



# TROOP 510



<http://troop510.home.att.net>

June 2009

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## Scoutmaster's Report



Tom Lenagh  
Scoutmaster

How can you be safe yourselves, and make our homes and community safe? I think the lesson is partly exercising our common sense and partly learning the skills of safety.

What do we mean by the skills of safety? Well for one thing, we're talking about learning to find the emergency escape doors and windows in a building like the church for our meetings. From now on it will probably be in the back of your mind when you enter an unfamiliar building.

In other words, training your mind to think safety is one lesson. Another is carefulness and common sense. By being careful and using your common sense, you're not likely to get hit by a car while crossing the street. Still, a lot of kids are killed every year because they thought they could beat a car. Others die in accidents around the home that could have been prevented with a little more forethought. Still others get trapped in their burning homes, partly because they hadn't planned escape routes.

Safety is not the most exciting topic in the world, but it's a vital one for all of us to learn and to pass on to our younger brothers and sisters. Boring or not, the skills of safety are important. They may save your life or that of someone you love.

Everybody loves the Fourth of July. In many communities it's a time for parades, fireworks, ball games and picnics. Real fun! But we should not to forget what the Fourth of July really is - the birthday of our country - because that's when the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, over 200 years ago. Here's a trick question for you. How many stars were in the US flag on the first Fourth of July? You're probably going to say 13, because there were 13 colonies in America then, but that's wrong.

In fact, there weren't any stars in the flag. The colonists were using the Grand Union Flag, which used the British union symbol and 13 red and white stripes. You can see a picture of it in your Official Boy Scout Handbook. Stars representing the states first appeared in the US flag 11 years later. Since then, stars have been added each time states have joined the union.

Today we honor this emblem of our country with its 50 stars and 13 stripes because it is the symbol of the nation's unity. We use flag ceremonies so often that it's easy to forget what the flag means and what the Fourth of July means in this country's history.

Let's think about the brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence and the love of country they passed on to us during this national holiday.

## Highway Cleanup

Mrs. Larson  
Committee Member



All Scouts are needed for **Highway cleanup on June 16 at 6:00 pm**. Scouts should wear their Class B T-shirts and bring gloves.

We will also have the **New Scout Parent Tomahawk Meeting** the same night at **7:00 pm**.

## Eagle Court of Honor

**John Schaezner** obtained his **Eagle Rank**. His Eagle Court of Honor will be on **Saturday, June 27, 2009**, at **2:00 pm** at the Advent United Methodist Church, 3945 Lexington Avenue, Eagan.

**ALL ARE INVITED!!** Please help celebrate this special event. We hope to see a large turn out from the troop so mark your calendars!

## Special Notes

Ms. Bleichner  
Newsletter Editor

**GREAT BIG THANKS!** To the scouts and adults who took time out of their busy schedules to clean and organize the troop garage. Scouts: Davis Arbogast, Eric Smith, Kyle Unzicker and Mitchell Stafford. Adults: Tom & Phyllis Lenagh, Kevin & Liz Schwarzbauer, Linda Offerdahl

**Troop 510 Scout Behavior Form** – Please remember to sign and submit your Troop 510 Scout Behavior Form to Mrs. Lenagh. Scouts without a signed form on file will not be allowed to go to Tomahawk this summer.

**Missing Equipment** – We are missing some camping equipment. Please check your garages especially for tents. The tents are light green and need to be turned in ASAP.

## Scouting for Food

Mr. Kucera

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, twelve scouts from Troop 510 assembled and divided maps. Geographical areas had been allocated within the Northern Star Council, and Troop 510 and Pack 517's

areas were mapped. Groups of scouts went to their assigned areas, and went down the street soliciting non-perishable food items for a local food shelf. It is unfortunate that there is a need for a food shelf in our area, but the need exists and the demand isn't filled completely. We tried to help that. After two hours time, we brought the 491 pounds of food to Mount Calvary Church. Cub Scout Pack 517 brought in an additional 130 pounds.

Within the Chief Black Dog District, which encompasses Eagan, Burnsville and Apple Valley, there were over 25,000 pounds of food collected by the Packs and Troops of the area. A new record! **Congratulations, Scouts!**

## Committee Notes

Mrs. Offerdahl  
Committee Chair



Troop 510 is planning the **Tomahawk swim test for Friday, June 26th, at Scott Highlands Middle School**. We will have the scouts take the test from **6:30-7:00 p.m.** during the Open Swim. If you can not be there to take the test until after 7:00 p.m., please notify Linda Offerdahl, and we will plan to stay past 7:00 since the open swim runs until 8:00 p.m.

The **admission cost** for Open Swim (set by ISD196, who runs these at the local pools) is **\$5 per youth** (6 & up), \$5 per adult, or \$10 per family if you would like to make it an outing after the scout has completed the test. Often the scouts stay for some water fun until the pool closes at 8:00 p.m.

If you are unable to be there on Friday, June 26th, you will need to take the test at Tomahawk. The swim test is required by Tomahawk to assess each scout's current swimming skills before the troop begins water activities. Please note that the conditions at Tomahawk for the test may not be as favorable as pool conditions for the test! So if at all possible, please plan to be there on June 26th! We will have more information on the test at the Tomahawk parent meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16th.

## Anticipating Tomahawk

Mrs. Vieths  
Committee Member

For new Scouts there could be a sense of anticipation in going to Tomahawk. It means leaving home, family, their bed and video games behind for a full week to do what? Sleep in a tent, live with people they don't know that well, eat whatever is put in front of them or go hungry. Wow, that's an easy decision! As parents we may put the power of choice in their hands and not give them the sense of adventure to make the right choice. We all want what's best for our kids yet somehow, what's best isn't always what they want or maybe even what we want.

I remember sending our son to Tomahawk his first year. I helped him pack, wrote letters daily – even before he had left to ensure he got them while he was there and had nearly as many butterflies in my stomach as he did the morning they left. He had been camping with the troop every month before but somehow this was different. We thought of him and talked about what he might be doing while he was gone. A week later when we joined him again I asked if he had gotten the letters we sent. He said he had but didn't have time to read them. There were so many adventures and new activities to keep him busy that just knowing the letters were there settled his anxiety. There were boys he was building relationships with going through the same adventures. As a team they got through it and had a great time without realizing that they may all be missing some of the comforts of home. That first week in the woods of northwestern Wisconsin gave him a new confidence about himself and his ability to get through new situations. It was the beginning of a change from adolescent to teenager a change that seemed to blend more easily than I thought it would in part because of his confidence.

If you have a scout that is having anxiety about going to Tomahawk this summer, know that although they learn about bears, they rarely see one, the food is nourishing, they are too tired to care where they sleep, dirt never hurt anyone (especially boys) and there will be growth, physically, mentally and morally. What more could we ask for our kids? Baseball will always be there, video games may be less fun when he's been without them and his family may become more important, at least until the "glad to be home" feeling wears off. Let him find a new confidence. It's a life skill he will build upon forever.

## Troop 510 Business

### PLC Notes

Thomas Suiter

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Epic Ninjas have opening and closing, new scouts have safe hiking, plan Blue Mound campout

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** – Thunder Sharks have opening and closing, new scouts have knots, plan Blue Mound and Tomahawk

**June 12-15<sup>th</sup>** – Blue Mound campout

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** - Highway cleanup meet at 6:00

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Old Fogies have opening and closing, new scouts have first aid, fly fishing and knot tying skills

**June 30** – PLC. Rockets after PLC

## TROOP AT A GLANCE

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### June

2	Troop Meeting	7:00PM
9	Troop/Committee Meeting	7:00PM
11	Shopping for campout at Cub	7:00PM
12-15	Blue Mounds State Park	5:00PM
16	Troop/Parent Meeting	7:00PM
21	Father's Day	
23	Troop Meeting	7:00PM
26	Tomahawk Swim Test	6:30PM
27	Court of Honor	2:00PM
30	PLC	6:15PM

#### July

4	Festival Cleanup	TBD
7	Troop Meeting	7:00PM
11-18	Tomahawk	7:00AM
17	Court of Honor at Tomahawk	6:00PM
21	NO MEETING	7:00PM
28	PLC	6:15PM

#### August

4	Troop Meeting	7:00PM
6	Shopping for campout at Cub	7:00PM
7-11	Glacial Lake	5:00PM
18	Troop/Parent Meeting	7:00PM
25	PLC	7:00PM

### SCHEDULED CAMPOUTS/EVENTS

<b>June 12- 15</b>	Blue Mounds State Park
<b>July 11-18</b>	Tomahawk
<b>August 2-18</b>	Philmont
<b>August 7-11</b>	Glacier Lake State Park
<b>September 18-20</b>	OA Conclave
<b>September 25-27</b>	Phillipo – Fall Camporee
<b>October 23-25</b>	Fred C Anderson – Good Medicine
<b>November 20-22</b>	Thurston Lodge at Rum River