

# Troop 1333 Newsletter

## January 2008



Troop 1333 Scouts and Parents,

2008 is here and the Troop is off and running! With such an active and growing troop, we've already added 10+ scouts with more on the way, there are continual changes and this note is a summary of the highlights since the last update notice. Very important items are highlighted in **red** for those looking for the USA Today version. This note is long so grab your favorite beverage (or two) and spend some time checking out the changes to the website and the scouting program.

This is BSA's *Year of the Volunteer* and with the expected growth of the Troop, we will need parents to respond to this call and volunteer for one (or more) of the activities that keep the Troop running and provides a quality experience for each of the scouts. **Scouts whose parents actively participate in the Troop have much better retention and success.** Volunteer roles range from an hour once per month as a Board of Review member to monthly camping in the assistant scoutmaster position.

1. **HOME PAGE** – The troop's home page changes several times a week and includes information not included in the scoutmaster e-mails. Did you know that additional requirements have been added for Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class ranks? Did you know that there is a quarterly Troop photo contest? More on these later in the newsletter. Check out these news items, photos of troop activities, and more at <http://bsatroop1333.org/>.
2. **NEW TENDERFOOT, 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS, 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS REQUIREMENTS** – BSA has added updated the requirements for scouts working on Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class ranks. **If you have not completed your Scoutmaster conference for these ranks prior to January 1, 2008, you must complete these new requirements to earn the rank. Scoutmasters, please remember to sign off on this requirement so there are no complications at Boards of Review.** These requirements are not in your handbook and will not be in the handbooks until the 2008 printing. **If you have not achieved these ranks, write them in your handbook in the correct rank section.**

### **New Boy Scout Rank Requirements (Effective January 1, 2008)**

The following changes to Boy Scout rank requirements were approved and will become effective January 1, 2008. These changes will help advance the importance of Youth Protection training beyond initial Boy Scout joining requirements, and keep youth informed and actively engaged in understanding the key elements of personal safety and protection. NOTE: These changes will be published in the 2008 Boy Scout Requirements book and the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of The Boy Scout Handbook.

#### **Tenderfoot Rank**

Revised requirement 9: Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Describe what a bully is and how you should respond to one.

#### **Second Class Rank**

New requirement 8b: Explain the three R's of personal safety and protection.

# Troop 1333 Newsletter

## January 2008



### First Class Rank

New requirement 12: Describe the three things you should avoid doing related to use of the Internet. Describe a cyber-bully and how you should respond to one.

- CALENDAR** - The troop calendar is being refined by the PLC and is updated regularly. The entire year calendar is also available in MS Excel format. Upcoming events are listed on the home page at <http://bsatroop1333.org/> and Scoutmaster Landry sends a note weekly with reminders. The calendar is dynamic so it should be on your list of things to review at least once a week. Access the calendar at <http://bsatroop1333.org/schedule.htm>.
- SUMMER CAMP** – The Troop is headed back to Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch (BTSR) for summer camp. This will be the Troop's 3<sup>rd</sup> visit – why? because it is popular with the scouts and they are the ones who selected it. BTSR has added some exciting new programs for the older scouts and the newer scouts will very much enjoy the programs at the base camp. Check out photos from our last visit at <http://bsatroop1333.org/btsr2006.htm>. Although the 2008 Leader's Guide is not yet available, the Buffalo Trail website is accessible through our summer camp page at [http://bsatroop1333.org/summer\\_camp.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/summer_camp.htm) and has good information on what to expect. **Summer camp sign-up will occur at the January 27, 2008, 5:30 pm, parents meeting.**  
  
Some of older scouts and fearless leaders will be taking a high adventure trek to Northern Tier where they will be dropped off in the wilderness and then paddle themselves to unknown adventures. They have been training for this trek and will *Be Prepared*. Check out the Troop high adventure page at [http://bsatroop1333.org/high\\_adventure.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/high_adventure.htm).
- PARENT MEETING – A Troop 1333 parent meeting is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. This is a very important meeting for ALL scout parents to attend, not just the new scouts.** This is where we will talk to the new parents about the troop and how it is and verify that all information on file is correct for all scouts. Please put this date on your calendar and attend.
- BOARD OF REVIEW** – A Board of Review Request Form is available at [http://bsatroop1333.org/bor\\_form.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/bor_form.htm). Scouts, use this form to request your next Board of Review. Using this form will help the Board of Review coordinator know how many team members are needed for the Board of Review date. You must complete your Scoutmaster conference prior to the date of your BOR. This policy gives you the opportunity to properly prepare for both and results in a more successful BOR. **February's deadline is Feb 8<sup>th</sup> for the Feb 10<sup>th</sup> BOR. Next Court of Honor is March 2nd.**
- MERIT BADGES** – We have 16 troop counselors covering 68 merit badges. I'd like to urge all parents to share their knowledge and experience with the scouts by serving as a merit badge counselor. There is no fee to register! The entire list of counselors and merit badges can be found at [http://bsatroop1333.org/mb\\_counselors.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/mb_counselors.htm).

There is a training presentation available at [http://bsatroop1333.org/Merit\\_Badges/MB\\_Counselor\\_Presentation\\_060707.ppt](http://bsatroop1333.org/Merit_Badges/MB_Counselor_Presentation_060707.ppt)

# Troop 1333 Newsletter

## January 2008



- WARNING - this is a large file. If you are interested in becoming a troop merit badge counselor, see the merit badge page for details at [http://bsatroop1333.org/merit\\_badges.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/merit_badges.htm)

8. **LIFE TO EAGLE** - The Life to Eagle Committee is up and running. The purpose of this committee and monthly meetings is to assist Life Scouts in their quest for Eagle by holding brief workshops, project plan guidance, reviewing plans before going to the District for approval, and any other aspect of the Eagle process. Check out the Life to Eagle resources at [http://bsatroop1333.org/life\\_to\\_eagle.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/life_to_eagle.htm). The committee can be contacted via e-mail at [lifetoeagle@bsatroop1333.org](mailto:lifetoeagle@bsatroop1333.org).
9. **RESOURCES** - One of our industrious scouts has created a Master Camping/Outing Guide that is a good resource for scouts when packing for camping or other troop activities. New scouts should check it out on the Resources page under the Troop Documents heading at <http://bsatroop1333.org/resources.htm>. Version 2.0 is coming soon.
10. **BIG DAWG PATROL** – You’ve probably seen all the e-mails from the troop leaders but might not be able to place the names with faces. We’ve fixed that – check out the Big Dawg Patrol members in action at <http://bsatroop1333.org/bigdawgs.htm>. Some have nicknames that are well earned and those without will likely have one soon. We have several new leaders and they will be added soon – if you already have a nickname, share it with us now before we give you a new one.
11. **TRAINING** – There is a new Troop Committee Training Coordinator – Kimberly Derry-Thompson. Kimberly is also an assistant scoutmaster (Slippery Falls Scoutmaster Award winner!) working with the Buffalo Patrol. The training coordinator position is very important to the growth of the troop. Trained leaders make the scouting program more successful and with the high adventure activities growing, specialized training will be need to be located and communicated (e.g. canoeing, wilderness first aid, climbing). Check out the troop training page at <http://bsatroop1333.org/training.htm>. **All leaders and scouts should try to attend training at University of scouting.** Register today at <https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Home/Training/UniversityofScouting6/>.
12. **TROOP HISTORY** – Find out where we’ve been and what we’ve done. As we collect more information about the troop over its 10-year history, it is added to this page: [http://bsatroop1333.org/troop\\_history.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/troop_history.htm).
13. **PHOTOS** – After most events and activities, photos will be posted as a reminder of the fun and good times. 2 or 3 scout leaders take the majority of the pictures but we are starting to get more taken and shared by the scouts. We’ve even given a camera to a scout at camp and let him roam so we get their “perspective” on a campout. If you have any pictures to share, we’d love to add them to the site for all to enjoy. Check out Troop photos at <http://bsatroop1333.org/photos.htm>.

# Troop 1333 Newsletter

## January 2008



14. **PHOTO CONTEST** – To encourage the scouts to contribute to the Troop website, a quarterly photo contest will be held starting NOW. The winner in each category will have their photo displayed on the website and receive a small prize for their effort. See the photo contest page at [http://bsatroop1333.org/photo\\_contest.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/photo_contest.htm). The first quarter deadline is March 16<sup>th</sup> so bring your cameras and start snapping away – Pedernales Falls would be a great place to start.
15. **TRAIL TO 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS** – The Trail to 1<sup>st</sup> Class page, [http://bsatroop1333.org/trail\\_to\\_1st\\_class.htm](http://bsatroop1333.org/trail_to_1st_class.htm), was created to assist the newer scout as he moves along from Tenderfoot to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class to 1<sup>st</sup> Class rank – known in Troop 1333 lingo as T21. Mr. Y'Barbo and Mrs. Thompson are the current patrol coaches and messages and information from them will be posted here. New ASMs are encouraged to work with James and Kimberly in assisting the new scouts with their T21 activities.

The website (20,000+ hits) is updated every couple of days so check back frequently, especially the Calendar and News area. Your feedback on the website is encouraged - this is **YOUR** website and we want to make it useful to you.

As a final comment for parents, please be sure to let your scout see this e-mail as well as all others from the troop that are intended for the scout. It is important that the scouts take ownership of their Boy Scouting careers with mom and dad in a support role, not a lead role as was the case in Cub Scouts. If an e-mail is addressed to your scout, be sure to have them answer it. As a parent, I realize it is much easier to respond for them but your scout will be much more involved and successful when he is the one communicating. If a scout or a parent has a question about the program (e.g. What merit badges do I need for the next rank? When is the next PLC meeting?; How much is the campout fee?; What time do we return from camp?), have the scout send the e-mail or make the phone call. This will help them with their communications skills and confidence as they report back to you with the answer. The feedback we get from scouts at Boards of Review tell us they like less adult involvement and being allowed to do things themselves. Trust them, they can do it. As the unofficial troop motto states, "If a Scout can do it, adults don't."

A big howdy and welcome to the scouts who have honored us by joining in 2008, we're glad you are here.

Jordan M  
Eric R  
Chris J  
Zachary B  
William C

Michael D  
Hunter K  
Alexander L  
Daniel M  
Camden R

Chandler S  
Alexander S  
Patrick B

If you made it this far, thank you for taking the time and interest. Have a great week.

Regards,  
Mike Zarella  
T1333 Advancement Coordinator