A to G and vertical axis 1 to 7. Then take ten items and place them at random on the grid. The patrols are now given five minutes to look at each other's grids and try and memorize the locations of as many items as they can. After five minutes they each retire behind their barricades. Each patrol in turn fires three shots. For a shot they must say the name of the patrol they are firing at, the grid reference and what item is at that grid reference. If they are correct then they capture that item. Each patrol only gets 3 shots per round. After a set number of rounds, the patrol that has captured the most items is the winner. This is a memory game, no pencils and paper allowed.