



# Troop 615 News



Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2014

## A "Thank You" From Friends of Scouting

To the Scouts and Parents of Troop 615:

On March 12, 2014, we held a Friends of Scouting presentation. I want to thank all of the parents who made a donation to support the Baltimore Area Council. The final tally was **\$2,274**, up from \$300 last year and \$1,450 in 2012, so the results were great. Your support allows the Council to keep Scouting strong and affordable not only now, but long into the future.

Some of you were unable to make the presentation or did not turn in your card that night. We need your help!! Your support will benefit our Troop and your son.

Friends of Scouting dollars go toward "behind the scenes" expenses that our local Council incurs during the year that we take advantage of such as

1. **Operating costs for Camps Saffran, Spencer, and Oest**
2. **Programs and activities like Pinewood Derby, STEM Merit Badge Days, Camp Staff**
3. **Training more than 4,000 leaders every year**
4. **A fully staffed professional Staff and Service Center**
5. **Scholarships for need youth ensuring that no youth in Central Maryland is denied Scouting due to finance reasons and other major activities that our Troop 615 participates in.**

I want to encourage all of the parents who have not made an investment to do so. Please go to <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/support-scouting/friends-of-scouting/30031> and learn why your support is so important. You'll also notice a tab entitled "Invest in Scouting Today" for online donations. I encourage everyone who has not yet done so to make an investment today. It will be counted in our Troop total. Every investment helps the cause!

Thanks for your support!

Thanks.  
David Gattis  
ASM, Troop 615  
Friends of Scouting Unit Champion

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PLC MEETINGS

ALL PATROL AND ASSISTANT PATROL  
LEADERS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND  
4/9, 5/14, 6/11 6:00 PM

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ALL ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
ATTEND - 4/9 (**NEW PARENT  
ORIENTATION**), 5/14, 6/11 7:00 PM

### WILDERNESS SURVIVAL OUTING

CAMP TUCKAHOE, PA - 3/21-3/23

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (YLT)

4/5 9:00-2:30

### VINCENT PUGLIESE'S EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR - 4/12

### EASTER VIGIL SERVICE PROJECT - 4/19

### SWIM TEST - NEEDED FOR WHITE WATER RAFTING/SUMMER CAMP - CA SWIM CENTER - 4/23

### COPE (CHALLENGING OUTDOOR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE) OUTING GENESEE VALLEY - PARKTON, MD 4/25-4/27

### FRIENDS OF TROOP 615 BULL PORK ROAST - 5/10

### FAMILY WHITE WATER RAFTING - OHIOPILE, PA - 5/16-5/18 (MR. CHO SENT AN EMAIL WITH PRICING INFORMATION)

### GETTYSBURG, PA 6/6-6/8

### SUMMER CAMP - CAMP OCKANICKON 7/20-7/26

# WELCOME

## Parents - A quick overview for new Scouts and new parents!

**Welcome to Troop 615!** Thank you for choosing our Troop. We understand that there can be some adjustment from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and there's a lot to take in. Please ask a Scout or a Scouter (an adult leader) if you have any questions.

Lord Baden Powell had a way with words. He said, "Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of men." It's true! Providing boys with the opportunities to learn, have fun and demonstrate leadership is what Scouting is all about. Along the way, boys learn and grow, develop mental, physical and emotional fitness, learn about good citizenship, and learn how to become independent and capable young men.

**Meetings:** Troop 615 meets every Wednesday, year-round at the Church of the Resurrection. Meetings are scheduled to run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meetings normally consist of an opening ceremony, a skill instruction, Patrol corners, a game, and a closing. Activities are often geared to preparing for the next outing or working on a specific merit badge or other accomplishments.

**Uniforms:** Boys are required to be in full "Class A" or "field" uniforms at the weekly meetings, any Troop sponsored function and when we travel to and from outings. **NOTE:** Boys that are not in uniform will not be allowed to attend outings. Wearing the Scout uniform provides an instant sense of belonging to the Troop. Remarkably, the simple act of wearing the uniform can change attitudes and behaviors of Scouts. Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shop in Baltimore, at the Scout shop in Hanover, or online. While in Scouts, boys often grow and change a great deal. Uniforms that no longer fit Scouts are often donated to the Troop. The Troop maintains a closet of uniforms that Scouts and their parents are free to take for their Scouts use. The Troop also uses Class B uniform for other occasions such as service projects and while at summer camp.

**Patrol Method & Camping:** There is no "Scouting" without "outing". We base our program on monthly camping trips. Much of the initial focus for new Scouts is on learning outdoor skills and the ability to take care of oneself. It is a growth opportunity for both boys and parents... one that can only be achieved if the boys (and parents) are present to take advantage of those opportunities. Regular participation in outings is critically important to overall success in Scouting.

Troop 615 uses the "Patrol Method." The Patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in successfully working with others, learning and teaching new skills as well as experience in citizenship. The Patrol Method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they work cooperatively to accomplish goals, to learn teamwork, leadership, and basic camping skills. The Scouts are the ones who make the decisions about where to go on outings and the activities that will occur on those outings. Scouts are the ones who are responsible for tent pitching, meal planning, preparation and cleanup. They receive guidance from adults when necessary. Scouts take on a fair amount of responsibility. Doing so allows the boys to grow, learn, and practice decision-making.

**Differences Between Cubs and Boy Scouts:** Boy Scouts Differs GREATLY from Cub Scouts. The transition from Cubs to Boy Scouts can be particularly challenging for parents. Being boy-led means that Boy Scouts are actually making decisions, providing meeting structure, observing and responding to the needs of the Troop and more. In the process, they are learning. They're figuring out how to work together with a wide range of individuals, they're learning about their strengths and limitations, they're pushing their comfort level and growing a great deal. This process can appear to be chaotic, especially for new parents who are used to adults providing structure and control for their sons.

**Advancement/Training:** Boy Scouts (those that have achieved a rank of First Class AND have attended Youth Leadership Training) are eligible to sign off on requirements for advancement from Tenderfoot to First Class. They are held accountable that the Scout they have signed off for has successfully completed the requirements.

Once the Scout has completed the necessary requirements for advancement, he will need to schedule a Scoutmaster conference with the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters. The final step is to schedule a Board of Review (a meeting with a minimum of three Committee members that are trained in holding Boards of Review). Upon successful completion of all requirements, Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review, the boy will advance in rank.

**Merit Badges:** Boys must seek the approval of the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair and receive a "blue card" BEFORE starting any merit badge. An individual boy or a group of boys will work with a registered Merit Badge

Counselor to complete the merit badge and the counselor must be the one to sign off that the requirements have been completed.

The boys meet twice a year for a Semi Annual Planning Conference (PSC) to choose outings for the next 18 months (with adult support). The boys decide what they want to do and they plan their own trips—within the guidelines and ideals of Scouting.

**Parent Participation in Scouting:** In order for the Scouting program to be successful, parents **NEED** to be involved. It doesn't matter whether your job is big or small; help is needed from every adult. We require that all parents register with the Troop/BSA in order to go on trips so you will be covered by BSA insurance and other requirements. Parents are also required by our sponsoring organization to take BSA Youth Protection Training (available online at [www.baltimorebsa.org](http://www.baltimorebsa.org)) and STAND training (<http://www.res-ec.org/Home/ParishAtoZ/STAND.aspx>). We realize that every parent is busy. If everyone participates, then no one individual is overly impacted. Enclosed are a few of the opportunities open to every adult.

**Program Staff (Scoutmasters):** If you prefer to teach skills, work with the boys and go on campouts, you should indicate this interest to the Scoutmaster.

**Merit Badge Counselor:** Please volunteer to become a merit badge counselor to help teach the boys; the topic could be in your job discipline, hobby, or other interest Troop. NOTE: You do not need to be specifically trained or certified in the area of interest to become a Merit Badge Counselor. To be considered as a Merit Badge Counselor, please fill out the [Merit Badge Counselor application](#) and then submit the completed form to Christine Salamacha.

**Parent/Committee Member:** Every adult is automatically a member of the Troop Parent/Committee. The group meets once a month, on the second Wed of the month, during the regular Troop meeting to discuss Troop business. The positions and responsibilities range from large too small. You can be a member at large or hold office (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Eagle Advisor, etc.). Parents are encouraged to attend these meetings.

**Transportation for Outings:** Help is often needed to transport boys to or from outings or to a service project.

**Camping:** Camping is at the very heart of Boy Scouting. Parents are encouraged to attend outings to provide support for the Troop and to enjoy the experience. Scouts camp and participate with their Patrol and NOT with their parents. Remember: there are no Moms and Dads in Scouts! If Scouts need assistance, boys are instructed to first go to their Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader. Adults are expected to intervene when there is an immediate health or safety issue. If further assistance is needed, the boy should go to one of the Program Staff. This does not mean that you cannot see or speak to your son. You can! However, please do not focus all of your attention on one specific Scout that happens to look a lot like you. Adults are expected to provide support for the whole Troop, not just one or two Scouts.

Scouts are encouraged to address parents formally (as in, "Dr. Anderson" or "Mrs. Smith"). This helps reinforce that there are no Moms and Dads on outings and encourages Scouts to follow the structure for dealing with challenges

**Boy Leadership:** Adults should not interfere with the functioning of boy leaders, even if they make mistakes (we all learn best from our mistakes). Step in only if it is a matter of immediate safety or if the mistake will be costly. If available, involve a uniformed member of the Program Staff first.

**Senior Patrol Leader:** The SPL is responsible for running the Troop. He is a Scout of First Class or higher rank and is elected to this post by the Scouts. He works with his staff of Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders as well as the Program Staff to make the Troop work.

**Patrol Leaders:** The person responsible for a Boy Scout Patrol is the Patrol Leader. This is not token leadership. As an elected position from within the Patrol, the Patrol Leader is granted real authority and genuine responsibilities. Much of the success, safety, and happiness of the rest of the Patrol depends directly on him. Boy Scouts teaches leadership. Boys learn leadership by practicing it, not by watching adults lead.

**Adults:** Boy Scouts cannot be successful without direct involvement of parents. This means providing assistance with transportation to and from outings, helping out with fundraising activities, providing support for service projects, assisting as a Merit Badge Counselor, to work with Scouts to plan and support various events and celebrations and more.

Troop 615 offers these guidelines on the indirect, advisory role you now enjoy. The underlying principle is to never do anything for a boy that he can do for himself. We allow boys to grow by practicing leadership and by learning from their mistakes.

The Scouting program at Troop 615 helps make Scouting a safe, enjoyable, and memorable journey. Again, welcome to Troop 615! For more information please check out our Troop 615 website - <http://www.bsa615.com/parents/>

## Troop 615 Welcomes 15 New Scouts!

Troop 615 would like to welcome the 15 new scouts below and their families! We are very happy that you have joined our Scout family.

### From Pack 305

Zachary Cherry  
Adrian Cires  
Matthew Harris  
Enric Jiao  
Ryan Jung  
Trevor Moore  
Samhith Namagiri  
Rahul Sharma  
Zachary Vook  
Christian Walker

### From Pack 371

Ethan Tucker

### From Pack 874

Andrew Coffee

### From Pack 461 (Bridging Saturday, 3/22)

Gregory von Hagel  
Timothy McShea  
Matthew Gries

Pack 305 bridging...



## Troop 615 Earns **GOLD** in the Journey to Excellence!

We are pleased to announce that Troop 615 earned GOLD in the 2014 Journey to Excellence! This proves once again that Troop 615 offers a high quality Boy Scout program to our scouts. Way to go troop! Our Gold ribbon will be attached to our troop flag pole.

"Scouting's Journey to Excellence" is the BSA's council performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA.



## The Eagle's Nest



### Advancing to Eagle – from Mr. Chris Parks (Troop 615 Eagle Coach)

The seven requirements for Eagle Scout are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook and can also be found at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/eagle.aspx>. These requirements must be completed by the scout's eighteenth birthday and include being active in the troop, living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, earning a total of 21 merit badges including all eagle required badges, serving in a position of responsibility, executing a service project, completing a Scoutmaster Conference, and completing a Board of Review (BOR can take place after the eighteenth birthday).

The specific requirements for identifying, planning, funding, and completing a service project are found in the online workbook at [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927_fillable.pdf). It is required that the most current version of this workbook be used in the process of executing the Eagle Project.

Once the requirements for Eagle Scout have been met, it is the responsibility of the scout to then apply for the rank of Eagle using the application found at [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728\\_WB\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_WB_fillable.pdf).

If there are any questions concerning the process or requirements for advancing from Life to Eagle please do not hesitate to ask. Resources within the troop that can help answer your questions are our **Scoutmaster, Dr. Anderson**; our **Eagle Coach, Mr. Parks**, and the other adult leaders in the troop. Also talk to your fellow scouts (a scout is helpful) that have already achieved Eagle or those who are well on their way. There are currently sixteen Life Scouts in Troop 615 who are working toward the rank of Eagle Scout, several of which have already begun planning or working on their projects.

The troop will schedule a session this spring to go over these requirements and procedures in more detail and to answer any questions the scouts (and their parents) might have.

### Help Wanted! Every Family should do their Part!

**We Need More Patrol Coaches!** What is a Patrol Coach you ask? A patrol coach is an adult member of the troop committee who works directly with a group (patrol) of boys, especially the boy leaders, to accomplish the aims and methods of Scouting. We are becoming a young troop and Patrol Coaches would be very helpful with the younger patrols to make sure they are completing requirements, advancing and having fun!

**Webelos Transition Coordinator Needed!** We will be having new scouts and scout families bridging over to Troop 615 in March. A parent volunteer(s) that could help to get them up to speed and teach them the ins and outs of our troop would be very helpful. Please consider helping with this position.

**Troop 615 Webmaster Needed!** We need an adult to help us keep the troop website updated. Please volunteer!

### Bull Pork Roast Volunteers Needed!



We are in need of some adult volunteers to head up the **Wine Wall** and also handle **Trash/Recyclables** at the event.

**Susan Hill** needs help with the **Silent Auction!** This is the biggest money maker at our event and we need lots of help!

Please contact Dan Duesterhaus at [dduesterhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:dduesterhaus@yahoo.com) if you are able to assist.

**Our next Bull Pork Roast planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3/18 from 7-9 PM. Please join us and find out how you can help.**

## Program Staff



Following two consecutive Wednesday meetings of detailed safety instruction on rifle and shotgun shooting sports, **Troop 615 traveled to Jefferson Sportsman Association, located in Spring Grove, PA.** Upon Troop 615's arrival, the scouts enjoyed a quick dinner cooked by the Program Staff and then had another hour of instruction on range safety.

Bright and early the next morning, shortly after breakfast, the scouts were divided into two groups, rifle and shotgun. The scouts assigned to the rifle group followed Dr. Secada to the indoor range. The scouts assigned to the shotgun group followed Mr. Dana to the shotgun range. Shortly thereafter, the sounds of gunfire filled the air. At the shotgun range, scouts called out the command, "Pull!" At that point, the person operating the clay machine sent a clay flying through the air, only for it to be decimated by the accurate scout shotgun fire, either 20 gauge or 12 gauge. On the rifle range, Dr. Secada had four scouts shooting .22 caliber competition rifles for five consecutive shots at a time. Afterwards, the scouts were able to switch between the rifle and shotgun ranges. All of the scouts had amazing improvement in both rifle and shotgun. **At the end, nine scouts got the rifle merit badge and seven scouts got the shotgun merit badge, several earning both.**

**Two scouts, Connor Maloney and Kevin Aguilera were able to obtain Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review and were advanced to their next rank.** Congratulations Connor and Kevin!

Troop 615 sends out a huge thanks to **Dr. Secada** and **Mr. Dana** for donating their time and providing such excellent instruction. Troop 615 also sends out a huge thanks to the **Jefferson Sportsman Association** for the use of their fantastic facility and allowing Troop 615 to introduce Shooting Sports to our scouts. This one day event whetted their appetite, leaving them wanting more.





## Chili Cook-Off Champs



Congratulations to Troop 615 for winning the "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hotter Than Thou" Chili Cook-Off to on 1/26. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard County-Wide Cookoff was held at the Church of the Resurrection on Sunday, 3/9. Unfortunately, Troop 615 did not win, but the Chili Cook-off event raised over **\$15,000 to benefit Bridges to Housing Stability.**



**Great chili for a great cause!**

## Advancement Updates



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (1)

Connor Maloney

### 1<sup>st</sup> Class (1)

Kevin Aguilera

### Eagle-required merit badges (1)

Communication – Garrett Currie

### Elective merit badges (17)

Music – Gavin Moore

Rifle Shooting – Wyatt Currie, Tyler Hart, Garrett Hill, Matt Hill, Matt Jackson, Scott Anderson, Drew Benson, Garrett Currie, Joey Peters

Shotgun Shooting – Wyatt Currie, Matt Hill, Matt Jackson, Leo Schafer, Drew Benson, Garrett Currie, Joey Peters

**Great Job Scouts!**

## Introducing the Nova Awards Program!



The **Boy Scouts of America** developed the **Nova Awards program** to excite and expand a sense of wonder in our Scouts. By working with an adult counselor or mentor, the various modules allow them to explore the basic principles of **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)** and discover how fun and fascinating STEM can be. The Nova Award is comprised of 4 pins: Shoot, Start Your Engines, Whoosh and Designed to Crunch. Each pin represents one of the STEM areas.

For more information about the Nova program: <http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/BoyScouts.aspx>

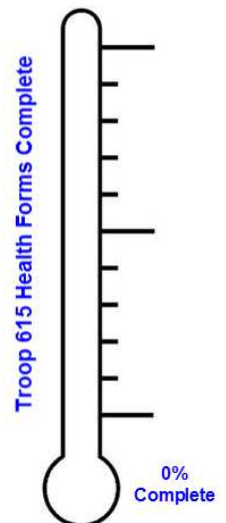
## Health Forms Needed for Summer Camp!



Summer Camp is coming! The scouts will be heading to **Ockanickon Scout Reservation** in beautiful Pennsylvania in just 4 months! That means it's time for the Troop to update health forms! **All adults and scouts planning to attend Boy Scout summer camp must complete Parts A, B and C of the health form. Part C must be signed by a physician so consider scheduling those physicals now.** The BSA health form for summer camp must have a signature date of July 27, 2013 or later. **Please submit 3 copies of the forms to the Health Forms Coordinator by Wednesday, June 4th.** The Ockanickon web site has information about their health policies for Boy Scout summer camp: <http://www.ockanickon.org/summer-camping/policies/health-policies/>

For scouts not attending Boy Scout summer camp, health forms are still due! Scouts, adults and siblings attending any of the Boy Scout outings must complete Parts A and B. Please submit 2 copies of the forms to the Health Forms Coordinator by Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

A helpful guide is available to help minimize errors and omissions on the forms. The health form is available from the Troop 615 web site: <http://www.bsa615.com/documents/forms/>



# 2014 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

**\*\*\* Camp Dates: July 20 (Sun) – July 26 (Sat) \*\*\***

Troop 615 will be going to summer camp at Ockanickon Scout Reservation  
in beautiful Bucks County, Pennsylvania. [www.ockanickon.org](http://www.ockanickon.org)

Complete the form below, and then give the bottom portion along with your payment (checks payable to Troop 615)  
to one of the following adult leaders:

Jill Reese or Shura Kendzierski, Summer Camp Coordinators, or David Gattis, ASM

OR MAIL TO: Jill Reese at 2735 Dunleer Road, Ellicott City 21042

Scout Health forms will be due in early June 2014 – so get those physicals scheduled NOW.  
Camp T-shirts and Camp Photos will be ordered at a future date for an additional (small) fee.

Payment Type	Amount
Cash	\$
Check # _____	\$
Scout Account (Check with Yung Cho for current balance)	\$
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$</b>

Please retain this upper section for your records.

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Please submit this lower section along with your payment (payable to Troop 615).

## 2014 Ockanickon Summer Camp Registration Form

**\*\*\* Camp Dates: July 20 (Sun) – July 26 (Sat) \*\*\***

Scout: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Summer Camp Fees*

Rate	Camp Fee	Due Date
Special Discounted	\$389	02-26-2014
Regular	\$407	04-23-2014
Late	\$433	05-28-2014
Webelos Crossover	\$389	05-28-2014

Payment Type	Amount
Cash	\$
Check # _____	\$
Scout Account	\$
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$</b>



# High Adventure



At 8:00 AM, on March 1, 2014, the **Philmont Crew** assembled at the **Gunpowder Falls** trail head located at **Gun Powder Falls State Park**. It was nineteen degrees and only expected to warm up to the low 40s over the course of the day. However, the Crew had prepared for the weather conditions, wearing multiple layers, boots, hats and gloves. The trail that the Crew planned to hike was a loop. Originally, we planned to enter on the south trail head, but decided to change the plan when it was discovered that Crew would have to immediately cross a stream with ice covered rocks. So, the Crew decided to enter the north trail head.

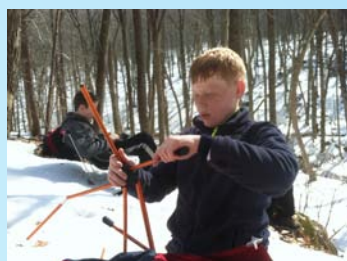
For a good portion of the way, the trail followed the Gunpowder River. The trail had significant amounts of snow and ice, which at times made it difficult to walk and to navigate since we could not see the trail under the snowfall. The trail was not well blazed and there was significant deadfall. Fortunately, other people had walked the trail before us and we could follow their footsteps.

It was very beautiful in the woods with the snow cover. Along the way, we heard a woodpecker and saw deer crossing the river. We also saw the ruins of an old building that had something that looked like a forge. We saw the remnants of an old bridge where Bunker Hill Road used to cross the Gunpowder. And, we found the foreleg of a deer, and wondered what happened to the rest. We had several stream crossings, and managed to stay dry for the most part, although not entirely.

Around noon, the Crew took a break for lunch, which consisted of Philmont food. Yes, ham does come in a can and it can be eaten. If you're hungry enough you will eat anything. This lunch did have the benefit that nothing had to be cooked.

The Crew took turns being the Navi-guesser, i.e. map reader. Unfortunately, we went off course a couple times and managed to extend the hike from 9.3 miles to approximately 10.5. However, we did make it off the trail at about 2:30 PM.

Overall, this was a great experience. But, next time I am going to leave dry socks and shoes at the car so I can change out of the wet boots. **The Crew's next outing is 21-23 March, when we plan to hike on the Appalachian Trail.**



## Troop 615 Policy Change – Driver Assignments



Generally, when arranging transportation to and from outings, Troop 615 tries to pair scouts with adult drivers who are not their parental units. The intent behind this is to allow the scout to interact with adults other than their parents. This is beneficial for several reasons. It allows the scout to get to know the adult leaders, and builds trust. It also teaches the scout how to interact appropriately with adults, other than their parents. It also has the beneficial impact of forcing the adults to be responsible for and concerned about scouts, other than their own. However, several parents have expressed concern and irritation with the policy, perhaps not really understanding the reasoning behind the policy. After much deliberation, the Program Staff have decided to modify the policy. It is more important that the scout attend the outing. Consequently, if a parental unit makes a request to be allowed to drive their scout to an outing, Troop 615 will attempt to honor their request. It is expected that that adult will be a registered member of the Troop so that they can assist by driving other scouts to and from the outing, not just their scout. Additionally, it is expected, except under exigent circumstances that the drivers will meet at the designated time and point of departure and travel with the Troop.

## Merit Badge Days

**Boy Scout Day at Glenn L Martin Maryland Aviation Day** – Registration is now open

When: Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 10-3

Location: 701 Wilson Point Rd # 5-501, Baltimore, MD

Activities: Aviation and Space Exploration Merit Badge Courses More Information:

<http://www.baltimorebsa.org/event/boy-scout-day-at-glenn-l-martin-maryland-aviation-day/1485611>

**Fort Meade STEM Fun Day** - Registration begins on March 20<sup>th</sup>

When: Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Location: Fort Meade

More Information: <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/stem/47522>

**USS John Brown Merit Badge College** \*\*Rescheduled\*\* - Registration is now open

When: Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:15-2:30

Location: S.S. John W. Brown 2000 S. Clinton St, Baltimore MD 21224

Activities: Oceanography, Weather, Electricity, Model Design & Building, Woodwork, Fire Safety and American Heritage merit badges and Adult CPR Training

More Information: <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/event/2014-merit-badge-college/1473991>

## A Scout is Reverent Retreat

**When:** May 2 - 4, 2014

**Location:** Camp Spencer at Broadcreek Scout Reservation

**A Scout is Reverent Retreat Provides:**

Patrol Games

Craft Stations

Age Appropriate Discussions

Campfire Program

Cracker Barrel

Kosher Meals

Religious Services

Retreat Patch

Fulfills requirements for religious awards, merit badges, etc.

The Retreat is for ALL Scouting Programs

**Register today!** Go to the calendar on [www.BaltimoreBSA.org](http://www.BaltimoreBSA.org) and click on the "A Scout is Reverent Retreat" link on the weekend of 5/2-5/4. For further information, to help the Retreat Planning Committee or to join the Youth Staff

Contact: [ScoutRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:ScoutRetreat@gmail.com).



## Scouts and Families Do a Good Turn!

On **Saturday, 3/15** scouts from Troop 615 worked alongside members of **Howard County SWAT (Stop Waste and Trash)** program and scouts from Troop 759 to pick up trash along RT 40 in Ellicott City.



## Service Projects

Wow! Troop 615 logged more than 50 service hours in just the last few weeks...that's awesome! Many thanks to those who came out to help on various eagle projects, at Scouting for Food, Court of Honor, and for picking up trash along Route 40. There are three more opportunities (at least!) for March and April. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us!

### Trout Unlimited Banquet

The event will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Martin's West. Our Troop has been asked to help sell auction tickets at the event. Our Troop had several Scouts that helped out last year and we've been asked to help out again this year. The organizer is looking for 10 boys who would be able to help out that Sat night. The event starts at 6PM and ends at 10. We are being asked to show up at ~ 5:15-5:30. This is a terrific opportunity for a Patrol or Patrols to earn service towards National Honor Patrol. Please contact Dr. Anderson if you are able to volunteer at [bdaabat@gmail.com](mailto:bdaabat@gmail.com).

### Mt. Hebron Mulch Sale

WHEN: Saturday, April 5th 7am-noon

WHERE: Mt. Hebron Student Parking lot

WHY: Because they need our help! Come out and support the school!

### Samaritan Women Service Project

WHEN: Saturday, April 12th at 8:30 am-12 pm.

WHERE: The Samaritan Women Farm, South Chapel Gate Lane, Baltimore, MD.

WHY: TSW is a residential farm that serves women who have endured trauma, including veterans and the victims of human trafficking. They have a 2.5 acre farm, greenhouses, an orchard, and a berry vineyard.

WHAT: We will be working outside doing landscaping and gardening. Please wear old clothes that can get dirty. Here is a link on what to expect and what to bring: <http://thesamaritanwomen.org/volunteer/>

If you have any questions about service projects or have an idea for a project, please contact Melissa Barrett at [barrett2831@gmail.com](mailto:barrett2831@gmail.com).