



FEBRUARY 2011 - THREE-ONE YEARS OF THE SIGNALER - Volume 31, No. 2

Website: <http://www.troop264olney.net> E-mail: connect264@verizon.net

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines (Refer to calendars for specific times.)

February

- 7 Patrol meeting
- 10 District Roundtable
- 11-13 Ski Trip to Seven Springs
- 14 Troop meeting
- 17 Troop Adult Meeting (8 PM), Brookeville Academy
- 18 Sharp Street Food Bank, 4:15 PM
- 19 Eagle Ceremony – Holland M. and Tripp K.
- 21 TLC / BOR – Patrol planning for Webelos visit
- 28 Webelos Visit Night, 7:30 PM

Venturing Crew 264 – 6:30 to 7:30 PM 1st and 3rd Mondays
7:00 to 7:30 PM 2nd and 4th Monday

March

- 4 ½ day of school
- 7 Patrol meeting
- 10 District Roundtable
- 12-13 USNS Comfort at Baltimore (?)
- 14 Troop Meeting
- 17 Troop Adult Meeting (8 PM), Brookeville A.
- 18 Sharp Street Food Bank, 4:15 PM
- 19 Mulch delivery
- 19 Penn State Nuclear Science merit badge
- 20 Eagle Ceremony – David L. and Max S.
- 21 TLC / BOR
- 25-27 Merit Badge Madness
- 28 Troop meeting
- 31 No school

First 2011 Eagles – Chris Chirigos and Gerad Sherman

Congratulations to Chris and Gerad on passing their District Eagle Boards of Review on January 21!

Their names are now enshrined in the T264 Eagles' Virtual Roll of Fame
at <http://www.troop264olney.net/Eagles.html>

**Eagle Courts of Honor are presently
scheduled for our recent Eagles as follows:**

- Tripp and Holland – February 19
- Max and David – March 20
- Scott and Jim – April 9



February 2011

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Ventures 6:30 PM Patrol meeting	8	9	10 District Roundtable (Vikings)	11 Ski Trip to Seven Springs (Hawks)	12 Ski Trip to Seven Springs (Hawks)
13 Ski Trip to Seven Springs (Hawks)	14 Ventures 7 PM Troop meeting Service: Ninjas Open: Hawks Skill: Vikings MB: Foxes	15	16	17 Troop Adult Meeting, Brookeville Academy 8 PM	18 Sharp Street Food Bank, 4:15 PM	19 Eagle Court of Honor for Holland M. and Tripp K.
20	21 Ventures 6:30 PM TLC/BOR and Patrol Planning for Webelos Visit Night Presidents' Day (no school)	22 Signaler meeting 7 PM	23	24	25	26 Nursing Home Visit 11 AM (Vikings)
27	28 4th Annual Webelos Visit Night Service: Orcas Open: Ninjas					

March 2011

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
					(1/2 day school)	
6	7 Patrol meeting	8	9	10 District Roundtable (Sharks)	11	12 USNS Comfort at Baltimore (Foxes)
13 USNS Comfort at Baltimore (Foxes)	14 Troop meeting Service: Orcas Open: Hawks Skill: Sharks MB: Crusaders	15	16	17 Troop Adult Meeting at Brookeville 8 PM	18 Sharp Street Food Bank, 4:15 PM	19 Mulch Delivery Penn State Nuclear Science MB
20 Eagle Court of Honor David and Max	21 TLC/BOR	22 Signaler meeting 7 PM	23	24	25 Merit Badge Madness (Ninjas + Bickel)	26 Nursing Home Visit Sharks Merit Badge Madness (Ninjas + Bickel)
27 Merit Badge Madness (Ninjas + Bickel)	28 Troop meeting Service: Ninjas Open: Crusaders Skill: Foxes MB: Hawks	29	30	31 (no school)		

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Webelos Cub Scouts Visit Night – February 28

The troop will hold its Fourth Annual Webelos visit night on Monday February 28, 7:30 to about 9 PM, at St. John's, in place of the regular troop meeting. Webelos II Cub Scouts from local packs, and parents, will come to visit. Boys who are not presently in Cub Scouts, but who may be considering Boy Scouts, are also welcome to attend, along with their parents.

Each patrol will be demonstrating skills learned and used in Boy Scouts. Patrol skill assignments will be made by the TLC. Scouts and scouters in contact with local Cub Scout packs should make them aware of this opportunity and get this on their calendars. Questions can be directed to connect264@verizon.net. This has been a popular event every year to date and we expect it to be equally so this time.

This is YOUR opportunity to show Cub Scouts and parents what Scouting has done for you, and how much fun there is beyond Cub Scouts. We hope it will kindle enthusiasm in the Webelos scouts to tread the same path beyond Cub Scouts, whether with Troop 264 or elsewhere. Information about Troop 264 is always available on the troop's website, www.troop264olney.net, and in the recent *Signaler* newsletters therein, and via e-mail at connect264@verizon.net.

Troop Dues Due

Troop dues are being collected in each patrol by the Patrol Dads. The amount this year is \$50 per scout and \$20 per registered adult. Make checks to BSA Troop 264. Most scouts and adults have paid the dues for the year, thank you very much!

Dues help pay for the troop's activities, equipment, merit badges, and other awards in a fair manner. Dues also help the troop avoid the need for more extensive fundraising, other than the wreath/ornament sales and spring mulch sales currently in place.

"Friends of Scouting" 2011

The Friends of Scouting (FOS) Campaign, currently underway, is vital to the Scouting programs in the National Capital Area Council (NCAC) and to Troop 264. The annual FOS fundraiser provides support for the professional Scout staff, Scout shop, Scout camps, Scouting programs and organized events, and adult training programs.

A letter dated January 24 from me was mailed to each Scout family. Enclosed with the letter were a pledge card and a self-addressed envelope to facilitate the return of the contribution. If you did not receive the letter with enclosures, or have misplaced it, please let me know and I can provide you with another copy. *If you have already sent me your contribution, thank you very much.* If you haven't yet completed the pledge card and written your check (payable to NCAC), please consider doing it now, and return it to me as soon as possible.

The Scouts of Troop 264 and the NCAC thank you for all your support.

Norman Strickman, FOS Campaign Coordinator

Questions? Call me at (301) 570-4712

Mulch Sales

Remember mulch sales from last year? They represent an important part of the troop's income as well as a source of scout credits for individual scouts. Sales will be starting up soon with delivery expected in March. Start canvassing your contacts now! Additional information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Ski Trip – February 11-13

Troop 264 Ski Trip to Seven Springs Ski Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania!!

Troop's 264 ski trip to the awesome Seven Springs resort in Champion, PA is almost here! Depart Friday February 11 for a snow-filled weekend. Helmets are required from BSA.... lots of fun as well. Lift tickets lodging, breakfast buffet Sat and Sun, dinner buffet Sat night, indoor pool are included in price of \$185. Bring extra snax to share or just for yourself-whatever! It's COLD and depending on how much you fall down, it's wet! Bring the right clothes, bring energy, bring an empty stomach for the buffets and bring your great scout attitude. Arrival back home Sunday evening. Questions, see Mrs Justus.

~ Mrs. Helen Justus nelehmaj@verizon.net

Sharp Street Food Bank – February 18, 4:15 PM

Participants at the January 14 food bank: Holland M. and Mrs. Aimee M.

The next Sharp Street Food Bank will be at 4:15 PM on February 14 and all are welcome to come and assist with the food setup. Bring donations of unexpired canned goods too!

Nuclear Science Merit Badge at Penn State University – March 19

Mr. Bickel was fortunate enough to snag 8 spaces out of 60 available for the Nuclear Science merit badge, to be offered at Penn State University at State College, PA on March 19. This is a popular program and spaces are not readily obtained. Regretfully, more slots are not available for the troop at this time. In response to an earlier troop-wide e-mail, the eight scouts listed below are signed up to complete the merit badge. Prerequisite work will be distributed in mid-February to the listed scouts. The merit badge program includes a tour of Penn State's research reactor. T264 Eagle Scout Chris C. has offered a tour of the campus afterward (wear good shoes – big campus!).

Expect an early 5 AM departure from Olney on the morning of March 19, with a return to Olney around 11 PM. State College, PA is four hours' drive from Olney and we will need to arrive by 9:30 AM. More details to follow over the next month.

Signed up: Sean L. Jonathan G. Gavin M. David R. Jacob W. Justin S.
Bradley N. Jeremy N. Mrs. Christiane R. Mr. Dirk W. Mr. Tim G. Mr. Dennis B.

Merit Badge Madness – March 25 - 27

We have sent in merit badge requests for 25 scouts for Merit Badge Madness and we're awaiting word as to who got what. I will send an e-mail to each scout once confirmation is received. Cost for merit badge registration is \$15.00, attending adults \$7, plus there will be additional costs to be determined for the weekend's food.

Merit Badge Madness is conducted on the last weekend each year on the last weekend in March, by the Four Rivers District of the Baltimore Area Council. It is sited in Odenton, Maryland, on the grounds of the Annapolis Area Christian School (also called Sullin's Farm), at 109 Burns Crossing Road, 45 minutes east of Olney, off MD Route 32.

More details to follow as plans crystallize. If any scouts want to use this as an opportunity to complete First Class cooking requirements, please let me know!

~ Dale Bickel connect264@verizon.net

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Advancement Camp at Camp Twin Echo, near Ligonier PA – July 2011

The list of merit badges for Advancement Camp 2011 has been posted at <http://www.gpc-bsa.org/Program/Camping/Advancement%20Camp.aspx> . Scouts can pick up 6 merit badges out of the eight offered each week. Cost is \$290 for a week and that includes all meals.

Week 1, “Tech Week”, is July 10 to 16. This is the week BEFORE the troop goes to regular summer camp. That means one night to wash laundry and repack before heading out to summer camp. This is the most likely week for interested T264 scouts to attend.

Week 2, “Arts Week”, is July 17 to 23 which is the SAME WEEK as T264's summer camp. Can't do both summer camp and Week 2 at the same time, unless you're magic.

The merit badge camp is run by the Greater Pittsburgh Council at Camp Twin Echo, near Ligonier, PA (about 3 hours from Olney). There are tents already pitched for scouts to camp in. Most badges have prerequisite work that needs to be done before the scout arrives, but at this time the requirements to be completed in advance have not yet been posted.

We do not do this as a troop, scouts must register for it individually and arrange their own transportation. But the past few years there have been several scouts attending so carpooling may be possible.

U.S.N.A. NESA Jamboree – January 14 - 16

We left Friday evening for the hour drive to YMCA Camp Letts near Annapolis, MD, where the midshipmen from the Naval Academy were planning to hold the Jamboree. When we arrived, there only a very few troops camping on the field. Far fewer than last year. As it turned out, many were staying in the camp's cabins to beat the cold, an option unavailable last year. So we picked a site between the gravel road and the South River and set up camp just 15 feet from the water.



← Radio
Merit
badge

It went down to 29 degrees on Friday night. Next morning, Justin and Mr. S. arrived just as the opening ceremonies began. Scouts then went to their respective merit badges, which were



taught by Naval Academy midshipmen who are also Eagle scouts. A break for lunch during the “heat” of the day, then back for the afternoon merit badge, followed by supper at the campsite and the evening show. We were up before dawn Sunday and out by 8:30 AM.

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

The radio merit badge was so-so, according to Willy, but from what I saw that might have been because the counselors were trying to compress a lot into a short time. Jim lost his "Space Exploration merit badge" rocket in the South River on the first launch and it could not be recovered, floating well beyond reach and beyond the thin ice on the edge of the river. Justin seemed satisfied with the merit badges he completed that day.

If we have interest, we may try to attend in 2012. Scouts must be 14 and First Class to attend (their rules).

~Mr. Dale Bickel

Participants (nights camped)(polar bear points):

William S. (2)(3) Justin S. (1)(0) Jim B. (2)(3) Mr. Dale B. (2)(3) Mr. Mark R. (2)(3) Mr. Bret S. (1)(0)

Winter Campout – January 21 – 23

Saturday morning, we collected at St. John's and drove to White's Ferry in westernmost Montgomery County. The ferry to Virginia was closed due to ice on the Potomac River. The daytime temperature started out at about 24° and never recovered. But we started hiking northward on the C&O Canal toward our campsite, 6.5 miles away. After about an hour of walking (which kept us warm), we stopped at the Marble Quarry campsite for lunch. Here there was a table to sit on. Lunch was provided by Brian H. as one segment of his First Class cooking requirements. After lunch and cleanup, we continued toward the campsite at Indian Flats.



The trail was bare (and solidly frozen) earth or gravel in many places, but for a little less than half of the way, the trail was covered by crunchy refrozen snow with occasional ice patches. These occurred mainly in the more shaded segments of the trail. The adjacent canal was solidly frozen, and scouts were unable to puncture the ice by throwing heavy objects on it.



Around 2 PM we reached the parking lot adjacent to the Monocacy Aqueduct. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Bogan arrived with Jim. We hauled all the camping and cooking gear across the Aqueduct to the campsite on the far side, including most of the firewood we were to burn that night. The adjacent Potomac River



was filled with broken ice which could be heard crunching as the river current pushed it along. Brian H. provided us with a good supper, and there was plenty to go around. Jim as "Master of Fire" kept piling logs on the fire inside the fire ring, so we were warm enough (on one side anyway) although this meant the firewood dwindled at a fast rate. Eventually, we let the fire die and retired for the night. The temperature dropped to 14° Saturday night.

A simple breakfast Sunday morning, and Jim restarted the fire with the little remaining firewood we had left. After warming up, we set about packing everything back to the cars, requiring three or four trips by everyone. Jim covered the coals in the fire ring with river ice to make sure the fire was out. Once packed, we departed for home.

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Participants. 1 night camped and 18 polar bear points, except as noted.
All but Jim and Mr. Dennis B. hiked 6.5 miles.

Bradley N. Jeremy N. Peter B. Jim B. Brian H. Gavin M.
Mr. Dennis B. Mr. Dale B. Mr. Al B. Mr. Tom H. Mr. Martin P. (did not camp)

Nursing Home Visit – January 29

The **Hawk Patrol** was asked to start off with the January 29 nursing home visit, at 11 AM at the Friends Nursing Home on Norwood Road. However, no report or participants was received in time for this issue of the *Signaler*.

Patrol leaders, please take the initiative and get your patrol's scouts to attend! Attendance was sparse or nonexistent some times over the past year. It's the Viking patrol's turn in February, followed by the Sharks in March.

Scouting University at Elizabethtown University – January 29



Four T264 scouts attended Scouting University at Elizabethtown, PA, about two hours' drive from Olney. We arrived at Elizabethtown University at 7:45 AM, and scouts checked in and received their T-shirts. After the opening ceremonies, scouts dispersed to different rooms and buildings to start work. Noontime brought lunch and then the afternoon merit badges were completed.

Scouting University occurs annually, with registration starting in late October or early November. There are Girl Scout badges too. Search for "Scouting University Elizabethtown" in October to find current information on the 2012 Scouting University.

Participants: Michael R. Gavin M. Jacob W. Jim B. Mr. Mark R. Mr. Dale B.

National Outdoor Awards

The National Outdoor Awards are aimed at our older, more active-in-scouting scouts.

The National Outdoor Award consists of a center patch and 1 to 5 surrounding panels, recognizing Camping, Riding, Adventure, Aquatics and Hiking. These panels are not easy to earn: they require extensive effort in the subject(s) under consideration. Each panel can be earned individually. There are gold and silver devices available in each area too for additional activities in that area.



This award was covered in the last Scouting magazine, and there is a good summary of the awards and requirements online at <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2010/08/bsa-national-outdoor-awards.html>

The application for the award is the first page of <http://scoutingmag.typepad.com/files/nationaloutdoorawards.pdf> (the remaining two pages are the application for the still more elusive Medal).

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Since the award forms have to be approved by Council before the award is made, the National Outdoor Badge application form has to be signed by the Scoutmaster and referred through the troop's Advancement Coordinator, Mr. Matyas.

Scouts need to informally document that the requirements have been met. The troop has a list of merit badges earned, nevertheless, list the ones that apply toward the award(s). For counting up the number of nights camped (or similar requirement), scouts can use back issues of Signalers to document the numbers. Mr. Matyas might also be persuaded to give an eligible T264 scout the information he has on record.

How to Become a Merit Badge Counselor

Briefly, here's the process for signing up as a merit badge counselor...

1) Adult application -- this is the same one you used to register with the troop. For some unknown but undoubtedly senseless reason, each merit badge counselor needs to fill this out even if already registered with the troop and council via this same form. <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>

On the form, there is a line near the top marked "Pack Troop Team Crew Ship Unit No. " Skip all these and in the box on the right, Under "Council/District Position", write "Merit Badge Counselor".

District is Montgomery, Council is NCAC.

On the lower left, there is a box marked "Position Code", enter "42", to the right of that, in "Scouting Position Description", write Merit Badge Counselor.

You may want to fill everything out EXCEPT dates and signatures, and make a copy of the pages to be saved for next time.

Sign and date the form.

2) Counselor form -- List the merit badges you want to be counselor for.

<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=33381&orgkey=1988>

If you might be a counselor for a merit badge that hasn't come up yet, it might be easier to register for it now rather than go through this registration process again later. We can have more than one counselor for a merit badge, so don't be afraid to sign up for one that already has a counselor.

3) Youth Protection Certificate -- Include a copy of your current Youth Protection Training (YPT) Certificate. Make a copy of the one you have, or go online to www.myscouting.org to take the course there or to print out a completion certificate. It's easy and should take about half an hour to complete the course.

4) Turn in all these items to Mr. Gary Matyas and he will do his voodoo to make them disappear. You don't have to wait for any further approval before starting to counsel the merit badge. Very probably, you will never hear anything back from Council.

As long as you stay registered with the troop, you do not have to fill these forms out each year. Merit badge counselors not registered with the troop have to redo this process once a year.

As counselor, you are in control. You can limit the size of sessions (number of participants) to suit your requirements. You cannot add or subtract requirements, but you can include additional material that might be helpful

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

for the merit badge, such as handouts, provided that the scouts aren't held responsible for the additional material. Your own son can be included in a session, and there should be at least 2 scouts for a merit badge. Merit badge counselors must be at least 18 years of age. At least two adults should be present at any session, or at least the second adult should have a plain view of the counselor and scouts.

Merit Badge list: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badges

New Medical Form for 2011

The National office just released a new medical form. <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf>

~ Mr. Magne Gundersen

A quick inspection of the form suggests that it should be suitable for use on trips to all national High Adventure bases – Northern Tier, Philmont, and Seabase – as well as summer camps and lesser activities.

Do You Need to Review Your Knots?

If you need to review your knots prior to your next BOR or the next campout, check out <http://www.animatedknots.com>. It is very good for visually demonstrating how to tie knots. Click on the Scouting Emblem for knot demonstrations.

Getting Credit for Troop Activities

It's important that everyone who participates in Troop 264 campouts, trips, and community service activities gets credit for their hard work. *The Signaler* provides the permanent record of everyone who attends these events. **Patrol leaders need to take responsibility for collecting the names of participants** in their patrols and send those lists, preferably by email, to the Signaler staff by the monthly deadline. E-mail lists to connect264@verizon.net. **This month's deadline: February 24.**

Troop Activity Policy

Please be reminded that it is troop policy (and common courtesy) for a scout or scouter to pay the costs associated with an event he or she has signed up for but did not attend, without being asked. No-shows increase the costs to the troop and the participants, require the troop to reserve unneeded space and transport excess equipment, and results in wasted food and materials. We realize that situations inevitably will occur that prevent a scout from attending events, and ask that the scout or scouter contact the person organizing the event right away. If the conflict is raised early enough, adjustments can often be made where food has not yet been purchased or reservations have not been finalized.

Video Training for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class

Scouting.org has videos available to help scouts with the rank requirements of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. These short videos include the 2010 requirements listed for Tenderfoot through First Class.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Applications/RankVideo.aspx>

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Troop Library

Hi, my name is Brandon. I am the Troop 264 librarian. If you need any merit badge books please see me or email me at pkorzel@aol.com. We have a large selection from A-Z (for example, Archery, Communications, First Aid, Personal Management, and many more). I also accept books from other scouts who would like to turn in their books to our library. Please see me first before you purchase your merit badge books.

~ Brandon pkorzel@aol.com

Please remember to return any books you may have checked out from the troop library!

Drivers' Information for BSA Tour Permits

It is time to update our records for adult drivers on scout outings. BSA requires that we obtain a local tour permit for activities involving overnight camping or any day trip in excess of 50 miles from Olney. Part of the tour permit process asks for a list of drivers and related information.

Tour permits ensure that the activity is approved by the local NCAC council, thus helping to insure the safety of the scouts and participants. It also helps shield any one person from litigation and kicks in the council's insurance, should anything unforeseen happen. So it's not a trivial matter that can be ignored.

Having this information safely stored in the BSA's tour permit system also makes it very easy to select drivers when electronically filing for a tour permit.

Print this page, and please provide the following information. This is no more than the tour permit application asks for. **PRINT CLEARLY.**

Name (First – Middle -- Last): _____ Age: _____

Drivers' License No: _____ State: _____

Make, Model, and Year of Vehicle _____

Number of Seatbelts _____ Everyone to use seatbelts? **Y** (No other option!)

Insurance amounts (per person / per accident / property damage): _____
(This is often written as 300,000 / 300,000 / 100,000. Your numbers may differ.)

Turn in this information to Mr. Dale Bickel who will enter this data into the tour permit system. This information will be kept confidential. I do not recommend that you e-mail this info.

~ Mr. Dale Bickel

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Training Information for BSA Tour Permits

Like the drivers' information, the tour permit process also asks for training information for scouters and adults. This helps insure that the adults on any activity have the proper training for that activity.

**** All registered adult scouters were required to be current in Youth Protection training by the last day of 2010. **** If you missed this date, please complete this training online ASAP! This is a requirement imposed by the National BSA this past year. We need to be able to tell the council that all registered leaders have been so trained before we can recharter the troop. (All Northern Tier-bound adults need Youth Protection training too.) And (adults) your Boy Scout registration cannot be extended until you complete this training. So avoid the nationwide rush and do so now!

We encourage all adults to complete the training whether registered or not. You can take the training online in about half an hour at www.myscouting.org. Please print out two copies of the completion certificate and give one to Mr. Gary Matyas. Send Mr. Bickel an e-mail with the date of completion at connect264@verizon.net, and he will also enter it in the tour permit system. Keep the other copy where you can find it.

You may take other training modules online in the same manner. "This Is Scouting", "Hazardous Weather", and "Swim Safely" are the most common. For non-BSA training such as CPR or "Wilderness First Aid", just provide us with a copy of the completion card. Scouts are welcome to complete the online courses too.

Please return this to Mr. Dale Bickel.

Quick list, for your use:

Name: _____ Age: _____

BSA Training	Date completed	Non-BSA Training	Date Completed	Expires	Agency giving training
Youth Protection	_____	CPR	_____	_____	_____
This Is Scouting	_____	Wilderness First Aid	_____	_____	_____
Hazardous Weather	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Swim Safely	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trek Safely	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Climb On Safely	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Northern Tier High Adventure Base – June 27 – July 6, 2011 !

5 months away! Are you ready yet?

The next installment to Northern Tier is due March 1, and will be collected in February, once we get the bill. We also need to make arrangement for airlines, charter bus, and an overnight campsite. The pace of preparations is picking up! We will have a Northern Tier crews meeting on Monday February 7 to go over where we are and what we need to do next.

Troop 264 is preparing to send 5 crews to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base in 2011. This camp is run by the National BSA and is one of only three such bases in the country (the others being Philmont and Seabase). We will arrive at the Charles L. Sommers base at Ely (“E-lee”), MN on Tuesday June 28 and leave it July 6. (We will have to travel to Minnesota on Sunday June 26 or Monday June 27, so keep those dates open too.) This will give us 7 days on the water. Our registration (made during the opening minutes of the 2011 reservation season) and initial and second payment have been accepted. In addition we have reserved 15 lightweight canoes (3 per crew) which weigh about 45 pounds each, as opposed to 70 pounds for the standard canoes. You WILL appreciate the weight difference on each and every portage, and find it well worth the added cost. Presently we have collected \$400 from nearly all participants listed below to cover the initial costs of registration and canoes. Remaining amounts due to Northern Tier will be collected in February. Additional airfare, bus, border crossing permits (for crews A, B, and E), and related issues and costs will be worked out early in 2011.

We will have a “meeting of the crews” on Monday February 7 at 7:15 to about 7:45 PM at St. John’s. I realize that this takes a 15 minute bite out of both the Venturing Crew and troop patrol meeting, but it’s the most convenient way to accommodate both those attending either the crew or patrol meetings.

The main website, that interested scouts and scouters are encouraged to peruse, is <http://www.ntier.org>. **Also look at the newly released 2011 Planning Guide at <http://www.ntier.org/Resources/Brochures/2011%20ERPG.pdf>** . Take a few minutes and thumb through it.

Cost is still on track toward \$1600 per person, but as there are a lot of variables (particularly airfare), it is not possible to narrow the cost much further at this point.

Scouts should have the Swimming merit badge before we go, and we recommend that scouts complete the Canoeing merit badge at the earliest opportunity. You WILL use the skills learned from each of these merit badges. There will be a swim test when we arrive at Northern Tier. It’s the standard BSA swim test. We plan to hold a canoeing opportunity in April or May depending on what can be arranged. Please make an effort to attend.

Northern Tier staff has confirmed that crews can start on the same trek on the same day, but in opposite directions. Presently there are two crews that want to do the Agnes Lake Loop, two that want to do the Scenic Lakes Loop, and the fifth crew selected the Man Chain.

Permits have been reserved for us in the BWCAW and in Quetico. We pay for these permits, and fishing licenses, once we arrive at Northern Tier. Ditto for crew maps.

Training. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Paul Fowler, we have at least one Wilderness First Aid trained adult in each crew, as required for each Northern Tier crew. BRING the Wilderness First Aid and CPR cards to Northern Tier, as we will need to display them at check-in.

Medical Forms: Northern Tier medical forms will need to be filled out for each scout and adult participant by May of next year. In the meantime, pay attention to the following chart and start making any needed adjustments now:

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

HEIGHT	RECOMMENDED WEIGHT (LBS.)	MAXIMUM ACCEPTANCE (LBS.)
5' 0"	97-138	166
5' 1"	101-143	172
5' 2"	104-148	178
5' 3"	107-152	183
5' 4"	111-157	189
5' 5"	114-162	195
5' 6"	118-167	201
5' 7"	121-172	207
5' 8"	125-178	214
5' 9"	129-185	220
5' 10"	132-188	226
5' 11"	136-194	233
6' 0"	140-199	239
6' 1"	144-205	246
6' 2"	148-210	252
6' 3"	152-216	260
6' 4"	156-222	267
6' 5"	160-228	274
6' 6"	164-234	281
6' 7" & taller	170-240	295

This table is based on the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Resources. Please take note of it since it applies to Northern Tier participants.

Swim Test: Each participant will be required to take a swim test in April 2011 here in Maryland and then again upon arrival at Northern Tier. This is the standard BSA swimmer test: swim 100 yards, float on your back. You are encouraged to practice at local pools over the winter.

Notice to participants: Like Northern Tier, the troop or other participants cannot pay for your share of the expenses, those are your (or the parents') responsibility. However, if an issue comes up that prevents a scout or scouter from going, we will endeavor to find a replacement (but no guarantees that we can do so).

Crew who, as of January 31, for NT # E062811 :

<i>Crew A</i>	<i>Crew B</i>	<i>Crew C</i>	<i>Crew D</i>	<i>Crew E</i>
Anthony J.	Michael R.	Kevin S.	Allison M.	Kevin C.
Jim B.	Ryan K.	Patrick S.	Jacen S.	Matthew M.
William S.	Enrique A.	Peter B.	Barton H.	Jacob W.
Gerad S.	Miguel A.	Justin S.	Gina H.	Joshua F.
Joe M.	Jeremy N.	Mr. Rich S.	Mr. Gary S.!	Mr. Tom M.
Mr. Rick J.*	Mrs. Cindy K.	Mr. Al B.!	Mr. Bart H.*	Mr. Dirk W.*!
Mr. Gary M.	Mr. Mark K.	Mr. Bret S.*	Mrs. Laura H.	Mr. Jim C.*
Mr. Dale B.*!	Mr. Mark R.*!	Mr. Dennis B.*	Mr. M.	Dr. Paul F.*

Tentative crew selections. Officially, crews don't pick their trek until they arrive at Northern Tier.

<i>Agnes Lake Loop (Quetico)</i>	<i>Agnes Lake Loop (opposite direction) (Quetico)</i>	<i>Scenic Lakes Loop (BWCAW)</i>	<i>Scenic Lakes Loop (opposite direction) (BWCAW)</i>	<i>Man Chain (Quetico)</i>
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* Adults with current Wilderness First Aid training ! Designated adult crew leader
 Quetico = Canada BWCAW = Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness = USA

Canada. Crews A, B, and E all cross into Canada. Each scout and scouter in these crews must have a U.S. passport. If you don't have one, please apply for it now since it may take several weeks to complete the process. If you have a passport, check to make sure it does not expire until after July 2011. Now that we have the Quetico trek permits

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

reserved, it is time for each person in Crews A, B, and E to apply for a Canadian Remote Area Border Crossing (RABC) permit. <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/prog/canpass/rabc-pfre/menu-eng.html>

This does not apply to members of Crews C and D, who will remain in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the U.S. side.

Parental permission slip. Northern tier has their own parental permission slip, which each scout will need to bring: <http://www.ntier.org/Resources/Forms/Parental%20Release%20Form.pdf>

Scout participants must be age 13 by December 31, 2011. Contact Mr. Bickel, connect264@verizon.net, if there are any questions.

2012 High Adventure – Backpacking at Philmont ! Cavalcade a possibility in 2012

At the beginning of December, Mr. Russell announced that Venturing Crew 264 was accepted for a 2012 trek at Philmont. Three crews are available, dates of the trek are Thursday July 12 to July 24, 2012. We will probably need to fly out on Monday July 9 so that we have a couple of days to adjust to the altitude before starting hiking.

Cost overall is expected to be about \$1600 per person. **Mr. Russell started collecting the first \$100 from interested scouts and adults at the Court of Honor at the end of January.**

Adults will need to have 2½ weeks of vacation available. We can only take 12 adults maximum, 4 per crew. From the interest expressed earlier, most of the scout spaces and all of the adult spaces will be filled quickly. Troop scouts may fill Venturing crew slots provided that they are age 14 by the date we arrive at Philmont, or age 13 and have completed the 8th grade. In addition to the Venturing crews, the troop is waitlisted for additional backpacking crews, and we should find out in January how far down the troop is on the wait list.

There will be prep hikes and gear shakedowns, particularly after this year's Northern Tier High Adventure trip is complete. An Appalachian Trail hike is currently on the calendar for Memorial Day weekend. Philmont participants must meet the height/weight chart shown in the Northern Tier section above.

Mr. Russell is keeping track of Philmont events for 2012 and will be collecting names of scouts who may be interested in going, so that we see how the crews might be filled. Contact Mr. Russell early if you have interest! Scouts who are on Mr. Russell's current list will have priority over later signups.

For the Philmont-bound, after the initial payment being made in February, the next payment comes due in October. \$100 is currently being collected from the people on Mr. Russell's list to cover the first payment.

Cavalcade-- In light of interest from Venturing Crew members and T264 scouts, Mr. Russell submitted a request for the troop to make a Cavalcade at Philmont. A Cavalcade is an 8 day trek with riding horses. Cavalcade participants must take care of the horses during the entire outing.

The troop was not initially selected, however, it is **#6** on the wait list. This means there is a very strong probability that a Cavalcade will be made available to the troop in 2012. It is not possible to pick dates: Philmont will advise when a Cavalcade is available and we will have to accept or decline.

Currently Mr. Russell will collect the names of scouts and adults who are interested in a Cavalcade trek. However, separate adult leaders will be needed to take charge planning for this opportunity. Contact Mr. Russell if you can take charge in that capacity.

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

To Get Leadership Credit for Den Chief Service

If you are serving as a Den Chief for leadership credit, prior to your BOR must notify Mr. Matyas. You should obtain a note from your Pack Den Leader and/or cubmaster. This letter should include: (1) the dates you served as a Den Chief (at least six months); (2), The Pack and Den you served with; and (3) include the signature(s) of the Den Leader, Cubmaster, and /or Pack Committee Chairperson and the date they signed off. Submit this letter to Mr. Matyas prior to your BOR. (301)-570-0610, grymat@comcast.net.

Den Chief Fast Start training (required) may be taken in about 30 minutes online at <http://olc.scouting.org>. Print copies of the completion certificate, as you will need to give one to the den leader.

To earn the Den Chief Service Award, you must serve the pack faithfully as a den chief for one full year.

District Roundtable – February 10

Our Boy Scout Roundtables feature informative discussions on topics from youth leadership training, using OA more effectively in your troop, and summer camp experiences. Each month there are wonderful presentations, from wood carving to Dutch oven cooking, to help your unit leaders provide new ideas and opportunities for your troop. Come see what great new locations your troop might want to visit!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOW ONLY ONE ROUNDABLE SESSION AT ONE LOCATION.

The Roundtable time is held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM.

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, located on Highway 355 north of the Shady Grove exit of Interstate 270,
610 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Patrols are assigned to cover this event on a rotating basis, as listed on the calendar pages in the *Signaler*, and must send one adult to take notes and report back at the following Troop Adult meeting.

Keep Track of those Blue Cards!

Be sure to keep ALL the cards that come back from with your merit badges in a safe place! These are your proof that the merit badge was officially completed and recorded. You will need these cards when you stand for Eagle, particularly if there is any question as to when or if you completed a particular merit badge. While it may be possible in some instances to replace lost cards, it is not easy to do so and there is no guarantee of success.

Likewise, safeguard any “partial” merit badge cards since those cards list the requirements you have completed.

All completed merit badge cards must be turned in to Mr. Matyas. *Scouts*, not adults, are responsible for keeping track of their merit badge cards. If you don't turn it in, the merit badge can't be awarded. There have been several instances over the past year where scouts have failed to keep track of their blue cards and so did not timely receive their merit badges. Don't let that happen to you!

Remember to turn all completed merit badge cards to Mr. Matyas so that they may be awarded at the June Court of Honor.

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

Resources for Planning Troop Outings

On the troop website, under “Outings” at <http://www.troop264olney.net/outings.html>, you will find links to information about places the troop has visited, as well as:

- *Guide and Checklist for Planning Troop Outings*, which provides a step-by-step guide for Scouts and adults to plan a successful trip;
- *Troop Outing Expense Accounting* spreadsheet, to help Scouts and adults ensure that costs of troop outings are fully covered;
- *Historical Hikes and Camping Summary Form*, that Scouts and adults can download and complete or update with new information about particular hikes and campouts that can then be sent to the troop webmaster [presently Mr. Bickel] for uploading to the troop website; and
- Links to completed summary forms containing information about various historical hikes and campouts the troop has done, including information about Scout patches or medals that can be earned and information about accessibility for physically-challenged Scouts or adults.

For further information about any of these tools, contact Mr. Bob Irvin at wirvin8@verizon.net.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

NYLT stands for National Youth Leadership Training. It is a nation-wide BSA course conducted at Council level to provide advanced leadership training and skills to future leaders. In NCAC, the course has adopted a Baden-Powell nickname, “Impeesa” (the wolf that never sleeps), to further identify the program.

Details, eligibility requirements and registration links are available here:

<http://boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=18907&orgkey=1934> .

Please note that there are two stages of registration. Online and there is a paper form that must be submitted within two weeks.

The dates for the summer 2011 training have been established. It is offered as two weekend sessions:

<http://boyscouts-ncac.org/registration/calendardetail.asp?orgkey=370&activitykey=812740> June 17-19 and 24-26
<http://boyscouts-ncac.org/registration/calendardetail.asp?orgkey=370&activitykey=812741> (Friday through Sunday)

and as a week long course (July 24 – 30, the week AFTER summer camp):

<http://boyscouts-ncac.org/registration/calendardetail.asp?orgkey=370&activitykey=812779>

Several boys in the Troop have taken this training. Scouts register individually.

~ Mr. Mark Russell

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

T264 Scout Leadership

Check your patrol data and advise connect264@verizon.net of any corrections!
New SPL and patrol leaders' info to be posted in March Signaler!

Senior Patrol Leader:	Tripp K.	Assistant SPLs:	Michael R. Anthony J.
Troop Offices:			
Chaplain's Aide:	Patrick S.	Librarian:	Brandon O.
Scribe:	Jonathan G.	Troop Quartermaster:	William S.
Historian:	Ryan K.	Instructor:	?
Troop Guides:	Gerad S. and Justin S.	OA Representative:	Anthony J.
Buglers:	Kevin C. & Peter B.	Signaler Editor:	Jim B.
Patrol Offices:			
Shark Patrol:		Fox Patrol:	
Patrol leader:	Jacen S.	Patrol Leader:	Chris Cy.
Asst. patrol leader:	Eric F.	Asst. Patrol Leader:	Gavin M.
Patrol quartermaster:	?	Patrol quartermaster:	Ryan M. / Scott M.
Hawk Patrol:		Viking Patrol:	
Patrol leader:	Peter B.	Patrol Leader:	William S.
Asst. patrol leader:	Sean L.	Asst. Patrol Leader:	Joshua F.
Patrol quartermaster:	Ryan K.	Patrol quartermaster:	Jim B.
		Signaler reporter:	William S.
Crusader Patrol:		Ninja Patrol (new scouts):	
Patrol leader:	Jeremy N.	Patrol Leader:	David Robbins
Asst. patrol leader:	Holland M.	Asst. patrol leader:	?
Patrol quartermaster:	Ryan K.	Patrol quartermaster:	?
Orca Patrol (new scouts):			
Patrol leader:	?		
Asst. patrol leader:	?		
Patrol quartermaster:	?		

Unique Merit Badges

Explain how you earned these spoof merit badges to your mom!



Citizenship in the Universe



Roadkill Grilling



Brain Surgery

Poison Ivy Horticulture



Tent Burning



Incendiaries



Emergency Unpreparedness

The Signaler - Troop 264 Newsletter

INFORMATION PAGE

Attention: Board of Review (BOR) Procedures

Some years ago we set up a new procedure for scouts to follow for requesting Board of Reviews. Being a large troop, we needed to give the adults sitting on the BORs some lead-time. Recently the procedure has been sliding and the adults are getting short notice because of last minute BORs being scheduled. Therefore we are restating our policy. FORGOT THE PROCEDURE? NO PROBLEM – It is almost always on one of the last pages of each *Signaler* edition. Also, you can look at any past edition of the *Signaler* for this information.

BOR

Any scout needing a Board of Review should call Mr. Walt Greenspon @ (301-774-5394) *no later than two Sundays (8 days) before the scheduled Board of Review*. Failure to give proper notification will delay your BOR until the next month. Get your Scoutmaster Conference prior to calling Mr. Greenspon. If your scout is scheduled for the BOR, he must bring an adult with him. That adult is needed to sit on a BOR for another scout. This way we can accommodate all scouts striving for advancement.

Dress Code for BOR: Class “A” shirt, neckerchief, slide and scout pants (khaki or black pants can be substituted). A scout hat is preferred.

Signaler Submittal Deadlines:

Information Due to Reporters: **February 24.**

Signaler posting date: **March 1**

The Signaler Staff

Editor:	Jim B.	301-774-0416	connect264@verizon.net
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Adult Advisors:			
Scoutmaster:	Mr. Dennis Bogan	301-774-2768	denbogan@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Mrs. Debbie Karitis	301-774-9653	dkarit@aol.com
Troop Committee:	Mr. Mark Russell	301-774-1077	markdrussell@gmail.com
Order of the Arrow (OA)	Mr. Rick Justus	301-774-7833	rickjustus@aol.com
Advancement Chairman:	Mr. Gary Matyas	301-570-0610	grymat@comcast.net
SPL:	Tripp K.		

Adult activity coordinators – please submit information about upcoming activities to Signaler Staff (electronically or hardcopy) by the deadline. Please contact a Signaler reporter if you would like to have a Scout generate the announcement for you. If any information about or participants of activities have been left out of the Signaler; corrections will be made in the next issue. Please send any corrections to **The Signaler** at connect264@verizon.net.

The Signaler is posted on the troop's website, www.troop264olney.net. Notice is sent by E-MAIL when the new Signaler edition is posted. To get on the e-mail list, or to be removed or make corrections, please send an e-mail to connect264@verizon.net (Mr. Dale Bickel).

ADVANCEMENT INFORMATION PAGE

BOARD of REVIEW (BOR)

Any scout needing a Board of Review should call **Mr. Greenspon @ (301-774-5394) no later than two Sundays (8 days) before the scheduled Board of Review.** Failure to give proper notification will delay your BOR for a month.

If your scout is scheduled for a BOR, he must bring an adult with him. That adult is needed to sit on a BOR for another scout. This way we can accommodate all scouts striving for advancement.

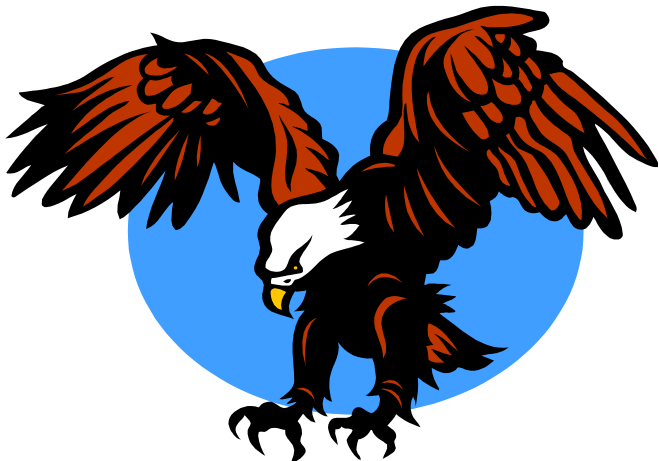
Scout dress code for BOR will include Class "A" shirt, neckerchief, slide, and scout pants (khaki or black pants can be substituted). A scout hat is preferred.

SCOUT SPIRIT for ADVANCEMENT

We all recognize that Scout Spirit is hard to evaluate. We know Scout Spirit includes being helpful and cheerful, but it is more than that...it's giving back. In an effort to assist Patrol dads in recognizing Scout Spirit, the following guidelines are offered. Our troop believes that prior to each advancement, participation in the following activities exemplify the essences of Scout Spirit:

- A minimum of 1 nursing home visit
- Participation in at least 1 fundraiser
- At least 4 overnight outings per year
- Good deeds done outside of scouts

The Patrol Dad, not a senior scout, is responsible for signing off on Scout Spirit prior to your Scoutmaster Conference.



SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCES

Any scout needing a Scoutmaster Conference for advancement up through First Class, needs to contact one of the following for a conference:

Mr. Greenspon	301-774-5394
Mr. Laing	301-570-4235
Mr. Predoehl	301-774-0974
Mr. Matyas	301-570-0610
Mr. Freedman	301-774-7766
Mr. Bickel	301-774-0416
Mr. Irvin	301-570-5548
Mr. Kennedy	301-774-5014
Mr. Long	301-924-4365

Scoutmaster Conferences for Star, Life, and Eagle must be held with Mr. Bogan - (301)-774-2768, denbogan@verizon.net. Preparation for the scout's BOR must include being prepared to answer skill, citizenship, first aid, and merit badge questions.

BOR for STAR and LIFE SCOUT ADVANCEMENTS

While ropes and compasses are provided for younger ranks, by the time you are ready for Star and Life advancement, you should be responsible enough to bring your own knot rope and compass for your BOR. *We are requiring all scouts who are advancing to Star or Life to bring a knot rope and compass to their BOR.*

LIFE and EAGLE SCOUTS as ADVISORY BOR MEMBERS

If you are a Life or Eagle Scout and would like to sit on a Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, or Star BOR, as a "Technical Expert", call **Mr. Greenspon on 301-774-5394.**

You would be the fourth person on the Board. While you wouldn't have a vote, you would have input into the decision-making process and add invaluable knowledge and insight by asking questions that perhaps scouters wouldn't think to ask. This is a great way to give back to and maintain the quality of your troop.

**Permission Slip for Penn State Nuclear Science Merit Badge
March 19, 2011**

I give permission for my son _____ to participate in the Troop 264 trip to Penn State University, State College, PA to complete the Nuclear Science Merit Badge on March 19.

In an emergency, please notify _____ (indicate name and relationship to your son) at _____ (phone). If this person cannot be reached, I authorize qualified medical personnel to administer any necessary aid or treatment to my son for illness or injury. My son is allergic to the following medications or foods:

_____.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

**Permission Slip for the Ski Trip
February 11-13, 2011**

I give permission for my son _____ to participate in the Troop 264 ski trip to Seven Springs Ski Resort at Champion, PA. In an emergency, please notify

_____ (indicate name and relationship to your son) at _____ (phone). If this person cannot be reached, I authorize qualified medical personnel to administer any necessary aid or treatment to my son for illness or injury. My son is allergic to the following medications or foods: _____.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date