



TROOP 776 NEWS

Jan/Feb
2010

White Buffalo District - Quivira Council

www.goddardkansas.org/troop776

www.quivira.org

Calendar:

Feb. 2:
Troop Meeting,
Order of the Arrow
election

Feb. 9
PLC

Feb. 14:
Scout Sunday,
GUMC

Feb. 16:
Troop Meeting

Feb. 19-21 :
Skiing at Snow
Creek - Weston, MO

Feb. 23:
Patrol Meeting

Happy New Year! *Scoutmaster Report*

Reflecting on 2009

Wow! Time flies when you're having fun and I'm hopeful that's how most of you would describe 2009...that is...fun!

During 2009 we went to Trappers, had our first ever Baden Powell Bash lock-in, went to Premer Ranch for a wilderness survival and BBQ themed campouts, had a special Baden Powell campout for new scouts, went to Wichita Mountains for rock climbing but weather turned it into a hiking and mini-mountain climbing campout, we had our first sail boating campout, we shot M-16's at Ft. Riley, backpacked in the fog and drizzle for our Black Jack Trail campout at QSR and oh yeh, we headed to Spanish Peaks for summer camp where we had 31 scouts and adults working on merit badges, hiking rock climbing, rappelling and backpacking and the icing on the cake for me was a week and half high adventure canoe trip to Canada through Northern Tier. Canoeing some of the same lakes and sloshing through some of the same moose muck with our troop that I sloshed through 30+ years ago will be something I'll be able to keep with me forever.

All of these outdoor activities helped to support our 87 percent retention rate, 69 percent advancement rate, 89 percent of you to attended multiple campout activities 2 of you earned your Eagle Scout rank in 2009. All of this helped us to once again earn the Centennial Quality Unit Award. And on top of that, we began the year as White Buffalo Districts Troop of the year.



Needless to say, 2009 saw a lot of positives for our troop. Scout involvement is up. Adult involvement is up, including our very own **Troop 776 Santa** visit. And possibly the biggest thing we have going for us is the largest group of Webelos we've had in 4-5 years crossing over in two short months from now. I am truly excited for 2010 as you guys prepare for a special Blanca Basin trek, nine of you will be attending the National Jamboree and my prediction is at least five of you will become Eagle

Scouts in the 100th anniversary of BSA.

Yep, I'm excited. Let's all join together and make 2010 the biggest year in Troop 776's history!

Yours in Scouting,

Cliff Premer



Merit Badge
Books
On Loan – Troop
Library

Do you have Merit
Books you have
purchased but no
longer need?
*Please consider
donating them to
our Troop.*

*"Do a good
turn daily?"*

Patrol
Leaders

*Please call your
patrol members to
help them stay
informed of
activities*

***Scouts – Stay involved through winter months!
Plan now to attend these great activities***

February – Snow Creek snow skiing at Weston, Mo. **We will need drivers** so this trip does not have to be cancelled! Please be thinking/planning!

March – Premer Ranch/Baden Powell Campout, conservation project themed.

April – Spring Camporee at Lake Afton

May – Alabaster Caverns wild caving in Oklahoma

June 13-19 – Summer Camp at Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch. This will include a high Adventure – “Blanca Basin Adventure” — where we will set up at 10,000 feet and do activities from there. Stay tuned for more details!

July – Omniplex Museum Campout in Oklahoma; National Jamboree

August – Kanapolis Lake – Horseback riding or exploring Horse Thief Canyon

September – Ft. Riley Campout with real machine guns (back by popular demand)

October – Webelos/Family Campout and Bison Corn Maze, Premer Ranch

November – Blackjack Trail backpacking at QSR

December – BBQ and Cold Weather Campout at Premer Ranch

**Congratulations to our newest Eagle!!
Lawrence B**

Lawrence's Eagle Project was building a pergola roof for the Eagle Valley Raptor Center. It provides shade for visitors to sit and watch Ken's presentation. He passed his Eagle Board of Review and is planning for his Eagle Court of Honor. Great job Lawrence!!!

Lifers busy working on Eagle projects:

Evan L - public library book shelves and painting project. He needs final approval and signatures.

Corey P - Linear Park tree project. Just needs final approval and signatures

Byron P - Linear Park fitness trail project. Fitness equipment ordered, installation scheduled for March

Weston L - Great Plains Nature Center duck houses and habitat project. Duck houses are built, installation scheduled for February or March. **See story and photos below.**

David B - Regency Community Center clothing collection drop project. Project approved by troop committee, seeking approval by District Advancement Chair.

Nature Center to benefit from member's Eagle Project

Weston Lundy's Eagle Project is underway! He has been working with Bob Gress at the Great Plains Nature Center to complete a two-part project. The first part: Replace old dilapidated Wood Duck boxes that were placed out in several ponds throughout the park. As he found out, this was not as easy a task as he had first thought. What was supposed to take about 2 hours turned into 5. However, he, along with his great volunteers, was able to complete the task in one afternoon.

Part two of his project: Build and place 7 Tree Swallow boxes throughout the park.



The point of his project is to build new habitat for these birds to nest in because they had disappeared in the late 1980's due to loss of habitat. They have been recently sighted in the outer areas of Sedgwick Co. and the hope is to bring them in where bird lovers can once again enjoy them here in town. On Jan. 18th he had a group of scouts over to build the Tree Swallow boxes and get them ready to be mounted on posts at the Great Plains Nature Center. To finish up the project he will need help pounding 7 posts into the ground in various locations



and mounting the boxes. He hopes to complete his project by the end of Feb., weather permitting.



Recent Rank Advancements

The following people advanced in **rank** at the recent Court of honor Jan. 26, 2010:

Jonny A - Star

Tyler G - Second Class

Collin H- Tenderfoot

TJ H - Second Class

Jared J- Tenderfoot and Second Class

Tim L -Life

Ashton L- Star

Trevor P - Life

Donaven S- Tenderfoot

Troop 776 is motivated!!

Our Troop cares about Scouts!!

There's still time to support Friends of Scouting

Troop 776 pledged \$965 to the Friends of Scouting financial campaign at the Court of Honor on January 26th. This is a good response, and White Buffalo District and Quivira Council thanks the Troop 776 for their support. If we can find at least \$256 in additional pledges, the troop will reach its FOS goal of \$1221, and the troop will receive free rank patches for the rest of the year. Based on the rank advancements handed out last night, this would be a nice thing to have, and Deb Burbank wouldn't have to stay up late worrying quite as much about troop finances!

If any families did not have the opportunity to pledge their support at the COH, I have attached a brochure that they can download, and it has the commitment form included. The families can either send their pledge in directly to the council office, or I would be glad to stop by at troop meetings to receive them.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the troop, and a big thank you to you and all the other leaders in the troop.

Mark Borst,
Assistant Council Commissioner
204-5367 (cell)

COLD WEATHER CAMPING TIPS

I hate freezing while I'm trying to sleep at a camp out! I'm sure you do too. The good news is we don't have to. A little planning goes a long way when it comes to staying warm and getting a good night's sleep. Boy Scout policy is NO HEATERS in tents. But Waite just a minute. We have our own heaters with us all the time. That's' right its' your body's own heat. We just have to learn to use it for our own benefit. So let's see what works best.

Remember your sleeping bag does not keep you warm your body does. To keep your body heat in think thick. Use a heavy and good sleeping bag. Also use layers of blankets both under you and on you. Believe me this works. Don't put your head in the bag. When you breath you exhale moisture this will make your bag wet. (WET=COLD) Instead wear a hat. This works great for me and will for you also. Never sleep in the clothes you have had on during the day. Believe it or not they are wet. (WET=COLD) It doesn't take much sweet to freeze you out.

Moms going to like this one. Eat a candy bar before you go to bed. It will increase your metabolism (gets your blood moving) That will help keep you warm.

Use the restroom before you go to bed so you don't have to go in the middle of the night.

Don't put your clothes in your bag. You can put tomorrow's clothes under your bag. That should warm them up a little for the morning.

Fluff up your bag before you get in it. Thickness is warmth.

Most important: Keep it dry. You'll never get warm with wet sleeping gear.

Winter camping can be fun if you just do things to stay warm. Staying dry is the key to staying warm. So be prepared to go and have FUN

- Soar high, Larry Shannon

Needed: adult helpers for short-term commitments:

If you want to help our Troop but have been unable to commit to a committee position, we can sure use your short-term help!

We're looking for adults to volunteer to help coordinate some of the monthly campout activities – such as making reservations or tracking down costs of attending an event. For example, Mike Voth is coordinating our Snow Creek activity. He contacted the hotel for room availability and pricing and checked into group pricing at Snow Creek. This will help us calculate and then Mike will help make reservations, get ski tickets, etc. Sometimes an activity will require a camping permit or other details.

It is not necessary for the coordinator to attend the event. And, adults could pick an event in advance and several did that last year.

Here's what we'd need help with:

- May – Alabaster caverns campout
- June – Spanish Peaks summer camp
- July – Omniplex Museum campout in OK City
- Aug – Kanopolis Lake horse riding campout
- Sept – Ft. Riley campout
- Oct – Bison Ranch corn maze campout

Do you have news and/or photos?

We'd love to publish BOTH!

**Please e-mail to newsletter editor at
cbrink@goddardusd.com**

