



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 2023

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!



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE WHO CAN'T BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES



There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 20th & 27th and no meeting on January 3rd; see you on the 10th!

Wright-Patterson AFB Museum Trip

On January 21st the troop will travel to Dayton and visit the WPAFB Museum !! A day trip with a great chance to our aviation history.

Winter Weekend @

February 10th-12th, 2023 is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda.... The theme is FIRE everyone. Webelos II are welcome to come out with us (parents too)

March 21st 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. We're always looking forward to recognizing your efforts.

Spring Camporee @

April 28th - 30th, 2023 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee. Theme and location are not yet known.



2023 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'll be running the STERNS method again. District rules & regulations will be posted soon, we'll make sure you get them for your cars. Swan Creek District's Pinewood Derby is March 11th, 2023

PACK LOCK-IN RETURNS!

January 13th & 14th at St Richard's
Starts at 7pm Friday and ends at 9am Saturday

January Pack Meeting - January 19th

February 12th ~ Scout Sunday

A Scout is REVERENT. If you don't have a church that you regularly attend, please see either Mr Waterstradt or Mr Raven for recommendations or how to work on a Religious Award too

February 16th ~ Pack Meeting; pre-Pinewood Derby!!

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

February 25th? ~ Pack 208's Annual Pinewood Derby

Date being confirmed; we'll let you know

It's not too early to look forward!

PSR - Summer Camp 2023

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.

And time for any parents who'd like to go to plan for it too. Scouts, Summer Camp is a great chance to try things you can easily do here in Swanton. Choose well.

Summer is coming faster than you may think!

As a reminder Scouts, when you go to Summer Camp @ Camp Frontier, Scouts of higher ranks will have a better choice for Merit Badge classes so let's keep it going!



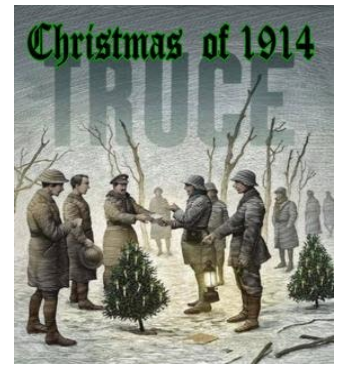
As we approach the fall and winter again, our leadership would like to remind all of our parents and volunteer leaders that "If Swanton Schools close due to weather, then our meeting that night will be cancelled."

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 *Leatheneck* in 1991

Twas 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

Upcoming Cub Scout Activities

In the Spring ~ For Cub Scouts & their parent(s)
(usually late) April is the Parents & Pal Campout

Cub Scout Day Camp 2023 @ Camp Miakonda

Week 1: June 12 - 16
Week 2: June 19 - 23
Week 3: June 26 - 30
Week 4: Closed to public (not sure what/why yet)
Week 5: July 10 - 14
Details available at:

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/cdc>

Webelos I Overnight @ Camp Miakonda

Bear Scouts who will be Webelos I in the fall are welcome to come out and have fun!

July 7th & 8th, 2023

Details available at:

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/webover>

Arrow of Light Resident Camp @ Pioneer

Details are available for Summer 2023!!

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/WRC>

Camping with your young Scouts is always fun when you join them and watch them having a good time; they are only young once, share it while you can!



EASY FUNDRAISER for the Troop... 2 Liter Bottles

The troop is currently collecting 2 Liter bottles as a side fundraiser with a local business. They have a use for them in their work and would rather pay us a small fee to collect/save bottles for them than go out and buy a lot of Soda that they don't want to drink anyways. If you have any, please consider giving them to the Troop instead of your recycle bins.

With the holidays coming up this should be fairly easy to save us a few bottles we hope.

Thank you very much in advance.



<https://huntingtoncentertoledo.com/events/globetrotters/>

7pm Game Time

6pm Doors Open

Tickets are on sale !

This is a great evening for the entire family and, if you watch carefully, they even play basketball!

We've contacted the Walleye to see if they are having any overnight Walleye Scout Experiences this year; more to follow



Boy Scout Night (Friday, February 3rd)

Marvel Night with character appearances and plenty of chances to get pictures with them! The team will be wearing Incredible Hulk jerseys. \$19 per ticket (includes a seat at the game and a **postgame** skate with a movie on the big screen!).

\$8 optional food voucher you can add on per ticket (includes a hot dog, chips, and a small soda).

Girl Scout Night (Sunday, April 2nd)

Warner Bros Night with character appearances and plenty of chances to get pictures with them! The team will be wearing Scooby Doo jerseys. Price / Options are the same for this night as they are for the Boy Scout Night

They may even let the Boy Scouts come tonight too

Gentle reminder... Walleye, Mud Hens, Globetrotters, Disney - all are good times for the FAMILY!

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

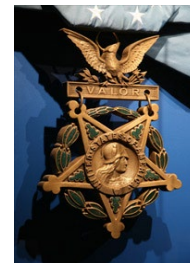


January 21st

- 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

2023 Pack 208 Lock-In

Starting Friday January 13th with registration between 7pm and 8pm

Ending Saturday January 14th at 9am

Location is St Richard's Church @ 333 Brookside Drive



Price is \$5 for each registered Cub Scout or non-registered Cub Scout

We'll have snacks, movies, games... A fun time for all!

We're just planning on having some good, old fashioned, fun for the night so bring a buddy along who isn't a Cub Scout and let's see if he wants to have fun with us guys! Chaperones welcome also, please let us know in advance if you can help.

Cub Scouts who get a buddy to join will receive the RECRUITER patch also.

Snacks and games will be provided for the guys; they've got to provide the energy!

Sometimes, Cub Scouts just have to get together to have fun.... And this what we plan for tonight!

Questions??? Contact Alan Raven (419) 825-5499 or Gary Waterstradt (419) 654-2030

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