Calendar Highlights

March

Sun., 3/8
Day Ski Trip, Butternut Mountain, Great Barrington, MA 6:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fri., 3/20 - Sun., 3/22
Campout @ Camp Katoya, Milford

Thurs., 3/26
Court of Honor, 7:15 p.m., FUMC

April

Sat., 4/4
Service Project @ Camp Rocky Craig, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thurs., 4/9
MEETING LOCATION TBD

Sat., 4/18 - Sun., 4/19
Backpacking

Thurs., 4/23
NO MEETING

Looking ahead to MAY

The Invitational Trip has been changed to May 29-31 so Scouts may participate in ConnJam '09 on May 15-17 in Orange, CT

CYC Merit Badge College

Ten scouts from Troop 9 have successfully completed the CT Yankee Council’s Merit Badge College. Congratulations to Tim A., Ryan B., Peter D., Greg , Jonathan K., Joel L., Reed M., David N., Eric P., and Philippe V.!

It is a huge time commitment (on the part of the Scouts and their parents), but is well worth the effort, as they will tell you. See Page 4 for more details.

Upcoming Trips

Parent volunteers for upcoming activities are listed here, but additional parents are always welcome! Sign-ups for future events may be found on the troop website.

Camp Katoya 3/20-22
Coordinator: Warren Jervey, Jim Daly, Rama Kumanduri
Overnight: Al Deluca, Frank Connolly, Jim Daly, Kirk MacLennan

Backpacking 4/18 - 4/19
Coordinator: Mary Cordone, Wendy Lacey, George Vibien, Tracy Graham
Overnight: Harry Beutler, Mark Huntoon, Dan Taylor, Mike Taylor, George Vibien, Adam Wojciechowski

March Court of Honor

All Scouts and their families are encouraged to attend the Court of Honor on 3/26. In addition to advancements, merit badges and awards, there will be special presentations on Friends of Scouting, Jambo and Summer Camp.

Eagles soar!

Troop 9 has another Eagle Scout!

Congratulations to Jesse G., who passed his Eagle Board of Review on February 5th.

Scoutmaster’s Corner

The Origin of the Left Hand Shake

The Left hand shake goes way back to Scouting’s origins and was inspired like many original Scouting concepts by Robert Baden-Powell, a lieutenant-general in the British army and founder of the Scout movement. When Baden-Powell entered the capital city of the Ashanti people in 1896 he was met by one of the chiefs who came to him holding out his left hand. Baden-Powell held out his right hand in return but the Chief said “No, in my country the bravest of the brave shake with the left hand.” This was because African warriors typically carried a spear in the right hand and a shield in the left. To shake left-handed meant you had to put down your shield and put your life in the hands of the other person. So began the left hand shake of the worldwide brotherhood of Scouting.

Troop 9 Leadership

Scoutmaster
Roger Williams 358-8634
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Assistant Scoutmasters
Pete Amico 274-6148
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Mike Kraus 968-1430
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Mark Kuehn 324-5954
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Rick Lockwood 322-6449
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Barry Morgan 329-3255
buzz330@aol.com

Senior Patrol Leader
Ryan K.
Over the weekend we had the luxury of sleeping in heated cabins! It came with a price though - we had to clear all the trails around the lake where our cabin was. This did turn out to be fun in the end. We participated in many different activities over the weekend, my definite favorite being the tomahawk throwing we did on Saturday. That was a blast! Another idea that was used was the cooking layout. Instead of having the patrols cook meals for themselves, each patrol cooked one of the four meals for everyone. It ended up working out great and the food was amazing. All in all, I thought this campout was great!

Colin M.
Camp Murray Feb. 27 - Mar. 1

Photos: Frank Connolly

Photo: Vicki Eisenhauer, Girls Scouts of America
At the merit badge college, I was very impressed with how fast I could earn 3 merit badges. Usually it takes weeks even months to get one merit badge. This college cut down this time to four Saturdays in the month of February. The college started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 12:00 noon. The ride was one hour but it went by fast when you are talking to your friends in the car. You can take a wide range of merit badges including the difficult Eagle badges which are not always available at camp. Therefore, I highly recommend any scout to participate next time the classes are offered.

Philipp V.

The merit badge college in Wallingford was a great experience that I think every scout in our troop should experience at least once. During the last four weeks a few boys in our troop went to work on our selected choices of merit badges. The ones I took were Citizenship in the Community, Aviation, and Space Exploration. Each class was an hour long where we worked on a specific merit badge. My favorite class was Aviation - we flew model gliders and discussed the mechanics of airplanes. Despite having to get up at 6:30 for four weeks in a row it was an amazing experience that I encourage all of you to try.

Reed M.

I went to the Merit Badge College for four weeks and even though I missed the third, I was still able to earn all three of the merit badges that I signed up for. They were Fingerprinting, Law, and Citizenship in the World. This means that anyone can receive all of their merit badges if they set their mind to it. These merit badges require you to complete a test at the last week of classes, but they are easy. I highly recommend the Merit Badge College for all Scouts because it is a great way to earn merit badges, other than at summer camp.

Gregory E.

I believe the Merit Badge College was a good thing to do. I was able to complete three merit badges (both Eagle-required and not): Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, and Electronics. The one downside to it was going for four Saturdays in a row, but I think it was worth it.

Jonathan K.

The merit badge college in Wallingford was a good thing to do. I went to the Merit Badge College for four weeks and even though I missed the third, I was still able to earn all three of the merit badges that I signed up for. They were Fingerprinting, Law, and Citizenship in the World. This means that anyone can receive all of their merit badges if they set their mind to it. These merit badges require you to complete a test at the last week of classes, but they are easy. I highly recommend the Merit Badge College for all Scouts because it is a great way to earn merit badges, other than at Summer Camp.

I thought that the Merit Badge College in Wallingford was great. It was an excellent place to complete or work on merit badges and gave each student a whole month to do their work. The merit badges that I took were Citizenship in the Community, Nuclear Science, and Electronics. The teachers made it fun to do the merit badges and did hands on projects in class to make it more interesting. Overall, the merit badge college made it possible for me to do work independently at home and together in a class, which I thought was fun.

Ryan B.

I was pleased with how easy my Eagle-required merit badges were. I worked on Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, and Crime Prevention. Although the drive was long, it was not too bad. I also liked how direct the teachers were. There was no small talk, it was straight to the merit badge work.

David N.

Merit Badge College is a great way to easily and quickly complete a wide variety of merit badges. Unlike working on a merit badge individually with a counselor, you pick out 3 merit badges and attend 3 classes with 20-30 other boys, and like school, one counselor teaches you and helps you to complete a badge. In the class you review and complete various requirements for the badge and the remaining requirements you can complete at home and bring to class for credit. There are over 25 badges offered including eagle required badges. If you want to complete a couple of merit badges quickly and easily, you can do just that by attending a Merit Badge College.

Peter D.

I went to the Merit Badge College for four weeks and even though I missed the third, I was still able to earn all three of the merit badges that I signed up for. They were Fingerprinting, Law, and Citizenship in the World. This means that anyone can receive all of their merit badges if they set their mind to it. These merit badges require you to complete a test at the last week of classes, but they are easy. I highly recommend the Merit Badge College for all Scouts because it is a great way to earn merit badges, other than at Summer Camp.

I liked the merit badge college because it is a great way to get merit badges besides summer camp. It is fun and very helpful. The badges I worked on were Citizenship in the Community, Electricity, and Communications.

Eric P.

The merit badge courses were good, the teachers were helpful, the classes were easy and it’s a good way to advance using just a few hours of your time. It can help you get the Eagle-required badges or others and they offer lots of choices. Even if you can’t get everything done in the 4 mornings, you’ll probably have a lot done and you can finish them off later. It’s something all the scouts should take advantage of if they have the opportunity. The merit badges I worked on were Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, and Photography.

Joel L.
The 2010 National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia

Over 40,000 Scouts will travel to Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, Virginia near Fredericksburg and Washington, D.C. to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in the United States of America at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

The Jamboree will take place from July 23 to August 4, 2010. Registration is taking place now and information and forms may be found at http://www.ctyankee.org/program/jamboree

Scoutmaster Roger Williams and Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Kraus have been selected to be contingent leaders!

Troop 9 Scouts currently registered to attend include:
- Brian C.
- Sam J.
- Ryan K.
- Sean N.
- Brian W.

Join in the fun -- REGISTER NOW!

May 15-17, 2009 at the High Plains Community Center & Fairgrounds, Orange, CT

The Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America proudly invites all Packs, Troops, Crews and Posts to join in the largest gathering of Scouts our Council has seen. ConnJam '09 represents the dawning of a new age of program as Scouting celebrates its past 100 years and prepares for the future. Enjoy two nights of camping and a full day of activities on Saturday geared toward keeping Scouts out of their tents and on their feet.

Registration for this event will close on May 8th. If you are interested in participating, please see Mr. Williams.

For program information and frequently asked questions please see the main ConnJam '09 website: http://www.ctyankee.org/connjam.