



Monthly Newsletter

# Pack 208

# TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



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

July 2020

*Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website*

[www.swantonscouts.org](http://www.swantonscouts.org)

**Happy 244th Birthday to  
our home, the**

**United States of America**



**THE SWANTON CORNFEST HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR - SORRY**

## Swanton Community Garage Sale

Saturday June 27th from 10am to 2pm  
more details to follow, but maybe we can do some  
fundraising to get ahead of 2021.



For those who don't know it, the Kroger  
Community Rewards program allows  
you to help yourself to pay for your  
Scout's expenses like Summer Camp or  
Cub Scout Day Camp.

<http://www.swantonscouts.org/KrogerCommunityRewards2015.pdf>

### MILITARY FLAG PATCHES MAY ALSO SAVE LIVES

While deployed, many soldiers wear a subdued blue-gray version of the flag patch that is made of infrared light-emitting material. When viewed through night vision goggles, the flags glow in the dark—helping soldiers to identify friendly forces in the field.

Please either Sign up to participate (friends & family too) or RE-Sign up to continue participation. Also, send Mr Raven your quarterly "rewards" amount so he can credit your Scout's account for it! Have your friends & family give us their amounts also please. It helps your Scout's finances. Thank you.

### MILITARY UNIFORMS WEAR THE FLAG BACKWARD (FOR AN AWESOME REASON)

If you've ever seen a Marine wearing a backward flag patch on his fatigues, it's not because he put on his uniform inside-out. According to The Institute of Heraldry, flag patches on military uniforms should be worn with the star field always facing front to mimic a flag blowing in the wind as soldiers charge into battle. Awesome.



### HALF-MAST FLAGS HAVE A DARK SECRET



The tradition of flying flags at half-staff to show mourning and respect dates back at least to 1612, when the crew of a British vessel sailed home with the Union Jack at half-mast in honor of their dead captain. It has since become British tradition to fly a flag of mourning not halfway down the pole, but exactly one flag's-width below its normal position. Why? To make room for another flag at the top of the staff: the invisible flag of death.

#### Some more US Flag Trivia...

The American flag first flew over a foreign fort in what country?

Libya — over Fort Derne, on the shores of Tripoli.

What is an expert on flags and their history called?

A vexillologist

# Other Major events that happened on the Fourth of July

<https://bestlifeonline.com/july-4-historical-events/>

1802: The U.S. Military Academy at West Point officially opens.

First announced by newly-minted president **Thomas Jefferson** a year earlier, the United States Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, New York, officially opened on July 4, 1802. In its early days, this **now-prestigious school** got off to a rocky start. There was **no strict curriculum** or length of study, and the students ranged in age from 10 to 37 years old.



1817: Construction begins on the Erie Canal.

On July 4, 1817, workers broke ground on the Erie Canal in Rome, New York, led by chief engineer James Geddes. The waterway, which would extend 363 miles from the Great Lakes to the Hudson River by the time it was completed in 1825, would go on to transform the nation's economy. By 1853, it carried 62 percent of all U.S. trade, according to the History Channel.

1831: "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" is performed for the first time.

Theology student Samuel Francis Smith wrote the lyrics to "America" (as the song was first named) in 1831 at the request of his friend, church-music composer Lowell Mason, according to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Impressively, the lyrics took Smith just 30 minutes to write, and were put to the melody of the national anthem in the United Kingdom, "God Save the Queen." The song was first performed by a children's choir at an Independence Day celebration that year at Park Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts.



1870: Independence Day is celebrated as a federal holiday.

For decades, American citizens had celebrated their independence on July 4th. However, it wasn't until June 28, 1870, that the U.S. government made Independence Day a federal holiday. That made that year's Fourth of July the first one that was celebrated as a federal holiday.

1884: The Statue of Liberty is presented to the United States in Paris.

Since its arrival in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty has stood as a welcoming symbol for immigrants who come to America seeking a new life. But of course, this beacon of freedom hasn't always been there. In fact, the statue didn't make its first full appearance in the Big Apple until June 17, 1885.



The significance of the Fourth of July to the statue goes back even further. It was on July 4, 1884, that the Statue of Liberty was presented by the Franco American Union to

U.S. ambassador to France, Levi Morton, according to the National Constitution Center. Lady Liberty was then taken apart and shipped to the U.S. aboard the French Navy ship, the *Isère*.



2012: The Higgs boson discovery is announced.

The existence of the particle known as the Higgs boson was theorized in the '60s, but on July 4, 2012, the discovery of a new particle with a mass between 125 and 127  $\text{GeV}/c^2$  was announced. This particle is of critical importance to the field of particle physics, and can conceivably help scientists determine the fundamental properties of how mass works, how matter decays, and how the sun creates such limitless caches of energy, according to *Scientific American*. And if you're looking to get into a more patriotic spirit, pick up one of these **23 Red, White, and Blue Accessories You Need This Fourth of July**.

# Upcoming Activities

## University of Scouting 2020

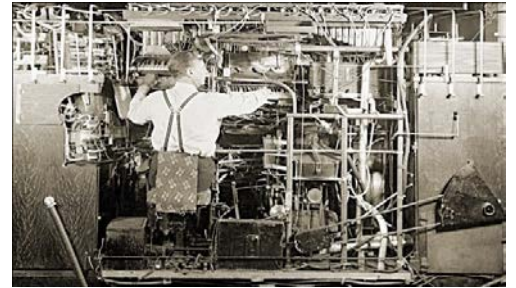
The 2020 University of Scouting is currently being planned for November 7th at PENTA again. Programs will be available for both Scouts and Adults; the schedule will be posted as soon as we have one available to share.

As the COVID-19 restrictions change and the programs for the Council change Mr Raven will continue to update everyone so we can get back to planning our normal Scouting program for everyone. The Troop and Pack leadership thank everyone for their patience.

## *More Major events that happened on the Fourth of July*

1883: Cartoonist Rube Goldberg is born.

Reuben Garrett Lucius Goldberg was the first president and one of the founders of the National Cartoonists Society. He is best known for his eccentric cartoons of unnecessarily complicated machines meant to complete simple tasks—for example, a 40-step series of levers and pulleys that ultimately lead to something as simple as, say, turning on the faucet. These are now known as Rube Goldberg machines.



1892: July 4th happens twice.

The year 1892 was a leap year, and so it had 366 days instead of the typical 365. However, Western Samoa made a change to its time zone that year, thus shifting where the country fell with regard to the International Date Line. As a result, in 1892, Western Samoa had two July 4ths back-to-back, for a total of 367 calendar days that year.

1960: The American flag receives its 50th star.

Though Hawaii was officially named a state in August of the previous year, the 50th star did not appear on the American flag until it was ceremoniously added on July 4th, 1960.

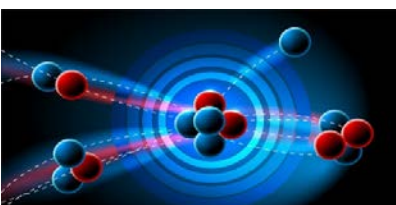


1996: Hotmail goes live.

One of the first electronic mail providers, Hotmail, launched the revolutionary idea of accessing your messages from anywhere in the world. The e-mail service, whose name stems from the letters HTML, was sold to Microsoft in December 1997 for a reported \$400 million. The company was famous for offering 2MB of free storage. Today, Gmail offers 15GB.

1997: The Pathfinder lands on Mars.

NASA's Mars Pathfinder was the first rover to go beyond the moon. It fittingly landed on Mars and began its mission on Independence Day of 1997. The 23-pound rover included scientific instruments meant to analyze the big red planet's atmosphere, climate, and geology, according to NASA.



1934: Leó Szilárd patents the nuclear chain reaction.

According to a passage in Richard Rhodes' landmark *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, Leó Szilárd, an influential nuclear age physicist, first developed the idea of nuclear chain reaction in 1933.

Then, **in 1934**, inspired by research conducted by **Enrico Fermi**—yes, the very same one behind **the Fermi Paradox**—Szilárd took things a step further and patented the idea for a nuclear reactor on July 4th.

# July Historical & Current Events

July 1st

The first adhesive postage stamp was offered for sale, 1847  
Medicare federal insurance program went into effect, 1966



July 2nd

Amelia Earhart and her airplane were lost in Pacific Ocean, 1937  
The Civil Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1964

July 3rd

Congress created the United States Veterans Administration, 1930

July 4th

The Declaration of Independence was approved, 1776



July 7th

First women were sworn as F.B.I. agents, 1972

July 8th

Colonel John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, 1776

July 9th

The Declaration of Independence was read aloud to General George Washington's troops in New York, 1776

July 10th

The US frigate "United States" was launched, 1797



July 11th

United States Air Force Academy was dedicated at Lowry Air Base, Colorado, 1955

July 12th

Congress authorized the (US Army) Medal of Honor, 1862

July 16th

General Ulysses S. Grant was named commander-in-chief of all the Union armies, 1862  
The first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1935  
The first atomic bomb was detonated in New Mexico, 1945



July 18th

Professional baseball great Ty Cobb hit safety for 4000th time, 1927

July 19th

Christa McAuliffe of New Hampshire was chosen to be the first schoolteacher to ride aboard the space shuttle, 1985

July 20th

The first man (Astronaut Neil Armstrong) to set foot on the moon, 1969  
America's Viking I robot spacecraft made the first-ever landing on Mars, 1976



July 22nd

American citizenship was re-granted to Confederate General Robert E. Lee, by President James Carter, 1975



July 25th

The Central Intelligence Agency was created, 1947  
Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the United States, 1952

July 26th

Benjamin Franklin became Post-Master General and the Postal Service was established, 1775

July 27th

United States State Department was established, 1789  
Bugs Bunny made his cartoon debut, 1940



July 29th

International Atomic Energy Agency was established, 1957

July 30th

Medicare bill signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965