



Monthly Newsletter
Pack 208

TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



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

January 2018

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org



The Leaders of Pack 208 and Troop 208 wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



2018 Pinewood Derby

Time to start thinking about what you want to drive for the Derby this year and remember your family can race a car too! We have a race for family members.

District rules & regulations will be posted soon, we'll make sure you get them for your cars.

Need help with your cars? The Indiana / Kentucky / Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters are here to help! Carpenters Local #351 is set to go

Saturday, January 6th, 2018 9am to 1pm

At the Joint Apprentice Training Center located near the Bass Pro in Rossford behind the new Soccer Dome just off rtes 795 & 20

the flyer with rules and information is attached

February 4th ~ Scout Sunday

A Scout is REVERENT. If you don't have a church that you regularly attend, you're always welcome to join either Mr Waterstradt (Swanton Alliance Church) or Mr Raven (St Richard's) for mass.

If you're interested in working on any of the religious awards please see Mr Waterstradt or Mr Raven for information and help.

February 15th ~ Pack Meeting; pre-Pinewood Derby!!

We'll pass out awards, recognitions and check cars!

February 17th ~ Pack 208's Annual Pinewood Derby

We'll hold it at the EPIC Center on Main Street again. The schedule will be posted in January.

Please let Mr Raven know of any schedule issues

Cub Scouts... start your engines!

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

Camp Alaska

January 13th & 14th is our overnight Camp Alaska with Troop 97 in Weston, OH weekend. 24 hours

Winter Weekend @ Camp Miakonda

February 9th-11th, 2017 is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... There is no theme yet; more as soon as we know

March 20th 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, 2018 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee. Theme and location are not yet known.

April 27th - 29th is the District Spring Camporee

The theme is still in the planning stages

PSR - Summer Camp 2018

July 1st through July 7th

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.



Just a reminder that in Boy Scouts we want the young men to plan their activities, with the help of the adults.

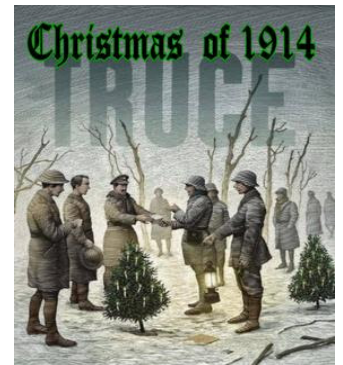
As we approach the fall and winter again, our leadership would like to remind all of our parents and volunteer leaders that "If Swanton Schools close due to weather, then our meeting that night will be cancelled."

Inspirational Christmas Story

The Christmas Truce

<https://www.wanttoknow.info/christmastruce>

by David G Stratman from his book *We Can Change the World*



It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."

"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. **Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.**

A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous peacemaking to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Not many people have heard the story of the Christmas Truce. On Christmas Day, 1988, a story in the *Boston Globe* mentioned that a local FM radio host played "Christmas in the Trenches," a ballad about the Christmas Truce, several times and was startled by the effect. **The song became the most requested recording during the holidays in Boston on several FM stations.** "Even more startling than the number of requests I get is the reaction to the ballad afterward by callers who hadn't heard it before," said the radio host. "They telephone me deeply moved, sometimes in tears, asking, 'What the hell did I just hear?'"

You can probably guess why the callers were in tears. The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.

In a more modern story this poem (1991), and many versions of it, have circulated for thoughts of our Men & Women servicing in our armed forces today; sacrificing their holidays and families for our benefit and freedom. Semper Fi and Thank You !

Merry Christmas, My Friend

the version by Corp Schmidt, USMC, printed in *Leatherneck* in 1991

Tw'as the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

Please keep them, along with our Emergency Responders, in mind so they may return home to their families too afterwards.

Upcoming Activities



Cub Scout Programs

Another year with Imagination Station providing great programs!

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

- January 7th, 2018 - Bears: **Make it Move**
- February 4th, 2018 - Wolf: **Digging in the Past**
- February 11th, 2018 - Tigers: **Sky is the Limit**
- March 4th, 2018 - Bears: **Forensics**
- March 11th, 2018 - Bears: **Lego Robotics (Ohhhh !)**
- April 8th, 2018 - Wolf: **GERMS Alive! (new)**
- April 22nd, 2018 - Webelos: **Adventures in Science**
- April 29th, 2018 - Wolf: **Digging in the Past**

Registration is open NOW - great den activities!

And a couple new programs this year too!

www.imaginationstationtoledo.org/workshops-camps/scout-workshops/cub-scouts-workshops

In the Spring ~ For Cub Scouts & their parent(s)
 April 21st & 22nd is the Mom & Me Campout
 May 5th & 6th is the Dad & Lad Campout
 If you've never participated in either one of these, it's a great time to spend a day with your son and keep busy at Camp Miakonda... and a quiet night sleeping in a cabin is also in the deal.

Cub Scout Day Camp 2018@ Camp Miakonda

- Week 1 June 18th thru 22nd
- Week 2 June 25th thru 29th cost will be
- Week 3 July 9th thru 13th posted as soon as
- Week 4 July 16th thru 20th we have it

Webelos I Overnight sessions @ Camp Miakonda

- Session 1 June 30th & July 1st
- Session 2 July 7th & 8th

Webelos II Resident Camp (sessions 1 & 2)

- Weekend #1 is July 29th - August 1st
- Weekend #2 is August 1st - August 4th

Council Centennial Camporee

Coming in the fall of 2018... it's been 6 years, but we'll ALL have a Camporee (Cubs & Boy Scouts)

Disney on Ice

"Dream Big"



at the Huntington Center Jan 31st - Feb 4th, 2018
 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



Saturday
 December 30th
 2017
 7:00pm

The Original
 Harlem
 Globetrotters



Do you like Basketball? Comedy and laughing? This is an evening you'll never forget. The Globetrotters have a long history of fun, entertainment and, at least a few times playing basketball too. A good evening for the family to spend together.



January 13th, 2018 - Boy Scout Jamboree

<http://www.toledowalle.com/site/promo/4523>

February 10th, 2018 - Jamboree & Sleepover

<http://www.toledowalle.com/site/promo/4525>

March 24th, 2018 - Boy Scout Jamboree AND Pinewood Derby Showcase

<http://www.toledowalle.com/site/promo/4508>

You can get tickets through these links and the whole family can have a fun time!



- Friday, February 12th @ 7:30pm
 Colorado Avalanche vs Red Wings
 Free Hat & Patch, tickets are \$42
- Friday, April 1st @ 7:30pm
 Minnesota Wild vs Red Wings

Free Hat & Patch, tickets are \$37

<https://scoutingevent.com/?drwscoutnights>

January Historical & Current Events

January 1st

- Flag maker Betsy Ross was born in Philadelphia, 1752
- Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
- Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened, 1892



January 2nd

- United States & Canada reached free trade agreement, 1988

January 8th

- United States forces led by General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, ending the War of 1812, 1814



January 10th

- London's Metropolitan; World's first underground railway, opened to the public, 1863

January 14th

- The first constitution of Connecticut "The Fundamental Orders" was adopted, 1639

January 16th

- United States Civil Service was established, 1883
- General Eisenhower took command of Allied Invasion Force in London, 1944



January 17th

- Brink's Inc. reported robbery of \$2.8 million, 1950

January 20th

- Pearl Harbor leased by the United States from Hawaii for naval station, 1887
- Iran released 52 American hostages, 1981
- Martin Luther King Day first observed, 1986

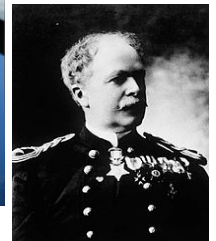
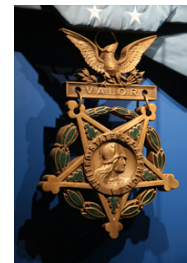


January 21st

- First atomic submarine, the *Nautilus (SSN 571)*, was launched, 1954

January 23rd

- Georgetown University was established, 1789
- First State Bureau of Labor in United States organized in Massachusetts, 1870
- USS *Pueblo* seized by North Koreans, 1968



January 24th

- Gold was discovered in California, 1848
- First United States Congressional Medal of Honor awarded, 1894, to Assistant Surgeon Bernard J.D. Irwin who actually earned over 30 years earlier (February 13-14, 1861)
- First Boy Scout troop organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell, 1908



January 27th

- Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp, 1880
- Apollo* Astronauts Grissom, White & Chaffee killed in aircraft accident, 1967
- End of Military Draft announced, 1973
- The Vietnam War ended, 1973

January 31st

- 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, abolishing slavery was submitted, 1865
- General Robert E. Lee named general-in-chief of all Confederate armies, 1865
- During WWII, Pvt. Eddie Slovik was the only American soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion, 1945