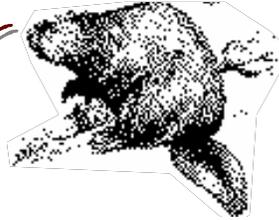




Troop 19 Beaver Tales



Banks' Bits

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Dear Troop 19 Family,

Growing Pains! That's what it is. Growing pains. Troop 19 is growing and as it grows we experience challenges we've never faced before. I still remember being able to go on a trip and sit in a lawn chair and see the whole Troop without turning around. The troop has gotten so large, I may never convince the church to build me that log cabin Scout hut. It would be so large, we'd take over the block!!!



Scouts have won the Klondike Derby 8 years running and we continue to do well in the Senior Camporee, summer camp and council fundraising. We have a great Scout family and I am proud of each and every one.

Growth is great but it also means Troop 19 must face the challenges that a large troop brings with it. Because we are so large, we also need to be certain

that energy on positive directions, we have put together our new discipline plan. Copies of the plan will be available for discussion at the upcoming parent meeting. We want everyone to understand how we are working to keep everyone safe and make sure any unsafe behaviors are dealt with. All families will need to review the policy with their Scouts so that we all can enjoy the opportunities of Scouting while ensuring that everyone is protected.

We have so many great things to brag about. Our Scouting family is filled with parents who participate and actively work to make the troop better. I don't think I can ever thank my Scout parents enough for all they do for us. Our Senior Scouts are leaders in the Hornets Nest district, Catawba Lodge and Mecklenburg County. Our younger

that all our Scouts are safe. Large groups of boys can be boisterous especially when you add the freedom of the outdoors. That energy can sometimes lead to conflict and disputes. In order for the Troop to address the needs for safety and to channel all

As always, I want to thank all the Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee members and parents for their time and devotion to Scouting. Have a wonderful and Happy Easter.

Yours in Scouting,
Lawrence W. Banks, Jr.

Upcoming Events:

Merit Badge Week End

April 2 - 4

Dixie Fellowship

April 23 - 25

Puppy Backpacking Trip

April 30 - May 2

1st Ordeal

May 14 - 16

Summer Camp

June 20 - 26

A Gathering of Eagles

Troop 19 will be honoring our two newest Eagle scouts with ceremonies this spring. Troop 19's next Eagle Scout will be **Chris Chelko** who will have his Eagle Court of Honor March 28. Joining Chris this Spring as our 45th Eagle will be **Kyle Kitchen** who passed his Eagle board in March. Kyle

has not yet set a date for his Eagle ceremony as of the deadline for this newsletter.

We ask that everyone in the troop attend these Courts of Honor to recognize these young men for their outstanding achievements.



Puppy News and Notes

Important dates to remember for our newest Scouts....

Webelos Crossover

March 27 Ramah Presbyterian

Pack Graduation

March 29 7 PM @ HPC

Merit Badge Weekend

April 2 - 4 Camp Grimes



Backpacking Equipment Review

April 6 (During the regular Troop Meeting)

First Camping Trip (Puppies Only)

April 30 - May 2

The equipment meeting is important for all Puppy parents. We'll be discussing the different types of camping gear that are available and what we recommend for younger Scouts. See you there.

50th Anniversary News

Next summer, Troop 19 will celebrate our 50th year of continuous service. Though 50 years is remarkable, the history of Troop 19 begins in 1938 with the founding of the troop by Scoutmaster E.F. "Bert" Kumm and Troop Committee Chairman Leggett Blythe.

As part of our celebration, Troop 19 is working on a history of the troop. We are seeking stories, pictures and mementos of the troop from all decades of its existence. We are also trying to locate all of Troop 19's Eagle Scouts and Scoutmasters or their families to get them to share their stories and memories of the Troop when they were active.

We have had some success finding our Eagle Scouts. We recently have made contact with our second Eagle, Mr. Thomas Craven, Jr. and our fifth Eagle, Mr. Henry M. Pigg. We believe that at least two of our Eagle have passed away, Dr. William B. Blythe our first Eagle and Mr. Joe Kumm, the son of our first Scoutmaster.

We are still looking for information on eight of our first Eagles and one from the recent past. If you know any of these Eagle Scouts or their families, please ask them to contact the Troop so that we can invite them to rejoin us in our celebration of the past and welcome for the future of Troop 19.

Kenneth Coley
Bob Blythe
V. C. Smith, Jr.
E. B Lewis, III
Eric K. Wolfe

Council Dudley
Eddie Cobb
William J Cochran, Jr.
Joseph E. Cochran

We are also seeking several former Scoutmasters or their families. We are seeking information on:

G. B. Murray
Paul S. Caldwell
Roy Highberg

W. H. Cato
Hurd Bradford

Please contact us if you can help us locate these past members of the troop.

Troop Elections Spring 2004

Troop 19 conducted our Spring elections for troop officers on March 4. Our new troop officers for the coming six months are:

- Chad Holshouser - Senior Patrol Leader
- Larry Zaino - Asst Senior Patrol Leader - Attendance
- Seth Cross - Asst Senior Patrol Leader - Quartermaster
- Alex Young - Asst Senior Patrol Leader - Games
- Nicholas King - Asst Senior Patrol Leader - Troop Planning
- Zach Capets - Asst Senior Patrol Leader - Troop Planning

Selected as patrol leaders are:

- Cobra Patrol - Cory Gudger
- Falcon Patrol - Kyle Smith
- Flaming Arrow Patrol - Brendon Almond
- Owl Patrol - Nick Capets
- Shark Patrol - Joey Summers
- Viking Patrol - Matt Vice
- Warrior Patrol - Wesley King

Troop 19 wishes to thank our outgoing troop officers for a job well done. Thanks to Luke Augspurger and his corps for an excellent six months of leading Troop 19. Good luck to you and welcome to our new leaders.

Super Trip 2004

Set your calendars for Super Trip 2004!! The trip is planned for July 11 - 15, 2004. The trip will be to the City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, Pa to visit the historical sites and the Liberty Bell.

The schedule includes:

July 11, Sunday – early morning departure from church parking lot to Philadelphia area in church vans.

July 12-14 – touring in Philadelphia includes two trail medals and the following among other points of interest:

Visitor Center
1st U.S. Bank
Liberty Bell
Independence Hall

Christ Church
Betsy Ross House
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Benjamin Franklin's home
Congress Hall



July 15 – departure to Charlotte, arriving evening.

Cost – approximately \$250. The price includes all meals (except Sunday lunch), gas, lodging, medals, patches, and admissions. The only other cost will be for personal expenses and souvenirs.

Contact ASM Kevin King if you have any questions.

Wood Badge

At the March 11, Hornet's Nest Roundtable, ASMs Bobby Gudger and Kevin King were awarded their Wood badge beads for completing their tickets. Bobby and Kevin were participants in the SR 489 Wood Badge course. Bobby Gudger was a member of the Beaver patrol, Kevin participated as a member of the Bobwhite patrol.

Wood Badge is a training course for Scouters which results as part of their award two small wooden beads on a leather thong. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, directed the first course in 1919 and gave each of the participants one of the beads which he had captured from the African chieftain Dinizulu. Thus did the course name develop, for its symbol was literally a badge of wood.

Wood Badge is Scouting's premier training course. Baden-Powell designed it so that Scouters could learn, in as practical a way possible, the skills and methods of Scouting. It is first and foremost, learning by doing. The members of the



course are formed into patrols and these into a troop. The entire troop lives in the out-of-doors, camping, cooking their own meals, and practicing Scout skills.

After the out of doors course work, each candidate prepares a ticket. A ticket is a contract between you and a member of the staff usually referred to as a Troop Guide or Counselor. This contract is your commitment to practice using the Leadership Skills taught at Wood Badge in the performance of your Scouting job. A Ticket consists of four parts:

- A list of your personal values
- A description of your Scouting role or job
- A statement of your vision of success
- A mission composed of five significant goals that can be attained within 18 months.

Bobby's ticket included projects to:

Organize Troop 19 patrol hatches
Coordinate a joint Troop 19/Pack 19 effort for Scouting for Food targeting a 10% increase in donations from last year.

Develop and execute a teaching plan for the US



heritage Award for Troop 19 Scouts.

Develop a photo directory of Troop 19 leaders, Scouts and families.

Develop a Leave No Trace training program for Troop 19 Scouts to use on all campouts.

Kevin's ticket included projects to:

Develop and write Webelos II syllabus to compliment "puppies" plan for Troop 19. (Preparation for Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class.)



Participate in Outdoor Leader's Training as an Instructor.

Coordinate Summer Camp for Troop 19 and attend if possible.

Assist Troop 19 Troop Leadership Development sessions for Spring and Fall 2003.
Serve on Endowment sub-committee at the Council level.

Plan the 2004 Super Trip.

With their awards, Bobby and Kevin join Troop 19's extensive line up of Wood Badge trained leaders. Congratulations, Bobby and Kevin!!

Troop 19 News and Notes

Friends of Scouting

Troop 19's participation in Friends of Scouting was another huge success. Thanks to all families who chose to participate. Thanks, too, to Ronnie Young for his presentation to the Court of Honor. These funds are used to support Scouting throughout Mecklenburg County Council. Thank you for supporting Scouting.

Scouting for Food

With the excellent guidance of ASM Bobby Gudger, Troop 19 had a hugely successful Scouting for Food collection. The February event gathered more than 2,010 pounds of non-perishable food for the needy families of Mecklenburg County. Thanks to all for your help and generous donations.



Year End Court of Honor

The Year End Court of Honor was a great success. Larger than ever before, the banquet was very well planned and conducted by Sonja McCreary and her team. We all owe Sonja a huge debt of thanks for a great job. Thanks, too, to "Distant Cousins" for the live music provided

for the Court of Honor.

Uniform Closet

The troop uniform closet is completely empty. The closet is a means for families to reduce the costs of Scouting by sharing good, used uniforms that have been outgrown. Please look through your son's closet and see if you can find any serviceable uniforms for the troop closet. Thanks.

Council Banquet

Leaders, don't forget about the Council Recognition Banquet on April 22. Reservation forms are available at the Scout office and the Scout Hut. Please plan to attend and recognize the adult volunteers who have given so much of their time and talents to Scouting.

Summer Camp Staff

If your son is interested in a great summer opportunity, Mecklenburg County Council is looking for senior scouts for Summer Camp staff. If you are interested, see Mr. Banks.

Troop Committee News

J Hackley Retires from Chair

Troop 19 would like to express our deepest thanks to outgoing Troop Committee Chair Jennie Hackley. Jennie served the troop as Chair of the Troop committee for 2 years and help guide the troop through its extraordinary growth and success. We will miss her love for the Scouts in Troop 19 and her spirit in making our troop so strong.

to welcome our newest Troop Committee Chair, Karen Reavis. Karen has assisted the troop for many years and has recently served as Co Chair of the Troop Committee. Also joining the Troop Committee is Audrey Stasky. Audrey will serve as Co Chair of the Troop Committee.

With Jennie Hackley's departure, we have the opportunity Thank you, Jennie! and welcome Karen and Audrey!

OA News

Troop 19 would like to recognize our newest Brotherhood members of Catawba Lodge. The troop had nine Scouts and leaders seal their membership in Catawba Lodge during the Spring Fellowship, March 19 - 21. Earning their brotherhood memberships are ASM

Kevin King, and Scouts Seth Cross, Josh Hedrick, Nicholas King, Alex Young, Derek Reavis, Billy Blakely, Jonathan Cannito and Ryan Smith. Congratulations, Arrowmen.

Arrowmen who have attained the Brotherhood level of the Order of the Arrow are eligible to become Life Members. Troop 19 welcomes our newest Life Members of Catawba Lodge, Chris Chelko, Seth Cross and Derek Reavis. If you are interested in becoming a Life Member or want to give a Life Membership to your son, please contact Mr. Banks for details.

CATAWBA LODGE 459



Klondike 2004



The 2004 Hornets Nest Klondike was again a booming success for Troop 19. This year,

Troop 19 sent four patrols, Falcon led by Patrol Leader Alex Young, Shark Patrol led by Zach Capets, Flaming Arrow fronted by Alex D'Amour and Warrior Patrol guided by Matt Vice.

The Klondike is a weekend long test of Scouting skills for Scouts under the age of 14. The Scouts are tested on teamwork, knowledge, team spirit and enthusiasm at several "stations" and "cities". At each of the sites, the patrols must exhibit skills such as orienteering, first aid and pioneering. The patrols are graded on their abilities to complete the tasks as well as their demeanor and spirit as they work as a unit to achieve their goals.

Patrols come from troops throughout Hornets Nest District. Twenty eight teams participated in this year's event. The competition is intense and often the winning patrol is decided by just a few points.

Troop 19's patrols did very well. Falcon Patrol was awarded First Place. Shark Patrol finished second in the Klondike. Flaming Arrow placed 10th and Warrior Patrol finished one point behind Flaming Arrow.

In winning the Klondike, Troop 19 patrols also won several of the "cities" Patrols scoring the most points at a given "city" are given a trophy celebrating their success. Troop 19 patrols won 4 "cities", each patrol earning one trophy for highest point totals. Congratulations, Scouts!!

Summer Camp 2004

Merit Badge Selections Now Due

Troop 19 will be attending summer camp at Camp Grimes on Sunday, June 20 through Saturday, June 26. Your scout(s) are being asked for

their merit badge sign-up selections at



selections is Tuesday, April 13.

Forms are available at the troop meeting or by contacting ASM Tom Lawson (tnlawson@aol.com). Forms may be returned to an Assistant Scoutmaster, who must approve each scout's selections.

HELP Needed! (Scout Parents please take note)

If you are not an Assistant Scoutmaster or Parent Committee Member but have a scout attending summer camp, we need your help in setting up our campsite. We refer to this as

this time. **The deadline for the**

Beaver Day – as in we will be busy as beavers – but only for a day if we have enough support. This year, we have 62 scouts and 12 adult leaders attending camp. On May 14 & 15, we will have a fun weekend of work and fellowship. If you have not had the chance to visit Camp Grimes or would just like to spend a weekend in the woods with your scout, this is a great way to get a flavor for what this great camp is about. Don't let this fall on the Scoutmasters who have already given mightily of their time. Please step up to the plate and call John Capets or email him (jcapets@harborcapitalmgmt.com) to sign-up (it will save him from calling you – which he will do!)

Dixie Fellowship 2004

Catawba Lodge will host the 2004 Dixie Fellowship April 23-25, 2004 at Clear Creek Scout Camp. A very large staff is required to make this Conclave happen. It will take the involvement of every Arrowman in our Lodge to support his event.

In preparation for this the Catawba Lodge has set up a website dedicated to the 2004 Dixie Fellowship. This website will have news and information about Dixie, Staff Registration and

This website will not only be a resource for our lodge but for all lodges in our section

If you are a member of Catawba Lodge, we want to remind you of your obligation of service. A staff of about 350 Arrowmen will allow the lodge to perform all the tasks needed before the Dixie with a moderate amount of service from each individual and minimal impact on the Troop program and daily lives. With fewer

other pertinent information.

than 350, each person must pick up more of the share of the load.

We ask that everyone do your part so the lodge can successfully perform this important function for the Scouts that are counting on us. If you have any questions please e-mail John Mickey, Dixie Chair and the Dixie Committee at: dixie@catawbalodge.org.



Troop Calendar 2003

March

March 27	Puppy Graduation & Court of Honor
March 29	Pack Cross Over
March 30	Troop 19 Creek Walk

April

April 2 - 4	Merit Badge Weekend @ Camp Grimes Pre Puppy Campout
April 6	Troop Committee
April 10	Roundtable
April 11 - 18	Easter/CMS Spring Break <u>NO SCOUTING EVENTS</u>
Apr 16 - 18	Mandatory Dixie Set Up @ CCSC
April 20	Boards of Review
April 22	Council Recognition Dinner
April 23 - 25	Dixie Fellowship @ Clear Creek
April 27	PLC
April 28	OA Chapter Callout
Apr 30 - May 2	Puppy Backpacking

May

May 4	Service Project Hot Dog Dinner 6 PM
May 8 - 9	Spring Leadership Training
May 11	Troop Committee
May 13	Roundtable
May 14 - 16	1 st Ordeal @ Camp Grimes
May 18	Boards of Review
May 25	PLC ASM Meeting

June

June 1	Troop 19 Creek Walk
Jun 4 - 6	OA 2 nd Ordeal @ CCSC
June 8	Last Troop Meeting
June 10	Roundtable
June 12	Planning Calendar Meeting
June 15	Last Troop Meeting for Summer
Jun 20 - 26	Summer Camp
Jun 20 - 26	JLT

July

Jul 11 - 15	Super Trip, Philadelphia, PA
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Baden-Powell's First Scouting Books

After learning that boys were using his small military manual, *Aids to Scouting*, as a guide to outdoor fun, the British war hero decided to write a book with a much greater purpose.

Boy Scouting was the brainchild of a man of many parts—soldier, author, artist, actor, visionary—named Robert S. S. Baden-Powell. He was the hero of the siege of Mafeking during the Boer War (1899-1902) in which the British army subdued rebellious Dutch colonists in South Africa. Just before the 217-day siege began near mid-October in 1899, Col. Baden-Powell had sent the corrected proofs of his little book for soldiers about reconnaissance and scouting to a printer in London. Written in simple language, free of military jargon, the 138-page book was titled *Aids to Scouting for NCOs and Men*.

Games And Stories

A military scout is "a special man," he wrote, "selected for his 'grit' and trained for one class of work only, and that is reconnaissance. His work is not fighting, but getting information about the country and the enemy."

A scout needs to have pluck, self-reliance, and discretion—all leading to confidence in one's ability. "But you won't get these qualities by sitting down and waiting for them to come to you," he warned would-be military scouts. "You must put your mind into it and learn them up in peace time."

Baden-Powell had a talent for simplifying directions and telling little stories—mostly about his own experiences as a scout in India and South Africa—by way of illustrating skills like finding your way in strange country, using your senses to observe everything around you, concealing yourself from the enemy, following tracks and reading their meaning, sketching maps, and making reports to superiors.

The Training Of Boys

For testing these skills, the book's appendix included games with names like Spider and Fly, Flag Stealing, Quick Sight, and Chart and Compass Races. No doubt those scouting games—along with the fame of Baden-Powell as the hero of Mafeking—contributed

to the popularity of *Aids to Scouting*, among the general public. Within months, the book written for soldiers had sold 100,000 copies, a remarkable number for a military manual.

After Mafeking, Baden-Powell was promoted to major-general and continued the campaign against the Boers. When the war ended in 1902, he was assigned to organize the South African Constabulary to police the young country.

He returned home to England in 1903 and was astonished to find that *Aids to Scouting* was being used by boys' groups as a guide to outdoor fun. At the urging of several youth leaders, he decided to adapt the manual for the training of boys.

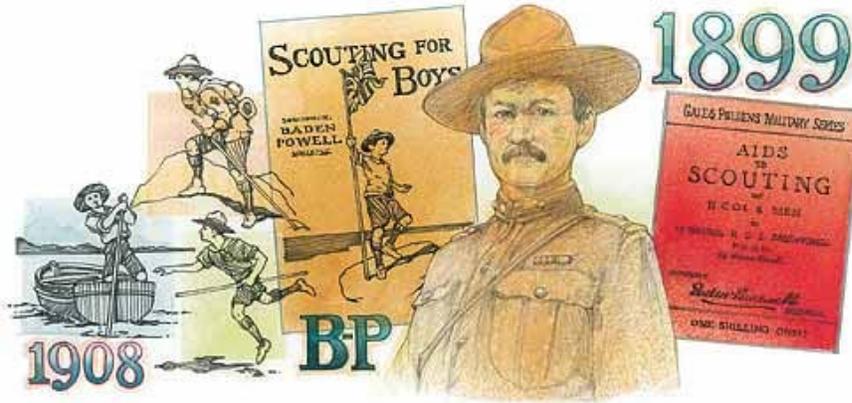
Like many of his contemporaries, Baden-Powell believed that Britain's youth lacked strong physiques and moral fiber, and that hooliganism was rampant. He studied everything he could find concerning the training of boys, from the code of King Arthur to the contemporary Boys' Brigade in England and Ernest Thompson Seton's *Camp Games* and Dan Beard's *Boy Pioneers* in the United States. He also drew on his experience training men for law enforcement in South Africa.

Testing A 'Scheme'

The result was a paper titled "Boy Scouts—A Suggestion" outlining his thinking on "ways to help in making the rising generation, of whatever class or creed, into good citizens at home or for the colonies."

Youth leaders were favorably impressed, and Baden-Powell determined to put his "scheme" to the test. In the summer of 1907 he recruited 13 boys from upper-class schools and nine working-class youths from the Boys' Brigade and took them camping on Brownsea Island off Britain's southern coast.

This first Scout camp was a rousing success, both from the boys' point of view and as a test of Baden-Powell's ideas. The Boy Scout scheme was fleshed out in *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908. Written and illustrated by Baden-Powell, the pocket-size book promised lots of outdoor adventures and told boys how they could serve their country and their fellow men through Scouting.



Campfire 'Yarns'

Scouting for Boys introduced the Scout Promise (Oath), Scout Law, motto, badge, Scout sign and salute, and the handshake. It told how to form a patrol and how to earn advancement.

More important, readers learned how to hike and camp, tie knots and do pioneering projects, track and stalk animals, find directions, and signal with Morse code and flags. All this information was imparted in punchy little "Yarns for Boy Scouts" so that a reader could study what interested him and skip what didn't.

For example, in Camp Fire Yarn No. 5 on "Life in the Open," Baden-Powell advised that Scouts on "exploring expeditions should never, if possible, sleep under a roof—that is to say that on fine nights they would sleep in the open wherever they may be; or in bad weather, would get leave to occupy a hay loft or barn...As a rule you should

have some object in your expedition—say a mountain in Scotland or Wales, or a lake in Cumberland, or possibly some old castle or battlefield."

Baden-Powell biographer Tim Jeal points out, "For thousands of boys who had never slept away from

home, and for many more who had never left their home towns even for a day, this idea of going off with friends on an ambitious expedition was intoxicating."

Tens of thousands of copies of *Scouting for Boys* were snapped up in the first year (Jeal reports that the precise number is unknown) and Scout troops began organizing all over the British Isles. Within weeks, copies were appearing in America and many other countries.

A worldwide movement was under way.

Contributing editor Robert Peterson's *The Way It Was* column about Baden-Powell's Brownsea Island experimental camp appeared in the September 1999 issue of *Scouting*

American Heritage Award



We recently completed the US Heritage Award. We now have twelve more vexillologists (one who studies flags) in our troop. So far we have had 24 recipients earn this award. Included in the course book were such items as, Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance, John Wayne's the hyphen, and history of our national anthem and the flag that inspired it. Flag etiquette was a high priority for the award.

We learned that the flag is to be considered a living, breathing, entity and it should be treated as such. We worked on this during the first 2 weeks in January. This was the perfect time to stress how our country has developed over the years and how patriotism and pride has remained strong in our stories, songs, symbols, and hearts. Their family heritage has a direct bearing on our American heritage because without personal sacrifices our country would not exist. Look no further than your own family for heroes. A hero needs to be someone close to you who you can touch, talk to, and give thanks.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead these boys into a better understanding of just how great our country is. They have the responsibility of continuing to develop our American heritage by learning about our past and applying it to their future.

We will offer this award again in September 2004.

The American Heritage Award was designed by scouts and adults to give youth recognition for learning about the heritage of the United States of America, and showing patriotism. By earning this award, youth can cultivate an appreciation for the wonderful heritage of the United States of America.

A medal and a patch can be awarded to all that successfully complete the award requirements. All requirements can be done with a unit, group, family, or individually.

The American Heritage Award has two different award levels. The silver award is for youth ages 6-10, and the gold award is for youth aged 11-18. Adults can also earn the gold award if they complete the gold requirements and assist a youth in earning the United States Heritage Award.

God and Country Awards

Troop 19 wishes to congratulate two of our Scouting family on their earning the God & Country Award. Earning recognition for the growth in the faith are Eagle Scout Jonathan Ryczek and ASM Ozzie Holshouser.

The God & Country programs were created by the various religious groups to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. The religious groups—not the Boy Scouts of America—have created the religious emblems programs themselves.

An adult God & Country award is presented by nomination only. The recognition is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their religious institution and Scouting. Nominations for this award require submission of the required application, letters of recommendation, and resume.

A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.



Hornaday Award

Last year, Tucker Horne became the first Scout in Mecklenburg County Council history to earn the Hornaday award for significant contributions to conservation. Now, Troop 19 itself has been recognized for its contributions to conservation.

This awards program was created to recognize those that have made significant contributions to conservation. It was begun in 1917 by Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Park and founder of the



National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Dr. Hornaday was an active and outspoken champion of natural resource conservation and a leader in saving the American bison from extinction. He named the award the Wildlife Protection Medal. Its purpose was to challenge Americans to work constructively for wildlife conservation and habitat protection. After his death in 1938, the award was renamed in Dr. Hornaday's honor and became a Boy Scouts of America award.

Troop 19 has been awarded the Hornaday Award on the Troop level. Troop 19 becomes the first troop in the history on Mecklenburg County Council to earn this prestigious award. Great job, Scouts!!

Klondike Pictures 2004



TROOP 19
Huntersville Presbyterian Church
Huntersville, NC 28078

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.BSA19.ORG



Troop 19 Bus

It had to happen! Troop 19's bus is one of the most visible symbols of our troop and its remarkable growth. The bus has replaced personal cars and troop vans as the transportation we need to move our Scouts to various activities as a unit. The bus helps to keep the Troop 19 family together.

Now the bus is sick. The brakes on the bus have finally given way and must be fixed. We will need a major overhaul of the entire brake system to make our bus safe for use by the troop. The overhaul is going to be expensive. Estimates are coming in at \$2,000 or so to make the necessary repairs.

Sadly, we do not seem to have any mechanics or bus parts manufacturers in the Troop 19 family who would be willing to work on the bus at "discounted rates". Therefore, the troop is seeking donations to help defray the cost of these repairs.

Any assistance would be welcome. Donations can be made to Troop 19 at any of the troop activities. Thanks for your consideration.

