



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 2021

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org

Scouting for Food 2021 Thank You!



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 1,250 food items and \$ which will help feed some of our local families.

December 16th @ 7pm ~ December Pack Meeting

If you had a good time at the Thanksgiving Pack meeting then we'll challenge Mr Waterstradt to come up with a fun activity for that meeting too!



2022 Pinewood Derby

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

More information for this year's event to be provided

Our Pack Meeting will tentatively be on February 19th at the American Legion Hall with the use of the Legion's Screen & projector again. Car Checks will be on the 17th at the Pack Meeting.

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.

December's Pack Leader Committee Meeting

For December we're going to have the meeting at 8:15pm on Tuesday, December 7th after the Troop Meeting at the Legion Hall; all are welcome to attend.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Reminder !!

Our Account Number was changed last year to **AS052.81834** will still be associated with the Troop. How to get some \$\$ for normal spending.

Christmas in Swanton

December 4th ... Meat Sticks sales opportunity for our Troop to earn more \$\$ for your Scouting endeavors

December Campout - Tentatively set for Dec 10th - 12th

The District's Winter Camporee is not scheduled yet, we will keep watching for it and pass that along as soon as we have the information

There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 28th

Camp Alaska 2022

January 14th & 15th was our overnight Camp Alaska adventure in past years... are we camping again?

The District's Spring Camporee is not scheduled yet, we will keep watching for it and pass that along as soon as we have the information

PSR - Summer Camp 2022

July 3rd through July 9th

Nessle Campsite just past Ecology

This year we're looking at "Plan C" dining where we will plan and provide our own meals in camp.

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.



For our new Scouts and their parents, plus as a reminder to our older Scouts and families - if the Swanton School system cancels school for any reason (fog, snow, etc) we will not have the meeting that was scheduled for that evening. If you're not sure, you're welcome to check with us, but if there is no school then there will be no meeting. Safety is first; especially in bad weather.

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 like 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 Events & Activities

The Harlem Globetrotters are back in town!
December 27th @ 7pm at the Huntingdon Center

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.

as a reminder - if we see good, family activities, we'll share them with everyone



A History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving at Plymouth

www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the historic banquet's exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a "fowling" mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

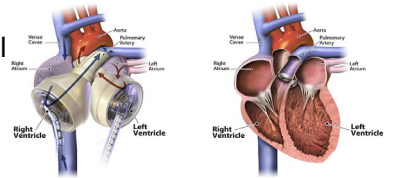
Thanksgiving becomes an Official Holiday

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of a long drought that had threatened the year's harvest and prompted Governor Bradford to call for a religious fast. Days of fasting and thanksgiving on an annual or occasional basis became common practice in other New England settlements as well. During the [American Revolution](#), the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year, and in 1789 [George Washington](#) issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States; in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His successors [John Adams](#) and [James Madison](#) also designated days of thanks during their presidencies.

December Historical & Current Events

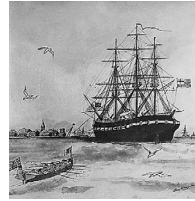
December 2nd

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

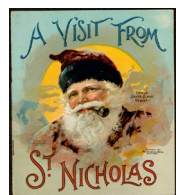
December 21st

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

December 25th

"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

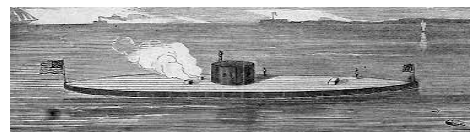
The Methodist Church was organized in America at a conference in Baltimore, Maryland, 1784

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