

August 2017 – Weekly E-letters

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 8/20/17

- We have a Troop meeting this week and it will be our last one at Freedom Park for 2017.
- Last week's meeting at South Carroll swim club was great. Boys were able to swim in 2 different pools, show off their skills on the diving board, and generally have a great time. We will definitely do this again.
- Please let me or Justin know if you would be interested in hosting an end of year camp fire on 9/29/17 to celebrate our leaders for the year as we will elect new ones on 10/3/17. It's preferred if you have a fire pit and space for 20-30 around it. Everything else we will bring (chairs, food & drink).
- Our Northern Tier crew had their 1st shakedown this weekend and it went pretty well. Four boys and two adults paddled 38 miles from Paw Paw, WV to Hancock, Md. They had a great weekend for it.
- I need to know in advance who has interest in our next 2 outings. We will be camping from 9/29-10/1 and canoeing either on the Pocomoke or Shenandoah river on 9/30. Mr. Doug and I are working on details, but we need to know who wants to go so we can properly plan. Also, arrangements for our October outing are underway as well. We will be mountain biking at Elk Neck State Park. You don't need to bike to attend this trip as there will be other activities for you to do (hiking, rank advancement, and other fun activities the park has). Please let me know if you want to attend either or hopefully both events.
- Don't forget to make yourself available for our Show & Sells. Renee will be sending info out soon regarding sign up and will have the sign up sheets at upcoming Troop meetings.
- We are booked for summer camp for 2018. We will be going to Bashore Scout camp in Jonestown, PA (just Northeast of Harrisburg). Dates are 6/24/18 – 6/30/18. We have 5 leaders already committed and I'm hopeful we'll get another great turn out of boys. Here's the link to their web page if you want to check it out. Remember the more popcorn you sell, the more it will offset costs for camp.

<http://padutchbsa.org/camping/bashore/>

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- We have a Troop meeting this week, but it will be in the form of a very fun laid back summer pool event. We will meet at South Carroll pool in Winfield (South Carroll Swim Club, 1900 W Liberty Rd) at 6:30 and finish at 8:30. It's \$5 a person to get in. Wear your bathing suit, bring a towel, water, and come have fun with your fellow scouts.

- Congrats to Sean Choi and Zach who completed their Ordeal for OA this weekend. Great job guys!
- Please be aware that our fundraiser is fast approaching. It will be mandatory that each scout participate in 2 of the show in sells. Renee will be sending out the locations and more information soon, but the dates are 9/16, 9/17, 9/23, & 9/24. There will be many 2 hour shifts, but please be prepared to sign up for 2. Parents are needed to help man the station as well. This is our only fundraiser and we need to funds to keep camping and doing fun activities.
- Brunswick and tubing wrap up: We had 9 boys and 3 adults attend this weekends trip. I big thanks to Mr. Doug who booked Brunswick camp and the tubing events. Another thank you to Mr. Eric Wills for coming with us and hauling some of the Troop's gear in his truck. It was really nice having the extra adult. We left at 5:15 Friday evening after loading in the rain once again, got through Frederick traffic and got to Brunswick camp in about an hour. We got set up quickly, Trace made a fire, we hung out and some of the boys played down by the river. We had a hot and humid nights sleep, got up at 6:30, had breakfast, made some sandwiches and packed our lunch. We left for River Riders in Harpers Ferry at 8:30, got checked in there and had to wait until 10. We watched a safety video for flat water and white water, got our pfd's, loaded up on the bus and headed toward the drop off point on the Potomac for our white water tubing. We got our tubes and headed in. We had to get to the opposite side to avoid hazardous water further down. It was a task paddling across, especially for our younger scouts with shorter arms. We eventually got across and started to head down stream. Us adults had a game plan to stay together in a group as much as possible, but we quickly realized this wasn't going to happen with the current and amount of people. It took me 2 and a half hours to reach our bail out point as I somehow arrived first, followed by the other boys. Doug and Kyle arrived about 45 minutes later. We got our tubes up the hill, got back on the return bus and headed back to River Riders. We had a quick lunch in the parking lot, then returned to the pavilion to re-watch the video for our flat tubing adventure. After the video, we got pfd's, loaded up on a bus and went to a drop off point on the Shenandoah. The bus rides were pretty quick (about 10 minutes). We got another set of tubes and got in the river for a nice lazy ride for about an hour. The boys found a rope swing and goofed off on that for a bit. This part of the trip was interesting as the river as pretty crowded with other groups of people. At times you had to navigate your tube around their mass of tubes tied together. We got back to the cars around 4:30 and headed back to camp. We had a bit of a delay getting back though as a train was blocking the entrance so we stuck for about 35 minutes in the hot sun. The train eventually got moving and we were able to get into camp. Brunswick camp sits on the Potomac river and behind it is a train depot where they load and unload rail cars. Trains come and go often so while it's a nice camp, it can be noisy at times. Justin and Andrew cooked dinner as Reda had some marinated chicken for us. While they cooked, I did rank advancements with 4 of our new scouts. I was able to sign off quite a bit and hopefully they learned a bit too. Dinner was good followed by some brownies around a fire Trace built and maintained most of the night. We had a

great weather day Saturday on the rivers, and thankfully it held. We saw some ugly clouds roll in around 8 and the wind really picked up, so we were a little nervous that we were going to get a bad storm (like I heard that hit here), but it went around us. We were able to clean up quite a bit last night, so this morning was a bit easier. We sat around the fire in silence at times as I think everyone was pretty wiped out. Fire is always quite mesmerizing and relaxing. A few boys even fell asleep in their chairs. We turned in around 10 and had a nice comfortable night with temps in the 60's. We were up this morning, packed up, had breakfast, a scouts own service, a round of thorns and roses, and left camp by 9:15. It was great having 9 boys on an August outing and the tubing adventure was pretty fun. Everyone had a good time and I think we will do this again at some point.

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 8/13/17

- We have a PLC at 6:30 pm and a Troop meeting this week. We are still meeting at Freedom park unless we have any bad weather.
- Attached is the permission slip for our outing next weekend in case you don't have it. We will be staying at Brunswick camp and tubing for 5-7 hours on Saturday, 8/19. I have heard from 8-9 scouts stating they are interested. I could use another adult to make this trip possible, so let me know if you can go. I need the permission slip and funds this Tuesday if your going. Anyone going will have to sign an waiver online. You could you always print it out, fill it in and bring it with the permission slip. The link is as follows: <https://www.smartwaiver.com/w/58c41e3bbf004/web/> I'll be sending out an email on Wednesday or Thursday regarding extra things to bring on this camp out as well as more details. If I don't get a permission slip on Tuesday, you will not be counted as going as Mr. Doug needs to turn in the final count.

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 8/6/17

- We do not have a Troop meeting this week.
- August outing. I have heard from a few scouts regarding our tubing adventure, but I need to know who is going, so please respond to me if you plan to go. The permission slip (attached again) is due at next weeks Troop meeting, but I need a firm count so proper planning can occur.
- I have attached our Troop calendar for 2017 – 2018. Please put our outing dates on your calendar so you can plan to come camping with us. I guarantee the calendar will change, hopefully the camping weekends won't, but other things will probably change. District doesn't have some dates like Scouting for Food out yet, so I'm guessing based on last year. I will send out an updated calendar as I get correct info, but please review it and put those weekends on your calendar. I really hope to have more successful camping trips this year. I understand people have other things going on, but

please remember that camping is a huge part of Scouting. I expect to have more participation this year, especially from our JLC.

- Please take advantage of the remaining part of the summer and look at your books. See what you need for rank advancement and work on it. You have time before our COH on 9/10, but it's coming soon. If you have a partial merit badge....get it done.