

# Troop 381 News

May/June 2014

## “The Best Troop Under the Sun”

*A youth program of the*

*First United Presbyterian Church of Westminster, MD*

### March/April Calendar See below for details

- 5/5 – Troop meeting
- 5/12 – Troop meeting
- 5/13 – Roundtable
- 5/16-17 – Andrews Air Force Base Camping
- 5/19 – Troop meeting
- 5/26 – Memorial Day Parade
- 5/31 – Indoor Rock climbing –Timonium
- 6/2 – Troop meeting
- 6/7-8 – C&O Canal backpacking trip
- 6/9 – Troop meeting
- 6/10 – Roundtable
- 6/16 – Troop meeting
- 6/22-28 – Summer Camp
- 6/30 – No meeting

### Summer Time

Its hard to believe after all the snow and lower than average temperatures that the end of the school year and summer are right around the corner. We are looking forward to a good summer filled with activities for the scouts, family and friends to take part in.

Just a reminder of importance to read the newsletter (emailed to all and posted on the website [www.westminstertroop381.org](http://www.westminstertroop381.org)) and to be a part of the closing circles at the end of every scout meeting. This is where a majority of the communication of upcoming events will take place.

And, as always, Class A uniforms are the norm for all meetings unless communicated otherwise.

### Upcoming Troop Meetings

**All meetings begin at 7:30 PM at the church unless noted below**

- 3/5 Troop meeting - Advancement meeting – This meeting will be used to assess where

the scouts are in their advancement and give some direction to the merit badges they may pursue at summer camp. We will split the troop along rank lines, with the lower rank scouts meeting with Mr. J. Sizemore and the higher rank scouts meeting with Mr. Sizemore.

- 5/12 Troop meeting – Enter the Monkey Bridge – It has been a long time since the Monkey Bridge has been put together, so the scouts will be learning all the in’s and out’s of one of the troop’s favorite activities. Plus, they will be learning different knots and have fun while learning.
- 5/19 Troop meeting – Campsite Race – This will be a race to see which patrol or individual scout can set up a campsite the quickest. This will include sleeping quarters, camp fire, as well as other camping necessities. There may even be a prize for the best site (to be determined by the adult leadership)
- 5/26 Schools Closed – No meeting (See below)
- 6/2 Troop meeting – The dreaded man hunt. One of the troops favorite outdoor activities will take place on 6/2. Bring your flashlights and were clothes that will help you conceal your location. The hunt is on.
- 6/9 Family cookout – To celebrate another school year coming to a close, we will meet at Camp Hashawa for our annual family cook out. More information on this will be forwarded in the upcoming closing circles.
- 6/16 Summer schedule: the beginning – Our first official summer meeting will be held at Thunderhead bowling in Taneytown. We will reserve lanes for scouts, family and friends for a 2 hour time slot. More on the cost for this will be forwarded via emails.
- 6/23 No meeting – Summer camp (See below)
- 6/30 No meeting – Summer camp recovery time

## Upcoming Events

### **May 16-17, 2014 – Andrews Air Force Base Campout**

After much hard work getting information and organizing, Mr. Curry has been able to get the troop permission to camp at Andrews Air Force Base. This will be an awesome trip because we will be the only scout troop on base. There will be helicopter demonstrations and other activities for the scouts and families to see. We will meet at the church parking lot on Friday 5/16 at 5:30 p.m. We will return to the church parking lot on Saturday 5/17 at approximately 10:15 p.m. The cost of the trip will be \$25/person. Please sign-up for this trip by May 12 so we can get a count for meals.

### **May 26 – Memorial Day Parade**

The troop will once again participate in the Westminster Memorial Day Parade. This is the longest running Memorial Day Parade in the USA, so you are a part of history. We will carry the new big American Flag down the parade route with assistance from the pack and other troops as needed. We will have more information on when and where to meet at the next closing circle.

### **May 31 – Indoor Rock Climbing**

This was a hit a few years back, so we are going to enjoy the fun again. Indoor rock climbing is a great family event and it doesn't matter what the weather is like outside. Pricing for this event will depend on the amount of participation, the more people to sign up, the lower the cost per person. So please sign up as soon as you know you are interested. I would like to have a good count on this by 5/12 so I can call and get the best pricing. I believe if we have 12 or more the pricing is lower. Once I have the pricing, the time of the activity will be determined when I call to book the day.

### **June 7-8 – C&O Canal Backpacking**

Mr. Wohlgeomuth has put together a backpacking trip on part of the C&O Canal. We will meet at the church parking lot on 6/7 at 7:30 a.m. We will return to the church parking lot on 6/8 at 1:00 p.m. The agenda for this trip will be discussed at future

closing circles. The cost is approximately \$25/person.

### **June 22-28 – Summer Camp**

Camp Sinoquipe here we come. I'm sure everyone is as excited as I am to be returning to Camp Sinoquipe. It is a great camp and we always have a good time. As soon as they release the merit badge class schedule I will forward so everyone can pick their classes. If you are an older scout and would like to take part in the high adventure activities (forwarded in a previously sent email) we need to know quickly so we can secure your spot. We will need physicals turned in to Mr. Curry no later than June 9. Final payments of \$100 will be due to Mr. J. Sizemore by June 2. As we get closer the camp will release more information and I will keep you posted.

## Other News and Events

### **Recruiting**

In an effort to introduce new boys to the adventures of scouting, we have put forth a new push for recruiting. We are scheduling activities throughout the year with Pack 381 and other Packs in Carroll County to let them know what we have to offer and give them insight into the Best Troop Under the Sun.

Recruiting is an on-going activity so if you know someone that is interested in scouting, or just wants to come to a meeting or camping trip, please invite them and we will do everything we can to make them feel welcome.

And remember, if you do recruit a new scout to the troop, you get a nifty Recruiter badge to wear on your uniform.

## General Troop Information

### **Board of Review/Class A Uniform**

During the last meeting of each month, scouts and adult leaders will be required to wear FULL Class A uniform. Class A uniform consists of scout shirt, scout belt, long or short scout pants, and a Troop 381 hat. A Board of Review will be offered also the last meeting of each month for the boys to have advancement and merit badges reviewed and approved. **SCOUTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND BOARD OF REVIEW UNLESS**

THEY ARE PROPERLY ATTIIRED IN CLASS A UNIFORM. All boys should also come prepared with a pen for sign off on requirements.

## Scout Planning Meetings

Scout planning meetings will be held on the last Monday meeting of the month during the last 20 minutes of the meeting. Please be prepared and bring your ideas.

## Committee Meetings

Please join us at the Troop 381 Committee Meetings. Routinely, the meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 at the Church – upper level unless otherwise scheduled. The Troop Committee is open to any parent willing to support the Troop or just interested in finding out more about “The Best Troop Under The Sun!”

## Merit Badge Counselors

The Troop would like to be able to offer our Scouts “in-house” merit badge counselors for all of the Eagle required badges. While there are merit badge counselors available within the Carroll District, it can be difficult to schedule meetings with counselors outside the Troop. If you are interested in being a counselor for any the listed badges, see Dave Rogers for an application. If you would like to review the requirements first, just click on the badge.

- a. [First Aid](#)
- b. [Citizenship in the Community](#)
- c. [Citizenship in the Nation](#)
- d. [Citizenship in the World](#)
- e. [Communications](#)
- f. [Personal Fitness](#)
- g. [Emergency Preparedness](#) OR [Lifesaving](#)
- h. [Environmental Science](#)
- i. [Personal Management](#)
- j. [Swimming](#) OR [Hiking](#) OR [Cycling](#)
- k. [Camping](#), and
- l. [Family Life](#)

## Financial Report

We want you to know that the troop’s finances are open to all troop members. The Troop’s financial reports are generated each month by our Treasurer and presented to the Committee. A copy of the report is available if interested.

## Newsletter

If you want information put in the newsletter, or if you want to receive the newsletter via email, see Michael Sizemore or email him at [scoutmaster381@yahoo.com](mailto:scoutmaster381@yahoo.com).