



Pack 208

Newsletter Troop 208



www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208

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

December 2014



Congress originally enacted the first federal holiday law on June 28, 1870 which provided for only the (approximate) 5,300 federal employees working in Washington, DC. On January 6th, 1885 Congress then expanded the law to include more than 50,000 federal employees throughout the

rest of the country. To many people this is another day where the banks and schools are closed, there is no mail delivery and we (hopefully) have a nice snowy day. The day isn't about how many packages are under the Christmas tree either. It's a day to give thanks for the special gift given to all mankind by God. May everyone have a **Merry Christmas** and a safe, **Happy New Year**.

There will be no Troop meetings during the Swanton Schools Christmas (holiday) break December 23rd and 30th.

Winter Weekend @ Camp Miakonda

February 6th-8th, 2015 is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... Put it on the calendar guys and let's get ready to get COLD!

PSR - Summer Camp 2015

June 28th thru July 4th

Cody Campsite (back by Ecology)

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

And time for any parents who'd like to go to plan for it too.



Thank You to those who helped with the Scouting for Food drive this year!

Thank You to those who helped with the Scouting for Food drive this year. The results of our Scouting For Food was 692 food items which will help feed local families especially during the holidays we are approaching. Thanks everyone!



New Award for our Boy Scouts

the COMPLETE Angler Recognition

For those Boy Scouts who love fishing and have earned all 3 fishing related merit badges you've got it hooked guys.

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208/flyers/Angler.pdf

Earn the Fishing Merit Badge (one of the original 57 MBs)

Earn the Fish & Wildlife Management MB (new in 1972)

Earn the Fly Fishing MB (new in 2002)

So if any of you Scouts earn all 3 merit badges, you'll get the bonus award - this patch - that hangs on your pocket.



2015 Pinewood Derby

Time to start thinking about what you want to drive for the Derby this year

If you need help the ANDERSONS will have their annual Pinewood Derby Clinic on January 3rd. All you will need to do is draw you car design on the block (when you get it this winter) and bring it in to the ANDERSONS for their help.

Pack 208 Pinewood Derby is February 21st at the EPIC Center; race schedule will be posted in February.

Swan Creek District Pinewood Derby is March 14th at a location to be determined. We'll provide that information at our Pack's Pinewood Derby to the winners.

As we approach the fall and winter again, our leadership 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."



God & Me Workshop (Cub Scouts)

Saturday, December 13, 2014

9am to Noon

at the Swanton Alliance Church on 113 Franklin Avenue

Cost is \$5 to cover the cost of the workbook & snacks

This workshop is open to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders, both boys and girls. The God & Me Award is not for Cub Scouts only. Please let Mr Waterstradt know if you are going to attend so he can plan on the workbooks & snacks.

Some history few ever knew.... Even for baseball fans

When baseball greats **Babe Ruth** and **Lou Gehrig** went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with 5 major league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player. He was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball." When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them and many people wondered why he went with "the team" . . .



Moe Berg

The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy working undercover with the OSS (Office of Strategic Services; predecessor to today's Central Intelligence Agency or CIA). Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese - Moe Berg had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ballplayer ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc. Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo ..

Berg's father, Bernard Berg, a pharmacist in Newark, New Jersey, taught his son Hebrew and Yiddish. Moe, against his wishes, began playing baseball on the street aged four. His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers every day. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.

During World War II, he was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians. The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year. Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground and located a secret heavy water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy the plant.

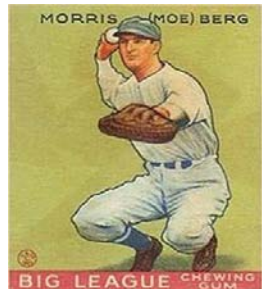


The R.A.F. destroys the Norwegian heavy water plant targeted by Moe Berg. There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill.



If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher." Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States .



After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom (right) – America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept, as he couldn't tell people about his exploits. After his death, his sister accepted the Medal and it hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown ,

Moe Berg's baseball card (left) is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington DC.



Some history few ever knew.... even for baseball fans, but now you do.

What's in a Name? We may call him Santa, but Christmas' leading man has many other names currently and historically, including Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Père Noël, Babbo Natale and Father Frost, to name a few. The shorthand moniker "Santa" may derive from the Dutch words "Sinterklaas," a name for St. Nicholas, but some believe that it evolved from the working-class British accent pronunciation of St. Nicholas, which sounds like "Saint'ny Claus." (this wasn't made up for Tim Allen and his movie "The Santa Claus").

Upcoming Activities



November 29th ~ Saturday Construction City

7:45am to 3:30pm at the
University of Toledo Main
Campus Health Education
Center

Registration flyer is available

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208/flyers/CCityReg2014.pdf



Kamp KaBoooooom!!!

2015's Dad & Lad overnighter @ Miakonda
Saturday, April 25th through Sunday, April 26th.

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208/flyers/MMDL15.pdf



Incredible Flying Machines!

2015's Mom & Me overnighter @ Miakonda
Saturday, May 2nd through Sunday, May 3rd



www.imaginationstationtoledo.org

Cub Scouts - Academic Pins & Belt Loops

Astronomy Belt Loop and Pin = November 23rd

Science Belt Loop and Pin = January 18 & March 15

Webelos

Scientist Badge = November 30th & January 25th

Registration information & on line registration at:

<http://imaginationstationtoledo.org/content/educators/scout-programs/>



Sorry there is no pin for this one, but some good family fun and entertainment is available!

Disney on Ice will be at the Huntington Center

7pm on Thursday December 4th & Friday December 5th

Saturday Dec 6th at 11am, 3pm and 7pm

Sunday Dec 7th at 1pm and 5pm

If there are any Scouting Promotions we'll let you know

Cub Scout Leader Training Classes

Cub Leader Training

January 3rd, 2015

Jadel Leadership Center

March 25th, 2015

Jadel Leadership Center

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation

March 7th, 2015

Providence Lutheran Church

flyers available on our websites:

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208/training140720.htm

Details for University of Scouting as soon as we get them

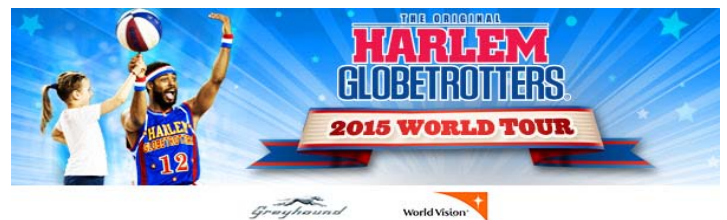


2014 - 2015 Walleye Boy Scout Adventures

January 24th, 2015 SLEEPOVER

February 21st, 2015

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Troop208/flyers/Walleye14.pdf



December 28th at 2pm at the
Toledo Huntington Center

www.swancreekdistrict.org/Pack208/flyers/2014HGT.pdf

23rd World Scout Jamboree

"a Spirit of Unity"

If you're interested - you can register at:

<http://www.scouting.org/worldjamboree.aspx>

Tuesday, July 28, to Saturday, August 8, 2015

being held in Tagamuchi, Japan (plus travel time)

the 2019 World Scout Jamboree is supposed to be held at the Bechtel Summit in the United States.

Getting Hooked....



While the candy cane is a seasonal staple in the U.S. today—over 1.76 billion candy canes are made each year—it has a storied past. The first canes were created in 1670 by a German choirmaster, who gave out all-white sugar sticks—bent like the shape of a shepherd's staff—to keep children in his congregation occupied between hymns. In the U.S., the treat began as a straight, white stick of sugar until the turn of the century. The jury's out on who exactly brought the stripes and shape to America.

December Historical & Current Events

December 1st

The United States Government held its first draft lottery since WWII, 1969

December 3rd

The first American flag was raised aboard the "USS *Alfred*," 1775



December 4th

General Washington bade farewell to his troops, 1783

December 5th

The Medal of Honor was presented to Captain Roger H.C. Donlon, U.S. Army, for heroism in South Vietnam, the first person to receive the medal since the Korean War, 1964



December 6th

Gerald Ford sworn in as vice president, following the resignation of Spiro Agnew, 1973

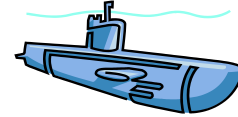
December 7th

Japanese warplanes attacked United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941

December 8th

A huge submarine net made of steel, that was placed underwater across the Narrows in New York harbor at the beginning of the war, was removed, 1919

A treaty was enacted which prohibited nuclear weapons in space, 1966



December 9th

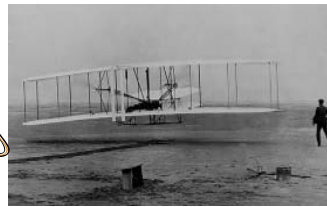
A bill was introduced to create the Congressional Medal of Honor (Navy), 19961

The first Red Cross Christmas seals were sold for a campaign against tuberculosis, raising \$135,000, 1907

December 15th

The Bill of Rights went into effect, 1791

The plane carrying Bandleader Glenn Miller was lost, 1944



December 17th

France recognized American independence, 1777

The first one-way street was created in New York City, 1791

Orville and Wilbur Wright's first successful manned powered flight occurred near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 1903

December 19th

The first issue of "*The Crisis*," by Thomas Paine, which was a series of pamphlets written to bolster the morale of the Continental Army, was issued, 1776



December 21st

Mayflower Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1620

The (Navy/Marine) Congressional Medal of Honor medal was approved and authorized by Congress, 1861



December 22nd

The crew of the "*USS Pueblo*" was released, 1968



December 23rd

Washington resigned as commander-in-chief, at Old Senate Chamber, State House, Annapolis, Md, 1783

"*A Visit From St. Nicholas*" (The Night Before Christmas) by Clement C. Moore, was published in New York, 1823

The state of Maryland gave ten square miles for the District of Columbia, 1788



December 24th

Henry Ford completed his first successful gasoline engine, 1894



December 25th

The first recorded Christmas was celebrated in Rome, A.D. 336

"*Silent Night*" was performed for the first time at the Church of St. Nikolaus, Oberndorff, Austria, 1818

George Washington crossed the Delaware River, 1776



December 27th

"Howdy Doody" with host Bob Smith, made its TV debut on NBC, 1947

December 30th

The "*USS Monitor*" was lost off Cape Hatteras, 1862