



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

December 2015

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org

2015 Scouting for Food Campaign

Thank You to those who helped with the Scouting for Food drive this year. The results of our Scouting For Food was 809 food items which will help feed some of our local families especially during the holidays we are approaching. They appreciate it as much as we do.



December Pack Meeting will be December 17th....

What can we expect from Mr. Waterstradt's bag of tricks?



2016 Pinewood Derby

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

If you need help the ANDERSONS usually have an annual Pinewood Derby Clinic on the first, non-holiday weekend in January (8th maybe). All you will need to do is draw your 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 20th** at the EPIC Center; the race schedule will be posted in The Swan Creek District Pinewood Derby has not yet scheduled. We'll provide any information we get as soon as we get it; race rules, date, etc.



Happy Thanksgiving!

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving with their family and friends. Please take a moment to remember our deployed servicemen who can't be home with their families as we are.

Pack Leaders Committee Meetings

1st Thursday each month at 7pm; December 3rd is the next meeting at the American Legion Hall

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."



REMINDER: POPCORN money is due!!

December 17th we need all of the money for this year's popcorn sales turned in. Thank you.

December's Campout will be in the Adirondacks @ Camp Miakonda Dec 11th-13th. Never slept outdoors? This is a good, safe way to try your first outdoors (no tents) !

There will be no Troop meetings during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 22nd or 29th.

Camp Alaska

January 16th & 17th is our overnight Camp Alaska with Troop 97 in Weston, OH... The Weston Winter Weekend.

Winter Weekend @ Camp Miakonda

February 12th-14th, 2016 is the Northwest District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... The theme? Let's just ask "Who you gonna call?" and don't get slimed!

PSR - Summer Camp 2016

July 3rd thru July 9th

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.



As we look forward to a healthy and prosperous Christmas season for 2015, try to reflect back to an anxiety filled Christmas 71 years ago and give thanks for

the honor and bravery of the "Greatest Generation." And perhaps toast to the determined men of General Patton's 3rd Army who successfully delivered the best Christmas present in American military history, even if it was a day late. Read about this in "The best Christmas gift in US military history", by Eric Hogan, on the next page.



The best Christmas gift in U.S. military history

<http://www.albanyherald.com/news/2014/dec/26/eric-hogan-the-best-christmas-gift-in-us-military/>

It was the bitter cold and snowy Christmas eve of 1944, just 71 years ago during World War II. The cocky paratroopers of the American 101st Airborne Division were hunkered down and surrounded by some five German divisions of tanks and infantry in the Belgian town of Bastogne located in an area known as the Ardennes.

In an amazing illustration of that unique American ability to maintain a sense of humor in the face of the most grim of circumstances, their commander, General Anthony McAuliffe, had just sent a radio message to General George Patton reminding him there was only one more shopping day until Christmas. But this was deadly serious business as McAuliffe knew that Patton's 3rd Army, relentlessly attacking the Germans from the south, was the only hope of relief for the 101st that would save them from total destruction.

The successful D-Day invasion almost seven months before had marked the beginning of the great Allied offensive to liberate Western Europe and inflict a final defeat on Nazi Germany. But, by November 1944, the advancing Allied armies had outrun much of their supplies and unwisely transitioned to a less aggressive strategy. This pause in the Allied offensive gave the German army which was on the verge of collapse the ability to regroup and reinforce.

Adolph Hitler badly needed a major reversal in the fortunes of war to give Germany a chance to negotiate a much more favorable peace agreement that would be far better than the "unconditional surrender" that President Roosevelt had in mind. So Hitler desperately decided to risk everything on a daring winter surprise attack on the sparsely defended American front lines in the Ardennes. The goal was to split the American & British Armies; to drive all the way to the Belgian port of Antwerp on the North Sea.

Because of Allied air superiority, the Germans had to move large numbers of troops and tanks at night or in bad weather to keep from getting spotted by Allied aircraft. But, in an impressive feat of stealth that was clearly the worst Allied intelligence failure of the war in Europe, the Germans managed to assemble 250,000 men and 1,000 tanks to launch the massive surprise Ardennes offensive on Dec. 16, 1944.

The thinly manned American north to south front in the Ardennes was overwhelmed by the ferocity of the German assault. The Germans pounded out a "bulge" some 60 miles wide and 40 miles deep in the American lines, thus, this battle will forever be known as "The Battle of the Bulge."

Right in the middle of the bulge was the vital crossroads town of Bastogne, with its seven roads stretching out from the center of town. To properly supply their advancing army with food, ammunition, and gasoline, the Germans had to take Bastogne. It would be the key to the epic battle. Fortunately, shortly after the battle had begun, the Allied commanding general, Dwight Eisenhower, realizing its importance, had ordered the 101st to be quickly trucked to Bastogne on Dec. 19 where they were instructed to "hold at all costs."

The 101st arrived in Bastogne just ahead of the lead elements of German Panzers and prepared to withstand a brutal siege. By December 20 they were completely surrounded by German forces, and on Dec. 22 the German commander demanded the surrender of the 101st or they would be "totally annihilated." After a brief discussion with his staff, General McAuliffe gave his immortal reply: "Nuts." When Patton was told of McAuliffe's reply, he said, "A man that eloquent has to be saved."

In a stunning display of dedication and endurance, three of Patton's 3rd Army divisions pulled out of their winter positions and did what Ike thought was impossible. They moved almost 100 miles north in 48 hours with no sleep or hot food and attacked fiercely into the southern German flank of the Bulge on Dec. 21. Patton knew the 101st could not last long against the overwhelming odds and he was determined to break through to Bastogne by Christmas day.

Meanwhile, on the northern flank of the Bulge, the 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions were stubbornly dug in along Elsenborn Ridge. In spite of the fact they were also greatly outnumbered, they had the high ground and for several days had repulsed numerous German Panzer assaults.

The tough 82nd Airborne Division was sent in to reinforce the northern flank, so the situation on both flanks seemed secure and the large scale German offensive was somewhat contained. Now, the fate of the battle boiled down to the race to Bastogne. Could Patton's men fight their way through the ice and snow and relieve the 101st before they collapsed under the constant German pressure?

Christmas day dawn of 1944 brought clear skies to the Ardennes. Patton's most daring tank commander, Lt. Col. Creighton Abrams (the namesake of today's Abrams tank), could see American transport planes dropping supplies into the smokey ruins of what was the town of Bastogne. But Abrams was mad because there was still a strong force of Germans between him and Bastogne. He got on the radio and called for a heavy artillery barrage and informed his superiors that his tank battalion would then fight their way through German lines into Bastogne. He proved to be a man of his word, as on the afternoon of December 26, the troopers of the 101st had their prayers answered when they saw a column of American Sherman tanks lumber into town.

Upcoming Activities



Nov 21st Construction City 2015
All new this year, open to Webelos I and Webelos II. It is being held at the 180th Air National Guard base.

It's not too late for the Webelos to sign up and go help build (then DEMOLISH) a little city!



Disney on Ice "Dare to Dream"

at the Huntington Center December 3rd to 6th
There are 7 shows and these are great for the whole family to spend some time together too.

<http://www.ticketmaster.com/> look under FAMILY

Now this is always great family entertainment!

25% Off Great Seats!

Use Offer Code **EARLY**

Sunday, December 27 at 3 p.m.
Huntington Center
Toledo, OH



Cub Scout Programs

Another year with Imagination Station providing great programs!

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

November 22nd - Webelos: Engineer

December 6th - Bears: Forensics

January 3rd, 2016 - Bears: Super Science

January 17th, 2016 - Bears: Make it Move

January 31st, 2016 - Wolf: Digging in the Past

February 21st, 2015 - Tigers: Sky is the Limit

March 6th, 2016 - Tigers: Floats and Boats

March 13th, 2016 - Wolf: Air of the Wolf

Scout Nights with the Detroit Red Wings

Sunday November 29, 2015 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Event Details



Purchase tickets at <http://www.detroitredwings.com>.

Florida Panthers vs. DETROIT RED WINGS

Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m.

FREE Scout Night Patch and Entry to Post-Game
Scout Night Tickets: \$37

www.swantonscouts.org/flyers/2015RWSN.pdf

www.detroitredwings.com/scoutnight



Cub Scout Leader Training

[Lee Schultz @ cubtraining@swancreekdistrict.org](mailto:Lee.Schultz@scout.org)

For our NEW Cub Scout Den Leaders...

Cub Scout Leader Specific Training (Live) classes

January 9th, 2016 @ Jadel Leadership Center

March 16th, 2016 @ Jadel Leadership Center

BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)

March 5th, 2016 @ Camp Miakonda

For new leaders to Scouting, the BALOO program is a very good one day introduction that applies not only to Cub Scouts, but also to Boy Scouts for information and to give you an idea (the tip of the iceberg) on what we do.



<http://www.toledowalleye.com/tickets/recognition-game-days>

Dec 19th - Star Wars Night

Jan 22nd - Sleepover Night

Feb 20th - Scout Night

For more information
see either link...

www.toledowalleye.com/tickets/recognition-game-days/scout-experience



Boy Scout Leader Training

Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training

Friday March 27th thru Sunday, March 29th

December Historical & Current Events

December 1st

Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize, 1906



December 2nd

The Monroe Doctrine was announced, 1823



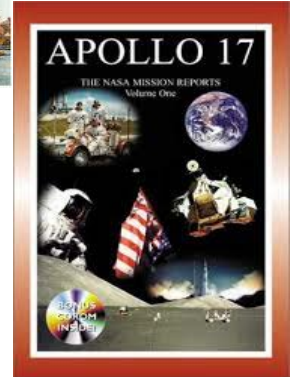
December 3rd

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

December 4th

General Washington bade farewell to his troops, 1783

United States *Gemini 7* was launched from Cape Kennedy on a 14-day, 20 orbit mission and rendezvous in space with *Gemini 6*, 1965



December 7th

United States Apollo 17 launched, 1972

December 7th

Noah Webster established New York's first daily newspaper, 1793

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

December 14th

The first military encounter of the American Revolution occurred, when on the report of news carried by Paul Revere that the British intended to station a garrison at Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Major John Sullivan led a band of militia to Fort William and Mary, broke into its arsenal, and carried off arms and ammunition, 1774

December 15th

The Bill of Rights went into effect, 1791

The movie, "*Gone With The Wind*" premiered, 1939



December 16th

The Boston Tea Party occurred, 1773

World War II Battle of the Bulge, which was the last major German offensive of the war began, when German forces broke through Allied defenses in the Ardennes. 1944



December 17th

France recognized American independence, 1777

December 19th

Benjamin Franklin first published his "*Poor Richard's Almanac*" 1732

December 20th

Louisiana Purchase was formally completed, 1803



December 21st

Mayflower Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1620

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

Reduction of the voting age in national elections to 18 years was ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court, 1970

December 24th

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander of Allied forces for the invasions of Europe, 1943

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 26th

New York City was blanketed with 25.8 inches of snow, 1947

The end of the Soviet Union began, 1991



December 27th

The World War II Battle of the Bulge ended, 1944