



Monthly Newsletter Pack 208

TROOP 208
providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH

March 2024

Check our website periodically for updates & flyers:

www.swantonscouts.org

Our March Pack Meeting will be on March 21st

This is our **Annual BLUE & GOLD Banquet** which starts @ 6pm in the Legion Hall. The Pack will provide the PIZZA and beverages; families are asked to bring a dish to share. Den Leaders have the details.

PLEASE tell your Den Leader/Mr Raven/Mr Waterstradt if there any food allergies we need to be aware of!!



District Pinewood Derby Reminder for those advancing: The District Pinewood Derby is March 9th at the Providence Luthern Church. Please let Mr Raven know if you have any questions or last minute concerns if you are scheduled to go. We'll keep you updated at our Derby

April's Pack Meeting ~ April 18th @ 7pm

Looking a little further down the calendar... SPRING !!

May's Pack Meeting ~ Crossover ~ May 16th

May 27th ~ Swanton Memorial Day Parade

Usually we meet at 10:15am at Crestwood School
Let's honor those veterans who have sacrificed some, or all, of their lives so that we may have liberty so please join us for the parade if you're not of town (wear your uniforms please). More details when we get to May.

Cub Scouting does not have to stop for the summer ~ See page 3 for more opportunities to be active & have fun!



Happy Birthday to the American Legion
105 years old in March; please take an extra couple minutes to read about our

history on page 2. Today there is so much more that the American Legion tries to do for our communities and youth such as Boys & Girls State, helping with sponsorships in school programs and so much more which includes sponsoring Boy Scouts units across the country.

Even after they completed their service in the military, these are people who still continue to give back.

As we have already seen this year the weather isn't always pleasant. We would like to remind all of our parents and volunteer leaders that "If Swanton Schools close due to weather, then our meeting that night will be cancelled."

UPCOMING EVENTS for the Troop...

March 26th is our Winter/Spring Court of Honor guys. Let's wrap up our advancements and other awards guys so you can impress your families!

It's also our 100th year as a Troop to celebrate!

Troop 208 originally chartered with the another sponsor just down Airport Highway by the airport. In 1926 the Troop moved and eventually were chartered by our current sponsor, the Murbach-Seifert American Legion Post 479; the Post was started and welcomed us to join them soon after in 1924 as our Chartering Organization.

[that's how we started in the Toledo Area Council, now Erie Shores Council, and slid across the Council boundaries into the Black Swamp Council territory and stayed with ESC]

Spring Camporee Shooting Sports!

April 26th - 28th, 2024 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee at the Adams Conservation Club.

PSR - Summer Camp 2024

PIONEER HERE WE COME !!

June 30th through July 6th

Nessle Campsite just past Ecology

Plenty of time to get ready for our current and future (the Webelos II) Boy Scouts to plan for a week of Camp.

What Merit Badges do you want to tackle guys?

As always, Mr Waterstradt will speak with each Scout individually about their Merit Badge plans so Scouts can succeed and enjoy their week too.

MEALS.... (burp, excuse me)

We will be going with Plan B dining where we cook our meals in camp and get some advancement skills taken care of plus eating pretty well (thanks Mr Raven) and the Scouts can see that cooking isn't impossible.

WE will RE-EMPHASIZE that ANY SCOUT going to SUMMER CAMP will require a Scout Physical to go. They can get them at the same time they get Sports Physicals (for school) if that helps. MUST HAVE !! Any Parent wishing to go camping overnight must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America and have a current (annual) physical too.

Please ask Mr Raven or Mr Waterstradt if you have any questions. Thank you!





Happy 105th Birthday to the American Legion

<http://www.legion.org/history>



The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Following is a chronology of significant dates in Legion history:

In 1919:

- March 15-17 Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.
- May 8-10 St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.
- June 9 The National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem.
- Sept 16 Congress charters The American Legion.
- Nov 10-12 First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington. **A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.**

In 1919 the American Legion Auxiliary was founded

In the 1920s:

- August 1st, 1920** the American Legion Department of Ohio was Chartered now having been in operation for 96 years
- Aug 9, 1921 The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. Today, the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding to cover medical, disability, education and other benefits for veterans.
- June 15, 1923 The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington. Congress adopts the code in 1942. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.



November 1924

In November 1924 the Murbach-Seifert American Legion Post #479 was chartered in Swanton, OH

Post #479 has been in operation for 92 years now celebrating their 90th anniversary on Nov 3rd, 2014

In the 1930s:

- Sept 1932 The Sons of The American Legion is officially recognized during the 1932 National Convention in Portland, OR
- June 23, 1935 The first American Legion Boys State convenes in Springfield, Ill., to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the federal government. The first Boys Nation, bringing together youth leadership from all the Boys State programs, convenes in 1946. Today, more than 19,500 young men participate in Boys State, and 98 in Boys Nation, from 49 of the 50 states.

In the 1940s:

- Sept 19-21, 1942 Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is changed for the first and only time since it was written in 1919. The word "War" is changed to "Wars."

Happy 114th Birthday to the Boy Scouts of America

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/Founders.pdf>

On February 8th, 2019 the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 109th birthday! Did you ever wonder how it even started?



In 1909, Chicago publisher William D. Boyce lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and, after guiding the man, refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good Turn. This gesture by an unknown Scout inspired a meeting with Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of the Boy Scouts. As a result, William Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. He also created the Lone Scouts, which merged with the Boy Scouts of America in 1924.

The Tale of the Unknown Scout (a little more of the story)

Scouting was brought to America by William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, and the way Boyce discovered Scouting is one of the movement's most colorful stories. Boyce, it seems, was in London in the fall of 1909 and was out in a famed London fog looking for an office in the center of the city.

Nearly at his wit's end, Boyce stopped a young man and asked directions. Not only did the youth tell Boyce how to reach his destination, he actually led Boyce there to make certain the American found his way without becoming lost again.

Boyce, to show his gratitude, offered the youth a tip, but the youth would not accept it. When asked why, the young man told Boyce he was a Boy Scout and taking a tip would negate the good deed he had done and violate his Scouting code.

The youth's gesture impressed Boyce, who later visited with Lord Baden-Powell himself. Boyce was so taken with Baden-Powell and the Scouting idea that back in America he and other men interested in youth development founded the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D.C., on February 8th, 1910.

No one knows who the Scout was who performed his Good Turn for Boyce, but he has not been forgotten. In Gilwell Park in London, American Scouts had a statue erected in his honor. A large-scale representation of the Silver Buffalo Award, the statue bears the inscription, "To the Unknown Scout Whose Faithfulness in the Performance of the Daily Good Turn Brought the Scout Movement to the United States of America."



Let's back up a moment and understand how this unknown young man came to be a Boy Scout himself in England

Boy Scouts was founded in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell

<https://www.scout.org/bp>



As a youth, Robert Baden-Powell greatly enjoyed the outdoors, learning about nature and how to live in the wilderness. After returning as a military hero from service in the Boer War, Baden-Powell brought together 22 boys to camp at Brownsea Island, off the coast of England. In Africa, Baden-Powell discovered that English boys were reading the manual on stalking and survival in the wilderness he had written for his military regiment. Gathering ideas from Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and others, he rewrote the manual as a nonmilitary nature skill book and called it *Scouting for Boys*. To test his ideas, Baden-Powell brought together 22 boys to camp at Brownsea

Island, off the coast of England. This historic campout was a success and resulted in the advent of Scouting. Thus, the imagination and inspiration of Baden-Powell, later proclaimed Chief Scout of the World, brought Scouting to youth the world over.

Born on February 22nd 1857 in Paddington, London, England Robert Baden-Powell went on to join the British Army on February 20th, 1876 and was appointed as Sub-lieutenant for the 13th Hussars in Lucknow, India, and specialized in scouting, map-making and reconnaissance.

On February 22nd, 1899 he was declared a hero for his successful defense of Mafeking Town during the Boer War and was promoted to Major-General by Queen Victoria. [and After that he was willing to brave working with youth!]

Kate Smith, Irving Berlin & "God Bless America"

<https://www.truthorfiction.com/god-bless-america-scouting/>



Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said that when he and a million other guys first heard her sing "God Bless America" on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two and you should also know the story behind the first public showing of the song.

The time was 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans.

This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were HUGE, and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers, and no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith.

Kate was also large; plus size, as we now say, and the popular phrase still used today is in deference to her, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings". Kate Smith might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.



Kate was also patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American song-writer, Irving Berlin (who also wrote "White Christmas") and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country. When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published, 22 years before - way back in 1918. He gave it to her and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God

would go to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. Over the years, they have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

This video starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After the first couple verses, with her voice in the background still singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, "You're In the Army Now." At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it's Ronald Reagan.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, I doubt whether she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry..... And for many generations of Americans to follow.

Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you'll enjoy it.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TnQDW-NMaRs?rel=0>

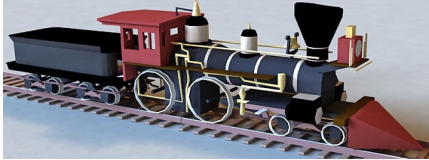
Additional note (<https://parade.com/60998/parade/6-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-song-god-bless-america/>)

"...Irving Berlin himself has never made money on the song; in 1940, he created the God Bless America Fund, through which all royalties have been donated to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (now focused on the scouts in the greater New York City area). The song will remain under copyright until the year 2034."

Upcoming Activities

2024 National Train Day at Toledo Amtrak Station

May 11th, 2024 with a Free Open House, Model Train displays and more... FUN!



For the young (and more senior) train enthusiast this is a great way to spend your Saturday. More to follow

Camp Miakonda Eclipse Party April 8th

12:00pm to 5pm
Camp Miakonda

Cub Scouts - Companion Day (formerly Parent & Pal)

May 4th & 5th
Camp Miakonda

Spend a day or overnight exploring the invasion of Dinosaurs! Be ready to embark on a thrilling journey back to the prehistoric era! This exciting dinosaur-themed camping event promises a weekend filled with fun, education, and unforgettable memories. Activities will include Cub Scout favorites such as range and target sports, fishing, handicrafts, and dinosaur-themed adventures.

Registration Fee (per Scout & Adult Partner)

Tent Site/Day only:	\$ 80.00
Cabin Camping (same gender pairs)	\$ 100.00

Cub Day Camp 2024 @ Camp Miakonda

Cub Day Camp is open to ALL youth going into Grades 1st - 5th, non-Scouts are welcome too!

8:30am to 9am drop off; 4:15pm pick up

Week 1	June 10th - 14th
Week 2	June 17th - 21st
Week 3	June 24th - 28th
Week 4	July 1st - 3rd & Twilight Camp
Week 5	July 8th - 12th

Registration opens on February 1st

\$235 per youth (Early Bird before May 3rd)

\$255 per youth after May 3rd

If you have questions on paying for this, please ask Gary or Alan, help is available.

All youth entering 1st grade will need an adult partner with them each day of camp

For more details/information check the website:

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/cdc>



2024 Mudhens Scout Days & Sleepovers

the 2024 Scout Experience Schedule is available for everyone to look at.

<https://www.milb.com/toledo/tickets/scout-experience>

BSA Sleepover schedule:

Friday, June 14th

Friday, August 9th

Have questions? Call Owen

Bailey at 419.725.9285 or email

Owen.Bailey@mudhens.com

Game Tickets are \$14; \$8 to sleepover

If you never slept in a Baseball field's outfield or watched a movie on the Mudhens "BIG SCREEN" you don't know what you missed. If you have then you know there are no rocks or roots under you to keep you awake! It's a great experience to try at least once with your Scout and/or family!

For the Scouts / Families - BUTTER BRAIDS

The Troop will be selling Butter Braids again

The sale will start on Feb 20th (take orders)

The sale ends on March 5 (orders due)

The product will be delivered on 3/26; 6pm

Camp Miakonda Twilight Camp

July 1st through 5th

Cub Day Camp is open to ALL youth going into 1st-5th grades. Both registered Cub Scouts and non-registered youth are welcome! Registration will open early next year for another GREAT year of Cub Day Camp here on the grounds of historic Camp Miakonda, the land of the crescent moon.

Camp Noah

July 20th - 27th

Camp Miakonda

Details to follow

Camp Frontier Arrow of Light Resident Camp

Session 1 @ PSR July 29 - July 31

Cub Scout Adventure Camp

Session 1 @ PSR July 28 - July 31

Cub Family Camp Hosted by NorthWest District

October 4th - 6th

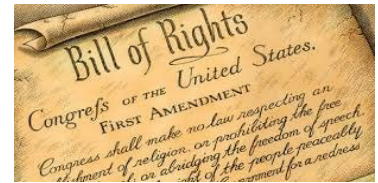
Camp Miakonda

March Historical & Current Events

www.aboutfamouspeople.com

March 1st

Ohio entered the Union, 1803 the 17th state



March 3rd

The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect. 1789

Navy Reserve established, 1915

Star Spangled Banner adopted as National Anthem of the United States, 1931

March 5th

Navy SeaBees established, 1942



March 6th

Silly putty is invented. 1950

March 7th

Army Distinguished Service Medal was authorized, 1918

Monopoly board game is invented 1933



March 8th

President Ronald Reagan calls the USSR an "Evil Empire" 1983

March 9th

The battle of "USS Monitor" & "CSS Merrimack" occurred at Hampton Roads, Virginia, 1862

March 11th

The most famous storm in American history begins.... the Blizzard of 1888



March 12th

Baseball great Joe Dimaggio agrees to a new contract with the NY Yankees, and gets a \$6,250 raise. 1942

The Girl Scouts of America were founded, 1912

March 16th

Congress authorized the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., 1802

March 17th

The rubber band was invented. Can you imagine life without them!?! 1845

The Camp Fire Girls created, 1912



March 18th

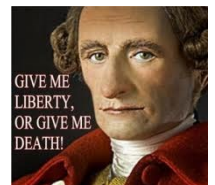
Soviet Union cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov becomes the first person to take a space walk. 1965

March 21st

Alcatraz prison emptied prisoners by the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, 1963

March 23rd

Patrick Henry's *Give me Liberty* speech occurred, 1775



March 24th

German scientist Robert Koch announces he has discovered the bacillus that causes Tuberculosis. 1882

March 26th

The Eastman Dry Plate and Chemical Company manufactures the first motion picture film. 1885

Dr. Jonas Salk invents a vaccine to fight polio. 1953



March 27th

President George Washington and Congress created United States Navy, 1794

March 29th

Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls. 1848



March 31st

The Eiffel Tower opens in Paris, France 1889

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN WHEN NIAGARA FALLS WAS COMPLETELY FROZEN IN THE YEAR 1911. A VERY RARE PHOTO. AS READ OF THIS BUT NEVER SAW THE PHOTO BEFORE. MAKES YOU WONDER JUST HOW COLD AND HOW LONG IT WAS THAT COLD.