

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

Volume 21, Number 2

<http://www.boyscouttroop96.com>

March 2013

## The February Skiing Campout

by Joe Matthews

The activity for February's campout was skiing and the weather was perfect for the event, clear and cold. No worries about the weather since we had a cabin for the weekend. Many of the scouts were trying skiing for the first time and were looking forward to the experience.

The troop met at the St. Gilbert parking lot on Friday afternoon and packed the trailer with food, cooking equipment and personal gear. Acting SPL Dalton N. got the troop organized making sure we had everyone and everything we needed. After the driving assignments were made, we loaded up and headed to Indian Mounds Scout Reservation near Oconomowoc Wisconsin where we checked into the Harnischfeger cabin. We found the cabin to be just the right size for our group. It had a dry kitchen with a large gas stove/oven and a fireplace. Food, cooking equipment and personal gear were unloaded first and then the scouts selected bunks and settled their gear.



We then set up for a combined cracker barrel with each patrol sharing what they had. It was a smorgasbord for all and everyone enjoyed the variety. The fireplace in the cabin was stoked and lit with firewood provided by at the campground. Mr. Hoffman planned to sleep outside and set up what he called a "sole survivor" shelter using a pole, some stakes and a tarp. He also used temperature appropriate sleeping bag and padding to insulate himself from the cold. Everyone then bedded down for the night and slept comfortably, including Mr. Hoffman.



Saturday morning came and the troop was roused to a crisp and cold morning. We had plenty of time to fix breakfast and get KP done since skiing was scheduled for the afternoon. There was time in the morning to explore the camp and play in the snow. A hot lunch was fixed and enjoyed by all. After KP was done, we prepared the troop to make the trek up to Sunburst ski resort in Kewaskum Wisconsin.

Once we arrived at the ski hill, the troop was assembled and went through process of filling out forms, getting lift tickets and getting fitted for all the necessary ski equipment. With skis, boots and helmets, we went out for group lessons with instructors there at the resort. The scouts moved from learning how to put on the skis, to walking in them, controlling the skis to finally begin taking some runs down the hill. As we progressed, the scouts got to experience using a magic carpet (similar to the tubing hill), using a towrope and using the chair lift. Before long the group was turned loose on the hills and trying different hills based on their experience and skill level. During the afternoon, three scouts and three adult leaders from troop 96 joined us. Mr. Levy worked with some of the scouts on completing requirements for their skiing merit badge. The temperature stayed well below freezing the whole day but it hardly felt cold with all the activity. When necessary, breaks were taken to warm up and get a snack of granola bar or water but most of the time was spent going up and down the hills. Skiing continued well past dusk when we finally decided to call it quits.



After an hour-long drive back to Oconomowoc, the troop began preparations for their evening meal. A fire was built in the fireplace and everyone enjoyed their meals and the warmth of the cabin. By the time KP was done, it was time to hit the sack and recharge for the next day. MrBoos put up an outdoor shelter similar to Mr. Hoffman's and they both slept outside in their respective shelters. Saturday was even colder than Friday and the temperature dipped down to the low single digits.



After a good night's rest, the troop woke to prepare breakfast. There were pancakes, eggs and bacon among the breakfast items prepared and consumed with very little waste to speak of. Scouts packed up their personal gear and then set about cleaning up the cabin prior to departing. Everyone pitched in and worked to meet a 9 AM schedule for departing. Working together we beat our goal by 10 minutes. Mr. boos and Mr. Hoffman kept their shelters up to the last and showed the scouts how they were assembled. After the teaching experience, a quick interfaith service was

held. The cars were then loaded up and we headed back to St. Gilbert where we arrived before 11 AM.

*Scouts Participating:*

Dalton Nitto	Brandon Nitto	David Hoffman	Joey Wessely
Richard Wegner	Matthew Symonds	Dakota Andelman	Josh Marks
Nick Murphy	Ethan Bleniss	Alex Kuscsik (Sat only)	Spencer Boos (Sat only)

*Adults Participating:*

Mike Hoffman	Joe Matthews	Matthew Symonds	Todd Nitto
John Boos (Sat only)	Steve Kuscsik (Sat only)	Craig Levy (Sat only)	

**March Campout**

**Date:** March 15-17

**Time:** Meet at Saint Gilbert parking lot at 5:30 PM Friday  
**Afternoon March 15 be prepared for cold weather camping.**

**Camp Location:** Camp Crown 11651 304th Ave (County Rd B), Trevor, Wisconsin 53179

**Activity:** “Back to Basics” We will be tent camping and concentrating on cooking and basic scout skills

**Cost:** \$15 per scout for food. Permission slips and Money due Monday March 11 at the Troop meeting no exceptions.



**Troop 96 Scouts attend Nonotechnology Event at Northwestern University**

Scouts from our Troop interested in cutting edge science attended the International Institute for Nanotechnology, All Scout Event at Northwestern University.

Scouts had the opportunity to meet and talk with scientists actively working in this exciting field.



Nanotechnology, or nanoscience, refers to the design, fabrication and control of small structures on the nanometer length scale -- that of atoms and molecules. (A nanometer is one billionth of a meter.)



## Scoutmaster's Corner by Pat Klemens

- **New Scouts** have joined our troop recently from Pack 96, Pack 91 & Pack 677. Without new Scouts every year, we cannot have a successful troop. Please welcome them and their parents as they begin their Scouting adventure.
- Our **March "Back to Basics" Campout** (March 15-17) has been planned by the PLC to be extra special. In addition to our traditional Saturday night troop buffet, they also plan to re-visit our basic camping skills. March also brings our newest Scouts, too, so plan to be there for the fun.
- We are inviting the parents of our newest Scouts to join us at our annual **"New Parents Meeting"** to be held this Wednesday, March 6 at 7 pm at the Grayslake Village Hall. We will share our thoughts and plans about Scouting in Troop 96. Together, we can make your son's experiences in scouting some of the most memorable of his life. This is for parents only (Scouts need not attend, but it's not a problem if they do). Mark your calendar and join us!
- It's hard to believe during these cold March weeks that will be heading to summer camp in just a few months. Mr. Doug DeKeyser, our **MaKaJaWan** reservation guru, has already working on another summer in the Great Northwoods of Wisconsin. Watch the website for details soon.
- **Scouting for Food** is BSA's annual nationwide service project to collect food for the nation's food pantries. We will be handing out food bags with instructions this Monday night. Scouts are asked to place these bags on the houses right in their immediate area. Please collect the food prior to Monday, March 10th and bring it to the troop meeting that night. Your food will be delivered it to the St. Gilbert Food Pantry and added to the nationwide total.
- In January, our troop participated in the annual **Friends of Scouting** pledge drive. As a troop, our goal is \$12,001! Not to worry, thanks to your generosity, we always deliver. If you still have your pledge card, please pass it to Kevin Rupprecht as soon as possible. Every Scout deserves a great program and Friends of Scouting makes it possible.
- If you've been on the troop website in the last week, you may have noticed our new **On-Line Troop Library**. You can find a collection of articles that cover a diverse group of important topics, like
  - [Quick Start Guide to the Troop](#)
  - [What does a new member need to know about the troop?](#)
  - [How Does Advancement Work?](#)



- [How do Scout Accounts work?](#)
  - [How does the Merit Badge program work?](#)
  - [What Do Adults Do on Campouts?](#)
  - [What Makes a Trained Leader?](#)
  - [How do the Tech Guidelines Work?](#)
  - [How does Life-to-Eagle work?](#)
  - [How can I improve my SAT/ACT score?](#)
  - [How to Plan an Eagle Court of Honor](#)
- 
- New Communication tools are here and planned. You can follow the troop on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/GLtroop96](http://www.twitter.com/GLtroop96)) and soon you'll see a new design to our Troop website, too.
  - In February, we held on semi-annual youth leadership election. **Bryan W was elected Senior Patrol Leader!** Thanks to the five other Scouts (Brandon N, David H, Kyle J, Ethan D and Spencer B) who showed true Scout Spirit by running for SPL. Each of them gave a good showing of themselves and offered a good "campaign speech." A special thanks to Nathan T who has been the troop's Senior Patrol Leader for an entire year - a truly rare occurrence in our 30-year history.
  - We also held our annual **Order of the Arrow Election** on February 18. There were twelve Scouts eligible for election (at least First Class with at least 15 nights camping in the last two years, including one week-long camp). While the results remain sealed until our first week at MaKaJaWan, I can tell you that we had a very positive outcome. (Note: Parents of those elected will be notified in the coming months to make arrangements for Call Out this summer or during the Fall Conclave.)
  - Aquatics and **Commit to be Fit**: Check the website for next weekend's chance to complete some swimming requirements at the YMCA pool in Lindenhurst on Saturday and Sunday.
  - The Grayslake Heritage Center & Museum, 164 Hawley Street, will be one of only eleven museums in the nation to host a nationally traveling exhibition created by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. **Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America** features high quality reproductions related to the life of our 16th President, with proceeds aiding in the preservation and restoration of the originals. These precious artifacts range from Lincoln's surveying instruments to the kid gloves he wore on that fateful night at Ford's theater. The show will run March 23- June 16, 2013, with expanded hours and weekly, family-friendly programs scheduled. Troop 96 will have the opportunity to have a special presentation at an upcoming troop meeting about Lincoln and life as it was in the mid-1800's. Watch the website for more details.
  - Troop 96 will embark on "**The Big Trip**" from June 15th through the 23rd. The

Troop will travel on this 9-day trip to Minnesota, Wyoming and South Dakota. We will be staying luxurious camps: all will have running water, toilets, showers and during four days we'll have a swimming pool. The Troop will be led by our Trip Chairman, Dan Ostick, and newly elected SPL Bryan W. Under his expert leadership, we will see the Badlands, hike around Devil's Tower in Wyoming and see the Crazy Horse Monument. We'll visit Mt. Rushmore and perhaps even retire the flags at the monument that evening. Plan to hike Custer State Park and go caving, too. We also will be announcing a short list of merit badge opportunities for the trip shortly.

This whirlwind trip is available for the low, low price of just \$325 per person! All family members are invited to join us. We currently have 51 people signed up and expect more to come. First deposits of \$75 per person are due by Monday, March 18th. This is a non-refundable deposit. All subsequent payments are returnable if you need to cancel. This will be a trip to remember for a lifetime. Please come join us!

- **Spaghetti Dinner** - Save the Date: Saturday, May 4. We'll be serving from 4p to 7p. Ticket sales will start mid-March. We ask every Scout to sell at least six tickets. (And we have new ticket sales prize incentives, too, this year.) Plan to be there – it'll be great. As our Big Noodle, Dan Ostick says, "May the Fourth Be With You!" Any questions see Mr. Ostick.



**Troop 96 Program Staff**

Call before 9 pm

*e-mail*

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**Boy Scouts of America, Troop 96 Grayslake, Illinois  
Parental Authorization and Permission**

The Troop 96 March Campout will take place on March 15-17, 2011 at Camp Crown near Wilmot, WI. The troop will gather at the StG parking lot on Friday at 5:30 p.m. Basic Camping Skills and Scout Games will be our primary activities.

Please note on the permission slip if an Adult will accompany the Scout or if special transportation arrangements will occur for the Scout.

Contact the camping hot line at (847) 223-7233 on Sunday to get a more precise return time, and plan on collecting your son within 10 minutes of the time announced on the camping hot line. Parents are to pick up Scouts at the church parking lot and take home troop gear for cleaning/drying as assigned by the Troop Quartermaster.

During the outing, the troop adult leadership can be contacted (in case of emergency) at the following number: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Retain the upper portion for your records and information)**

My son: \_\_\_\_\_ can attend the  
Troop 96 Campout on March 15-17, 2011.

I understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for myself or my child to participate in the activity. I understand that participation in the activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. I release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation. In case of emergency involving my child, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical provider selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the adult in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities.

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any allergies or relevant medical conditions. Please list all medications, dosages and administration times for any meds to be taken during the outing.

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