

# TROOP 96 GAZETTE

Knights of Columbus  
St. Gilbert Church



Grayslake, Illinois

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<http://www.boyscouttroop96.com>

October 2012

## September – The Mystery Campout

By John McCall

On a very pleasant Friday evening the troop assembled at St. Gilbert for our monthly campout. Ah! But there was something different this time, our destination and plan for the weekend was a mystery. Six adults and 15 scouts loaded into 5 vehicles and off we went west toward the Pacific and Oregon. Equipped with two pages of instructions and no map scouts answered questions and solved puzzles to assist the drivers to the destination. The setting sun shining on the windshield was making visibility less than ideal, as the journey went on into the dark, conditions improved the visibility but the territory became less familiar. Out beyond Belvidere where an Italian company builds American muscle cars and across the Rock River with no ocean in site we nonetheless had reached Oregon. We continued to follow the instructions while the odometer approached 100 miles, then we turned into the forest where the White Pines grow.



Following the trail into the park we forded the stream and reached the great circle to join with several other Troops from, Northbrook, Naperville and Oak Lawn. In a little while our trailer arrived with the supplies that we would need to support us for the weekend here in Oregon. Scouts gathered together and led by the weekend SPL Nick Knight and Quartermaster Nick Borovka we trekked back through the field and found the designated campsites and divided them among our two scout and one adult patrols.

Gear was unloaded and, soon camp lanterns lit up the area, scouts hauled patrol gear and in the dark set up dining flies, kitchens and tents and moved in personal gear until everyone settled in for the evening cracker barrel. Before retiring a short PLC was held where more of the mystery weekend was revealed. It was decided that 11PM would be lights out and at 7AM Nick would roust the troop for the days activities. Mr. Matthews revealed the plan for our own Scout Olympics where all of the events would focus on scouting skills.

Though it was lights out by 11PM, the rumble of freight trains and the howl of coyotes would make for an often interrupted night's sleep. In any event the sun rose and not long after Nick was making his rounds trying to get some very tired scouts up and looking alive.



Soon the sounds and smells of breakfast being prepared filled the air. Patrols cooked eggs and pancakes and plenty of bacon and sausage sizzled in the dutch ovens. No one was in a rush since this was to be a leisurely campout since there was no hurry to get out of camp for the day's activities. After breakfast and after KP was completed scouts assembled between the patrol sites for our opening flag ceremony.

With the flags raised and messages conveyed, the scouts divided into three groups of five for the day's activities. The morning consisted of recognizing

some basic scout knots and some not so basic knots. Kyle Judge led his team to a top score and set the bar high for other scouts to master the knot required for the various scout ranks. Mr Ostick led an activity in fire building that all of the teams thought was fun, while Mr. McCall challenged the scouts skills with a compass by having them determine their pace and follow a course and bring back a list of numbers marked on stakes that formed waypoints along the course. Scouts with the numbers in the correct order were awarded full points while those who got lost got less. Mr. Matthews worked with each team of five to identify plants and trees native to this area, I believe there was even a White Pine that needed to be identified. Long about noon we took a break and scouts made up their lunches. The nice thing about staying in camp was that we were able to make up a hot lunch and the adult patrol didn't miss the chance with pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans and cole slaw. It was delicious.



After lunch we resumed our quest for Olympic greatness, Scouts competed in tri-pod building to demonstrate lashing skills and a stretcher carry which took a surprising amount of teamwork. Since the adult patrol also participated in the stretcher carry it was fortunate we didn't need to put CPR skills to the test because though they had a better time they came much closer to needing CPR than they did to taking a victory lap. Since time was



running out the formal competitions were curtailed at six events. An optional event the dumbo drop was instead simplified into a very big rope swing. Our large tug of war rope was tossed over a tall and very strong tree branch a large bowline was tied in the end and scouts used it to swing like a human pendulum some of the best fun of the day was had on that rope swing.

By 5PM dinners were being cooked and scores for the day's activities were tallied. We probably should have given scores for the dinners, themselves because as usual this is one of the areas where Troop 96 really competes. Again the adults with Mr. Hoffman's "Pineapple Upside Down Cake" may have brought back the gold.

After dinner and KP was completed, long about 8:30PM after the sun had set we held our evening campfire. It was well attended and our closing of Rose, Bud & Thorn was full of Roses and very few thorns. The medals were awarded with the CEJNZ team and the Djibouti team splitting the bronze and silver medal while the Yolo team with the best score in knots and the stretcher relay brought home the Gold. Mr Matthews awarded the winning team their choice of after dinner treats while the other two teams scarfed up what was left.



Sunday morning came even earlier than Saturday, Nick was getting the troop out of sleeping bags before the sun came up. Breakfasts were cooked and enjoyed; Nick Borovka survived the night in a homemade shelter of blue tarps and short spars. The early morning wakeup didn't get us out any sooner by the time KP was done and the campsite policed it was after 9AM. We held the closing with Chris Matthews delivering our scouts own Sunday service. We were on the road by 9:30AM and made it back to St. Gilbert about 12:10PM. Another great campout goes in the book.

*Scouts Participating:*

Nick Borovka	David Hoffman	Jacob Stutzman	Alex Tamulaitis
Joey Cambio	Kyle Judge	Christian Mack	Jonathon Lewis
Chris Matthews	Eric Ostick	Sam Mitchell	Zach Monahan
Ethan Blenniss	Nick Knight	Josh Marks	

*Adults Participating:*

Mike Hoffman	Steve Cambio	Joe Matthews	John McCall
Dan Ostick	Kevin Mack		



**October Campout #1**

The Troop heads to our closest campout ever. We will be attending the Northeast Illinois Council "Scout Jam" at nearby Lakewood Forest Preserve. Boy Scouts from all over the Northeast Illinois Council will be there for a preview of the 2013 National Jamboree. Activities include Zip line, Canoes and Kayaks, Merit Badge Midway and a host of other opportunities



**When: Fri-Sun, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> – 7th Gather at St. Gilbert at 5:30PM Fri. Oct 5th!**



**TROOP 96 - SERVICE PROJECT  
ALMOND ROAD CLEAN-UP**



Place: Meet at Warren Township Center Parking lot ( Washington and Almond)

Date: Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM to 11:00AM

Activity: Beautify our corner of America (Pick up Trash along Almond Road

Requirements: Wear your uniform or Boy Scout T-shirt/sweatshirt

bring **work gloves** and **water bottle**



## It's time to Sell Popcorn

Popcorn sales began September 15th. Pay close attention to the announcements before and after each Troop meeting. Plan your orders for Show and Sell.



Sign up for site sales: 10/27 and 10/28.

Contact Dawn Wegner at 636-248-0444 with questions or to sign up.

Popcorn money helps the troop earn money to buy the camping equipment we need all year long.

Popcorn money helps the Scout earn money in their scout account to go to camp or buy nifty scout stuff, sporting equipment, books and other things.

Scouts can sell and earn even more money for Jamboree.

***Troop 96 runs on popcorn most of the year - this is an important fundraiser. And, the popcorn is SO GOOD! There will be raffle drawings for all participants. \$1000 in sales earns Key Lime Cove two tickets for Nov 30th***

Scoutmaster's Corner  
by Pat Klemens



**This month we'll be camping twice!** First, we'll go to ScoutJam on Oct 5-7 at Lakewood Forest Preserve near Wauconda. Our second campout this month will be held Oct 19-21. For this one, we'll be camping at Crown near Wilmot, Wis and going to the Kenosha Conservation Club for a day of Shooting Sports on Saturday. We're doing a lot of camping this fall – join us.

**Congratulation to Nathan T** who was re-elected to the job Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for a second time. It's rare for an SPL to be elected to the job more than once. Thanks for stepping up and showing excellent Scout Spirit. We're looking forward to seeing your skills in action.

All members of the new PLC are expected to complete training for their jobs during **Troop Leadership Training** on Nov 4 (location to be determined). We will meet in the afternoon for this required training for all Scouts with troop positions. Watch the Troop Website and listen in at the Troop meetings for all the details.

How are your sales of **Popcorn and Wreaths** going? Remember, all you really need to do is ask and most people will buy. Who will you ask first? By the way, did you know that your profits can be used for Scout gear, camping gear, athletic equipment, books or camping fees? Your profits are recorded directly to your Scout Account in the troop. Buy what you want from the categories above, bring me the receipt and the troop will give you a check in return!

**Jamboree 2013** – Troop 96 has nearly 20 Scouts attending the National Jamboree in West Virginia next summer. Our Council will be sending six full troops (that's 216 Scouts). We are now accepting registrations for the waiting list. You still have a good chance of attending, but you need to act fast if you want to go.



Check out our Troop Website (<http://www.BoyScoutTroop96.com>) anytime for the latest Troop 96 news.



## Troop 96 Committee

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Call before 9 pm

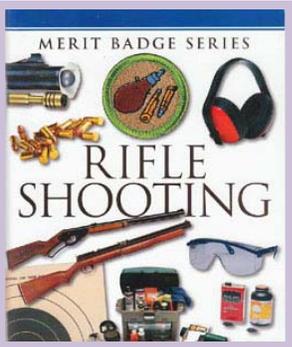
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**October Campout #2**

The second campout for October will be October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be camping at Camp Crown in Wilmot, WI and the activity will be Shooting Sports on Saturday at the Kenosha Conservation Club. Money and permission slips will be due at the Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Troop meeting. There may be an extra charge for the activity expenses.



**When: Fri-Sun, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> - 21st Gather at St. Gilbert at 5:30PM Fri. Oct 19th!**



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

Troop 96 will participate in the Northeast Illinois Council's **ScoutJam** on Oct 5-7, 2012. The troop will travel to Lakewood Forest Preserve near Wauconda, Il. The cost for this trip is \$18 per person for the event and \$15 for food. The troop will gather at 5:30 PM on Friday, Oct 5 and depart at 6:00 PM.

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 after 9:00 AM 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 Northeast Illinois Council's **Scout Jam** on Oct 5-7, 2012.

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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