

TROOP 89 NEWSLETTER

Medfield, Massachusetts



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

January 12, 2017

Tufts University Study Finds Boy Scouts Builds Positive Character

IRVING, TEXAS -- Current and former Scouts have always felt that Scouting has made a difference in their lives, and now a study out of Tufts University has found that Scouting does in fact have a measurable, positive impact in the character development of young people.

The study, funded by the John Templeton Foundation, involved nearly 1,800 Cub Scouts and 400 non-Scouts under the age of 12, and was conducted over three years. It sought to measure the difference Scouting makes in young people's lives as those positive changes were happening.

Participants were assessed at five intervals during the study to see if and how character changes were taking place. At the beginning of the study, there was no statistically significant difference in character between those in Scouting and those who weren't—ruling out the possibility that Scouting simply attracts people of higher character to begin with.

“After three years, Scouts reported significant increases in cheerfulness, helpfulness, kindness, obedience, trustworthiness, and hopeful future expectation,” said Dr. Richard M. Lerner, who led the study at Tufts University. “In our control group of non-Scouts, there were no significant increases, and in some cases (e.g., religious reverence) there was an observed decrease, which was quite striking.”

In addition, the study found a direct correlation between the amount of time boys spent in Scouting and the positive impact realized—those who spent more years in the program reported higher character attributes. Scouts who were more engaged also reported higher character attributes. And those who attended regular meetings reported higher character attributes compared to those with lower attendance.

“Each and every day we get to see the positive influence Scouting makes in young people's lives,” said Michael Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America. “And while we weren't surprised by the study's results, it is great to be able to quantify the impact of the program and show parents the value of participation.”

~ released October 2015 by BSA at <http://scoutingnewsroom.org/press-releases/tufts-university-study-finds-boy-scouts-builds-positive-character/>

Tufts website of the study is found here: <http://www.tuftscampstudy.com>

UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS:

Christmas Tree Pick Up – Saturday, Jan. 14

Troop 89's biggest fundraiser is its annual Christmas tree pick up in Medfield. Hundreds of Medfield families hire Troop 89 to take their real Christmas tree to the Transfer Station. We'll pick up the last of

Troop 89 Newsletter

the Christmas trees (about 100) this coming Saturday, January 14. If you haven't participated in this activity so far this holiday season, please do so. We'll gather Larry Heaney's house at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday at 11 Newport Lane. **Larry is our coordinator for this event and is reachable at 508-359-9224.**

Parents, we need multiple adults to assist with this important activity:

- Drivers with Class 2 hitches and/or trucks to help on these days. Every parent who has a pick-up truck or hitch helps the Troop make a bigger profit, instead of our paying U-Haul.
- If you want to help, but don't have a truck/hitch, or can't make phone calls there are opportunities to help with publicity or accompanying a driver.

For those worried about a conflict with the Patriots-Texans NFL playoff game, kickoff is at 8:15 Saturday night. The earlier game, between the Seattle Seahawks and the Atlanta Falcons, starts at 4:35 Saturday afternoon.

Sky Zone Trampoline Park & Rock Spot Indoor Rock Climbing Trip, January 28 – 29, 2017

Troop 89 will have an indoor camping trip. We will go to Sky Zone Trampoline Park in Boston for two hours and then walk to Rock Spot next door for indoor rock climbing and stay there overnight. We will return to Medfield on Sunday, Jan. 29th. The cost is \$70 per person and due on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017.

See the attached sheet about the trip for further details. We will likely need adult/parent drivers for this outing.

SPECIAL CALLOUT – No meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19

- Instead, on Friday, Jan. 20, Troop 89 will gather at the **Fin, Fur and Feather Club, a shooting range located at 101 Larch Rd. in Millis at 7 p.m.** Fin, Fur and Feather will provide a 15-minute introductory talk on safety and rifle use. Then the scouts will be able to shoot on their range, up to eight at a time. They provide the rifles, ammunition and targets, as well as an NRA-certified Instructor and Range Safety Officer. The cost is \$10/scout.
- **Very Important: The release form is attached with this newsletter. It needs to be completed for your Scout to participate in this activity. If it's not completed, your Scout will not be able to participate.**
- Fin, Fur and Feather's website is located at <http://www.finfurandfeather.us/>

Scout Sunday is being held at the following churches in Medfield in February:

- Feb 5 for First Baptist Church, 438 Main St.
- Feb 12 for St. Edwards, 133 Spring St.

If there are other places of worship holding a Scout Sunday, please let us know. We'll publicize it. Thank you.

Troop 89 Newsletter

Merit Badge University, Saturdays March 4, 11 and 25, 2017, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School, 250 Foundry St., South Easton, MA 02375

Scouts signed up for **Merit Badge University (MBU)** on last Thursday, January 5. MBU will occur over three Saturdays in March (the 4th, 11th, and 25th). We need Adults to volunteer for Merit Badge Instructors or general assistance during each session. There are all different types of Merit Badges to choose from. Please see Mr. Raine or Wendy Li if you can help.

Ski Trip, Mt. Abram Ski Area, Greenwood, Maine, February 17 – 20, 2017

The Annual Ski Trip is scheduled for Mt Abram Ski Area in Greenwood, Maine. We will leave Friday, Feb. 17th, at 6 p.m. and ski on Saturday, Sunday and half a day on Monday, the 20th, before returning to Medfield between 4 and 6 p.m. Options for ski rentals and lessons will be available. Scouts in need of the Snow Sports Merit badge will have the opportunity to complete this activity. The sign up genius will go out start January 2nd. Forms and checks will be due at the January 12th Troop meeting. For a sneak peak at trails, please visit www.mtabram.com. If you have questions please contact Nancy Stevens via email at nancydm.359@gmail.com. Cost and more details will be provided in the Signup Genius that will go out Jan 2nd when we return from the holiday break. The total cost depends on whether skiers take lessons, rent equipment, etc. or they want to buy a total package (lessons, lifts, rentals, etc). Its roughly \$80 for the lift tickets (3 days of skiing), \$23 for lessons, \$18 for the equipment and \$5 for helmet rental. We will have more details on this trip in early January.

Battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania – April vacation

Have you ever been in a national military park? Have you ever camped on a battlefield? Have you ever participated in an evening Ghost Tour?

The Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg was the Union victory that ended Confederate General Robert E. Lee's second and most ambitious invasion of the North. Often referred to as the "High Water Mark of the Rebellion," Gettysburg was the war's bloodiest battle and the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal "Gettysburg Address".

This April, our troop will organize a 4-day, 3-night trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We will camp in the McMillan Woods Youth Campground within the Gettysburg National Military Park. We will tour the battlefield, sleep on the battlefield, have a Ghost tour, hike to the Devils Den and end with a buffet at General Pickett's Last Stand. It will be a wonderful trip! Here is the link of the national park: <https://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm>.

Since that week is the school Spring break and includes Easter Sunday, please plan ahead and notify the trip coordinator wendylibaohua@gmail.com which dates will work for you if you would like to attend:

- 4/15 – 4/18 (Saturday to Tuesday with Easter Sunday on 4/16 and Patriots' day on 4/17), or
- 4/17 – 4/20 (Monday to Thursday with Patriots' day on 4/17)

Troop 89 Newsletter

Depending on the feedback, we will decide the dates for the Gettysburg trip. We also need a rough head count to calculate the cost for the campground, van and tour.

High Adventure Trip Summer 2017 – Troop 89 is sending two crews to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico during the summer of 2017. Philmont encompasses 220 square miles of rugged, wilderness terrain at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, with an elevation between 6,500 and 12,441 feet. The backpacking expedition will include eleven days of hiking with all essential equipment carried on our backs. Food is re-stocked every 2 – 3 days. Many camps along our hike are staffed by Philmont rangers. The Philmont website is found here: <http://philmontscountranch.org/philmont.aspx>.

Although we are at near capacity for the trip, there is still room for a few more crew members, both scouts and adults. The total cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$2,000 per person. This covers the Philmont expedition fee of \$895 per person, plus all travel related expenses to and from Philmont (food, lodging, transportation, and perhaps a little sightseeing. But there also the travel costs from Massachusetts to New Mexico. So the exact cost of the trip isn't known just yet. Our reservation has us arriving at Philmont on Monday, July 31, and departing on Saturday, Aug. 12. Philmont is located in a remote part of New Mexico, so our trip there will likely be extended by two or three days. We'll have a better sense of our entire travel plans in the weeks to come.

All crew members are expected to commit to preparing themselves physically for this challenging and memorable trip. Training hikes have begun and will continue to be offered until our departure. Some hikes will be mandatory. To be eligible to participate for this trip, your scout must be at least 13 years old by the day of arrival at Philmont, July 31, 2017, or completed the 8th grade.

Coordinating this trip is Rich Schubert. He can be reached at rich.schubert@verizon.net with any questions.

Anyone seeking to reserve a spot for this trip needs to provide Troop 89 with a check for \$597.50.

Call out on Eagle Scout Recommendation Letters

Your letters of recommendation for being promoted to Eagle Scout need to continue to be sent to Mr. Richard King – **but it's imperative that they be marked "Confidential."** Mr. King is prone to opening letters addressed to him and has no way of knowing if he's opening personal mail or mail that is only supposed to be reviewed by the committee considering your application for Eagle Scout. Please remind everyone writing a letter of recommendation on your behalf to mark them "Confidential." In addition, the Eagle Scout candidate's name should also be on the envelope. Please see the document attached with this newsletter for an example of what Mr. King seeks. Thank you.

ADULT TRAINING NOTES:

- A reminder to all adults who assist with any Troop activities, please take the on-line BSA training for Youth Protection. This is required to be taken and updated every year. In addition, adults who go on trips are strongly encouraged to also take the Safe Swim, Safety Afloat and Hazardous Weather modules. These on-line trainings are available through www.myscouting.org If you are serving in a registered position with the Troop, ensure that you sign-in so the training is properly

Troop 89 Newsletter

added to the records. Please provide a copy of your certificate to Mr. Raine for the troop records when you complete these on-line courses.

- **Every scout deserves a trained leader.** There are some important training opportunities for Adult leaders and volunteers. If you are interested please see Mr. Raine. Hold the Dates - Spring 2017 Old Colony Council training opportunities include:

Scoutmaster Basic 1,2,3

Training on how to operate the Scouting program, geared for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters.

Next course: Full-day Saturday course: **March 4 & 11, 2015** (locations to be announced)

Outdoor Leader Skills

Training on the introduction to basic outdoor skills such as knife, ax, cooking, and pioneering. Session is taught as a hands-on weekend session. Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters must take this training in order to wear the "Trained" patch.

Next course: **April 7-8, 2017 (locations to be announced)**

Like any organization, Troop 89 doesn't run by itself. We continue to look for adults to serve in a variety of capacities. Please contact Bruce Raine or Jim Hatch if you're interested in helping to fill any of the positions described below:

- **Summer Camp Adult Leaders** - Assist the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters during the Troop's annual week-long trip to summer camp at Camp Squanto. This involves a commitment for a particular year, not a series of years. We also are happy to have adults come as camp leaders for portions of the week we are at Camp Squanto if your work schedule doesn't allow you to commit to a full week
- **Junior Leader Training Assistant** – Coordinate logistics for the annual Junior Leader Training session to include equipment and materials needed by the trainers as well as cooking and feeding for the trainers and scouts.
- **Assistant Scoutmasters** - Assists the Scoutmaster and occasionally fills in on his behalf at meetings, trips and other program activities
- **Committee Members** - Attends Committee meetings and helps ensure the troop makes informed decisions regarding the general operation of the troop. Assists with special troop logistical or administrative needs as necessary. (NOTE: All parents of troop members are welcome to attend Committee Meetings. While we are looking for parents to commit to being on the Troop Committee, we also welcome other parents who would like to come to observe/participate in a Troop Committee meeting.)