

# THE GOAT

The Monthly Newsletter for Troop 476, their Family and Friends

## Scoutmaster's Corner

In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the troop has been participating in several service projects lately. We hosted a pancake breakfast to benefit St. Joseph's school. We collected food from the community to share with needy families around us. Soon we will serve St. Joseph's church by cutting and hauling several Christmas trees for display in the sanctuary.

These are large projects that require many adults and Scouts working together to accomplish, and I really appreciate all the effort so many people put in. But I would be disappointed if our Scouts spent their years in Troop 476 only doing the service projects that we organized, and only doing the exact number of hours required to advance. I would love it if each Scout took the initiative to find a variety of opportunities to serve the community—sorting at a food bank, cooking and serving meals to people in a homeless shelter, helping an elderly person

with chores, working with a team to maintain a hiking trail. It will give you a good feeling inside to see that you've made a difference, and especially if you can look into the face of a grateful person your service has touched. Troop service projects, as worthwhile as they are, may not give you such an opportunity.

Some service projects take very little time. Remember the Scout slogan: "Do a good turn daily." You've promised to do that—do you? Do you go through each day looking for opportunities to do something helpful? I'm sure if you look around you can find many ways to do a good turn for your family, or your neighbors, or your fellow students or others you encounter in your life. Our 75 Scouts should be producing 75 acts of kindness every day in the community.

Finding time to search for opportunities and to help others can be difficult with school and so many worthy activities in your lives. But don't let a

small barrier keep you from doing what you've promised. Barriers didn't keep James Milam, an 11-year-old Boy Scout described in the current issue of Scouting magazine, from doing a good turn to honor America's war veterans: "Born with a rare defect that prevented his spine from fully developing, James has used a wheelchair since age 2. But, on Memorial Day, he crawled from grave to grave at Nashville National Cemetery in Tennessee, using a ruler to place miniature American flags exactly one foot from each gravestone." James found a way around his barrier. Whatever yours is, you can too.

So in these weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I encourage you to focus on giving—your time and your energy—to help those around you. Do a good turn daily.

—Mr. Gabriel  
Scoutmaster

## Committee Chair's Corner

As we bring this calendar year to a close, I would like to thank all the adult volunteers for all of their flexibility, hard work and the extra effort that they expended to make Troop 476 the very best it could be!

As I look back, I think about how busy the Scouts have been, all of their accomplishments, the hundreds of merit badges and rank advancements, and how they have grown, physically, spiritually and as "leaders-in-training" members of our community. I think about the effort that both Adults and Scouts put into the treks, the USS Pampanito Campout, the

Tahoe Donner Snow Campout, the Pinnacles Bike/Hike, the Angel Island Bike Trek, the Mother's Day Breakfast, the Sunol and Castle Rock Treks, the 15, 30 and 50 milers, the Friend's of Scouting drive, the Cache Canyon trek (which I really-really wanted to go on but just could not make...), Camporee, and Sunset Beach family campout, Camps Hi-Sierra and Whitsett, Bristlecone and Fort Ross, Pie & Cookie Dough fund raiser, Del Valle family campout, Monterey Bay Kayaking, Scouting for Food, and all the great camaraderie and good food we've shared.

And, the Eagles, who have soared from Troop 476!

Together, we have much to be proud of. The support and expertise of our adult leaders and committee members have made these memorable events possible. I am very proud to be associated with Troop 476 and look forward to 2005 as another banner year.

Merry Christmas to all – thanks for all your support!

—Karl Darr  
Committee Chairman

## Den Chiefs and Pow-Wow

Troop 476 Leaders,  
One of the more important roles that Scouts take on during their time in Scouting is that of Den Chief. It is a big commitment and not all Scouts can handle the extra work involved. And some Scouts prefer to put their energies into other

areas. Being a Den Chief requires a significant time commitment, and so it might not fit into every Scout's schedule. Den Chiefs should be selected by the Scoutmaster. He needs to evaluate a Scout's ability to handle the extra

commitment. Den Chiefs are automatically good recruiters for the Troop. But in addition to this they act as role models for Cub Scouts.

Important Websites		
Troop 476 <a href="http://www.troop476.com">http://www.troop476.com</a>	Santa Clara Council <a href="http://www.sccc-scouting.org/">http://www.sccc-scouting.org/</a>	National BSA <a href="http://www.scouting.org">http://www.scouting.org</a>

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Scouting is such an important vehicle in today's world for our teenage youth (boys in particular) that it would be great if every boy could be in Scouting, at least for a time. Den Chiefs can actually encourage more Cub Scouts to go on to Boy Scouting. But they must be good role models to do this.

At POW-WOW on January 22, 2005, there will be a session called "Using Den Chiefs" specifically for adult Boy Scout

leaders. It covers many of the issues that adults should be aware of when leading and/or coaching Den Chiefs. POW-WOW also has other valuable sessions for Boy Scout leaders such as "Handling the Transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts". Leaders on both sides need some training to be aware of all of the issues that need to be addressed to try and keep boys in Scouting.

Adults - please consider attending POW-WOW in January even if for a short while. I will send out the full agenda as soon as it is finalized.

Please call me, Bob Ulicki, if you have questions. I'll be teaching the "Using Den Chiefs" session.

Yours in Scouting,

— Bob Ulicki

T476 Committee Member at large

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## Castle Rock I

The beginning backpacking trip to Castle Rock in the Santa Cruz Mountains on November 6 started at the church where we all met at 8:00 a.m.. After weighing our packs (and ourselves), we proceeded to find drivers for the trip. There were 23 scouts and 8 adults that attended the trip. We left around 8:45. The drive was pleasant, with a smooth, new road and not too many sharp turns. We arrived at the parking lot at 9:45 where we unpacked and prepared for the hike. We took pictures, grabbed water, and split into two groups. The trip itself was 2.5 miles in and out of Castle Rock State Park. I was in the five-mile map/compass group so I apologize if I do not cover the incidents that happened in the other group. Our trip to the campsite took a little longer due to the fact that we had to stop at every junction, wait for our group to re-group, orient our maps, wait for our group to re-group again and then keep going. By doing this routine, we were able to enjoy the wonderful weather and

beautiful scenery much easier than if we just took one minute breaks and kept on hiking.

Arriving at the campsite, we proceeded to making lunch and to set up our tents. Unfortunately, one of our scouts learned how to light a stove the hard way. Fortunately, he only slightly charred the table and did not burn the forest to the ground. The rest of the day was filled with stick-carving, exploring, finding hobo junk, and all other sorts of things that boys like to do. After dinner, we met at the fire-pit and performed some great skits. We sang songs, laughed, enjoyed the fire, and watched numerous Director's Cuts until we hoped that when the unfortunate victim ate the poisoned Power Bar, he truly did die. We learned the mind-boggling lyrics to the song "It's Hog Haulin' Time in Nebraska!"

After breakfast, we packed up, had a brief Scout's Own, and headed back to the parking lot. The hike back was much more

rigorous than the first, I thought. Our group took the Saratoga Gap trail which was mostly uphill. Even though we took a longer route, stopped numerous times, and had the trail climb steadily the whole hike, we were successful in beating the other group back to our cars. After waiting for the losing group, we packed our cars and left. The trip home was the same as the one that brought us to Castle Rock. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip and I highly recommend that we have the opportunity of coming back to this place again. However, there are a few things I would like to do on the next Castle Rock backpacking trip like seeing Castle Rock and possibly climbing Goat Rock. But over all, I thought this was a memorable trip which I would gladly participate in next year.

—Kyle B.

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## Castle Rock II

The troop's trip to Castle Rock this year went very well. Many of the younger Scouts went, which served as a nice learning experience for them. Once we arrived at St. Joseph's, everyone weighed their packs to make sure they did not have too much weight on their backs. Then, a twenty-minute drive later, we arrived in the parking lot of the Castle Rock trail. After everyone got their stuff together and posed for a quick picture, we were off and ready to hit the trail. We split ourselves into two groups: one for the people earning the five-mile map and compass, and one for the rest. The first group took off earlier, while the five-milers were orienting themselves on the map. The route down to the campsite was fairly easy

because it was mostly downhill. Once we eventually reached the camp, everyone claimed a campsite and pitched their tents. Then we all ate our lunches, whether a bagged meal or cooked.

The rest of the day was spent to the liking of the different Scouts, whether lounging in the tents, sleeping, or flinging acorns. The afternoon passed slowly until everyone wound down and cooked their dinners before dark. After dinner, a few of the younger Scouts wandered down to the fire pit and prepared the campfire. Once the sun had set completely, everyone else found their way to the campfire, eager for a few good skits. After several impromptu acts, we decided that it was time for our much-needed sleep. As the adults stayed

up to talk among themselves, everyone else headed back to their tents to sleep, even though a few stayed up until the adults finally enforced the lights-out rule.

In the morning, everyone woke up early and ate a quick breakfast. Although, we left late, we managed to squeeze in Scout's Own and a sweep of the campsite. The return trip was a bit harder because it was uphill most of the way. Eventually, we reached the parking lot, much to the rejoice of many of the Scouts. Once everyone arrived and was accounted for, we packed up the cars and hit the road for home.

— Kevin C.

Troop Historian

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## Pie and Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, concluded a tremendously successful pie and cookie dough fundraising effort. Thanks to all

those scouts who participated at the urging of Lucas B. The troop netted \$2,871 by

selling almost 600 items. Michael R. should be especially

congratulated for selling 41 items followed by Scott G. and Benjamin H. who both sold 36. The Redwoods Patrol attained the highest rate of participation when all their scouts turned in an order form. In

addition, the patrol should also be recognized for having the highest number of sales per scout with an average of 21 items.

who helped to count the proceeds and sort the product for distribution in record time.

— Lynn Crane, Wei-Jen Hsia, and Grace Sheu

Special thanks to all the volunteers

### Scouting For Food I

Scouting for Food is a one of the biggest community service events that troop 476 has done for a long time; we have also been one of the top contributors to the Polaris district for second harvest food bank. This year, we had 22 scouts and 15 drivers for dropping off bags, since

we had a good number of scouts and drivers we were able to finish the distribution faster than predicted. For pick up we had 29 scouts and 15 drivers, pickup also went very quick as each scout collected the bags from their assigned areas. Troop 476 collected 1300 lbs, 30%

more than last year. We are also the #1 contributor among the Polaris district troops this year.

— Ruby M.  
Trek Leader

### Scouting For Food II – Thank-you

Thanks to the following 33 scouts who participated in the Scouting for Food Service Project:

Mark A.	Kevin C.	Doug H.	Victor S.
Thomas B.	Marshall D.	Mark I.	Jasper W.
John B.	Kevin D.	Wesley L.	Victor W.
David C.	Bryce D.	Ruby M., (Scout Trek Leader)	John W.
Christopher C.	Andrew E.	Brian Q., (Scout Trek Leader)	Ryan W.
Cauchy C.	Nick F.	Clarence Q.	Jeremy W.
Alexander C.	Tony F.	Cameron R.	
Anthony C.	Scott G.	Gareth R.	— Mimi Qian
Adam C.	Ben H.	Devin S.	

### Advancements

<b>Scout</b>		<b>Second Class</b>		<b>Life</b>	
Ernest C.	11/06/04	Kyle B.	11/18/04	Tony F.	10/28/04
		Christopher C.	11/04/04	Clarence Q.	11/11/04
<b>Tenderfoot</b>		<b>First Class</b>			
Victor W.	10/28/04	Andrew E.	11/18/04		

### Merit Badges

**Family Life**  
Bryce D., 10/28/04

**Personal Management**  
Niket D., 11/11/04

## Troop 476 Calendar



December 11	Rim of the Bay Bike/Hike (Mt. Tamalpais)	February 6	Scout Sunday
December 12	Christmas Tree Cutting for SJC	February 12	WeST Fair
December 16	Gift Exchange	February 12-13	Tahoe-Donner Snow Camping
January 15-16	U.S.S. Hornet	February 17	Court of Honor
January 22	Pow-Wow		