

February 2017 – Weekly E-letters

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 2/26/17

- We have a Troop meeting this week. We will be in the basement of the church. Please drive around back to the parking lot and come through the back doors to the basement. Do not come in through the normal entrance as the church is hosting a dinner in the social hall where we usually meet.
- Attached is the Talent Release Form. Instead of bringing it to the meeting this week, please complete it, scan it, and email it to me if your willing to have pictures available to the public. I would rather keep an electronic copy of this instead of paper. Obviously, we will only use appropriate photos.
- Please get some camp cards from Mrs. Tricia and sell them. This is a great fundraiser to help get funds into your scout account.
- Rodney wrap up: Despite the ugly traffic we encountered on 695 and 95, we made it Rodney, checked in and were at the cabin by 7:30 Friday evening. We unloaded, set up the cabin, had a snack, and hung out by the fire pit. Justin and I went to a leader meeting at 9. Upon our return the boys were in the cabin playing around; throwing a Frisbee around and having fun, while Bob and Marty were at the fire. The three of us adults stayed at the fire until it burned down, then headed in. We were all in bed by 11. We got up around 6:30 Saturday am. Bob made the adults eggs, sausage, hash browns with coffee of course while the boys made breakfast burritos. It was so nice out, we ate outside in pants and T-shirts. After clean up, we checked out the beach (it was just a short walk down a hill as our cabin was on a point), played catch with a football, and hung out enjoying the weather for a bit. A little after 9, we walked almost a mile to the cabin where we checked in and the staff stay for our Paul Bunyan course. We were the only Troop signed up for the course in the am, so we had 4 instructors reeducating the boys on knife and ax safety and giving them some new skills. The program was supposed to be Totenchip on steroids, but I pushed it further and explained that we had 4 Life scouts, a Star scout, and one who wasn't new to the program. So, with that knowledge, two of the instructors lead the boys into the woods where they found a dead tree for the boys to chop down with an ax. Of course they didn't find a small tree. They picked out a tree a foot and a half around. Each of the boys took turns chopping at it and after about an hour, it finally fell, much to Chris's agenda that he started it and wanted to finish it. The instructors were impressed as were the 3 of us. It took real commitment and perseverance to bring that tree down and they saw it through which was really cool to watch. Afterwards, we went back to camp for lunch which consisted of grilled cheese and bacon sandwiches for the boys and tuna for the adults. We continued to enjoy the weather hanging out outside. The afternoon was pretty relaxing. Bob was in his hammock, Marty was reading and the boys were doing a service project for our site. They redid the fire pit. They got more rocks, evened it out, and built it up the proper way and it turned out great. They rested for a bit after that, but ended up going to the trading post around 2:30. Marty, Bob and I were watching the storm on the other side of the bay. All kinds of streak lightening

was going on in Aberdeen. Bob and I went down to the beach to get a better view while Marty watched over his Dutch oven dinner on top the point. The boys returned and we sat on the beach and watched for a bit. As we saw it get closer, we headed back to the cabin for safety. It started raining (pretty hard), the wind kicked up and we got the storm we anticipated all day. Marty even saw a water spout on the bay. After the storm, the sun came back out, but it was quite cooler. We prepared and had dinner. Marty made a brisket in the Dutch oven and it was really good, complete with mashed potatoes and rolls. The boys had a little mishap as they were going to have bacon cheese burgers, but the burgers accidentally didn't make it. They improvised very nicely and made mac and cheese with bacon in it, had rolls, and Arnold Palmer. We cleaned up and hung out in the cabin for a bit then the boys got a fire going. The cabin had a really nice fireplace. We sat and watched the fire and then turned all the lights off and enjoyed it even more. Marty started reading some funny stories from his phone. We all sat in front of this fire enjoying the moments together, laughing, joking, and overall having a blast. We turned in around 9 and we all slept pretty well through the night. We stirred throughout the early parts of the morning as the cabin got pretty cold as the fire burnt out and we discovered this morning that the wind blew one of the doors open. It was incredible to feel the temp change as we went from low 70's yesterday to a chilly low 30's this am. Crazy!! We got up around 6:30, packed up, had breakfast, cleaned the cabin, had a modified Scouts own service, a round of thorns and roses and were checked out by 8:45. The boys have this Sunday morning routine down to a science. We were back to the Gatehouse by 10:15. We had a really great time. Thanks to Bob and Marty for going with me and cooking for the adults. While I'm disappointed we didn't have more boys attend, the small group was nice. With that said, more boys need to attend these outings.

See you all Tuesday

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 2/19/17

- We have a Troop meeting this week.
- Attached is the permission slip for Rodney again. Please bring it to this week meeting if you plan to attend.
- Joseph, Sean, Mr. Dan, and I completed our CPR and wilderness 1st aid last Wednesday and this past weekend. Great job guys. We are one more step closer to preparing for Philmont.

See you all Tuesday

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 2/12/17

- We do not have Troop meeting this week
- Thank you to the 14 boys, parents, and ASM's that attended Scout Sunday this morning. While I was pleased how it went, I must admit, I was disappointed that only half the boys came. Mr. Brooks did a great job getting things organized and getting ushers together. They all did a nice job. Sean did a great job with the readings as did Justin with the color guard and his reading. Way to go guys. I received several compliments from congregation members afterwards stating what a nice job everyone did and that everyone looked great. So, I was pleased with the outcome, but would have liked to have more boys there. Hopefully next year we can have a stronger presence. Thanks to Mrs. Tricia and Mrs. Joy for helping with coffee hour and for all who brought food.
- For any Life Scouts thinking about an Eagle project, I wanted to remind you that stage 3 of the project Evan Stinson started and Joey B did the 2nd part of is still waiting to be tackled. Let me know if your interested in this and I'll point you in the right direction.
- Both Philmont crews had a day hike yesterday and everyone attended. Bob and my crew went to Shenandoah and did the Old Rag trail. It's an 11 mile loop and we climbed (literally climbed at parts) to 3,400 feet. It was a great hike and the boys really enjoyed it. Doug and Dan's crew went to Catoctin mountain where they did 8.5 miles.
- If you want to go to Rodney and didn't turn in your permission slip last meeting, please let me know if you want to go. You can turn in your permission slip next week, but I would like to have an idea who's going.
- If for some reason you are on this distribution list and no longer want to receive emails, please let me know so I can remove you from the list.

Have a great week!

Troop 716 - Weekly E-Letter 2/5/17

- We have a PLC at 6:30 and a Troop meeting this week.
- We have Scout Sunday, next Sunday the 12th. Please plan to attend in full Class A uniform. I haven't made this a requirement as we have always had pretty good turn out, so please show your support to our sponsor and plan to be at the church at 10:30. If you have a reading part to go over with Mr. Brooks, please arrive at 10:00. Remember to bring at least one breakfast item if not two for social hour after the service. It can be dropped off in the social hall in the kitchen before the service starts. If you can not make it to the service, please plan on dropping it off or you can bring it to this weeks meeting and I'll bring it on your behalf. I also need a couple parents to help set up the social hour. I'm sure the church will have people to assist as well.
- Attached is the permission slip for Rodney.

- Philmont crews update. We have our last payment due this Tuesday (I know all the parents and adults going are excited about this) and a shakedown hike Saturday. Both crews are doing well and I have no doubt we will be ready to go in July.

Hope to see you all Tuesday!