

TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

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<http://www.boy scout troop 96.com>

December 2011

November Camping – Welcome Webelos

John McCall, Asst. Scoutmaster

This is one of the really big campouts of the year. Everyone in Troop 96 looks forward to the November campout where we get the chance to invite local Webelos to join us and learn more about Boy Scouting, Troop 96 style. Adults and scouts alike both enjoy showing the local Cub Scout packs what a great time they have to look forward to once they join a Boy Scout troop.



After an early sunset, scouts gathered after dark on Friday evening to head up to Camp OhDakota. When the trailer was packed with just about everything we could use to cook on it was just after 6 PM and we pulled out of the parking lot and headed through Antioch past the cheddar curtain into Packer land.



In only about forty five minutes we were pulling into camp and headed for the Pines campsite near the Teepee shelter. We had two large scout patrols and one very large adult patrol. November weather is always a bit risky, but in usual Troop 96 fashion it was unseasonably mild though a bit windy. It certainly could be worse as we often have below freezing temperatures on this weekend before Thanksgiving. Scouts got to

work on setting up camp and before long everyone was enjoying the evening cracker barrel. The adults had something out of the ordinary, with Wasabi sauce that is. After a short PLC meeting where patrol assignments for Saturdays Webelos visits were decided it was lights out and the camp was quiet till morning.

Before sunrise SPL Anthony and his Assistant Nathan were shaking tents and rousing scouts and leaders with a gentle **“TIME TO WAKE UP”**. It must have worked as it wasn't long before the bacon and sausage and pancakes were cooking conversations were focusing on



the activities planned for our guests that would soon be arriving. The adult patrol was busy not only with breakfast but I actually saw vegetables chopped and work being done on the homemade soups for lunch even before the breakfast was finished.

By 8:30AM we began looking for our guests to begin arriving and by shortly after 9AM most had arrived. We had Webelos, Leaders and parents from Pack 627, 671 and 96 almost an additional 40 people in total.

As the guests arrived they were directed to suitable locations to set up camp and stow their gear. Once most of them had arrived we held our opening flag ceremony where Anthony outlined the plan for the day and welcomed the Webelos. Mr Klemens introduced our youth and adult leaders. The first activity for the Webelos was a hike around the Camp. Mr Klemens led the hike and used the opportunity to explain Boy Scouting to both the Webelos and the parents, he was careful to



highlight the differences between Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. We both have the same last name but we are very different programs. As Troop 96 is a boy led troop, our scouts spent the time preparing program areas to demonstrate fire building, wood tools and pioneering to the Webelos. Long about noon Webelos returned from the camp wide hike to the Pines to enjoy the lunch that the Troop 96 adults had prepared. Fresh homemade chicken and vegetable noodle soup, squash soup, grilled cheese and grilled ham and cheese sandwiches with hot cocoa was just the ticket for hearty appetites. After lunch the Webelos were divided into three groups and each group visited and took part in hands on learning about the basic Boy Scout skills of fire building, wood tools and pioneering.

Dinner prep began about 3:30PM. Our two scout patrols prepared two great meals for their Webelo guests. A Black Swamp Pasta with pepperoni and mushrooms, and pork roast were the main courses which along with great deserts were a highlight proving to all that scout patrols can cook really good meals on a campout.



While dinners were being prepared Mr. Grzesik and Mr. Robb held an informative discussion of scouting skills and activities for the Webelos adults.

The adult patrol feast which needed to feed almost 40 people was pretty ordinary by Troop 96 standards. Of course Troop 96 standards are pretty extraordinary, so deep fried turkey, pork roast, beef roast, baked potato and four desert choices were all cooked to perfection. Thank you Mr. Ostick, Mr. Wehde, Mr. Grzesik, Mr. Timmons and all of the other cooks and grub masters that made for a great dinner.

After dinner the Troop 96 scouts delivered an excellent campfire program of skits and stories. Even our Webelos guests participated with a couple of skits of their own. The campfire closed with a round of Rose, Bud and Thorn. There were few thorns and a lot of roses. Returning to our campsite a few scouts helped themselves to one last hot chocolate but before long all were snug in there warm sleeping bags with memories of a very good day.

Sunday morning arrived on schedule with Anthony and Nathan shaking tents and rousting scouts and leaders once again with a gentle **“TIME TO WAKE UP”**. Patrols prepared breakfasts once again, time to cook up that last 6 pounds of bacon and pork sausage for 10 starving scouts. The Troop 96 adults prepared a great egg bake also with lots of pork to serve our Webelos guests as well as ourselves. We were a little slow striking camp but we held our closing flag ceremony and said good bye to our guests by about 9:30AM. By 9:45AM camp was struck the trailer and Mr. Ostic’s truck was packed, SPL Anthony met with the campmaster who checked us out.

Here is to a great campout and a great group of guests all of whom we hope to camp with again after they carefully consider their options for Boy Scout troops and make the decision to join Troop 96. Thank you for coming...

Troop 96 Scouts Participating:

<i>Stephen Simpson</i>	<i>Nate Timmins</i>	<i>Kyle Judge</i>	<i>Bryan Wehde</i>
<i>Anthony Dinkel</i>	<i>Spencer Boos</i>	<i>Scott Kehr</i>	<i>Will Bauman</i>
<i>Nathan Sislow</i>	<i>Dalton Nitto</i>	<i>Alex Tamuliatis</i>	<i>Andrew Goger</i>
<i>Jack Carville</i>	<i>David Hoffman</i>	<i>Joey Cambio</i>	<i>Eric Ostick</i>
<i>Fritz Klett</i>	<i>Drew Anderson</i>	<i>Henry Klett</i>	<i>Nick Grzesick</i>
<i>Ryan Robb</i>	<i>Christian Mack</i>		

Troop 96 Adults Participating:

<i>Craig Vogel</i>	<i>Sean Vogel</i>	<i>Mike Grzesik</i>	<i>Greg Goger</i>
<i>John McCall</i>	<i>Joe Mathews</i>	<i>Cliff Anderson</i>	<i>Joe Judge</i>
<i>Dave Jacks</i>	<i>Kevin Mack</i>	<i>Pat Klemens</i>	<i>Steve Cambio</i>
<i>Dan Ostick</i>	<i>John Boos</i>	<i>Scott Timmins</i>	<i>Vyt Tamuliatis</i>
<i>Kevin Wehde</i>	<i>Tom Robb</i>	<i>Peter Klett</i>	

Webelos Participating:

<i>Ethan Blennis</i>	<i>Peyton Hines</i>	<i>Gavin Short</i>	<i>Joey Wessley</i>
<i>Zach Levy</i>	<i>Caleb Gramblin</i>	<i>Greyson Fout</i>	<i>Shawn Coffell</i>
<i>Justin Shamberg</i>	<i>Spencer Pavlitic</i>	<i>Jarad Johnson</i>	<i>Jonathan Hannebury</i>
<i>Zachery Thomas</i>	<i>Will Jeffries</i>	<i>Matthew Symons</i>	
<i>Luke Weber</i>	<i>Sam Mitchell</i>	<i>Brandon Nitto</i>	

Webelos Adults Participating:

<i>Cheri Blennis</i>	<i>John Hines</i>	<i>Scott Fout</i>	<i>Isabella Coffell</i>
<i>Dayna Levy</i>	<i>Richard Gramblin</i>	<i>Daniel Johnson</i>	<i>Jon Hannebury</i>
<i>David Schamberg</i>	<i>Richard Pavlitic</i>	<i>Matt Symons</i>	
<i>Ed Thomas</i>	<i>Rick Jeffries</i>	<i>Todd Nitto</i>	
<i>Evlyn Weber</i>	<i>Allan Short</i>	<i>Fred Wessley</i>	

TROOP GUIDE HELP WANTED

Troop 96 is looking for good scouts interested in demonstrating scout spirit and leadership. The position of Troop Guide is open to First Class scouts and above who will have been with the troop at least two years by March 2011. Older scouts are especially encouraged to consider this valuable position, where their experience can be put to use improving the troop. Scouts with less tenure but considerable camping nights may be considered should they be needed.

To be a Guide, you must be willing to join the new scout patrol, attend Webelos crossover ceremonies and camp frequently. If you are interested in this important troop position, please contact Mr. Klemens, Mr. McCall or Mr. Jacks during the troop meeting. A February Troop Guide Training day will be announced during January, pay close attention to the closing messages



West Point Visits Troop 96

The month of November included a visit by Cadet Robert Delaney. Cadet Delaney is a graduate of St. Gilbert School and was once a member of Troop 96.

His visit provided an occasion for him to talk with our scouts about his experience and the opportunity to attend the US military academy at West Point. Robert pointed out both the similarity between scouting and West Point and the benefits of scouting for anyone considering applying to the highly competitive academy.



Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale

Our chartered organization is holding a Christmas Tree sale in the lot just west of St Gilbert Church. If you haven't already purchased your Christmas tree for this season and are in the market for a fresh tree or wreath please consider supporting the Knights.

The Knights of Columbus have been very supportive of Troop 96 over many years please show our appreciation of that support by returning the favor and supporting the Knights.



Scoutmaster's Corner by Pat Klemens

Our **November campout** was a real success. Nearly 80 participants (including 20 Webelos and their parents) gathered at Camp Ohdakota near Burlington, WI to share a great weekend of Scouting. We had outstanding late November weather (even if it was a tad windy). Food, fellowship and new friends made for a great outing.

Each month in winter, **Troop 96 serves at PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter)**. On Dec 1, eleven Scouts and six adults set up the room at the United Protestant Church in Grayslake to provide a place to sleep for those with no place else to go. If you'd like to help in the future, mark your calendars and join us in this important community service project. It only takes about an hour or so. We meet at 4:45 PM at the church (54 Whitney) on Jan 5 and Feb 2.

Our **2012 Camping Calendar** is now posted on the website. We'll add the second half of the year when after we hold the Annual Planning Conference this spring.

January 21-22: Tubing at Wilmot w/ overnight camping in the Moehling Shelter at Camp Lakota near Woodstock, Illinois

February 17-19: Luge experience at Muskegan Winter Sports Complex w/ camping at the Owasippe Scout Ranch Health Lodge (again shelter camping). We'll likely go for one night, but TBD.

March 17-18, Lock-in. Looking for ideas. May go to Roller Skating rink in Crystal Lake, TBD

April 20-22: Basic Scouting Skills and Training for new Scouts w/ camping at Richard Bong Recreational Area (Wisconsin)

May 18-20, Bike riding the Des Plaines River Trail, with camping likely at youth site near Sterling Lake.

June 14-17, Big Trip, destination and activities to be determined.

July 8-21: Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, near Pearson, Wisconsin

We are planning a **Christmas service project** this year. One of the groups at St. Gilbert's, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, has provided information to Troop 96 regarding the needs and wants this Christmas season of a single mother of two boys in the Grayslake area.

The boys, ages 10 & 14, are in need of hats, gloves, shirts and pants. They would like a skateboard, yo-yo, and a video game for a PS3.

Cash donations will be taken until the December 19th Troop meeting. Christian M has taken on this important job and will collect money, shop, wrap and deliver the gifts. Thank you, Christian!

The goal is to collect \$500 to meet their needs and purchase the gifts. We'll use the balance for a grocery gift card for the family.

Scouts, let's make this happen! If you'd like to donate by check, please write it to Troop 96. Thank you!

The Northeast Illinois Council has announced that **Peter Klett** will serve as one of only six National Jamboree Scoutmasters. **Kevin Wehde** was selected to lead the Venture crew from NEIC going to the Jamboree. **Dave Sislow** will be one of the 12 Assistant Scoutmasters, too. It's gonna be a great time at the new Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Costs are lower than 2010 so you'll be able to participate for \$1650 (which includes all Jambo fees, transportation, and nearly all equipment expect for your own personal items). If you'd like to go, register at both the **BSA's National Jamboree website** and locally with the paper application you can download from www.neic.org. Questions? Contact me anytime and I'll be happy to help. There are already a number of Troop 96 Scouts signed up to go!

We are in the early stages of scoping a **"Big Trip" next June (tentatively, June 21-24)**. Every few years, we plan a trip for the Scouts and families that will leave on Thursday and return on Sunday. Watch your calendar and the troop website for more details soon.

The troop can always use **new Merit Badge counselors**. If you have a particular skill or hobby, please consider signing up and sharing your talents with a Scout.

As another year ends, let's pause and reflect on how fortunate we are to be a part of Scouting in America. Thanks to everyone who makes Scouting available to the young men of Troop 96. I look forward to another great year in 2012 and more success for our Troop.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



UNIFORM EXCHANGE:
Troop 96 has a Uniform Exchange. Please gather your serviceable scout uniform shirts, pants, shoulder loops, hats, neckerchiefs and unneeded insignia and donate it to the new Troop 96 Uniform Exchange. If you are in need of uniform shirts, insignia etc. check out the Exchange they just might have what you need.

TROOP 96 ADULT LEADERSHIP....

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Check out the Troop Website – www.boyscouttroop96.com