



Monthly Newsletter Pack 208

TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



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

December 2016

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org

REMINDER: POPCORN money is due!!

By the December 15th Pack meeting we need all of the money for this year's popcorn sales turned in. Thank you.

Congrats Henry!

GOD AND COUNTRY



Henry has completed his God & Me program and is now working on the God & Family. Keep going Henry!



Scouting for Food Campaign 2016



Our sincere "Thank You" to those who helped with the Scouting for Food drive this year. The results of our Scouting For Food was over 1,100 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's Campout will be in the Adirondacks @ Camp Miakonda Dec 9th - 11th. Never slept outdoors? This is a good, safe way to try your first outdoors (no tents) !

There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 27th

Camp Alaska 2017

January 14th & 15th is usually our overnight Camp Alaska with Troop 97 in Weston, OH if we're going again.

Winter Weekend @ Camp Miakonda

February 10th-12th, 2017 is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... The Theme is ???

March 7th is our Winter/Spring Court of Honor guys and Friends of Scouting presentation. Let's wrap up our advancements and other awards we're working on.

Spring Camporee @ Camp Miakonda

April 27th - 29th, 2017 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee. Theme and location are not yet known.

PSR - Summer Camp 2017

July 2nd through July 8th

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.

For the parents of our Scouts - if your family needs some help to send your son to camp please let us know. There are discrete ways to help you and your son so he doesn't miss out on camp.



2017 Pinewood Derby

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

More information on page 3 for this year's event.

Happy Thanksgiving!



The Pilgrims gave thanks for what their providence.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe

Thanksgiving with their family and friends. Please take just a few moments to remember our deployed servicemen who can't be home with their families as we are. May they have a safe holiday also.

Pack Leaders Committee Meetings

1st Thursday each month at 7pm; December 1st 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."



Two Enemies Discover a "Higher Call" in Battle

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/09/living/higher-call-military-chivalry/> (story excerpts)

The pilot glanced outside his cockpit and froze. He blinked hard and looked again, hoping it was just a mirage. But his co-pilot stared at the same horrible vision.

"My God, this is a nightmare," the co-pilot said.

"He's going to destroy us," the pilot agreed.

The men were looking at a gray German Messerschmitt fighter hovering just three feet off their wingtip. It was five days before Christmas 1943, and the fighter had closed in on their crippled American B-17 bomber for the kill.

The B-17 pilot, Charles Brown, was a 21-year-old West Virginia farm boy on his first combat mission. His bomber had been shot to pieces by swarming fighters, and his plane was alone in the skies above Germany. Half his crew was wounded, and the tail gunner was dead, his blood frozen in icicles over the machine guns.

But when Brown and his co-pilot, Spencer "Pinky" Luke, looked at the fighter pilot again, something odd happened. The German didn't pull the trigger. He nodded at Brown instead. What happened next was one of the most remarkable acts of chivalry recorded during World War II. Years later, Brown would track down his would-be executioner for a reunion that reduced both men to tears.

People love to hear war stories about great generals or crack troops such as Seal Team 6, the Navy unit that killed Osama bin Laden. But there is another side of war that's seldom explored: Why do some soldiers risk their lives to save their enemies and, in some cases, develop a deep bond with them that outlives war?

Those are the kinds of questions Brown's story raises. His encounter with the German fighter pilot is beautifully told in a New York Times best-selling book, "A Higher Call." The book explains how that aerial encounter reverberated in both men's lives for more than 50 years.

Their story is extraordinary, but it's not unique. Union and Confederate troops risked their lives to aid one another during the Civil War. British and German troops gathered for post-war reunions; some even vacationed together after World War II. One renowned American general traveled back to Vietnam to meet the man who almost wiped out his battalion, and the two men hugged and prayed together.

The German pilot who took mercy

Revenge, not honor, is what drove 2nd Lt. Franz Stigler to jump into his fighter that chilly December day in 1943.

Stigler wasn't just any fighter pilot. He was an ace. One more kill and he would win The Knight's Cross, German's highest award for valor.

Yet Stigler was driven by something deeper than glory. His older brother, August, was a fellow Luftwaffe pilot who had been killed earlier in the war. American pilots had killed Stigler's comrades and were bombing his country's cities.

Stigler was standing near his fighter on a German airbase when he heard a bomber's engine. Looking up, he saw a B-17 flying so low it looked like it was going to land. As the bomber disappeared behind some trees, Stigler tossed his cigarette aside, saluted a ground crewman and took off in pursuit.

As Stigler's fighter rose to meet the bomber, he decided to attack it from behind. He climbed behind the sputtering bomber, squinted into his gun sight and placed his hand on the trigger. He was about to fire when he hesitated. Stigler was baffled. No one in the bomber fired at him.

He looked closer at the tail gunner. He was still, his white fleece collar soaked with blood. Stigler craned his neck to examine the rest of the bomber. Its skin had been peeled away by shells, its guns knocked out. He could see men huddled inside the plane tending the wounds of other crewmen.

Then he nudged his plane alongside the bomber's wings and locked eyes with the pilot whose eyes were wide with shock and horror.

Stigler pressed his hand over the rosary he kept in his flight jacket. He eased his index finger off the trigger. He couldn't shoot. It would be murder.

Stigler wasn't just motivated by vengeance that day. He also lived by a code. He could trace his family's ancestry to knights in 16th century Europe. He had once studied to be a priest. A German pilot who spared the enemy, though, risked death in Nazi Germany. If someone reported him, he would be executed.

Alone with the crippled bomber, Stigler changed his mission. He nodded at the American pilot and began flying in formation so German anti-aircraft gunners on the ground wouldn't shoot down the slow-moving bomber. (The Luftwaffe had B-17s of its own, shot down and rebuilt for secret missions and training.) Stigler escorted the bomber over the North Sea and took one last look at the American pilot. Then he saluted him, peeled his fighter away and returned to Germany.

Upcoming Activities



Nov 19st Construction City 2016
All new this year, open to Webelos I and Webelos II. It is being held at the 180th Air National Guard base.



Cub Scout Programs

Another year with Imagination Station providing great programs!

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

- December 4th - Bears: Forensics
- January 8th, 2017 - Bears: Super Science
- January 22nd, 2017 - Bears: Make it Move
- February 5th, 2017 - Wolf: Digging in the Past
- February 12th, 2017 - Tigers: Sky is the Limit
- March 5th, 2017 - Wolf: Digging in the Past
- March 12th, 2017 - Wolf: Air of the Wolf
- April 2nd - Webelos: Engineer
- April 9th - Webelos: Adventures in Science

Huntington Center Events this fall

Disney On Ice - Passport to Adventure
December 8th thru 11th
Harlem Globetrotters



December 28th (Wednesday @ 7pm)

www.huntingtoncentertoledo.com/events

good events for the whole family



In the Spring ~ For Cub Scouts & their parent(s)
April 22nd & 23rd is the Dad & Lad Campout
April 29th & 30th is the Mom & Me Campout
these are great overnight events to go to

we'll provide more details when we get them

2017 Webelos Resident Camp Session #1

July 30th thru August 2nd @ PSR

2017 Webelos Resident Camp Session #2

August 2nd thru August 5th @ PSR

we'll provide more details when we get them

Cub Scout Day Camp 2017 @ Camp Miakonda

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 | June 19th thru 23rd | Early Bird is \$149 |
| Week 2 | June 26th thru 30th | pay by 5/12/17 |
| Week 3 | July 10th thru 14th | Regular is \$169 |
| Week 4 | July 17th thru 21st | there will be discounts |

we'll provide more details when we get them (after 1/1/17)



2017 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 (7th maybe). 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 18th** at the EPIC Center; the race schedule will be posted in February. If anyone has schedule conflicts please let your Den Leader know so we can try to schedule the Dens for everyone's best interest.

The Swan Creek District Pinewood Derby will be March, date to be posted soon. Sounds like the same rules as last year and it will be at the Springfield HS Fieldhouse again this year. Should be another great year for the races!



Red Wing Hockey for Scouts
Sunday, March 26th vs Minnesota
Monday, April 3rd vs Ottawa
For information or to buy tickets:

<http://redwings.ice.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=114106>

<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1088038-S1whlNKunt>



Information to register (phone/email) is in the flyer (link below); Scout Experience nights are:

Saturday Jan 7th

Saturday, Feb 25th (Sleepover)

Saturday Mar 25th - NEW Pinewood Derby Showcase

<http://www.swantonscouts.org/flyers/Walleye2016-17.pdf>

How can you not have a great time with the family? Hockey with the Walleye and other Scouts!

Training Opportunities

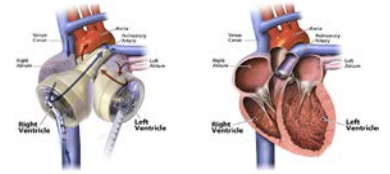
<http://swantonscouts.org/208training.html>

Interested in getting more training? Erie Shores Council's Training Chair has many events scheduled in the upcoming future. Check them out on our webpage. Ask the Janitor if you have questions!

December Historical & Current Events

December 2nd

The first successful artificial heart transplant was completed at the University of Utah Medical Center. The recipient was Barney C. Clark, age 61, 1982



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

Construction of Washington Monument was completed, 1884



December 7th

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

December 8th

United States entered World War II, 1941

December 9th

A bill was introduced to create the Congressional Medal of Honor (Navy), 1861



December 10th

The first college basketball game was held, 1896

December 12th

Joseph Rainey became the first black in the House of Representatives, 1870

December 13th

The first savings bank in the United States was organized in Boston as The Provident Institution for Savings, 1817

December 15th

The Bill of Rights went into effect, 1791



December 17th

France recognized American independence, 1777



December 18th

The first celestial photograph was taken, 1839

December 21st

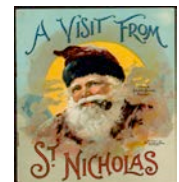
The (Navy) Congressional Medal of Honor medal was approved and authorized by Congress, 1861

December 25th

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

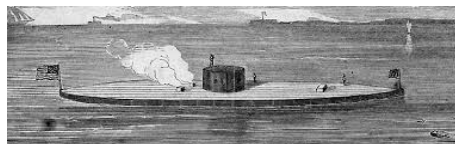
The Methodist Church was organized in America at a conference in Baltimore, Maryland, 1784

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 30th

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

December 31st

The Manhattan Bridge, the third span across the East River in New York City was opened to traffic, 1910