

Scoutmaster: Hank Manz (617-620-5011) hank_manz@yahoo.com
St. Brigid's Church; Lexington, Massachusetts • Troop 160 website: http://troop160.com

Court of Honor: June 22, 2006

Picnic at the Old Res

5:30-6:00 Setup
6:00-7:00 Eat, cleanup, Scout games
7:00-8:30 COH

Calendar Highlights

Note: Some dates and times may be tentative. Please check the Troop calendar online for updates. Regular Troop meetings are not listed. These are held every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00 pm when Lexington public schools are in session.

8/6/06-8/12/06	Summer Camp (Bell)
8/13/06-8/19/06	Summer Camp (Hidden Valley)

14 New Scouts Join Troop 160

By Peggy McHugh

In March, 13 scouts crossed over from Cub Scouts into Boy Scout Troop 160. They formed two new patrols and elected patrol leaders. The Penguin patrol includes: Matthew S. (PL), Sam W., Daniel W., Harry A., and Timmy C.. The Vermin patrol includes: Petar O. (PL), Jack F., Noah K., Chris X., Connor R., Alex G., Rae L. T. and

Aaron P.

Additionally, Jimmy C. transferred to Troop 160 and joined the Purple Cobra patrol.

A warm welcome is extended to these new scouts and their families!

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March Court of Honor: 18 Merit Badges Awarded

By Peggy McHugh

On March 16, 2006, Troop 160 held its quarterly Court of Honor to recognize scouts' achievements since the January Court of Honor and to present awards previously earned that had not been presented. Eighteen merit badges were awarded, including sixteen required for Eagle rank.

The following merit badges were awarded and (*) denotes a badge required for Eagle:

Citizenship in the Community(*): Kevin C., Jeff G., Matt K., Ryan W.
Citizenship in the Nation(*): Matt K.

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Troop 160 Scouts navigate the rain-swollen Ipswich River. (story on page 3)

This is a special web site edition. Scout last names have been replaced by initials.

TROOP 160 NEWS

March Court of Honor

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First Aid (*): Ronny B., Drew C., Dylan C., Nathan C., Anubhav J., Tim R., Tom R., Matthew S., Christopher T., Skyler V. A.

Personal Management(*): Dan W.

Snow Sports: Eliot W., Ryan W.

Scout **Junior Leaders** sworn in at the COH were: Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – Joey C.; Asst. SPL for Program – Jeff G.; Asst. SPL for Junior Leaders – Jon B.; Asst. SPL for New Scouts – Tom H.; Troop Guides – Alex C., Ryan W.; Librarian – Gabe C.; Scribe – Seok K. M.; Historian – Eliot W.; Quartermasters – Erik S., Jarrett B., Wilson H.; Chaplain's Aide

– Stephen T.; Instructors – Jon W., David W.; OA Troop Rep. – Tom H.; Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM) – Geoff C., Brendan C., Tom D., Bennett E., Ben G., Matt K., Keith M., Jason P., Ben P., Ken R., Dan R., Dan W..

Patrol Leaders and assistants elected were: Green Bars – Jon B.; Purple Cobras - Eliot W./Wilson H.; Donkeys –Jonathan M./Tom R.; Black Scorpion – Anubhav J./Chris T..

Thank You to Adult Volunteers

It was a banner year for the Troop's annual Pancake Breakfast, thanks to the skilled and experienced management efforts of **Charles Hatvany**, ably assisted by **Franco Wong**. Thank you Charles and Franco.

We also need to thank **Barry Griffiths** for his coordination of the West Point Trip, and **Glen Bassett** for the Rod and Gun Club trip. Barry and Glen have also organized these trips in years past. Thank you **Andy Dixon** for your efforts on the Canoe Trip (see story page 3). **Franco Wong** has been busy handling the logistics for this year's summer camp sessions and also deserves our gratitude.

Countless other adults, too numerous to mention here, have helped with the Troop's activities in many ways, including serving in various Committee positions, accompanying scouts on trips and providing transportation. Thank you to all!



Scouts on the firing range at the annual Rod & Gun Club trip.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES: THE IMPORTANCE OF SCOUT LEADERSHIP

One of the Troop's Assistant Scoutmasters received an inquiry from a mom as to what resources were available to help a Scout with advancement. His response appears below.

Thanks for the email, once in a while I get a concerned mother fielding her boy scout's complaints about the lack of troop activities. So I dust off this response. Scouting will help your son

learn to rely on himself more and his mother less. We do notice that some boys look to moms to take the lead on a lot of things, but often shine when put in a situation requiring self-reliance.

Scouting's values are clear, limited to boys. Boy Scouts is a boy-led, boy-run organization, but the boys must be trained to be leaders. One of the

Scoutmaster's most important responsibilities is to provide the direction, coaching, and training that empowers the boy with the skills he will need to lead his troop. Hank has done that very well. Your son should address his concerns to the Senior Patrol Leader. We can't over step the Senior Patrol Leader.

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“Boy Scouts is a boy-led, boy-run organization, but the boys must be trained to be leaders.”

The Importance of Self-Reliance

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Your son should also work with his patrol to develop a course of action. If he is looking for activities then his patrol may be as well. Patrols are the building blocks of a Boy Scout troop. The reason for a patrol is for boys who are similar in age, development interests and grow together. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

Scout-age boys experience dramatic

physical and emotional growth. Scouting offers them opportunities to channel much of that change into productive endeavors and to find the answers to many of their questions. Through service projects and Good Turns, Scouts can discover their place in the community. Many Scouting activities allow boys to associate with others from different backgrounds. The troop provides each Scout with an arena in which to explore, to try out new ideas, and to embark on adventures that sometimes have no design other than to have a good time with good people.

Rain, Flooding Do Not Stop Troop 160 Canoes

By Andy Dixon

Despite forecasts of very heavy rain and flooding, 11 Scouts, ably led by Ryan W. and 11 adult “leaders” from Troop 160, enjoyed a fun and interesting 2 day canoe trip down the Ipswich River the weekend of June 3rd and 4th. With the use of NOAA websites and the live online reports from the USGS gauging stations on the river, and by making an early morning field inspection, Troop scientists and technicians determined that a safe trip was possible, even though another Scout Troop in Lexington had cancelled their trip 2 days previously.

Along with 8 canoes, one newly acquired by the Troop and the rest belonging to Troop families, we departed Lexington by 10 o'clock Saturday morning and were paddling by

11:30 . In just the time spent waiting for the drivers to return from moving the cars to our take-out point, the rain filled each canoe with several gallons of water, which had to be bailed out before we could begin.

Two hours of down-stream paddling to Audubon's beautiful Perkins Island campsite, with its towering pines, proved the weather forecasters to be completely correct. After we made camp the boys spent an hour in free-style canoeing and then made a campfire, no small effort considering that the rain had only slowed down, not stopped. A fine dinner was enjoyed by all, particularly the “leaders”, whose delightful meal was prepared by Rae L. T.'s father John. There was even enough steak and

watermelon left over for the boys to have some.

In our (fairly) dry tents we enjoyed a good night's sleep, serenaded by pounding rain and after it stopped, by high winds. Few of the boys noticed the serenade however. In the morning, after a hot breakfast and breaking camp, we canoed through lovely flooded meadows. Sometimes we were even able to take short-cuts by paddling through the woods. We took out in Bradley Palmer State Park, safely above the washed out bridges, and were back in Lexington, hanging the tents up to dry by 1:30 Sunday afternoon.



Have a Great Summer!

