

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

Volume 22, Number 11

<http://www.boyscouttroop96.com>

November 2014

## At least we were Civil

By Pat Klemens, Scoutmaster

Our October campout had a little bit of everything: camping, hiking, biking, a special event, backpacking and more.

As we gathered in the StG parking lot, the weather forecast looked to be nearly perfect. Everyone was excited to get to Channahon State Park where our adventure would begin.

Although we arrived at the state park just before 8 PM, it was already completely dark at this time of year. We spoke with another troop that was already set up and got their OK to set up nearby. We told them we'd be gone by 8AM!

SPL Spencer Boos with his patrol leaders found their camping sites and assigned the adults our place to set up. In less than an hour, our tents were up and we were ready for cracker-barrel. Since we were leaving so early on Saturday and the forecast was so good, we did not setup dining flies or pull out the kitchens. By 10 PM, we were bedded down and just a few voices could be heard as they fought to go to sleep.

We were up at 5:45 and got ourselves ready for the day. Breakfast was quick and easy trail food. We loaded the trailer with our gear, and then I loaded in my bike and drove the trailer to McKinley Woods, near the spot of our Saturday campsite. Once the trailer was parked, I biked back to Channahon to be able to leave with the "riding group" and say "So long" to the hiking group.

Just as we planned to leave, a 5-K run started. Of course, the runners didn't plan on us being on the trail (and we didn't plan on them being on the trailer either!). Once the speeding rabbits raced by, it was a lot easier to get on the trail and ride as the slower groups slogged their way to the finish line. Fortunately, we were going in opposite directions and that made it much easier to keep an eye out for each other.

Our small group of bikers made good time. Once the race participants were behind us, we



only saw two other users of the trail for the rest of the day.

The trail is really beautiful in the fall and very unique. As a “tow path” for the 150-year-old canal, the trail is dead flat with water on both sides. It’s situated with the River on one side and the canal alongside the other. Signage along the way helped to explain how the I&M Canal was built and operated until the railroads came along and made the canal obsolete.

Our agreed meeting point was at Dollinger Farm at 12 noon. We were going to have a “genuine” Civil War meal with some Union soldiers. The bikers locked up their bikes and enjoyed a blacksmithing demonstration while the hikers were still heading our way. Sure enough, at 12 noon, they appeared from around the bend and we re-grouped to have lunch. Neighbors of Mr. Cibula are long-time Civil War re-enactors and they allowed us to share a meal with the troops. We each had a heaping helping of ham and beans, plus a big slice of corn bread and a cookie. We washed it all down with ~~white lightning~~ Gatorade. Second helpings were offered but just a few were willing. Most of us had our share of beans in the first round. Good thing we were outside.

We explored the Civil War encampments for a bit then hiked up the hill to witness the battle. It’s pretty impressive what they do at Dollinger Farms. With canons, horses and infantry, they showed how the battle developed. We saw the different tactics of each side while a narrator explained what we were seeing. After about an hour, the Union army was over-run and the field belonged to the Rebels. We were told that the battle on Sunday saw the Union as the victors.

With the battle complete, we headed back down the hill and re-traced our route to get back to McKinley Woods. We planned to camp at a remote and beautiful site along the river. The site had no drinking water, but did have a decent latrine and several picnic tables. We set up and made ourselves comfortable on the edge of the riverbank. We had the place to ourselves.

We discovered we couldn’t keep our trailer over night at McKinley Woods, so I again loaded my bike, drove the trailer back to Channahon, parked the trailer and rode back to McKinley. The I&M Canal is a lot different to ride when it’s completely dark on the trail.

We made more simple trail meals since we didn’t have full kitchens to prepare our more elaborate culinary creations. We kept it simple but tasty. One pot meals were the order of the day and each patrol did great.

By the time we cooked, ate and cleaned up, everyone was beat. A campfire was lit but we didn’t spend much time around it. Everyone thought it would be much more enjoyable getting an early night’s sleep all snuggled up in a sleeping bag.

But wait! After falling into deep, restful and sound sleep the noise was nearly deafening in camp: a large group of local teens arrived about midnight to camp “next door” at a nearby site. With loud music, shouting and other antics, they soon had most of our troop awake. They continued to party until about 2:30 am as though they were the only ones for miles. Little did they know that we planned to rise about 5:30 am.

Normally, when were in camp, it’s best to keep our voices down and blend in with the natural surroundings. Normally.

We got up and at ‘em early and had a good time doing so. For a few minutes, the Scouts made use of their pots, pans and buckets to alert any boaters on the river that they should be careful in the fog. We were very good at our efforts because no boaters crashed into

our riverbank. We cheered our success at protecting the innocent boaters. All in all, we found it difficult to be quiet as we packed up and headed out. We hoped our neighbors understood.

I rode my bike to Channahon to get the trailer back to McKinley. Once the trailer was on site, the Scouts could get things loaded. I biked back once more to get my van so I could drive back to McKinley to get the rest of the drivers and take them over to Channahon to get their cars. When all our personnel, gear and vehicles were ready, the troop held a meaningful Interfaith service then a quick review of what worked and what didn't work over the weekend. With that, we loaded up the cars and headed back to StG.

The Quartermaster and crew unloaded the trailer and assigned gear to be taken home to be cleaned and dried. (All gear is due back to the troop now.)

All in all, it was a fantastic outing – even if it was a bit more complicated than most. We did everything we hoped to do and then some!

Scouts participating:

Nathan Cibula	Charlie Arkenburg	Kyle Judge	Nick Grzesik
Michael Wentz	Justin Jones	Alex Kagay	Brandon Nitto
Cameron Beard	Collin Jones	Ethan Bleniss	Joey Cambio
Thomas Hinkley	William Dekeyser	Hunter McDowell	Eric Ostick
Kevin Goger	Spencer Boos	Joshua Ball	Alex Kuscik
Zach Levy	Andrew Goger (1)	Mitchell Garcia	

Participating Adults: Mr. Cibula, Mr. Grzesik, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Judge, Mr. Levy, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Nitto, Mr. Ostick and Mr. Klemens

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## Camping Plan Schedule

- - November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Webelos Invitational, Camp OhDaKoTa, Burlington, WI
- - 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

### *Like Scouting?*

If you enjoy scouting, if you have fun, if it helps make you a better person, then share scouting with your friends and family. Speak positively about how scouting is fun, builds character and makes you a better citizen.

Local scouting units, especially Cub Scout units are in need of new members.

Share the fun and encourage those who would benefit to visit a Pack or Troop. It will strengthen our community.

**November Meeting Plan**

<p><b><u>Monday, Nov 10th</u></b>                  Fire Building: Wizards                  Whittling + Related Game: Flaming Donuts                  Service Patrol: Fluffy Bunnies</p>	
<p><b><u>Campout in November, Nov 14th – 16<sup>th</sup></u></b>                  Annual Webelos Invitational it should make for a fun campout. Our Scouts will host area Webelos, teach them about Boy Scouts and Boy Scout skills.</p>	
<p><b><u>Monday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup></u></b>                  Service Patrol-Flaming Donuts                  Winter Wilderness Survival-Hunter McDowell                  Layers-Eric Ostick                  Game: Wilderness Survival "The Game"-Hunter McDowell</p>	<p><b><u>Monday, Nov 24th</u></b>                  Service Patrol-Older Scout Patrol                  Nutrition-Hunter McDowell and Justin Jones                  Games: Sharks and Minnows-Nathan Cibula (Outside)                  Capture the Flag-Collin Jones and Zach Levy (Outside)</p>
<p><b><u>Monday, Dec 1st</u></b>                  Service Patrol-Frat Boys                  Gear Auction-Mr.Klemens</p>	<p><b><u>Monday, Dec 8th</u></b>                  Service Patrol-Wizards                  Winter First Aid- Spencer Boos                  Game: First Aid Jeopardy- Spencer Boos, Justin Jones, and Collin Jones</p>
	<p><b><u>Monday, Dec 15th</u></b>                  Service Patrol- Fluffy Bunnies                  Thriftiness-Mr. Levy                  Game:Capture the Flag:Arctic Version-Mathew Symmonds and Andrew Goger</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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 **October Campout** was held on Oct 17-19. We camped at Channahon State Park, where the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers converge to form the Illinois River. On Saturday, we biked/hiked along the I&M Canal along the river and headed west. During the afternoon, we stopped at Dollinger Farms to observe a Civil War battle re-enactment and ate with one of the Armies. You can read all about this event in the cover story to this month's Gazette.

Looking ahead, our November Campout will be the annual **Webelos Invitational** at Camp Ohdakota near Burlington, Wisconsin. The campout will be held over the weekend of November 15-16. The patrols have agreed to take responsibility for four events: Wood Tools Skills and Safety, Pioneering and Knots, Fire-Building and "Leave No Trace."

Remember, parents are always welcome to join us and camp with the adults on any campout. You will eat well for only \$15 and get a chance to see your son and his patrol in action, too.

Our **next Troop Arrowmen Meeting** will be this Thursday, Nov 6 at 4:15 PM just a few minutes *before* the PADS Service Project begins at 4:30. Arrowmen should attend to learn about the Arrowman Service Award you can earn as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. After the service project, we will go to Culvers.

Upcoming **PADS Service Projects** will be held at the United Protestant Church in Grayslake on November 6 and December 4 at 4:30 pm. The project only takes about an hour. Your help is needed to make this important community service project a success.

**Introduction to Leadership Training** will be held for the PLC (that is, all Scouts with a Troop Position) on November 8 from 1-5 pm at the Grayslake Village Hall. This training is necessary to be qualified for your position on the Patrol Leaders Council.

You should have received an email from me regarding our **new Parent Forums**. These sessions will take place during our regular troop meetings and are intended to help parents learn more about Scouting and Troop 96. Mr. Greg Goger will coordinate the sessions. Sessions start at 7:30 pm and will likely end in about 30-45 minutes.

**Camping Plans *January through June 2015:***

January 16-18: Lock-in at Jadel center (Camp Crown). Activities may include sledding (weather permitting), movie night, board games or some other activities the PLC decides upon. We could look into activities at the Prairie View recreation center for daytime activities for example.

February 20-22: Skiing, Snowboarding, and Tubing at Sunburst in Kewaskum WI, Cabin camping at Indian Mounds Scout Reservation.

March 20-22: New scout training at Camp Lakota near Woodstock. We will get the Gould Shelter (open shelter) in case in turns rainy and reserve a campsite near the shelter.

April 17-19: Horseback Riding, likely near Kettle Moraine in Wisconsin

May 15-17: Bike-riding trip, location pending

*We will likely swap May & June's activities*

June 19-20: Kayaking Trip, location pending

There is a fantastic opportunity to earn **Law Merit Badge** with four current judges at the Lake County Courthouse! Law Merit Badge Day is only held once a year and is limited to just 75 Scouts. Cost is \$6. To participate, go to [NEIC.org](http://NEIC.org) or find the link [on our website](#) to register now.

**Troop 96 Trivia:** Our current, red trailer was used for the first time at the October campout in 2008 which means it just had its sixth birthday!

You can always get the latest information about the troop at our website ([www.BoyScoutTroop96.com](http://www.BoyScoutTroop96.com))

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### **Philmont 2015**

Philmont Crews held a shakedown and practice hike for Scouts preparing for next summer's trip to New Mexico.

Currently one spot is still available so if any qualified scout would like to join the crews please have them contact Mr. McCall as soon as possible this includes any scout from another Grayslake area Troop. A \$600 deposit will secure the spot.



Total costs are estimated to be \$1400 plus personal gear.

### **November 2013 Campout**

The Troop heads to Camp OhDakota near Burlington, Wisconsin in November. This is our annual Webelos Invitational it should make for a fun campout. Our Scouts will host area Webelos, teach them about Boy Scouts and Boy Scout skills.

The signed permission slip is due on November 10th - no exceptions - along with \$15 cash for the purchase of food by the patrols.

When: Fri-Sun, Nov 14-16 Gather at St. Gilbert at 5:30PM  
Fri. Nov 14th! Webelos will join us Saturday morning and camp with us Saturday night.



Looking forward to another great Troop 96 year of Scouting



## Troop 96 Program Staff

Call before 9 pm

e-mail

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## BSA TROOP 96 PERMISSION SLIP

**SIGNED PERMISSION SLIPS DUE:** Monday, November 10, 2014

**EVENT DATES:** Friday, Nov 14 to Sunday, Nov 16, 2013

**EVENT LOCATION:** Camp Oh-da-ko-ta near Burlington, Wisconsin

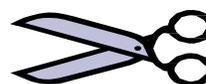
**Meeting time:** 5:30pm Friday afternoon – St. Gilbert Parking Lot

**RETURN:** approx 12:00 noon, Sun, Nov 16 (Call 847-223-7233 after 9AM for a better estimate)

**EVENT COST:** \$15/per scout for food cash. Pay to Patrol Leader on November 10

**UNIFORM / CLOTHING:** CLASS A UNIFORM for the drive and assemblies.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Adult leaders/parents will provide transportation.



### BSA TROOP 96 PERMISSION SLIP – Webelos Invitational Campout

**EVENT DATES:** Friday, Nov 14 – Sunday, Nov 16, 2014

**EVENT LOCATION:** Camp Oh-da-ko-ta near Burlington, Wisconsin

**DEPART:** 5:30pm Friday afternoon – Church parking lot

SCOUT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission for full participation in BSA programs, subject to the limitations noted herein. I further agree that Troop 96 and its Junior and Adult Leaders, as well as the St. Gilbert Church and the Knights of Columbus shall be held free from liability, financially or otherwise, for any injury or accident incurred by my son during this event. I have also included a separate sheet with any special instructions regarding my son.

In case of emergency, I understand every effort will be made to contact me (or someone else if noted on this form). In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child.

Parent (Guardian) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **Can Drive?: Y / N**

Parent phone number in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other important information in an emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS:** ONLY PARENTS OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS CAN PICK UP YOUR SCOUT. IF ANYONE ELSE IS TO BRING YOUR SON HOME YOU MUST PROVIDE THAT AUTHORIZATION BELOW:

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_ IS AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP MY SCOUT AT THE CHURCH (PARENT SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_