

Dear Troop 113 Parents,

I wish all of the Troop 113 families the Happiest and Healthiest New Year.

Now that a new year is upon us, do you know where your copy of the Troop calendar is? What is the next trip your Scout will go on? How many Troop meetings did he attend last year? Does your son know the answers to these questions? These are some of the questions your Scout will be asked at his next Board of Review.

Our troop program is an excellent program. We post most Troop information on our website, www.troop113centerportny.com. Or we send information via e-mail.

A boy who actively spends one year in a Scout troop will learn skills that will serve him for life. He will learn basic outdoor skills, first aid, citizenship training, leadership skills, self-reliance, and how to get along with others. Though Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors, where Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other, it is more than simply a camping club.

Scouting is a program of character education and leadership development based on the values found in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting's outdoor program is simply a method the BSA uses to teach values and leadership. Scouting will prepare him to live a more productive and fulfilling life. The aims of Scouting are to develop character, citizenship, and fitness. The methods used to accomplish these aims are advancement, personal growth, and leadership development.

Scouting can have a dramatic impact on a young man's life, and that impact continues for the rest of his life. I urge you to keep checking the Troop 113 information so you can ensure your son gets the most out of Scouting. As listed in the Boy Scout handbook, "Be active in Troop and Patrol activities" is an advancement requirement for all ranks in Scouting. That is why he will be asked about his participation at Scoutmasters' conferences and Boards of Review. While I recognize that 100% participation is not achievable, nor is it required, active participation means you must be present at various activities. Those activities are troop and patrol meetings, ceremonies, camping trips, etc. This is clearly defined in the Boy Scout Handbook.

I encourage you and your Scout to keep a log of all the trips and activities he has attended so that he can clearly respond to the Board of Review when he is asked about his participation.

Paul Soehren will be the new Troop Committee Chairman. Paul has filled in at that position while I was out of town and has done a tremendous job.

A Troop 113 Parents Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2007 to discuss important Troop 113 issues. We will see you there.

Yours in Scouting,
Jim Rooney
Troop Committee Chairman