



Scoutmaster Minute

The circle of life is pretty simple; children grow into adults who then themselves have children and life continues. By Scouting is not about hiking, camping and outdoor adventures. Those things play a part in scouting but are not the goal of the program.

The Boy Scouts of America exists to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values stated in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. As scoutmasters we have spent considerable time throwing around words like friendly, helpful, trustworthy and honor. Those words hopefully become ingrained in each of the young men we deal with.

Many parents have thought the program is about getting a young man to earn his Eagle rank. But that is not the goal of the program. Step back and wonder if every adult you dealt with or every politician holding an office in government actually lived by the words in the scout oath and scout law what a better place we would live in.

Scouting uses methods to accomplish this that have worked for 100 years. We hold up a set of ideals. Those are the words in the scout oath and law. We promote teamwork by the use of patrols. We use the outdoors as the classroom to learn in and the arena to let a boy's imagination grow and be tested.

There is advancement and personal growth. Boys have association with responsible adults. Adults become teachers, mentors and coaches to the scouts. When a boy says "I can't" the adult is there to say "yes you can." They will learn to be leaders and wear a uniform which says to the world "I am a scout and have a code that I live by."

The circle of life exists for scoutmasters as well. The new scoutmaster is prepared and ready.

To all the new leaders I offer these simple truths:

- ❖ Boys grow better with encouragement instead of criticism.
- ❖ You must have a belief in boys that makes you want to invest yourself and your time on their behalf.
- ❖ You must remember that Scouting is a game... A game with a purpose. Never let the fun disappear from the game.
- ❖ And a scoutmaster must have a genuine love of the outdoors in all its phases and a good vision of the hand that created it.

*May God Bless and Keep,
Yours in Scouting*

Mark Spisak



Awards presented at Troop 8 Court of Honor - June 7, 2010

Mark Spisak Scoutmaster's Key Award

Mark Elchert Boy Scout Leader's Training Award

Troop Leadership:

Senior Patrol Leader:
Kyle Fabian

Assistant Senior Patrol Leadership:
Jay Hanckel
Andrew Nielsen
Alvin Nugroho
Garrick White

Scoutmaster:
Mike Nielsen
704-907-1234

Committee Chairman:
Dave Vander Jeugd
704-321-9915

Advancement Coordinator:
Victor Fields
704-541-2154

Treasurer:
Alherd Kazura
704-243-0742

Training Coordinator:
Joanne White
704-541-1043

Chartered Organization Representative:
Johannes Rief
704-846-4989

Unit Commissioner:
Trainor Critz
704-540-7843

From One Leader to Many Others

Although I am just beginning in the role of scoutmaster I have many people to thank.

First, thanks to Mark Spisak for the example he has set, for his counsel and wisdom, and for the guidance he has provided to hundreds of scouts these past eight years. Mark may be stepping down as scoutmaster but he plans to remain involved in the troop and in scouting more broadly. It is comforting to know he will be here to offer his continued advice and support.

Thanks to the troop committee for their confidence and trust in me, and for their continued support and guidance.

Thanks to the assistant scoutmasters upon whom I will rely every week and from whom I will ask much.

Thanks to the parents who grant me and others here in khaki the privilege of working with their sons, and helping them instill in their boys the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

And finally, thanks to my wife Lynn and our two sons Andrew and Connor for the sacrifices they make to allow me to serve.

No good troop runs through the effort of one person, especially one as big as Troop 8, and I am counting on the passion, engagement, dedication, energy and ideas of all of you to keep Troop 8 successful.

*Yours in Scouting,
Mike Nielsen*

Troop 8 Court of Honor

Mark Spisak's dedication to the scouting movement and its objectives are evident not just in Troop 8 but throughout the Apache District and the Mecklenburg County Council. He was awarded the Apache District Award of Merit. He was awarded the St. George Medal for having made significant and outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth through Scouting.

He has been recognized as Apache District Boy Scout Leader of the Year in 2008 and with the Earl J. Gluck Training Award and Scoutmaster's Key earlier this year.

Mark has shared, however, that the recognition that means the most to him is the Scoutmaster Award of Merit he was awarded in 2007. Mark prizes it because it came from the scouts, based on the recommendation of the SPL on behalf of the Patrol Leaders Council.

Troop 8 Leader Training

Please Note: All training is reimbursed by the Troop.

All leaders regardless of position need to take **Protecting God's Children:** Next session available Oct. 7 @ St. Matthews @ 6:30; register on-line @ www.virtus.org

Asst. Scoutmasters need the following to be trained to position:

Youth protection: This is Scouting (formerly New Leader essentials), Boy Scout Leader Fast Start, Asst. Scoutmaster training, & Outdoor Leadership skills

Committee Members need the following to be trained to position:

Youth Protection: This is Scouting (formerly New Leader essentials) Boy Scout Leader Fast Start, & Troop Committee Challenge

Please Note: All of these courses are available on-line @ www.mcctraining.org

Merit Badge Counselors need **Youth Protection** and Merit Badge Counselor Training

October 1 & 2 Wilderness First Aid @ Belk Scout Camp: This course is required for any national high adventure camp.

October 10 – CPR training @ St. Matthews 2:00 – 4:45 p.m. Instructor David Denton
New Life Building - 2nd floor

November 12 - 14 Outdoor Leadership Skills Training @ Belk Scout Camp: This course is required for all Assistant Scoutmasters to be considered trained to position, and for those attending Wood Badge.

Register on-line @ www.mcctraining.org by **November 8, 2010; Cost is \$50.00**

January 8 – Winter Training @ CPCC Levine Campus: Youth protection, Asst. Scoutmaster Training (all day) Merit Badge

Counselor Training, Eagle Service projects, Board of Review Tenderfoot to Life – look for registration on line @ www.mcctraining.org

March 11 – Outdoor Leadership skills @ Belk Scout Camp: Look for registration on line @ www.mcctraining.org

After you have completed any training, send Joanne White a copy of your card for the troop records.

Joanne White
Leader Trainer
(704)541-1043
joanamw@carolina.rr.com

Troop 8 sincerely thanks Joanne for her commitment to ensuring that we are all current on our training and meeting our goals for advancement. Way to go – and please keep her updated with your progress.

Calendar

Mon., Oct. 4:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm

Mon., Oct. 11:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm



Fri. – Sun., Oct. 15 – 17:
Campout: Cowpens National Battlefield, Chesnee, S.C.

Mon., Oct. 18:
PLC Meeting – 7:00-8:00 pm

Tues., Oct. 19:
Troop Committee Meeting – 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Mon., Oct. 25:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm

Sun., Oct. 31:
Have a Fun Halloween!



Mon., Nov. 1:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm

Mon., Nov. 8:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm

Thurs., Nov. 11:
Veteran's Day;
District Roundtable Meeting – 7:30 pm, Sharon Baptist Church

Sat., Nov. 13:
Troop Activity – Christmas Tree Sale Starts!



Mon., Nov. 15:
Troop Meeting – 7:30 pm

Fri. – Sun., Nov. 19–21:
Campout/Backpacking (details to come)