

Cub Talk

CUB TALK

A Monthly
Publication of

Cub Scout Pack 53

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Auburn, MA

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Welcome Back!

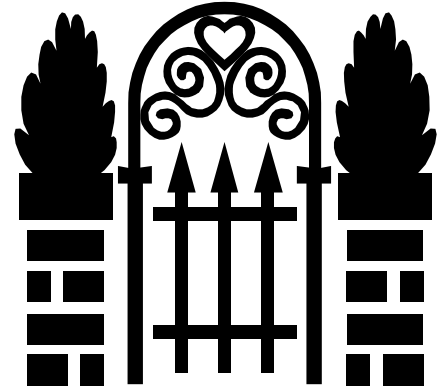
And a special welcome to all of the new families who have recently joined the Pack! We're glad to have you with us.

We hope everyone had a good summer and is ready to get back to the school-year routine.

The Pack offered 9 events this summer (a possible new summer record for Pack 53) and 9 Cubs attended at least 3 of these events to earn the National Summertime Award which will be presented at the September Pack Meeting. Congratulations to: Nathan Tay-

lor, Mark John, Christopher Keyes, Stephen John, Zachary Taylor, Griffin Millette, and Peter Dudko, Chase Levicki, and Maxwell Joncas.

Thanks to everyone who attended the summer events. The overnights in particular were very popular. The boys enjoyed the opportunity to sleep in the berths of the USS Massachusetts and pitch their tents on the baseball field after the Tornadoes Game.



Need picture from summer event

Many thanks especially to those who attended our soggy events, and helped work the Pack booths at the Auburn Independence Day Festivities and at the Relay for Life.

Committee News

The Pack Committee has been hard at work planning a wide variety of events for this year that we hope will appeal to many. See page 4 for all details available at this point.

Of special concern to the Committee at the mo-

ment is the shrinking balance of the Pack bank account. Many new Committee members, a busy Pack schedule and a fairly healthy bank balance meant that fundraising was not an immediate concern last year.

While we all enjoy a good

can and bottle drive, they are typically a lot of work for little profit.

Please see page 2 for information on how the Trail's End Popcorn Fundraiser can help earn funds and prizes for the Pack and each Scout who participates!

Popcorn, anyone?

Why Popcorn?

It's fall — which in the Scouting world means it's time for Trail's End Popcorn! Pack 53 will kick off the annual BSA popcorn sale at the September Pack Meeting.



Proceeds from the sales of Trail's End popcorn support the Boy Scouts of America, our local Mohegan Council, **and Pack 53.**

It costs the Pack approximately \$1000 per year to fund the current infrastructure. This includes the cost of all of the awards and patches that the boys earn.

When compared to the cost of other extra-curricular activities your child may be involved with, you must agree that Scouting is a bargain. Pack 53 works very hard to keep our costs as low as possible. Each year a Scout pays a \$10 registration fee to the BSA. The Scouts pay \$5 a month in Den dues for a total of \$40 per year. Even the cost of the uniform and handbook is low, when compared to the cost of new sports equipment and shoes each year!

Working with a very small budget for the past few years, we've had to ask families to absorb the cost of participating in Pack overnights and other events. But, should our Scouts meet our challenge this year, we're pleased to announce that

our family event on Sunday, November 15th—Coco Key Water Park will be free!

The Pack 53 Popcorn Challenge

To earn a free Pack outing to Coco Key we must meet at least two of the following criteria:

1. 100% participation
2. Each Scout sells at least 4 units
3. \$5,000 in total Pack sales

Additionally this year, Pack 53 will set up "Cub Bucks" accounts for each Scout. 10% of the profit the Pack receives from each Scout's sales will be earmarked for their use for any Pack overnight or camping event, or towards the cost of summer camp at Treasure Valley.

Even More Incentives

As with other fundraisers of this type, the Scouts earn prizes based on the number of units they sell. The prize booklets are included with the product catalogs.

Not incentive enough? Mohegan Council is offering additional rewards to highly motivated sellers.

1. Scouts who fill an order sheet will receive a patch and certificate.
2. Scouts get a free ticket to the Scout Show at the DCU in January for each sheet filled.

3. Weekly drawings for Scouts who fill an order sheet for free tickets to the Sharks Extravaganza on 12/6 and a chance to win a seat on the bench to watch the warm-up before the game.

For highly motivated sellers, Mohegan Council offers camp credit to Scouts who sell \$500 or more.

Scouts who sell \$2,500 by 12/25/09 will receive 6% of their total sales in their own college scholarship account.

Opt-Out of Selling Without Guilt

For those families who just cannot deal with one more fundraiser, yet still want to do their part to help with the Pack finances, this year we're offering a special Fundraiser Opt-Out program. A family's \$50 donation to the Pack for each Scout in their family will still count towards meeting our Coco Key challenge. Choosing to Opt-Out of fundraising allows you to skip selling popcorn guilt-free, however we cannot earmark funds from these donations into Cub Bucks accounts.

Popcorn—how can you lose?

With so many amazing prizes and incentives, selling Trail's End is a no lose proposition for everyone.

So, get ready, get set, and get selling popcorn!

In their own words: *Summer Camp at Treasure Valley*

Cub Scout Day Camp

For the past two summers I have gone to summer camp at Treasure Valley. Each year I've had a fantastic time. You get to go swimming and do sports, shoot targets, climb, make crafts and sing songs and skits. You can earn beads and awards such as patches or golden items. I won the golden boulder award, which was given to the Scout who had the best participation on the bouldering wall for the week. My trophy is a big rock that is spray painted gold.

Nature is one of my most favorite parts about cub scout camp. Catching salamanders and building river dams are a fun way to spend a day. "Nature Lucy" lead us through scavenger hunts and nature hikes. Nature was something I looked forward to every day.

Rowing was new this year for me at camp. There were 6 people in my boat and we all took turns rowing the 8 foot long oars. The oars are the same ones that the boy scouts use. It was hard but fun!

This year at camp I earned my shoot-

ing badge. In order to do that I had to shoot 5 shots at a target with a BB gun and get 35 points. I actually got 44 points on the first day. Last year, I earned my archery and BB belt loops and pins.

I recommend for cub scouts who want to have a good time, to go camp at Treasure Valley. You'll meet a bunch of kids from other packs from the Council and the counselors are great. And by the way, if you're a Webelo you can go to overnight camp. It didn't work out that I could go this year but am hoping to next summer.

- Griffin Millette

Webelos Resident Camp

I went to day camp at Treasure Valley the past two summers. This summer I went to Webelos Resident Camp. I had a great time!

Webelos Resident Camp has everything the day camp has, and more. It has food! At camp I learned that I really like hot sauce, on everything.

I learned about knife safety and earned my Whittlin' Chip. We swam every day and used kayaks.

I earned a lot of pins and belt loops and got to do some of my Webelos requirements.

Everyone staying at camp has to do jobs to help out. I was a waiter three times. You get to the dining hall early, set the tables, move the benches (heavy!!!), serve the food, and clean up after. I liked being a waiter more than the job of emptying the trash cans.

I shared a tent with a really fun Webelos from Millbury. I did not like sleeping under the bug net—it was irritating!

A lot of the other kids there were homesick and wanted to leave the first few nights. I liked camp so much I wished it lasted two weeks longer.

When you become a Webelos, I recommend you go to resident camp.

- Zachary Taylor

The Big Moe is Sunday, September 27th

The Annual Massachusetts Outdoor Exposition is this Sunday at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club in Sturbridge. The biggest event of its kind in New England, the Big MOE is a celebration of outdoor skills, wildlife, art and nature for the whole family.

Admission, parking and all events and activities are free.

Supervised, hands-on activities for all ages will include: Live birds of prey, spin-fishing, firearms safety

class, wild game tasting, introduction to target shooting (airgun, rifle, shotgun), rock wall climbing, build your own birdhouse, New England pioneer encampment, mountain biking, kayaking and canoeing, fly casting and fly tying, child identification by the Molly Bish Foundation, sporting dogs, tree stand safety, bee keeping, blackpowder demo, dog training, tomahawk and knife throwing, kid crafts, duck calling, wood carving, forestry, fish preparation, falconry, archery, decoy building and painting, turkey calling, fur

trapping, native furs, face painting, live native reptiles, wildlife taxidermy, blacksmithing, arts and crafts tent, and much, much more.

For directions and parking details visit the Mohegan Council website at www.mohegancouncilbsa.org

Pack 53 Events Calendar

Most events require advance sign-up. Please inquire at the check-in table at each Pack meeting.

*** = Community Service event**

September

26	Saturday 10 AM—Noon	Food Pantry* St. Spyridon Orthodox Church Worcester	Scorpion Patrol is scheduled, but any assistance is appreciated. Please wear full uniform.
27	Sunday 9 AM—4 PM	The Big MOE (Massachusetts Outdoor Expo) Hamilton Rod and Gun Club	A Celebration of Outdoor Skills, Nature, Art & Animals for the Whole Family! Free parking and admission.

October

9, 10 & 11	Friday—Sunday	Family Camping Weekend Treasure Valley Scout Reservation Rutland, MA	Join other families from the Pack for a week-end of camping, adventure and fun at Treasure Valley. You'll need to bring along your camping gear. Cost includes Saturday's meals and Sunday's breakfast.
16	Friday 6:30 PM	October Pack Meeting Faith Baptist Church	Our annual Halloween Party! Prizes for best costumes in multiple categories, including sibling and adult costumes.
18	Sunday Noon—2 PM	A Picnic at Purgatory Pack Family Event Purgatory Chasm, Sutton	Pack a picnic and bring the family for an afternoon outing at the chasm. Free event for the whole family!
24	Saturday 10 AM—Noon	Food Pantry* St. Spyridon Orthodox Church Worcester	Webelos I Den is scheduled, but any assistance is appreciated. Please wear full uniform.
24	Saturday Time TBA	Spook-o-ree Treasure Valley, Rutland	Visit Treasure Valley, in costume, for a not-too-scary, but incredibly fun, experience. Past years have included a Haunted House, campfire ghost stories, games, trick-or-treating and
25	Sunday 1 PM	Crop Walk* Auburn Youth and Family Services	Annual charity walk. Registration begins at 12:45. Please wear full uniforms.

November

1	Sunday Time TBD	Hike for all Webelos Rutland, MA	Special guided hike for all Webelos around the old prison camp
8	Sunday 1 PM	Residential Clean-Ups* In Town	Annual community service event doing raking and fall clean up for some of our neighbors in need
13	Friday 6 PM	Pack Overnight Auburn Sportsman's Club	Have an early dinner, grab your tent and sleeping bags and join us around the campfire for the last camping overnight before winter.
15	Sunday 1 PM—4 PM	Coco Key Water Park Fitchburg, MA	A great new Pack outing for the entire family. Kids \$15, Adults \$10
20	Friday 6:30 PM	November Pack Meeting Faith Baptist Church	Don't forget to bring your donations for the Thanksgiving food boxes for AYFS. Please wear full uniforms.
28	Saturday 10 AM—Noon	Food Pantry* St. Spyridon Orthodox Church Worcester	Work off those leftovers by spending a few hours working at the Food Pantry. Please wear full uniform.

December

18	Friday 6:30	December Pack Meeting Faith Baptist Church	
26	Saturday 10 AM—Noon	Food Pantry* St. Spyridon Orthodox Church Worcester	Work off those leftovers by spending a few hours working at the Food Pantry. Please wear full uniform.

January

17	Sunday 1 PM	Annual Snowbox Derby Lemansky Park, Auburn	Come and race a sled you design and make yourself from cardboard. Compete for longest distance and best design.
22	Friday 6:30 PM	January Pack Meeting Faith Baptist Church	
23 & 24	Saturday & Sunday 10A-8P / 10A-4P	New England Scout Show DCU Center, Worcester	Join the other 8,000 anticipated attendees to celebrate 100 years of Scouting. Booths, vendors and exhibits to explore. Consider helping to staff the Pack 53 booth.