



Troop 200 Circle-Up

October 2020

Adventure is waiting – join us!

Fall into scouting

October was busy! We held our annual Hobo/Movie camp out at the Round Valley Youth Center where we created box shelters to sleep in, we make our own short films, watch a movie on the big screen, and more.

It's a Troop 200 tradition to invite local Webelos and Arrow of Lights to join us for this event. This is one of our favorite events, many of our scouts point back to this event as to why they joined Troop 200. This year we broke a Troop 200 record with 18 Webelos and AOLs attending.

On Saturday we were up early (there was some frost on the ground!) to start building our structures. **Sean V.** and **Luke S.** from the Soarin' Llamas patrol focused on building props for their movie while the Council of Ricks decided to construct their biggest fort yet...with lally columns and individual 'rooms' to ensure social distancing.

Throughout the afternoon we helped our guests earn requirements like the Cast Iron Chef. **Phil L.** and **George G.** instructed the younger fire safety while **Owen M.** and **Jack G.** demonstrated the fine art of making the perfect dump cake!

On Sunday, October 25, Cub Scouts from Pack 190 participated in a rocket launch. The event, which we hosted, provided a half-day of activities for the scouts and their families – including our famous Troop 200 photo board!

"As a Troop, we have been looking for ways to give back and work with younger scouts," explained Troop 200 Senior Patrol Leader, **Andrew Bozzi**. "We reached out to Pack 190's Cubmaster, and he loved the idea of partnering on a rocket launch. Because of COVID-19, we are really being cautious, so instead of having each scout build their own rocket, each Den built a rocket for their Den."

Upcoming activities

10/31 - Nov/8 – Wreath Sale
11/16 – Turkey Bowl '20

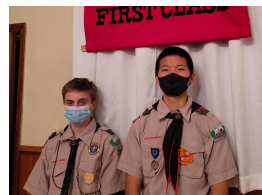
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Troop 200 NJ



Each of Pack 190's dens had an opportunity to decorate their rocket with help from **Zach Z.**; they handed them off to Troop 200 Scouts **Cameron L.**, **Owen M.** and **Andrew B.** who assisted Troop 200 Scoutmaster, **Jeff Lutz** in the launches. As each rocket was soared upwards, the den served as the 'chase team' and ran off to retrieve the rocket as it parachuted down from the sky. Most were retrieved, but one or two remained stuck in the trees.

In addition to the launch, Troop 200 scouts had other activities set up including a gaga pit, a rock wall and a bon fire while **Ethan L.** helped Webelos work on their 'Stronger, Faster, Higher' requirements.

Adventure is waiting - join us!



Troop 200's Fall Court of Honor

Scouts from BSA Troop 200 were recognized for their achievements and advancements at an autumn Court of Honor held at the Polish American Club in Whitehouse Station. **Jack G.** and **Ryan W.** served as emcees.

For the first time in the troop's sixty-five-year history, its court of honor was conducted as a hybrid with members attending in person and others attending online. Highlights from the evening include:

Rank advancements: Christian, Ankit, Deep, Alex, Oliver and Sean (Scout rank); Bo (Second Class); Ian and Jack (First Class); George (Star rank); Andrew, Phillip, Owen and Justin (Life rank).

27 merit badges were earned, the most popular being Public Health, Camping and Citizenship in the Community.

Pam Nemeth, a member of the Troop 200 Committee and mom to three Eagle Scouts, was recognized by the Catholic Diocese of Metuchen with the 'Light and Glory' award for bringing reverence to Boy Scouting.

"We are a boy-led troop," explained **Senior Patrol Leader, Andrew Bozzi**. "Since some of us aren't comfortable meeting in larger groups and would prefer to attend remotely, we made sure that everyone was included in the ceremony. With technology, anything is possible."

Troop 200 **Scoutmaster, Jeff Lutz**, recognized the boys for their ability to adjust to the changes during the time of quarantine social distancing. "I'm proud of the way you've all stayed involved and adapted over these past seven months. Many of you have continued to move up in rank, including scouts in our newest patrol, the Soarin' Llamas."

October 19, 1955

In celebration of our 65th anniversary of Troop 200, here are a few clippings from the Troop 200 vault courtesy of our Troop 200 Historian, **Owen M.**

New Boy Scout Troop Formed

Cokesbury—A Boy Scout Troop has been organized in Cokesbury sponsored by the Men's Club of Cokesbury Methodist Church, according to Lloyd Lindabury, club president.

The new troop will meet Thursday evenings at the "chapel."

The George Washington Boy Scout Council has designated the new unit as Cokesbury Troop 200. The troop committee includes Andrew Darlson, chairman; Allan Hinrich, institutional representative; Frank Cox, Joseph Bell, Harry Sutton Jr., Richard Cramer, Martin Stiles and James Rascover 2nd.

William DeMott has been named scoutmaster and William Kelting 3rd, and Henry Sunyak, assistant scoutmasters. Five patrols make up the troop with 21 boys charter members.

To Get Eagle Badge

COKESBURY — Paul DeMott, son of Mr. and Mrs. William DeMott of the Mountainville area, will be presented with an Eagle Scout award in a program tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Cokesbury Methodist Church, held by Cokesbury Boy Scout Troop 200. The presentation will be by Hunterdon (Arrowhead) District Boy Scout officials.

Cokesbury Methodist Services Announced

Cokesbury—Sunday School will convene at 10 a. m. tomorrow in the Methodist Church, and church service will begin at 11 a. m. with the pastor, the Rev. Mathias S. Torgerson Jr., bringing the message entitled "Thomas, the Doubter." New church officers will be dedicated at the service.

Boy Scout Troop 200 will sponsor a bake sale today at 10:30 a. m. at Farley's Corner, Cokesbury, and at Sentz's Corner, Lebanon.

Lebanon

David L. Sheppard, scoutmaster, and Stanley Hulmes, assistant scoutmaster, of Boy Scout Troop 200, will attend a training course tonight at Camp Pahaquarra at Columbia. At this week's troop meeting, Terry Conover, Wayne Naessig, Vincent Plumbo and Theodore Young were advanced from the Webelos to tenderfoot rank.

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Company will meet Monday at 8 p.m. in the firehouse, and will have a drill at 7 p.m. The Woman's Auxiliary will meet Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the firehouse.

Richard Cramer To Be Honored

Cokesbury — A member of Boy Scout Troop 200 will receive the God and Country Award, one of the highest in Scouting, at the 11 a.m. service tomorrow in the Cokesbury Methodist Church.

The recipient will be Richard Cramer Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cramer of Cokesbury Rd., Lebanon, a member of the Cokesbury troop.

The Rev. Mathias Torgersen Jr., church pastor and Scoutmaster who coached Richard, will officiate in the ceremony. County Boy Scout officials will also participate.



Doing a good turn at the Gitlow House

On October 24 a group of us headed over to the Gitlow homestead outside of Lebanon Borough for a fall clean up. The home, which dates back to the mid-1750's is part of Clinton Township's Windy Acres.



Before starting work, the group met with members of the historic committee who shared historical information on the farm and the rehabilitation goals for the home and property. We quickly got to work. While **Justin, Cameron, Andrew** and **John** pulled weeds and ivy off of the stone building, **Russell** worked on clearing leaves and more ivy off an addition. **Owen** and **Phil** concentrated on uncovering a bluestone patio that was hidden beneath layers of mud and dirt while **Bo, Ian** and **Jacob** cleaned up debris inside and outside of the building.



A special thank you to the Clinton Township Historical Committee and Mr. Bozzi who helped organized this event. And thanks goes out to the adult volunteers who came out, too: **Mr. Maslanka, Mr. Lutz, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Bozzi** and **Mr. Pardo**.

Visit our Facebook and Instagram pages and check out a cool video about the clean-up. To date, the video has gotten over 850 views!

Troop 200 time capsule: our neckerchief

Troop 200 scouts are easy to recognize by our black neckerchiefs with red trim. (You may also see a blue-trimmed neckerchief – that was created in 2020 to celebrate our 65th anniversary as a Troop.) Our neckerchief also has some historical significance. Prior to 2000, we were chartered by the Lebanon Reformed Church.

Every 4th of July, Lebanon holds a parade down Main Street, ending at Holjes-Sheppard Park, located right behind the church. This is one of the local parades we participate in. Holjes-Sheppard Memorial Park is special to us, it's named in honor of two Troop 200 scouts that were killed in action during the Vietnam War. When able, we visit the Vietnam Memorial in DC. Every May our troop retires worn U.S. flags at the park. We invite members of the community, veterans and the general public to join us. We also love to invite veterans to share their stories with us, too.

Frederick Young Holjes was born and raised in Lebanon, NJ. A 1963 graduate of North Hunterdon Regional High School, he enjoyed and participated in civil and revolutionary war reenactments, played his grandfather's banjo and collected antique rifles. Fred received a full scholarship to the Citadel, a military school in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was an outstanding student.

Fred served in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant. He was a 23-year-old Ranger with the 101st Army Airborne Division serving in Vietnam. He was wounded by sniper fire on February 19, 1968 and was hospitalized in Japan. He was given the chance to go home but chose to return to his troops.

In March 1968, Fred led his troops into battle. While scouting the area ahead, he was shot in the head and died instantly. He died on March 22, 1968 at the age of 23, two days after he had been reactivated.

Fred was awarded a number of badges and medals including two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

Robert Porter Sheppard also grew up in Lebanon. Robert – or Shep as he was known – enjoyed camping and was active in church work. He was very much an outdoorsman, a member of the Order of the Arrow and Troop 200's very first Eagle Scout.

Like many of our scouts, Shep attended and graduated from North Hunterdon High School where he enjoyed fencing and was a member of the Woodsmen team. He enrolled in Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks and the Lake Placid School for Forestry.

Shep entered the US Army where he attained the rank of Warrant Officer. In 1970, he went to Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He served with 1st Aviation Brigade, 268th Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 61st Aviation Company. On May 7, 1970, Sheppard was killed in Pleiku Province when his helicopter crashed in a combat zone. He was 22 years old.

Shep received a number of commendations including the Purple Heart.

We honor and thank all veterans including many from Troop 200 like Fred and Shep, as well as our former Scoutmaster, **Larry Friend**, current Assistant Scoutmasters **Jim Gibbons** and **Paul Martoccia**; as well as **John Kudlich** (Eagle Scout #13) and **Ben Royal** (Eagle Scout #38), to name a few.

