



Troop 52 Gazette



Troop Sends Boy Scouts on Two High Adventure Trips

Troop 52 organized two very successful high adventure trips this summer. In the first trip, Boy Scouts and several adult leaders embarked on July 12th and traveled to the Bahamas Sea Base in Abaco, Bahamas. Sixteen scouts and four adult leaders sailed around the Northeast tip of the Bahama Archipelago and explored the islands and the fourth largest barrier coral reef in the world. The scouts learned the intricacies of sailing and navigating on a body of water much larger than Lake Kenosha. Most of their time, however, was spent in the pristine warm waters of the Abocos Sea snorkeling, swimming, and relaxing on the Bahaman beaches. The troop would like to give a big thanks to Dave Hughes who led the expedition and to the other adult leaders, Victor Ciarlo, Brian Shannon, and Ray Zawislak.

In the second High Adventure trip, seven Boy Scouts and four adult leaders hiked the Appalachian Trail's famed Presidential range. The height of the trip (pun intended) was the hike up Mount Washington. During their four day trek through the White Mountains of Northern New Hampshire, the crew enjoyed excellent weather and took full advantage of the comfort and convenience provided by the huts along the trail run by the AMC. Both made the expedition as enjoyable as it was memorable. The troop would like to thank High Adventure organizer Allan W. Dodge and the other adult leaders Jim Doback, Allan R. Dodge, and Erich Wenis.

Brandon Lynn Earns Eagle

On Sunday, August 20, 2017, the Union Congregational Church was the setting for the Eagle Court of Honor of the troop's most recent Eagle Scout, Brandon Lynn. Family, Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and friends witnessed the event. The manager of *Pasta Heaven*, Cybil Berdan, admirably spoke on her employee's character and hard work ethic.

Brandon joined the troop in 2010 after he earned the Arrow of Light from Cub Pack 140. He was an exceptional and hard-working Boy Scout who earned several positions of responsibility in the troop. He served as the Patrol Leader of the Savage Beast Patrol and led them to a first place finish in the Klondike Derby and the summer camp wide games. Two years later, he was elected the troop's Senior Patrol leader.

He then served as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster during which time he earned scouting's highest rank. His Eagle Service Project benefitted the Union Congregational Church. Brandon and his team of helpers which included Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and volunteers, patched and repainted the stage area and ceiling, built a large securable storage closet, boarded and insulated an unused window, painted the new chair racks and reorganized the storage area near the stage. Friends and family generously donated to the project which paid for lumber, sheet rock, paint, and other supplies. Oscar Bartlett not only served as his coach, he also sponsored Brandon and his Eagle Court of Honor ceremony.



Eagle Scout Brandon Lynn speaks at his Eagle Court of Honor.

The 2017 Christmas Ornament

Troop 52 recently unveiled their pewter Christmas ornament for 2017. It is the fourth in a series of Watertown and Oakville historical landmarks. The new ornament, crafted by Woodbury Pewter, features the Monuments in Watertown. The ornaments are \$10.00 each and help to support the troop and help Boy Scouts pay for summer camp. The new 2017 Christmas ornament will be sold by our Boy Scouts and will also be available at the following locations:

- November 11 – Saturday – Kmart
- November 18 – Saturday – Adams
- November 25 – Saturday – Labonnes
- December 2 – Saturday – Union Congregational Church Christmas Bazaar 9-3 pm
- December 2 – Saturday – American Legion Christmas Bazaar - time (TBD)



Advancement

Troop 52 is proud to announce the following Boy Scouts recently advanced in rank:

Brandon Lynn	Eagle	06/21/17
David McClendon	Life	06/28/17
Garth Betts	Tenderfoot	06/28/17
Sam Goetz	First Class	08/02/17
Ian Wohlhieter	Life	08/02/17
Luke Acuna	Scout	08/04/17
Michael Hanis	Life	09/27/17
Chris Sullivan	Star	09/27/17
Ryan Robinson	Star	09/27/17
Nich Quicquaro	Eagle	10/11/17
Jason Hanis	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Connor Fahy	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Zachary Holt	Tenderfoot	10/25/17
Jacob Larlee	Scout	10/25/17

Troop's First Meeting Of the Year Enjoyed by All

On September 6, 2017, Troop 52 started the new scout year with a huge family picnic and Court of Honor at the Union Congregational Church. Nearly 150 Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and families enjoyed the festivities. Even though the weather was less than cooperative, everyone had terrific time. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs were provided by the Mothers' Auxiliary and grilled by adult leaders.

At the Court of Honor, all the Boy Scouts who advanced in rank since May were recognized. A lot of Merit Badges were also distributed. During summer camp, Troop 52 Boy Scouts earned an impressive number of Merit Badges, 74 in total.

The highlight of the evening was the highly anticipated slide presentation. Spectators were treated to photographs of summer camp, the Bahamas Sea Base High Adventure and the Presidential Range High Adventure.

Scoutmaster's Corner

Joe LeClair, Scoutmaster

When a boy joins Scouting, what kind of adventures does he imagine he'll experience? In the case of Griffin Relyea, it was sailing in the Bahamas. Griffin attended a Cub Scout signup when he was six years old, and decided to join Pack 52 because he learned that Troop 52 was sailing in an upcoming summer. Eight years later, the troop returned to the Bahamas, and fourteen-year-old Griffin was part of the crew.

For the majority of the troop, the summer adventure was our week at Camp Mattatuck. It was one of the best weeks I can remember, mainly because of the strong leadership provided by our older Scouts. We have a very strong group of patrol leaders

The summer was topped off by a second high adventure trip with a totally different crew. Their four-day hiking trip took them over the top of the Presidential Range in New Hampshire's White Mountains, hiking from hut to hut.

This fall we continue to deliver on the promise of adventure. September's trip was to Steep Rock Reservation. In October we had three hiking trips based on age groups to three different locations.

While all the hiking was going on, the boys competed in a troop photo contest and two of our patrols made videos. We had a lot of laughs as the videos were projected for all to enjoy.

Between summer camp and the Presidential Range trip my dad slipped away with the family surrounding him. He was a month away from his 94th birthday, and was a member of the troop since 1935. Our methods were (and are) heavily influenced by "Big Joe" and will be for years to come. Thank you to the many people who offered their condolences and helped our family through the tough times.



Summer Camp 2017

From July 30 to August 5, 37 Boy Scouts and 7 adult leaders enjoyed a week at Camp Mattatuck. The troop's summer camp crew worked hard and earned a large number of merit badges, 74 in total. Besides Merit Badges, many of the scouts worked on rank requirements. In fact, so many rank requirements were earned that a special Board of Review was conducted at the camp on August 2. Ian Wohlhieter, who was the troop's summer camp Senior Patrol Leader, earned Life Scout rank and Sam Goetz earned First Class. Of special note, Charles Doback, III, was presented with the Joseph LeClair Jr Award for dedication to the Troop.

A successful summer camp would not be possible without the tremendous support of the troop's adult leaders. Scoutmaster LeClair, Dave Braun, Brad Hanover, Justin Martin, Tim Martin, Erich Wenis, and Mike Wohlhieter spent a week at camp and taught the scouts merit badges, rank requirements and provided leadership. Assistant Scoutmaster Brian Shannon worked hard to ensure the camp operated smoothly for all troops. The troop is grateful for their dedication.

Eight scouts worked at the camp for the entire summer. Returning staff included Andrew Beres (Office Manager), Matthew Beres (Nature), Charlie Doback (Scoutcraft), Michael Hanis (Resident Cub Scout Guide), and John Vito (STEM). Three other Boy Scouts, Sam Goetz and Alex Pillis (Resident Cub Scout Guide), and Wil Daddario (Nature), enjoyed their first year on staff. In addition to the full-time staffers, Quinn Turner and Griffin Relyea worked several weeks as C.I.T.s.



Service Projects

Kelly's Kids Has New Butterfly Garden

On October 7, 2017, Matthew Beres put the finishing touches on a Butterfly Garden he designed for Kelly's Kids in Prospect. Matthew was helped by Boy Scouts, members of the Watertown High School Robotics Team, and Troop 52 adult leaders.

The benefactor, Kelly's Kids, Inc., offers several programs which expose youth to new experiences that compliment and embellish their education. Their curriculum includes school programs, therapeutic programs, summer camps and nursing homes visits. The organization uses farms animals to teach socialization, respect, responsibility, safety and achievement skills.

The garden, which was Matthew's Eagle Scout Community Service Project, was designed and researched by the Eagle Scout candidate. The 25' X 15' garden features perennials that surround a central grass sitting area. Log benches were provided by his coach, Brian Shannon. The perennials, known to attract butterflies, were selected by Matthew and include Butterfly Bushes, Day Lilies, Cone Flowers, Asters, Goldenrod, and Rose of Sharon. A Clematis-covered arbor marks the entrance to the garden.



Outdoor Program

Order of the Arrow News

Five Troop 52 Boy Scouts were welcomed into the Order of The Arrow, Tschitani Lodge, at a ceremony held at Camp Mattatuck on the weekend of September 9th. The Boy Scouts, Joshua Garceau, Sam Goetz, David McClendon, Griffin Relyea, and Chris Sullivan were selected during summer camp. To gain membership, the five scouts needed to pass an ordeal which they passed with distinction. In addition, Steven LeClerc became a "Brotherhood" member of the organization and Alex Pillis was elected Lodge Second Vice Chief. Earlier in the year, Matthew Beres, was reelected Chapter Chief of the Mattatuck chapter.

The Order of the Arrow is scouting's Honor Society which recognizes Boy Scouts and adult leaders who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Candidates are selected amongst their peers and must be at least First Class scouts. OA meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at West Side Middle School in Waterbury. The Mothers' Auxiliary generously paid the membership fee for our scouts.

Later in September, the troop camped out at Steep Rock in Washington Depot. The weather could not have been better for the camp out. The scouts were supervised by Assistant Scoutmasters Jason Beverly, Charlie Doback, Jim Doback, Allan Dodge, and Ray Zawislak.

In October the troop separated by age into three units and each hiked and camped out in a different area. The youngest scouts went to Sessions Woods and trekked on the Tunxis Trail; the intermediate aged scouts hiked in the Nepaug forest; and the eldest scouts hiked on the Appalachian trail in Kent.

Cub Scout Pack 52 News

The Cub Scouts of Pack 52 will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on the morning of Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am at the Union Congregational Church. Proceeds for the breakfast help to pay for books and equipment. The cost is only \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids under 12.



Presidential Range High Adventure crew atop Mount Washington. (Above)

Special Events Committee to Pay Majority of Scouts' Annual Dues

To make scouting affordable and to decrease the financial burden on scouting families, the Special Events Committee has voted to subsidize the Troop 52 Boy Scout annual dues. Boy Scouts will now only have to pay \$45.00 - a decrease of 25% from 2016. The committee's initial goal was to pay 50% of the total, but agreed to also pay the additional \$9.00 per scout increase implemented by the National Council in September.

The Special Events Committee is able to subsidize the cost of scouting because of the success of their one fundraising event: the Troop 52 Golf Classic Tournament. The event has been a huge success but it could be even bigger. Keeping Boy Scouting affordable and supporting the troop are the committee's main goals. The SEC is grateful for the support it has received but their goal of a 'dues-free' troop can only be realized with more support from parents, alumni, and friends. The more support we get, the better it is for Boy Scouts and their families.



The Bahamas High Adventure crew. (Above)

A 50 ft. sailboat used by one of the High Adventure crews. (Left)

