



Upcoming Events

- February 3 2:00 pm - Parents' meeting
- February 5 7:00 pm - Troop Meeting
- February 9 7:00 pm - Committee Meeting
- February 12 Pack 33 Webelos Umstead Hike
- February 16-17 Volunteers Needed
- February 19 7:00 pm - Troop Meeting
- February 23 Troop 28 Campout
- February 26 Uwharrie Backpacking
- February 19 7:00 pm - Troop Meeting
- February 23 Highland Merit Badge University
- February 26 7:00 pm - Troop PLC

Troop 28 Snow Skiing

January 11-13, 2013



A grand total of 42 Scouts and family members enjoyed a long weekend to Snowshoe, West Virginia for snow skiing and snow boarding.

SPOTLIGHT A SCOUT!

This could be a story about you!
Wanted stories about scouts in Troop 28!
What have you been doing in school?

Tell us about your family!

What is your favorite hobby!

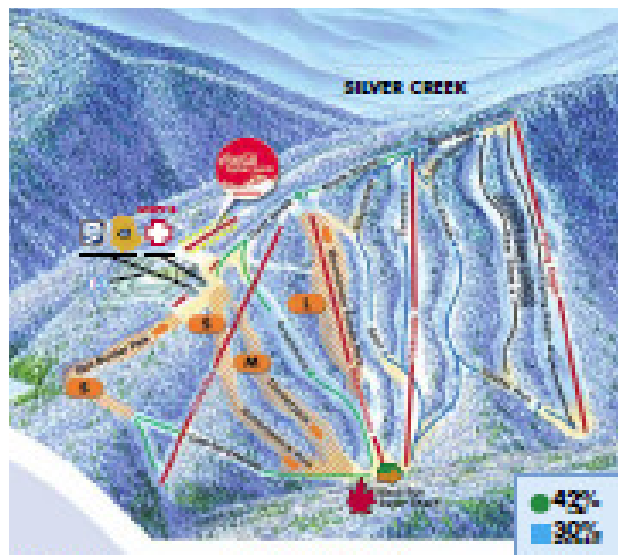
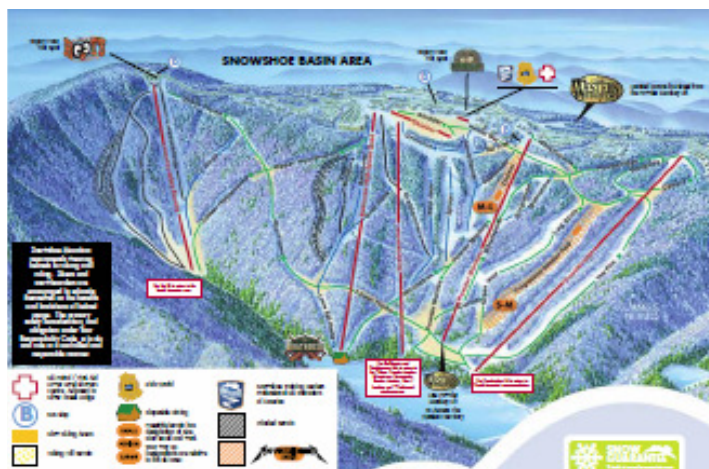
What has been the best campout!

Where would you like the troop to go
on a future campout and why?

You get the picture!

We need articles from you (scouts and parents)!

Time to brag!



Troop 28 2012-2013

Campout & Activities Dates

2013

February	3	Scout Sunday; Parent meeting
February	15-17	Uwharrie Backpacking
March	22-24	Merchant Millpond Campout
April	6	NCSU Merit Badge University
April	19-21	Camp Campbell Campout
May	10-12	Canoeing Campout
May	17-19	OA Spring Inductions
May 31-June 2		Grayson Highlands Backpacking
June 30-July 6		Summer Camp

Troop 28 - Raleigh, NC

February 2013

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Pack 28 Pinewood Derby

January 26, 2013



Start your Engines!!



Klondike Derby

Hello from Pittsburgh, PA. I'm happy to report that Luke and I have found a new scout home in Pittsburgh. We have both joined Troop 373, Luke as a Star Scout and me as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Our first camping event with our new troop was at a district event called a Klondike Derby. When I first heard about this event, I was picturing something similar to a pinewood derby. I wasn't even close!

In a Klondike Derby, teams of 6 to 8 scouts load up a home-made sled with various survival supplies. Then, with one scout on each team designated as "musher" and the rest designated as "sled dogs", the scouts pull the sled to various stations, where their scout knowledge, team work and scout skills are tested.

The final event was a sled race. For the race this year, an adult leader had to be loaded on the sled and pulled. The race was not long, but was very exhausting for the "sled dogs."

The scouts earned "nuggets" based on their performance at these stations. Then, at the end of the day, these nuggets are used at an auction where cool stuff is "sold to the highest bidder". Troop 373 came home with an axe, a water filter and a "poop scoop".

Troop 373 spent the night camping in tents. Luke and I both earned our "Frosty Badge" for tent-camping in freezing temperatures. (The temperature overnight was in the single digits.) We both experienced the sensation of "snow inside of a fully-functioning tent".

Luke is excited to be continuing his Scouting Adventure. He is continuing to work on his next rank advancement and is planning to participate in the troop's 2014 trip to Philmont Scout Ranch.

I am looking forward to experiencing the great outdoors in Pennsylvania and to working with the scouts in Troop 373.

If you would like to reach us, our email addresses are: gary@vacekmail.com and luke@vacekmail.com.

Take Care and Stay Warm,
Gary Vacek, Past Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 28



Volunteer Opportunities

February 9 Pack 33 Webelos
Umstead Park Hike

April 20 Pack 28 Rocket Launch

If you are able to help with any of these activities please let one of the Scoutmasters know.



TROOP 28 EAGLE CORNER



Troop 28 currently has 2 Life Scouts who are finishing up on their Eagle projects and several other Life Scouts who should be starting to work on their projects in the near future. Watch for opportunities to help on the upcoming projects.

WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR EAGLE SCOUTS

Check out the article on Bryan On Scouting Blog.
<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2013/02/05/where-to-find-scholarship-money-for-eagle-scouts/>

Occonechee Council National Youth Leadership Training

Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16, 2013 and
Friday, June 28 - Sunday, June 30, 2013

What is NYLT? - The National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course was developed by the Boy Scouts of America to provide local councils with a standardized training course for the youth or "junior" leaders of Boy Scout troops, Varsity teams, and Venturing crews (male and female). This two extended-weekend course is designed to parallel and complement the training that their adult leaders receive in Wood Badge. Experience shows that NYLT makes a positive difference in the lives of its graduates and in the operation of their units.

Prerequisite Requirements - NYLT is not designed to be the initial training for youth leaders. All participants will need considerable experience in outdoor living skills and the maturity to relate to the in-depth concepts presented in the Leadership Skills area. Although the course is a lot of fun, it is physically and mentally demanding. For these reasons, participants will need to meet the following requirements:

- Minimum age of 13. Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts must be 13 years of age and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program registration with outstanding Scouting spirit and team-player attitude.
- Be First-Class rank or higher with considerable experience in outdoor living (including at least one year of summer camp) and have completed Troop Leadership Training (TLT).
- Other youth participants must be at least 14 and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. They must have completed Crew Officer Orientation, the Venturing Leadership Skills Course, or the new Crew Leadership Training. They must have an outstanding Scouting spirit, a team-player attitude and considerable experience in outdoor living.
- Good physical condition (must submit a completed copy of the Annual Health and Medical Record at beginning of course)
- Scoutmaster/Crew Leader's recommendation (must submit Scoutmaster/Crew Leader Nomination Form)

Troop information to be included in the next newsletter should be submitted to

<http://ocscouts.doubticknot.com/document/2013-nylt-participant-application/120554>

scouter28@mindspring.com

Quiz Question:

What Merit Badge is depicted?



Merit Badge Universities

February 23

Highland United MB University

April 6

NCSU MB University

Contact Mrs. Munt if you are interested in attending.



COOKING

Campfire Desserts

When I used to go camping with the Girl Scouts, we all had to bring tuna (yes, tuna!) cans or we couldn't have dessert.

My favorite - Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Make any boxed yellow cake mix according to directions.

In each tuna can put some melted butter, brown sugar, a pineapple ring and a cherry in the middle. Cover with cake mix (about 3/4 of the way to the top.) Cover with foil and lay in the coals until done -- sorry no time to give you, you must just keep checking, as it depends on the heat of the campfire.

Another - Gingerbread

Make a gingerbread mix according to directions. Put some applesauce in the tuna can, pour cake mix over it, cover with foil and place in coals to cook.

"The real way to gain happiness is to give it to others."

Robert Baden-Powell



Ideas for Everyday Kindness and Good Turns

Source: *The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation*

- Hand out balloons to passersby.
- Give free sodas to motorists.
- Be a good neighbor. Take over a baked treat or stop by to say hello.
- Transport someone who can't drive.
- Mow a neighbor's grass.
- Plant flowers in your neighbor's flower box.
- Give another driver your parking spot.
- Leave a treat or handmade note of thanks for a delivery person or mail carrier.
- Give free car washes.
- Clean graffiti from neighborhood walls and buildings.
- Tell your boss that you think they do a good job.
- Tell your employees how much you appreciate their work.
- Let workers leave an hour early.
- Have a cleanup party in the park.
- Tell a bus or taxi driver how much you appreciate their driving.
- Have everyone in your office draw the name of a Random Acts of Kindness buddy out of a hat and do a kind act for their buddy that day or week.
- Give a pair of tickets to a baseball game or concert to a stranger.
- Leave an extra big tip for the waitperson.
- Drop off a plant, cookies, or donuts to the police or fire department.
- Open the door for another person. Pay for the meal of the person behind you in the drive-thru.
- Write a note to the boss of someone who has helped you, praising the employee.
- Leave a bouquet of flowers on the desk of a colleague at work with whom you don't normally get along.
- Call an estranged family member.
- Volunteer to fix up an elderly couple's home.

Troop 28 Website

www.troop28raleigh.org

Almost certainly, you have visited the Troop website at some point. Scouts and parents alike often use the site to learn about merit badges, rank advancement, high adventure, or to access the troop newsletter.



Occoneetchee

Check out the Occoneetchee Scout Sign newsletter

SCOUTMASTER'S CORNER

A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

A Scout is trustworthy. A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

The first of the twelve points of the Scout Law sets a high bar for scouts. Being helpful, friendly, or courteous are simple, easily described behaviors compared to being trustworthy. Being "Worthy of Trust" means a promise made is a promise fulfilled. It means a scout will do what he says he will do. It means the scout will see things through to the end.

It is easy to trust someone, even strangers. We do it every day. I trust that drivers will stop at red lights. I trust the cashier will not steal my credit card information. I trust the garbage man will collect the trash every Tuesday. This trust is in place because I've experienced the correct behaviors over and over. Drivers ALWAYS stop at red lights, so I trust they will continue to do so. But, the behavior is forced by laws, not by some belief held by all drivers that stopping at red lights is the right thing to do. All trust that we have of strangers is forced, either by laws, contracts, or some similar regulations.

That is where a Scout is different. He is trustworthy not because he is forced to be that way, but because he chooses to be. His honor is the only regulation that enforces his trustworthiness. That is why the words, "On My Honor", are so important to a Scout - his honor is the only collateral he has to offer to ensure that he can be trusted. If a Scout has no sense of honor, then the Scout Law and the Scout Oath lose their meaning and strength. For that reason, it is a critical task for leaders to explain and demonstrate honor and then nurture and strengthen it in Scouts. By establishing a strong sense of honor, all the other aims and goals of scouting can take place.

When a boy is asked what honor means, the general reply will include doing what is right in difficult situations or making the right choice because it is known to be right. Honor tends to be associated with challenges of moral crisis, such as being tempted to cheat, steal, or betray. Many men, when confronted with obviously immoral opportunities, will choose what is right. The choice is clear and the possible repercussions of being discovered are great. But, personal honor comes into play in everyday decisions as well. In every choice, promise, and action taken, personal honor plays a role.

A trustworthy person arrives on time, commits to tasks he can handle, and completes both boring and difficult tasks on time. He is punctual, prompt, and perseverant. He realizes that fulfilling simple, basic commitments and expectations every day lays the foundation of trust that extends to more challenging situations. When others see that he completes tasks, they trust him with more and more responsibilities because he has earned that trust.

Building the basic sense of honor in everyday situations is a key part of a scout-run troop. The youth leaders should be encouraged to start and conclude meetings on time, not to demonstrate their power of being in a leadership position, but to be honorable. The expectations of a start and stop time are in place and it is our honorable duty to adhere to those expectations. We made a commitment to the scouts that are there on time and to the parents that expect to take their son home at a certain time.

When a scout takes on a task, specific expectations should be set, such as milestones, completion time, and costs. A leader, either adult or experienced scout, should check on progress at pre-defined times to ensure the scout's success. As a scout builds his trustworthiness by demonstrating his ability, he is given more responsibility and is checked on less often. He does what he said he will do - he is trustworthy.

Once honor is understood and a scout can be trusted, the usefulness of honor can be expanded. Rather than just fulfilling assigned tasks, a scout with honor will begin to look for ways in which he can be of use. His honor requires him to not just complete a task, but improve on what was expected; not just lead a meeting, but make it exciting; not just finish a hike, but encourage others on the hike. As his honor grows and tempers, he develops initiative and becomes a leader.

Of course, not all people have the charisma and desire to lead a group. That is not required to be trustworthy. Whether a president or a plumber, a king or a cook, a senator or a scout, every man can fulfill his role in life with honor and be worthy of trust. When a boy makes a habit of being honest, doing his best, and helping others, he is setting a solid foundation on which he will build his life. Whatever career he takes and whatever challenges life sends at him, his dignity and character can remain solid if his inner sense of honor has deep roots. Those roots should be formed in scouting every day, on every campout, at every meeting, and in every interaction with his leaders.

A Scout is Trustworthy.

From <http://www.boyscouttrail.com>