



# TROOP 9 NEWS

March  
2011

www.troop9stamford.org

\* Color version of the Troop 9 newsletter is available online \*

## Calendar Highlights

### March

**Fri., 3/18 - Sun., 3/20**

Pioneering @  
Ward Pound  
Ridge Reservation,  
Pound Ridge, NY



**Thurs., 3/31**

Court of Honor, FUMC, 7:15  
p.m.

### April

**Sat., 4/9 - Sun., 4/10**

Backpacking on  
the CT section of  
the Appalachian  
Trail



**Sat., 4/16**

Service Project at Camp  
Rocky Craig, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Thurs., 4/21**

**NO MEETING**

## Eagles soar!

Troop 9 has another  
Eagle Scout!

**Zack Czelada** passed his  
Eagle Board of  
Review on Fri-  
day, February  
25th!



Congratulations Zack!

## Pioneering at Ward Pound Ridge

The campout on March 18-20 at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Pound Ridge, NY will be used to focus on pioneering skills. Pioneering - the knowledge of ropes, knots, and splices along with the ability to build rustic structures by lashing together poles and spars - is among the oldest of Scouting's skills. Practicing rope use and completing projects with lashings also allow Scouts to connect with past generations, ancestors who used many of these skills as they sailed the open seas and lived in America's forests and prairies.

Scouts attending this weekend outing will have the opportunity to work on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> class advancement requirements and the Pioneering Merit Badge. Scouts will also be able to work on the Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit.

Scouts will meet at the church at 6:30 Friday evening; additional details will be given prior to this weekend. Please see Mr. Warren Jervey, trip coordinator for this weekend, if you would like to sign up or if you have any questions. Permission slips and food money should be turned in to him on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Butternut Ski Trip



The Ski Trip to Butternut Mountain, scheduled for Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to heavy rain, closing the mountain for the day.

## Merit Badge College News

The month-long Merit Badge College is almost concluded! Thirteen Scouts from Troop 9 have been making the trek on Saturday mornings for the last month to Wallingford to partake of the many merit badge offerings. Each Scout is working towards the completion of three merit badges, and most have at least one Eagle-required badge. A little effort may be needed outside of the merit badge college to finish some of the badges, but hopefully you'll be hearing about most of them at the Court of Honor on Thursday, March 31st.

For some comments from a MBC participant, see page 2.

## Scoutmaster's Corner

The ending of any Scouting event is just as important as the beginning.

Prior to the departure for an event, you will be given an approximate time when your son should be picked up. On the return day of the campout, each Scout is given the opportunity to call on the way back and give you a one hour notice for pickup (a phone from the adult driver is available for this purpose.) Usually this phone call takes place approximately 30 minutes prior to our arrival back in Stamford. This gives the boys about 30 additional minutes to secure the Troop gear brought on the campout and assign gear to individual Scouts to be taken home. After the gear is stowed away properly and take home equipment is assigned, then, and only then, is the Scout dismissed.

Just to be clear, this means once we arrive back at the Troop meeting place there is still part of the program the boys are expected to participate in. This process should take approximately 30 minutes. It should not be expected that you will pick your son up the moment he arrives back from the outing. Also to be fair to our adult leaders, we ask that parents are there to pick up their son and not make the leaders wait longer than necessary after dismissal.



News or photos you'd like to share with Troop 9? Send them to Holly Connolly at [connollys@ilex2.com](mailto:connollys@ilex2.com)

Photos of most Troop 9 activities can be found at <http://troop9stamford.shutterfly.com>

# Patrol News

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Last Thursday, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Troop 9 had the privilege of having a fun swim night at the Italian Center of Stamford. As we first entered the pool area we had to sign in, then we had to take on a somewhat challenging swim test. Everybody had to complete this swim test before being able to participate in free swim or do any other activities in the pool. After that point while most other people were having free swim, a group of other people and I had the chance to participate in learning how to save someone with a life preserver. All and all, I think we all had a great time and hope to do it again some-time soon.

Ryan F.

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The Merit Badge College is something all Scouts should try as soon as they reach the rank of First Class. It's a great opportunity to earn merit badges, and it doesn't take much time. Whether you're looking for Eagle-required badges, or just something fun, the college has it all. I have earned a total of 6 merit badges at the college so far, three of which were Eagle-required. The college is also a great way to earn the badges needed for advancement for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. Overall, I'd say going to the college was probably one of the best choices I've made in all of Scouting.

Colin M.

# Camp Sequassen



**February 11-13, 2011**

Ice fishing and sledding were two of the activities to take place during the cabin camping trip on the weekend of Feb. 11-13. There was still plenty of snow on the ground, ice on the pond, but the fish seemed to be missing!



Photo: George Vibien

# Scout Sunday

**February 27, 2011**

Scout Sunday was observed on February 27, 2010 at First United Methodist Church. There were seventeen Scouts in attendance, in addition to three adult leaders and some Troop 9 family members. Reverend Dr. McArthur, Senior Pastor of FUMC, welcomed the Scouts and remarks were made regarding their contributions to the parish and community, as well as the value of Scouting. Reverend McArthur was presented with a donation from Troop 9 to be used for community outreach. Pictured below, Senior Patrol Leader Sean N. addressing the congregation, as well as some of the Scouts who were in attendance at the service. Following the service, Troop 9 hosted a reception for the parishioners.



Photos: Frank Connolly