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 2026**

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website www.swantonscouts.org

REMINDER: POPCORN money is due!!

By the December 17th Pack meeting we need all of the money for this year's popcorn sales turned in. Thank you.



2027 Pinewood Derby

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

Just a heads up / reminder it's coming up!

February 18th Pack Meeting will be a trial run and check of your "vehicles" (no V-8 Big Block engines again this year, sorry)

February 20th (Saturday) will be the big race. Please plan ahead and try to keep that day open so you can watch energetic Cub Scouts RACE !!

Races will be digitally recorded again for your families

March 20th - Fallen Timbers District Pinewood Derby

The Cubmaster will provide details for both the Pack's Race Winners and Best Design Winners at our Pinewood Derby. If the car zooms, keep this date open!

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.



Wreaths Across America 2026

December 19th at noon we'll meet at the American Legion Hall at noon

Everyone will go to the main cemetery for an opening ceremony and then go to a cemetery to place wreaths at veterans' graves. The Legion will have snacks before the ceremony and food afterwards in appreciation.

Scouting for Food Campaign 2026



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 790 food items which will help feed local families especially during the holidays we are approaching. They appreciate it as much as we do.

November's Activity will be in a hike at the Oak Openings Preserve on Nov 21st. We'll leave the Legion Hall at 8am and return about 4pm. If it rains, we'll cancel the hike.

There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools (Thanksgiving) break November 24th

Dec 5th - Christmas in Swanton; Meatstick sales!

There will be no Troop meeting during the Swanton Schools Christmas break December 22nd & 29th

Winter Weekend II @ Camp Miakonda

Feb 12th-14th, 2027 is the 2nd Fallen Timbers District Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda; Sylvania Cabin

March 7th 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 23rd - 25th, 2027 is the Fallen Timbers District Spring Camporee. Details to follow.

PSR - Summer Camp 2027



July 4th through July 10th

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.

Parents - if your family needs some help to send your Scout to camp please let us know. There are discrete ways to help you and your son so they don't miss out on Summer Camp.

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."



Two Enemies Discover a "Higher Call" in Battle

http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/09/living/higher-call-military-chivalry/ (story excerpts)

The pilot glanced outside his cockpit and froze. He blinked hard and looked again, hoping it was just a mirage. But his co-pilot stared at the same horrible vision.

"My God, this is a nightmare," the co-pilot said.

"He's going to destroy us," the pilot agreed.

The men were looking at a gray German Messerschmitt fighter hovering just three feet off their wingtip. It was five days before Christmas 1943, and the fighter had closed in on their crippled American B-17 bomber for the kill.

The B-17 pilot, Charles Brown, was a 21-year-old West Virginia farm boy on his first combat mission. His bomber had been shot to pieces by swarming fighters, and his plane was alone in the skies above Germany. Half his crew was wounded, and the tail gunner was dead, his blood frozen in icicles over the machine guns.

But when Brown and his co-pilot, Spencer "Pinky" Luke, looked at the fighter pilot again, something odd happened. The German didn't pull the trigger. He nodded at Brown instead. What happened next was one of the most remarkable acts of chivalry recorded during World War II. Years later, Brown would track down his would-be executioner for a reunion that reduced both men to tears.

People love to hear war stories about great generals or crack troops such as Seal Team 6, the Navy unit that killed Osama bin Laden. But there is another side of war that's seldom explored: Why do some soldiers risk their lives to save their enemies and, in some cases, develop a deep bond with them that outlives war?

Those are the kinds of questions Brown's story raises. His encounter with the German fighter pilot is beautifully told in a New York Times best-selling book, "A Higher Call." The book explains how that aerial encounter reverberated in both men's lives for more than 50 years.

Their story is extraordinary, but it's not unique. Union and Confederate troops risked their lives to aid one another during the Civil War. British and German troops gathered for post-war reunions; some even vacationed together after World War II. One renowned American general traveled back to Vietnam to meet the man who almost wiped out his battalion, and the two men hugged and prayed together.

The German pilot who took mercy

Revenge, not honor, is what drove 2nd Lt. Franz Stigler to jump into his fighter that chilly December day in 1943.

Stigler wasn't just any fighter pilot. He was an ace. One more kill and he would win The Knight's Cross, German's highest award for valor.

Yet Stigler was driven by something deeper than glory. His older brother, August, was a fellow Luftwaffe pilot who had been killed earlier in the war. American pilots had killed Stigler's comrades and were bombing his country's cities.

Stigler was standing near his fighter on a German airbase when he heard a bomber's engine. Looking up, he saw a B-17 flying so low it looked like it was going to land. As the bomber disappeared behind some trees, Stigler tossed his cigarette aside, saluted a ground crewman and took off in pursuit.

As Stigler's fighter rose to meet the bomber, he decided to attack it from behind. He climbed behind the sputtering bomber, squinted into his gun sight and placed his hand on the trigger. He was about to fire when he hesitated. Stigler was baffled. No one in the bomber fired at him.

He looked closer at the tail gunner. He was still, his white fleece collar soaked with blood. Stigler craned his neck to examine the rest of the bomber. Its skin had been peeled away by shells, its guns knocked out. He could see men huddled inside the plane tending the wounds of other crewmen.

Then he nudged his plane alongside the bomber's wings and locked eyes with the pilot whose eyes were wide with shock and horror.

Stigler pressed his hand over the rosary he kept in his flight jacket. He eased his index finger off the trigger. He couldn't shoot. It would be murder.

Stigler wasn't just motivated by vengeance that day. He also lived by a code. He could trace his family's ancestry to knights in 16th century Europe. He had once studied to be a priest. A German pilot who spared the enemy, though, risked death in Nazi Germany. If someone reported him, he would be executed.

Alone with the crippled bomber, Stigler changed his mission. He nodded at the American pilot and began flying in formation so German anti-aircraft gunners on the ground wouldn't shoot down the slow-moving bomber. (The Luftwaffe had B-17s of its own, shot down and rebuilt for secret missions and training.) Stigler escorted the bomber over the North Sea and took one last look at the American pilot. Then he saluted him, peeled his fighter away and returned to Germany.

Upcoming Opportunities for Scouts / Scouters / and Families too!

Christmas in Swanton Dec 5th

* A chance for Boy Scouts to earn some money to help them pay for their Scouting experiences (meat sticks)

* A chance for families to come out (after the parade) and see some good crafts and items in time for Christmas gifts or some yummy foods (cookies) too!

The Harlem Globetrotters come to town

Dec 31st, 2026 with a 3pm game time
At the Huntington Center
If you have never watched the Globetrotters perform, in person, you're missing a great entertainment for the entire family

Disney On Ice - Find Your Hero

Huntington Center in Toledo
December 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th
7 total performances over 4 days



Why We Eat Turkey on Thanksgiving

https://www.history.com/articles/turkey-thanksgiving-meal

Most Americans who celebrate Thanksgiving—about 87 percent, according to a 2025 survey—eat turkey with their holiday meal, perhaps alongside other favorite dishes such as mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and pumpkin pie.

But if you've ever wondered why so many of us eat turkey on Thanksgiving, the answer is a bit more complicated than you may think.

Sarah Josepha Hale, 'Mother of Thanksgiving'

But like most of the Thanksgiving traditions we know today, turkey didn't become widely synonymous with that November holiday until the mid-19th century. This was largely thanks to the efforts of the writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale, who became known as the "mother of Thanksgiving."

In her 1827 novel *Northwood* , Hale included an entire chapter on Thanksgiving celebrations in her native New England and other regions. She also used her platform as editor of the magazine *Godey's Lady's Book* to sway both politicians and the public toward the idea of a national Thanksgiving holiday.

By 1854, thanks in large part to Hale's work, more than 30 states and U.S. territories had an annual commemoration of Thanksgiving. President Abraham Lincoln made it official in 1863, declaring the last Thursday in November as a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Turkey was a key part of Hale's Thanksgiving vision. She drew on Bradford's text—which was stolen by the British during the Revolutionary War but resurfaced in 1854—in order to build up the mythology surrounding the 1621 meal.

Though Bradford's text didn't specifically link turkey with the feast shared by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag, Hale made turkey into the center of her ideal Thanksgiving meal, along with a lot of other stuff. "Her descriptions of Thanksgiving sound like massive buffets, with every kind of animal you could imagine," Abrell says.

as a footnote: In 2024, more than 205 million turkeys were raised on some 2,500 farms across the United States, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Many of those turkeys end up on the table at Thanksgiving, as the U.S.D.A. estimates that Americans consume more than 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving Day each year.

Disney On Ice - Find Your Hero

Huntington Center in Toledo
December 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th
7 total performances over 4 days

BUT WE HAVE DATES FOR…



Friday Jan 22nd (Mascot Takeover) at 7:15pm
Friday Mar 12th (Sonic the Hedgehog Night) 7:15pm

And (already) MUDHENS Scout Experience Nights!

Friday, May 29th; Game Time 7:05pm
Boots & Baseball Night featuring Cowboy Hate Gate Giveaway

Friday, July 24th; Game Time 7:05pm
Harry Potter Night presented by Roots Poulty featuring Post-Game Fireworks

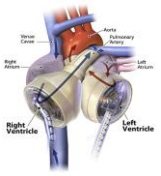
Both games include a pre-game Scout parade on the Field for all Scouts, hopefully wearing their uniforms

More details for either team/sport?
Contact Hunter Ward @ 419.725.9283 or
hunter.ward@mudhens.com

December Historical & Current Events

www.aboutfamouspeople.com

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



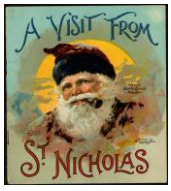
December 17th
France recognized American independence, 1777

December 18th
The first celestial photograph was taken, 1839



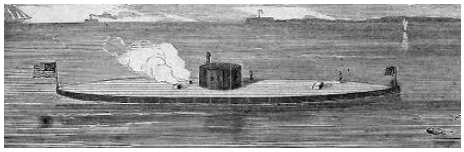
December 21st
The (Navy) Congressional Medal of Honor medal was approved and authorized by Congress, 1861

December 25th
Washington resigned as commander-in-chief, at Old Senate Chamber, State House, Annapolis, Md, 1783
"*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