

TROOP 266 NEWSLETTER

September 2009

“Commitment”

By Scoutmaster Barry Kirk

Com-mit-ment (noun):

Definition: (source – Encarta)

1. responsibility: something that takes up time and energy, especially an obligation;
2. loyalty: devotion or dedication, e.g. to a cause, person, or relationship;
3. previously planned engagement: a planned arrangement or activity that cannot be avoided.

Commit (verb):

Definition: (source – Webster’s Dictionary)

1. To be responsible for;
2. To entrust;
3. To pledge to a position.

Why did I start my comments with a dictionary definition? It’s simple – to avoid any confusion as to what the word “**commitment**” means. As well, in using a dictionary-based definition, I’m not using my own personal interpretation, and, if you look closely you’ll see the first two points of the Scout Law – “entrust” (trustworthy) and “loyalty” (loyal). That makes for an interesting segway into what I want to talk to you about – “**commitment**”.

Recently, I spoke in a Scoutmaster Minute on “**commitment**”, based in no small part on a recent obligation our Troop had to support a major community event that is steeped in local tradition. Unfortunately, those scouts who probably needed to hear it the most weren’t in attendance. In fact, with the already typically low summertime attendance, coupled with many scouts’ habit of leaving the Troop meetings early, only about 30 of our total of 110 scouts were present.

It’s important that each Scout takes stock in and understands who they are and what they represent to their community. As Boy Scouts, you have made the personal “**commitment**” to hold yourself to a standard of personal conduct higher than what may be considered socially popular these days; adhering to a code of ethics society doesn’t always hold themselves to. What’s ironic is that the communities we serve know this too, and when in

need, still they look to us for help. Boy Scouts represents everything that is good and right; and because of this, our community places their faith and confidence in our word when we say we'll be there to serve when called upon.

Such a need was brought to us with a request to support the Annual Pet Parade. After exhaustive attempts to find a scout or scouts to take this on as a leadership project, two of our younger and less experienced scouts stepped forward. As time neared for the event, these scouts seemed successful in mustering the necessary number of other scouts to support this event. Then, suddenly and in the course of a single day, seven scouts pulled out with just a few days before the event. This happened after giving our word to the concerned event coordinator that the Boy Scouts would be there to meet the need. Subsequently, the event coordinator panicked and the scouts leading this event came under scrutiny by him, and our reputation as Troop was now at stake.

The 36 hours that followed proved very stressful for the scouts and the event coordinator, and required Scoutmaster's intervention – all because seven scouts didn't honor their ***“commitment”***. Finally, after some external assistance it was confirmed with the event coordinator the Boy Scouts would be there to meet the need.

Subsequently, the event was a success. We met the need. But what is the lesson to be learned?

My point is that as Scouts, we must recognize the impact of the promises we make on the people who take us at our word. We must mean what we say, and say what we mean. The community we serve will believe us and hold us to what we ***“commit”*** to. We must be men of integrity. We must be good for our word.....*ALWAYS!*

“Commitment” always costs in time, energy or other resources. It requires loyalty to a promise made, and the earning of trust. It is never convenient.

On the night I delivered this as the Scoutmaster Minute to the Troop, I challenged those present to stand up publically if they were willing to be good for their word and faithful to their ***“commitments”***. The response was unanimous to the positive.

We ALL need to be good for our word.

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Merit Badge Classes Next Week

Thanks to a few dedicate parents and adult leaders who have stepped up to lead classes next week, the three merit badges will indeed have classes next week.

The three classes being offered are Citizenship in the Community, Communications, and Personal Management. A few scouts need only one of these badges, but most need two or all three. So how do you choose which class to take? Below are some guidelines for each merit badge that may help you to decide.

Citizenship in the Community will be taught by Dale Broek and Meagan MacKenzie. This badge is the best one for the first year scouts to take, so the Panther Patrol should give this one strong consideration, along with any members of the Sea Turtle Patrol that have not earned it.

Communications will be taught by Jeff Carpenter and Joel Williams. This badge is best for the second to third year scouts who have had more opportunity to speak in front of groups and who have some experience dealing with communications with the adult leaders of the troop. This badge then is targeted toward the Sea Turtles that may have competed Citizenship in the Community and the scouts in the 8th grade and above.

Personal Management will be taught by Kandice Coleman. This badge is best for older scouts, and for those who have already earned Citizenship in the Community and Communications.

So, come to next week's troop meeting with a class choice already in mind.

Dave Bartruff

Summer Camp Dates for 2010

At the Spring Planning Conference the Scout leaders of the troop voted to go to summer camp at Camp Meriwether, OR in 2010. This camp is situated on bluffs above the Pacific Ocean west of Tillamook, OR. Reservations for 30-35 Scouts have been made for both July 17-24 and August 1-7. Please mark these weeks on your home calendar so that as you plan your summer activities for next year you can do so without conflicting with one of these two opportunities to attend summer camp.

Note from Eagle Scout Alum – Andrew Hou

Without the Boy Scouts of America, I would not be what I am today. I would not be a camper, a climber, a hiker, a biker, a leader, and most certainly not a Scouter. It is very possible that I might not even be in college now. Without a doubt, Troop 266 of the BSA has had a large hand in turning me into the man that I now am.

The first camping trip I ever went on with the Troop (and only the third trip I had ever been on) was to Millersylvania State Park in January of '05. The more I think about it, the more I firmly believe that camping at Millersylvania in January is a phenomenally bad idea. It's wet and cold enough to keep you miserably uncomfortable, and never is there any sun to warm you up. Without a doubt, there are campers out there far more hardcore than I, who would enjoy sleeping on the wet muddy ground a lot more than I did when I was 14 years old. I was in charge of bringing and setting up the tent. Borrowing a friend's, I didn't bother to figure out how to use it before reaching camp. As the rain began to fall from the sky, I wrestled with an uncooperative rainfly that finally created some shelter for me and the rest of my patrol. I'm surprised my friends allowed me to live through the night. The night was awful enough for me as it was.

And yet for some reason, I signed up for the next camping trip that April. And the backpacking trip in June. And the trip in August. I still have no idea how one adult (you know who you are) made sleeping in a dripping wet cave of snow sound like a good idea. Some nights were miserable, and others were wonderful. Long after my wet sleeping bag dried out, though, I was still talking about the epic hike in and the welcome milkshakes at the end of the trail. Camping was great.

And it wasn't just camping. I saw an adult come to a Troop meeting once, riding his bike. I went home and hopped on my own. A friend in another patrol told me about his twenty mile hike that summer. I went out and did one the next year. An Assistant Scoutmaster told me how he trained for and climbed Mount Rainier. I just summited a month ago. Without Scouts, I never would have tried any of these things.

At my Eagle Scoutmaster Conference, Mr. Palmer - the Scoutmaster at the time - challenged me. He told me to look at all the things that Scouting has given me, and reflect on how they had changed me. And then, pledge to give back to the next generation of Scouts as much, if not more, than I had received. As much as I'd benefited from Scouting, future kids deserved it just as much as I did. I thought: sure, once I have my own kids I'll take them to Scouts too.

Opportunity arises much sooner than you'd expect.

I got an email one Friday afternoon. A young Scout was in trouble. He was given the task of organizing ten volunteers to help out with the annual Pet Parade through downtown Olympia. It was set to happen the next morning. At the last minute, all but four had dropped out. I looked at my calendar; I had no plans for the next day. I wrote to him to count me in. Then I called some friends from my old patrol to see if they still had their uniforms.

Look upon yourself. Hasn't Scouting had a large part in shaping your life? Do you like the man that you have become? If so, you don't have to wait to help shape kids' lives. Plan a hike. Guide a Seeker. Volunteer at someone's Eagle Scout project. Don't quit just because you've finished your own. Even if you're only sixteen, just staying active in Scouts can help make or break another's Scouting experience. You can start giving back now.

The 2009 Popcorn Fundraiser is starting up again, sooner than you believe!

The troop is once again running this fundraiser for the purpose of benefiting our scouts. Major changes from last year: we will start with store-front Show & Sell in September. You can check out popcorn right from day 1, and sell door to door with products in your hand.

Important Dates:

- Aug 11, Tuesday Sign-up for store-front shifts begins. Place order for own door to door sales.
Aug 18, Tuesday Sign-up continues. Last day to place order to check out popcorn for own door to door sales.
Aug 25, Tuesday Sign-up continues. Popcorn Kickoff.
Sept 4, Friday Popcorn sales begin. Pick up pre-ordered popcorn for own door to door sales.

Show & Sell available all 4 weekends in September.

Sept 20, Sunday Last day to return unsold checked-out popcorn or I assume you are buying everything checked out.

October 20, Tuesday Last day to turn in Take Order orders and money.

November 13, Friday Take Order popcorn available for pick up and distribution.

Product Lineup:

- \$10 Original Caramel Corn.
- \$15 15 pack Unbelievable Butter, microwave popcorn.
- \$15 15 pack Butter Light, microwave popcorn.
- \$20 Gourmet Caramel Corn with Almonds, Pecans, Cashews. (Perennial favorite)
- \$20 Chocolatey Triple Delight (Chocolate covered, with butter toffee glaze and vanilla yogurt drizzle)
- \$20 Caramel Corn Light
- \$25 Trails End Trail Mix (An all new mix)
- \$25 Military donation for service personnel.
- \$40 Military donation for service personnel.
- \$35 Cheese Tin
- \$40 3-Way Tin
- \$50 Chocolate Lover's Tin

All products will be available for check out on Sept 4.

Why should you sell?

1. This fundraiser is entirely for your benefit. You get to keep 28%-30% of the sales as commission to go into your scout account. This scout account can be used to pay dues, summer camp fees, buy troop t-shirts, snow camping, scout gear, high adventure trips (over \$1200 each), ... anything that's related to your scouting activities.
2. There are cool prizes for each sales level you achieve.
3. Scouts who fill up an order form get a free ticket to a Seattle Mariners baseball game.

4. \$1500 sellers are invited to go to a special party at Bullwinkle's Family Fun Center in Tukwila.
\$2000 sellers will receive a Sony **PSP**.
\$2500 sellers will receive a Nintendo **Wii** or an **Xbox 360**.
5. You help support the Council; this is their major fundraiser of the year.
6. Where else can a 12 year old boy make \$500 or \$2000 within 2 months, legally?
7. You help other scouts in the troop when you participate. Everybody gets a higher commission if the per boy sales average increases. Even if you sell minimally to your own family and close relatives, it makes a difference. We need everyone to be involved so that every scout can get a higher commission.

Why should the parents support the fundraiser?

1. So you don't have to be the banker for all the boys' scout expenses. With dues, uniform, summer camp, troop t-shirt, equipment,, scouting can get expensive.
2. Good opportunity to teach the boys the value of hard earned money.
3. Good learning experience for the boys: talking to strangers, building confidence, taking rejection, setting goal, achieving success.
4. Other parents need your help to not be a banker for their boys. Scouts get a higher commission when the per boy sales average increases. So please help your fellow scouting families.
5. Popcorn makes good presents, buy extra for Christmas gifts, party gifts, office gifts,
Everybody likes tasty popcorn.

If you are a scout adult or alumni family who no longer has young boys in the troop actively, you can be involved too. Please support our scouts as they sell. If you would like to purchase some popcorn to encourage these scouts, feel free to contact the people below, and we will connect you with scouts living in your area.

Questions? Contact Laying Hou, sixteentonine@yahoo.com, 943-7719 (home), 481-4442 (cell)
Judy Holm, jholm2004@yahoo.com, 866-1877 (home), 970-9318 (cell)

On July 25, 2009, a crew of 10 scouts and dads left hot, dry Washington to find some great wilderness in Canada and found out where all our rain had gone this summer. The crew was going to the Northern Tier scout base in Bissett, Manitoba. In addition to our leader Brian Hegge, the crew included many high adventure scouts: Austin Sager, Brett Lundmark, Bryce Inglin, Patrick Stack, Alex and Randy Jones. The dads driving the crew and carrying the canoes were Bob Inglin, Chris Jones and Dan Bode.

Just getting there was a challenge. We took two jets to reach Grand Forks, ND. We rented cars there and drove 300 miles (with a stopover in a Winnipeg hotel) to the end of the road - Bissett (gravel roads the last 30 miles to camp). The village was much like the Alaska town in Northern Exposure (no paving/traffic lights, dusty trucks and black bears wandering the edge of camp). After a night in cabins, we flew another 30 miles in two float planes to paddle our canoes along a 105 mile loop of lakes and rivers (some days upriver). The smooth lake landings and scenery were a real treat on this trip.

Everyone had to work together to get 100 pound aluminum canoes and 90 pound gear packs along sometimes steep and often hard to see trails between lakes and around successive rapids/waterfalls. One campsite was on an island with class 5 rapids roaring on both sides. We got lots of rain on several days. The rivers were high, so the fast water and lake waves really tested our paddling skills. Each canoe got overturned in the first days and Brian's canoe got a dent and leaky bottom that had to be bailed until a duct tape repair was done. We got better at reading the fast moving water and (except for blisters, leeches and mosquitoes) we didn't have a need for first aid.

We even did a good deed while paddling the Bloodvein River. We had caught up to a crew of young women from Minnesota when one of their canoes missed a take-out point and went through some huge whitewater/rocks. We paddled the still rough water below the rapids and rescued shaken women and their soaked, heavy gear out of the water.

Other highlights were the Walleye and Pike we caught and fried on several occasions, the beaver lodges and dams that we passed, the loons and eagles we saw, the black bears raiding the base camp and our guide Tim who helped us make it through the rougher spots. He was surprised with our scouts' cooking skills and never ending "how far" questions. The only unpleasant parts of the trip were the million mosquitoes that annoyed us everywhere, the rainy days and the long, last portage. The 1,600 meter Heartbreak Portage started out a long forest trail but the last half was through a swamp that was sometimes knee deep, sticky mud and other times chest deep, murky water.

We had a challenging trip but the boys got along well and all the logistics/travel worked out well (thanks to our agent, Candy, Stu Lundmark and Mr. Bode). We got to experience true wilderness adventure at its best and have some great stories to tell.

PATROL ACTIVITIES

Here is the patrol activity information we received this month. It may give other patrols ideas for their own activities, or give patrols a chance to include others in their plans.

CATTLESNAKES: No patrol activity is currently scheduled due to the fact that most of the boys in the Cattlesnake patrol are now busy planning and completing their Eagle projects.

EAGLES: No report.

FLAMING ARROWS: In August, the Flaming Arrows completed a **200-mile** backpacking trip from Canada to Stevens Pass. Patrol representatives are planning to attend the Fall Planning Conference in September and continue to advance toward Eagle Scout.

PHEASANTS: The Pheasants experienced some high adventures, such as the Northern Tier trip and the San Juan Curtis trip during the month of August. They are now planning a few hikes and campouts for the month of October, and possibly the Olympics later in the year.

LEVIATHANS: In August, the Leviathans took part in a shelter sleepover. There will be a Disneyland (Summer 2010) Parent Planning meeting in September. Also this month, Patrol representatives will be attending the Fall Planning conference. Leviathans are creating their own patrol hats.

SHARKS: In August, the Sharks went on 50-mile backpacking trip. They plan to work on their rock climbing merit badge in September, and are considering fishing, camping, bowling, & hiking in November.

BEAVERS: Last month, the Beavers joined in the Curtis boating trip, and completed a 25-mile bike ride. They are looking forward to a 50-mile bike ride in September.

SEA TURTLES: Paul Zepeda participated in a 2 night backpacking trip to Lena Lake with the Seekers in August. The Sea turtles will attend a Rainiers baseball game in September.

PATRIOTS: In August, the Patriots went on a 10-mile hike at Mt. Rainier. This month they plan to go camping for 3 days, and next month, some rock wall climbing.

SCORPIONS: The Scorpions enjoyed movie night in August, and are planning to campout in September.

ELECTION OF NEW SENIOR PATROL LEADER

At the September 8th troop meeting the leadership of the troop again passed into new hands with the election of our next Senior Patrol Leader. Elected was Harrison Coleman, a member of the Shark Patrol and a Life Scout. Harrison has been in the troop for three years (since February 2006) and has held leadership positions of Assistant Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide and Seeker Guide. Since September 2006 Harrison has also been a Den Chief for Cub Scout Pack 267. Harrison has already accumulated 55 nights of camping, including four summer camps and three Snow camps, and has been to the Florida Keys High Adventure Base. Harrison is looking forward to his next six months of leading the troop through the 2009-2010 school year.

SEEKERS BECOME THE PANTHER PATROL

In addition to electing a Senior Patrol Leader at the Troop Elections on September 8th the troop also held Patrol Elections. A part of that process was the change of the Seekers into a Patrol. They have chosen to name their patrol the Panthers and have selected Philip Dailey as their first Patrol Leader, with William Hammond as Asst Patrol Leader and Nick Thompson as Chaplain Aide.

ADVANCEMENTS

The following Scouts advanced at recent Board of Reviews. Congratulations!

Joshua Broek	Tenderfoot
Taylor Bruchet	2nd Class & 1st Class
Alexander Burruss	Life
Eric Carpenter	Tenderfoot & 2nd Class
Harrison Coleman	Life
Philip Dailey	Tenderfoot & 2nd Class
Mathew Hahn	2nd Class
Taeus Janseen-Madden	Tenderfoot
Sean Kirkmire	1st Class
Brandon Maguire	Eagle
Mick Mauritzen	Tenderfoot & 2nd Class
Mathew Moen	1st Class
Joseph Raines	Star
Garrett Sager	1st Class
Sean Schorn	Tenderfoot
Lee Thibodeau	Tenderfoot & 2nd Class
Dominique Thompson	Tenderfoot & 2nd Class
Adam Weber	Star
Zane Wolf	Tenderfoot
Paul Zepeda	1st Class

TROOP 266 CALENDAR

09/01/09 - 10/31/09

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
September					
	09/01/09	Troop	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
	09/08/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		Troop & Patrol Elections
	09/15/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		MB Kickoff Class #1
	09/21/09	Troop	Committee	Room 115	Committee Meeting
	09/22/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		
	09/26/09	Troop	APC	Camp Delezenne	Fall Planning Conference
	09/29/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		Court of Honor
October					
	10/06/09	Troop	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
	10/13/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		Wreath Kickoff - MB CI #2
	10/17/09	Troop	Serv Proj	Millersylvania State Park	Kyle Parnell Eagle Project
	10/19/09	Troop	Committee	Room 115	Committee Meeting
	10/20/09	Troop	Troop Mtg		
	10/24/09	Troop	Training		Den Chief Training
	10/24/09	Troop	Event	Sparks Stadium, Puyallup	PLU Football vs UPS

Newsletter Editor, the baton is passed.

With this edition of the Troop 266 Newsletter the baton of editor is being passed from Jack Sergiojan to Kerin Kirkmire. Jack has been the editor of the newsletter for the troop since September 2002, a span of seven years. His devotion to getting the word out started at about the same time that the troop changed from printed newsletters to email newsletters, and initially we struggled to get a format that would work. After mastering that challenge, Jack worked to expand the newsletter to include monthly patrol events and plans as well as expanded information about Order of the Arrow events that our Arrowmen would be interested in. Jack attended most committee meetings and many of the Patrol Advisor meetings to gather information for the newsletter and to get commitments for articles. In the last several years Jack's involvement with the Order of the Arrow has consumed much of his time, but he has continued his support of the troop and the patrols for his two Eagle Scout sons, Volk and Karl. Volk is now in the Navy and Karl is starting his training in the Merchant Marine, so Jack has decided to concentrate his time with the Order of the Arrow and pass along the editor duties to a parent volunteer who is more active in the troop. We give Jack a big THANK YOU for so many years of service to the troop and wish him the best during his continued service with O/A. We'll keep in touch with Jack, Volk and Karl as alumni and hope to see them at future alumni events.