

Cub Scout Pack 53 Newsletter



November 2008
Volume 3 Issue 3

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Pack Feast & Toy Drive 12.12.08 **
- ◆ Pinewood Derby Workshop 01.10.09
- ◆ Pinewood Derby 01.24.09
- ◆ Trenton Devils Game February
- ◆ Blue & Gold Banquet 02.08.09
- ◆ Tubing/Sledding TBA

We're on the Web!
www.pack53hew.org

The Cub Master's Message

Top Ten Highlights of the Fall Campout

1. 36 scouts attended (~90 total attendance)
2. Big blue tarp ripping in the wind
3. Kickball in the rain ... does it get any better than this!
4. Quail Hill 40th Anniversary Patches at the Trading Post
5. S'mores in the rain ... yes, it is possible
6. Hot chocolate under the tarp
7. Unbelievable stars out at 3AM .. you could see the Milky Way
8. Group photo on the hike in the lean-to
9. Cubmaster's lawn drying out the equipment on Sunday afternoon priceless
10. The Webelos troop next to us in the lodge with electricity ... (OK maybe we'll reserve next time :-)

Pack Meeting Agenda - 11.19.08 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Gathering Activity - Den 9
Welcome and Announcements
Opening Flag Ceremony - Den 9
Awards - Stephanie Muller
Pack Meeting Activity - A Nose Relay
Closing Flag Ceremony - Den 9

Attendance Pin & Bar

The boys can earn the Attendance pin by attending 80% of pack meetings and events.



**Change of Meeting Location

December's meeting is our annual pot luck pack feast and toy drive. Please note the meeting is being held on Friday, December 12th starting at 6:30 pm. We will be at the Ethel McKnight School located at 58 Twin Rivers Dr. South. In January we will be back at the Walter C. Black School.

We Are Going Green!!

In an effort to help protect our environment, Pack 53 will be "Going Green" with our newsletter starting January 2009. With the goal of cutting back on our consumption of natural resources we will be posting the newsletter on our Pack website at www.pack53hew.org instead of printing them for distribution at pack meeting. Let the trees grow.

Annual Pack Feast

Food: Each den is expected to bring enough food to feed everyone in their den and the families (this includes main dishes, side dishes, deserts, drinks, and paper goods). The food will then be put on a main table to be shared by everyone in the pack. Please NO PIZZA and NO SODA.

Centerpieces: Each den should make a centerpiece to adorn their table. It can follow one of three themes: Holiday, Winter, Cub Scout. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in each category.

Other: We will have songs and some kind of contest. To round-out the evening (actually to start), we will have blessings done by each of the 5 major religions of the world.

Toy Drive

At the December Pack Feast we will be collecting toys to donate to the Child Life Program at Robert Wood Johnson Children's Hospital in New Brunswick. Child Life is a wonderful program that works with patients to make their stay at the hospital as comfortable as possible. Social workers meet with families and children to explain upcoming medical procedures in easy to understand terms using photos and props. Child Life maintains the playrooms on each floor and keeps them stocked with games, toys, books, movies, music and puzzles for all age groups. Child Life also sees that every child receives a new toy to take home when their stay is over. Being in the hospital over the holidays is especially difficult for children. Child Life makes sure that each child receives a holiday gift, either at their annual party, or on the morning of the special holiday. Any items that we donate are used for either the party or to add to the collections in the activity rooms. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

Popcorn

We sold \$9,100 this year. Thank you to all the scouts and families that sold popcorn! Seventeen scouts made the \$200 goal or better! You all helped the pack go just like we pledge in the Law of the Pack. All scouts that signed in at the Hightstown Fair will get a rocker. Scouts that took orders for popcorn will receive a Trails End patch. Those that made their goal or better will get a special patch in addition to the other patches and prizes. Thank you again for all of your great work!

Tree Survey

The Hightstown Borough Tree Survey is finally complete. We had 35 scouts, 13 leaders, 19 parents, and 11 siblings participate and hone their tree identification skills - just ask about Callery Pears and Norway Maples! Overall we completed 5 main streets, examined well over 300 trees, and donated 119 hours to this project. The Borough of Hightstown extends its thanks to everyone who helped out. Way to "give goodwill" Pack 53!

Food Drive

Tonight is the Pack 53 Food Drive. All of the food donated will be given to the Green House in Hightstown. Food pantries all over the state are in critical status this year, with some even having to implement rationing programs. Thank you for helping out those in our community to have the food they need for their families.

Corn Harvest for Wildlife

On Saturday November 8 Pack 53 had 10 scouts and their families assist with the Corn Harvest at Howell Living History Farm. The corn was harvested, shucked, and donated to the Mercer County Animal Rescue Center to help feed rehabilitated animals over the winter. Mercer County is the only county in New Jersey that operates animal rescue center. These scouts were also able to attend a live animal demonstration of injured birds that couldn't be re-released: crow, turkey vulture, red tailed hawk, and a screech owl. Pretty cool!