

TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

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November 2014

Wild Webelos Weekend 2014: Wow!

By Pat Klemens, Scoutmaster

We welcomed Webelos to a wonderful weekend (which we once worried wouldn't work). Why? Well, we wondered, what about Wisconsin weather, windchills and winter winds? This would worry the Webelos. We were wrong. We wound up with 18 Webelos! Whew!

Like all of our outings, we gathered at StG's parking lot. It was already quite cold (about 24 degrees with a forecast of only 12 overnight). Our Scouts seemed not to notice. Gear was loaded up, driving assignments were announced, and we were off like a herd of turtles through Lake County's rush-hour traffic.

Once at Camp Ohdakota, SPL Spencer Boos and the patrol leaders selected their campsites and set about making camp. Out came the gear, up went the dining flies, kitchens and tents, and viola!, Troop 96 was in business. It was cold and the temperature was dropping fast. We heated up a big pot of water to fill our Nalgens and warm our sleeping bags.

After Cracker Barrel, we secured our gear, shut off the lanterns and climbed into bed. We had a big day ahead of us on Saturday.

Spencer woke the troop earlier. He went from tent to tent at 6 AM to rouse the Scouts and adults. I checked the weather conditions at Burlington airport. When I saw they were reporting just 9 degrees, I was worse for knowing. Everyone bundled up and began the process of making breakfast. We had three hours to get everything done before the Webelos would arrive at 9 AM. Two patrols made French Toast, one made Breakfast Burritos and the adults had Blueberry Pancakes with Bacon. With these meals to fire us up, we were ready for our guests to arrive.

Soon enough, Webelos and parents began arriving in the parking lot just down the hill from our site. The sun came out, the winds were calm and temperatures quickly rose into the upper 20's. With a troop assembly and flag ceremony, Spencer welcomed our visitors and explained the plans for the day. In no time, the Webelos were out hiking with us through the camp. We took them to the Fort, to the mystery room built into the side of the hill, to the fire bowl with the Totem Poles, to the lake (with a covering of thin ice) and out to Wilderness Island. Along the way, we talked about Boy Scouts and Troop 96 in particular. The Webelos were more interested in exploring but the parents and troop adults had a good conversation. While we were hiking, the Troop 96 Scouts were preparing themselves for the Webelos' activities in the afternoon.

Upon our return from the hike, the Troop 96 Top Chefs were finishing lunch preparations. We had delicious chili (with and without beans) and warm, gooey grilled cheese sandwiches. Oh, so good.

About one o'clock, the Webelos and our Scouts were ready for an afternoon of Round Robin fun. We had a fire-building event under the giant teepee, a patrol leading knife safety, a patrol teaching Leave No Trace principles and finally a Pioneering ropes course. The weather was so much better than it could have been for these activities. Everyone was doing well and enjoying themselves.

As the sun sank over the horizon, the Webelos and our Scouts continued to work together. Webelos joined the patrols and helped prepare their evening's dinner. Steak and mashed potatoes, summer-camp fried chicken and a stir-fry were all cooked up as well as some great Dutch Oven desserts.

Over at the Troop 96 Top Chef Masters' site, there was a staggering amount of food in process, including a deep-fried turkey, a giant beef roast, two or more pork roasts, mashed potatoes (blue cheese *and* garlic),

Pork Chops and Beans, Cuban-style zucchini and rice, Mac and Cheese, Lentil Soup, Butternut Squash Soup and more. Then came the desserts: cobblers, pies, cakes, and a huge tub of fresh whipped cream. Wow, wow, wow.

As we were eating, it started to snow: large soft flakes fell gently under calm conditions. It didn't take long for it to really accumulate. Thankfully it was a "dry" snow. By 9:30, we had about five inches on the ground (as well as on our tents and dining flys).

Right on schedule at 8 PM, we headed over to the teepee for our evening campfire. The Wizard patrol built a great fire and we all squeezed in for a bit of fun and fellowship. The Scouts and Webelos shared their "Rose, Buds and Thorns" about the day and we did a couple of skits, too. We didn't go too long as we could see heads nodding and eyes drooping. A Scoutmaster's Minute and serenade of Scout Vespers brought the fire to a close. Everyone drifted away to ready themselves for a long winter's nap.

Sunday morning was not quite as cold as Saturday morning, but the snow cover made everything a bit more of a challenge. Breakfast was good and hearty, but tough to prepare in the snow.

Patrols sites were broken down over the course of a few hours and finally all the gear was stowed in the trailer. Spencer brought everyone together for a final assembly. We thanked the remaining Webelos for their energetic participation. I hope we see more than a few of them with Troop 96 patches on their uniforms in 2015. Thanks to our Scouts and this successful Wild Webelos Weekend, we have a very good chance of growing our troop once again.

Scouts (All weekend)

David Hoffman
Hunter McDowell
Joe Tamulaitus
Kevin Goger
Cameron Beard
Alex Kagay

Adults and Family (all weekend)

Kevin Rupprecht
Craig Vogel
Shawn Vogel
Jackson Vogel
Greg Ball
Vyt Tamulaitus

**Scouts (All weekend)**

Edgar Arenas
 Matthew Symonds
 Michael Wentz
 Zach Levy
 Joey Cambio
 Eric Ostick
 Cameron Duffy
 Matthew D'Souza
 Zach Ehorn
 Joshua Ball
 Andrew Goger
 Owen Schwab
 Ryan Robb
 Fritz Klett
 Spencer Boos
 Harry Ehorn
 Nathan Cibula
 Nick Grzesik

Adults and Family (all weekend cont)

Pat Klemens
 Gerry D'Souza
 Craig Levy
 Todd Nitto
 Mike Grzesik
 Tony McDowel
 Matthew Symonds Sr.
 Rose-Marie Goger
 John Boos
 David Cibula
 Pat Cibula
 Rachel Cibula
 Pat Schwab
 Tom Robb
 John McCall
 Dan Ostick
 Peter Klett
 Mrs. Beard
 Grandma Beard
 Mike Hoffman

Scouts (coming on Saturday)

Ryan McLenithan
 William DeKeyser
 Nick Knight
 Chris Judge

Adults and Family (coming on Saturday)

Joe Judge
 Mark Bryant
 Jane Bryant

Webelos participating:

Boy's Name

Amol Sayala
 Nolan Blennis
 Andres Arenas
 Ryan Duffy
 Andrew Evitts
 Tyler Bator
 Michael O'Keefe
 Theodore Giannios
 Ethan Waldenstrom
 Matthew Ness
 Aidan Armes
 Mario Durnil
 Christopher Schwab
 Jared Kagay
 James Dundas
 Tommy Gallagher
 Miles Dekeyser
 Adin Stanton

Adult's Name

Nag Sayala
 Cheri Blennis
 Jessica Castrejon
 Jennifer Duffy
 Lisa Ann Evitts
 Scott Bator
 Tom O'Keefe
 Theodore Giannios
 Kevin Waldenstrom
 Steve Ness
 Dan Armes
 Tony Durnil
 Patrick Schwab
 Howard Kagay
 Dave Gallagher
 Doug DeKeyser
 Chris Stanton

Camping Plan Schedule

- - January 16th-18th: Lock-in at Jadel center (Camp Crown).
- - February 20-22: Skiing, Snowboarding, and Tubing at Sunburst in Kewaskum WI, Cabin
- - March 20-22: New scout training at Camp Lakota near Woodstock. We will get the Gould Shelter (open shelter) in case in turns rainy
- - April 17-19: Horseback Riding, likely near Kettle Moraine in Wisconsin
- - May 15-17: Bike-riding trip, location pending
- - June 19-20: Kayaking Trip, location pending

December Meeting Plan

<p><u>Monday, Dec 1st</u> Service Patrol-Frat Boys Gear Auction-Mr.Klemens</p>	
<p><u>Monday, Dec 1st</u> Service Patrol-Frat Boys Gear Auction-Mr.Klemens</p>	<p><u>Monday, Dec 8th</u> Service Patrol-Wizards Winter First Aid- Spencer Boos Game: First Aid Jeopardy- Spencer Boos, Justin Jones, and Collin Jones</p>
	<p><u>Monday, Dec 15th</u> Service Patrol- Fluffy Bunnies Thriftiness-Mr. Levy Game:Capture the Flag:Arctic Version- Mathew Symmonds and Andrew Goger</p>
<p><u>Monday, Dec 22nd</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Monday, Dec 29th</u> No meeting</p>

Scouts should come to the monthly Patrol Leaders Council prepared with ideas about activities that they and their patrols would like to do at future meetings. ***The next PLC meeting will be 7pm date to be determined.***

NESA's Eagle Scout scholarship window opens

The deadline is December 31st. You can only apply online.
<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/10/03/eagle-scout-scholarship-window-opens/>



the Scoutmaster's Corner
by Pat Klemens

Our annual **Webelos Invitational** was held two weeks before Thanksgiving at Camp Ohdakota near Burlington, WI. Although the weather was cold, we experienced great conditions to do everything we wanted to accomplish. Scout skills and Scout Spirit were on display throughout the weekend and our Scouts impressed the potential new Scouts and their parents. Thanks to everyone who made it happen, including the adult chefs who cooked up masterful meals for our guests. We somehow managed to eat it all – and it was a lot. We most certainly showed the Webelos what camping “Troop 96-style” is like. We hope they choose to continue in Scouting – and if they join Troop 96 that would be even better.

No Troop Meetings over the holidays: we're “off” on Monday, Dec 29th.

We will again meet at the United Protestant Church on Thursday, Dec 4 to **set up for PADS**. Please join us, in uniform, at 4:30 PM.

Mr. Todd Nitto is working with the troop to support the Marine Corps' **annual Toys for Tots** drive. If you would like to make a difference for a child who might otherwise have a dreary Christmas, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to any upcoming troop meeting. We filled two large bags last year...I'll bet we can do even more this year!

The **annual Order of the Arrow Banquet** will be held on December 28th at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling. Please register at NEIC.org. If you attend, you will learn about the fascinating “85-year **History of Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan,**” **2015 Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan High Adventure Opportunities, OA High Adventure Opportunities, 2015 NOAC and see the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Promotional Video.**

Christmas Wish List: If you've read this far, thanks! You must be one of our Troop 96 supporters. This year, we're re-publishing our Christmas Wish List for the troop. If you would like to help us out, take a look at our list and consider giving a gift to Troop 96!

- Pre-paid gas cards to help defer the cost of the pulling our trailer
- Box of “instant” hand warmers
- Meat thermometers (analog)
- Metal kitchen utensils (for example, large spoons or spatulas)

As we look ahead to another year of Scouting in 2015, I want to pause and thank everyone for your dedication and contribution to our Troop in 2014. We have a remarkable Scouting family and it's worth looking back to see what we accomplished together this year:

- We camped every month (except December). Our Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan summer camping program was highly successful. Weekend and summer camp attendance were very well attended throughout the year.

- More than 20 Scouts joined our troop this year (Webelos, transfers and recruited friends).
- The troop earned Gold Status (the highest score) in the BSA's Journey to Excellence program.
- The troop helped many Scouts advance in rank and we've seen one Scout reach the rank of Eagle.
- Ten Scouts (plus six adults) became new members to the Order of the Arrow and several Scouts accepted the challenge of Brotherhood membership). Two adults were recognized as Vigil Members. Our Troop Arrowmen began meeting regularly in 2014 to promote community service, learn more about OA and have fun.
- We provided many service hours (nearly 1000) to the community, including blood drives, PADS, Almond Road Cleanup and, of course, Eagle projects.
- Four adults attended Wood Badge training in 2014 and two adults were on staff. Several from last year's course received their Wood Badge beads from the 2012 course. (Adults can sign up for Wood Badge 2015 now: ask me about it.)
- Four Scouts went to week-long National Youth Leadership Training; one scout was on NYLT staff.
- Our Webelos Invitational campout saw nearly 100 participants including 18 Webelos. We expect a number of new Scouts to join us in 2015.
- We completed our 31th year of continuous Scouting in Grayslake.

An amazing year of amazing people doing amazing work on behalf of the young men of our troop. Thank you all.

May you share the warmth of the holidays with your families and friends. I pray that God will keep you safe throughout 2015. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pat Klemens, Scoutmaster

Philmont 2015

Philmont Crews are full but there is always a possibility that someone will not be able to come please let Mr. McCall know if you would like to be on the waiting list. The full cost is \$1400 plus personal gear.

Christmas time is a great time to put the gear you may need on your wish list. Also scouts should share with your adult leaders and/or Mr. McCall any essential gear that you may need but may not be able to afford. A number of scout adults have gear from past treks that they may be able to lend you for the trek.

Looking forward to another great Troop 96 year of Scouting



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Call before 9 pm

e-mail

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