



Monthly Newsletter Pack 208

TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



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

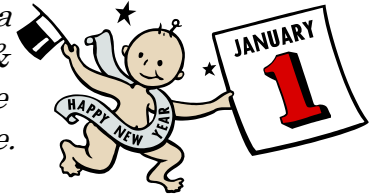
January 2025

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website

www.swantonscouts.org



The Leaders of Pack 208 and Troop 208 wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Stay safe & please keep our military and emergency services people in your prayers for their safety while they can't be home.



Wreaths Across America - Thank you to all who came out and helped on the 14th!



There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break Dec 24th or 31st



2025 Pinewood Derby is almost here! Hopefully you're thinking about your cars!

For Our Older Scouts ~ Merit Badges

January 4th there is an all day Merit Badge event at Camp Miakonda - Online registration is available through the Council Website.

District Rules & Regulations are provided so parents can help guide their Scout in his efforts, the more the Scouts do to make their cars, the more fun they have and the more they will learn about wood working.
see the Pinewood Derby flyer for specific details.

January Campout / Camp Alaska ?

January 18th and 19th is possibly our January Campout at Seven Eagles in Grand Rapids or PSR?

January 16th at 7pm January Pack Meeting

We hope everyone has a great Christmas & New Year holiday break and we will see you there!

Swan Creek District Winter Weekend

February 7th - 9th is the Swan Creek District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda and the rumors are it's going to be fun weekend, but no promises of snow...maybe

February 2nd ~ 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 (**Grace Bible Fellowship**) or Mr Raven (St Richard's).

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

March 10th (or 24th) will be our Winter/Spring Court of Honor guys and Friends of Scouting presentation. Let's wrap up our advancements and other awards guys.

Spring Camporee @ Courageous Acres Park

April 25th - 27th, 2025 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee. The theme is disAbilities Awareness .

February 20th ~ Pack Meeting; pre-Pinewood Derby!!

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

PSR - Summer Camp 2025

June 29th through July 5th



Houston Campsite is close to the Clark Shower House!

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 (we have to get you registered as a leader).

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

Pack 208's Annual Pinewood Derby... March 1st, 2025

We have it scheduled! March 1st, 2025 @ the Legion Hall. If there are any questions or problems please let us know cuz we're going to run a lot of races that morning!

Cub Scouts... Tune up your engines!

As we approach winter (hey, it's here!) 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." Safety first.

4 Major Military Events That Happened On Christmas

<https://www.dodlive.mil/2015/12/24/4-major-military-events-that-happened-on-christmas/>

On Christmas Day every year lots of Americans relax and enjoy time with their families. For many of our troops, though, it can be a day of sacrifice and hardship. Over the history of the U.S., several big military actions have taken place on Dec. 25. Here are four noteworthy ones. **Starting with the winter of 1776**

The winter of 1776 didn't start as a good one for Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. They suffered many defeats in the first few months of the American Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. For the troops, morale was low.

Washington needed to renew faith in the battle for independence, so he decided to surprise the Hessians – German troops hired by the British – who were stationed in Trenton, New Jersey. He figured that doing so after the enemy's Christmas celebrations would find them groggy and unprepared for a fight, especially as a terrible winter storm was brewing.

So late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory – and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half.

The mission, which became known as the Battle of Trenton, was of huge significance to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise the troops' spirits, but it revived the hope of the colonists, who were beginning to think their battle for independence wasn't feasible.



1864: The First Battle of Fort Fisher

For most of the Civil War, North Carolina's Fort Fisher saw very little combat. But that changed on Christmas 1864, when the Union decided it wanted to capture the last port the Confederates held on the Atlantic Ocean.

It was a debacle for the north.

First, the Union tried to pack a warship with explosives and blow up the fort's walls – but that didn't work. It just blew up their ship and alerted the Confederates of an imminent attack. So on Christmas Eve, the Union tried again, bombarding the fort with heavy gunfire, most of which fell short or missed its target. On Christmas morning, Union commanders decided to shell an area north of the fort so troops could land and come ashore. But when they did, more disappointment followed – the fort's heavy artillery was completely unscathed, so that was a no-go, too. It was only then that the Union ordered troops to retreat.

While the first Battle of Fort Fisher was a massive failure for the Union, the second wasn't. In mid-January 1865, Union troops were finally able to capture the fort, effectively cutting the Confederates off from all global trade and supplies. The Civil War ended three months later.



a B-52 Stratofortress Bomber

1972: Operation Linebacker II in North Vietnam

American troops were in the middle of the biggest bombing mission in military history during the Christmas season of 1972. The air campaign, called Operation Linebacker II, has largely been considered the action that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. President Richard Nixon ordered the bombings to begin on Dec. 18 after North Vietnamese delegates walked out on peace talks. Nicknamed the "11 Days of Christmas," the operation consisted of 11 successive days of raids by B-52 Stratofortress bombers flown in from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The only day that both sides got a reprieve was Christmas, when troops were given a 36-hour break to celebrate. During that time, Nixon ordered the North Vietnamese to return to the bargaining table. They refused, so the bombings continued more ferociously until Dec. 29, when they finally agreed to resume peace talks.

In 11 days, Linebacker II dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 U.S. Air Force sorties involving about 12,000 airmen. Defense Department records show the raids destroyed or damaged 1,600 structures, 500 rail targets, 10 airfields and 80 percent of North Vietnam's electric-generating capacity. Fifteen U.S. B-52s were also destroyed in the process, killing 35 men and leading to the capture of nearly 40 American prisoners of war.

The resumed peace talks that came from the campaign led to the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973. The U.S. ended its involvement in the war soon after, but the last American troops wouldn't leave the country for another two years.

The 4th event ? Maybe not major, but on the next page...

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SCOUTS & FAMILIES



Sunday January 5th; game at 5pm
 Playing the Kalamazoo Wings
 (the 75th anniversary of Peanuts being celebrated)

Spring Trailhead Academy February 22nd, 2025

All day training at PENTA Career Center
 details to follow

the 2025 District Pinewood Derby...

Date to be determined/announced (March??)
 Location to be determined/announced

Mr Raven will pass out information to all of our Cub Scouts (and their parents) who either win, come in 2nd or are declared the "Best Design" car for this event at our Pack Pinewood Derby.

Parent & Pal (Cub Scouts) Campout

May 3rd & 4th at Camp Miakonda
 details to follow

Cub Day Camp 2025 at Camp Miakonda

- Week 1 June 16th - 20th
- Week 2 June 23rd - 27th
- Week 3 June 30 thru July 3rd
- Week 4 July 7th thru 11th
- Week 5 July 14th thru 18th

Information on price, hours, etc. will be coming out in the spring and Cub Scouts can both complete advancement requirements AND have a lot of fun too!

The 8th point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Cheerful"

Especially at this time of the year we hope the Scouts are being CHEERFUL when they are out in town and being shining examples of this. Just wishing others a Merry Christmas and being helpful, it can help others who may be going through difficult times and need your smile and cheer to help them through the season.

If any adults are interested in helping with the Scouting program, we are always willing to talk, ask us! We promise that your efforts will be appreciated by all. No effort is too little to help our youth.

and lastly, the 4th "major" military event...

1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" Is Written

John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892.

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The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987.

While we all celebrate Christmas this year



Let's all take a moment to remember...

all of those who are not home with their families at this time of the year; serving to protect us. Our military, both active and reserve, who are on duty standing the watch; especially those deployed overseas. Our emergency services men and women who spend these holidays on vigilant watch for us. May they all have a peaceful watch and come home safely to their families afterwards. A grateful "Thank you" for your dedication and *may God Bless you all.*



CHRISTMAS AT ARLINGTON National Cemetery



Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.
 Know the line has held, your job is done.
 Rest easy, sleep well.
 Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.
 Peace, peace, and farewell...

January Historical & Current Events

January 1st

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, 1863



January 2nd

United States & Canada reached free trade agreement, 1988



January 4th

United States planes shot down two Libyan fighters, 1989



January 7th

Galileo Galilei sighted four of Jupiter's moons., 1610



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 12th

The first public museum in United States (South Carolina) established, 1773

January 14th

Henry Ford introduced assembly line, 1914

NBC's "Today" show premiered, 1952



January 16th

United States Civil Service was established, 1883

"Hello Dolly!" opened on Broadway, 1964



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

January 21st

First atomic submarine, the Nautilus, was launched, 1954



January 23rd

USS Pueblo seized by North Koreans, 1968

January 24th

Gold was discovered in California, 1848

First United States Congressional Medal of Honor awarded, 1894

First Boy Scout troop organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell, 1908



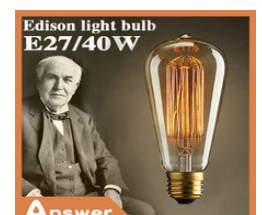
January 26th

First American expeditionary force to go to Europe during WWII went ashore in Northern Ireland, 1942

January 27th

Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp, 1880

End of Military Draft announced, 1973



January 30th

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

Christmas Trees from Around the World



The Capitol Christmas tree in Washington , D.C. , is decorated with 3,000 ornaments that are the handiwork of U.S. schoolchildren. Encircling evergreens in the 'Pathway of Peace' represent the 50 U.S. states.



The world's largest Christmas tree display rises up the slopes of Monte Ingino outside of Gubbio, in Italy 's Umbria region. Composed of about 500 lights connected by 40,000 feet of wire, the 'tree' is a modern marvel for an ancient city.

A Christmas tree befitting Tokyo 's nighttime neon display is projected onto the exterior of the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka.



Illuminating the Gothic facades of Prague's Old Town Square, and casting its glow over the manger display of the famous Christmas market, is a grand tree cut in the Sumava mountains in the southern Czech Republic.



Moscow celebrates Christmas according to the Russian Orthodox calendar on Jan. 7. For weeks beforehand, the city is alive with festivities in anticipation of Father Frost's arrival on his magical troika with the Snow Maiden. He and his helper deliver gifts under the New Year tree, or yolka, which is traditionally a fir.

The largest Christmas tree in Europe (more than 230 feet tall) can be found in the Praca do Comercio in Lisbon, Portugal. Thousands of lights adorn the tree, adding to the special enchantment of the city during the holiday season



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Arlington) where members of the 3rd US Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Old Guard" still guard over the monument, in all weather.



Christmas Trees from Around the World



Venice 's Murano Island renowned throughout the world for its quality glasswork is home to the tallest glass tree in the world. Sculpted by master glass blower Simone Cenedese, the artistic Christmas tree is a modern reflection of the holiday season.



'Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree': Even in its humblest attire, aglow beside a tiny chapel in Germany 's Karwendel mountains, a Christmas tree is a wondrous sight.



Ooh la la Galeries Lafayette! In Paris , even the Christmas trees are chic. With its monumental, baroque dome, plus 10 stories of lights and high fashion, it's no surprise this show-stopping department store draws more visitors than the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower.



Against a backdrop of tall, shadowy firs, a rainbow trio of Christmas trees lights up the night (location unknown).

In addition to the Vatican 's heavenly evergreen, St. Peter's Square in Rome hosts a larger-than-life nativity scene in front of the obelisk.



Drink a glass of gluhwein from the holiday market at the Romer, Frankfurt 's city hall since 1405 and enjoy a taste of Christmas past.

Christmas Trees from Around the World



The Christmas tree that greets revelers at the Puerta del Sol is dressed for a party. Madrid's two-week celebration makes millionaires along with merry-makers. On Dec. 22, a lucky citizen will win El Gordo (the fat one), the world's biggest lottery.

A token of gratitude for Britain's aid during World War II, the Christmas tree in London's Trafalgar Square has been the annual gift of the people of Norway since 1947.



Founded in 2007 with the mission to:

Remember the fallen.

Honor those who serve.

Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Our volunteers are the beating heart of the program and work year-round to share this important mission and inspire others to join.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Thanks to those who helped put out the wreaths on the 14th

A little history about Mr Morrill Worcester:

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. It was his first to our nation's capital and one that would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of millions of others across the country. Seeing the hundreds of thousands of graves and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. It was to be an experience that would follow him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of his nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Regarding the scenes from Arlington National Cemetery

Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths -- some 5,000 -- are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one of the poorest parts of the state.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (ret), arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year.