

Trail Blazer

Weekly

Week of September 30th - Building Character Through Adventure







NEW: Trail Blazer Weekly Launch! This is our first weekly newsletter! We want to feature YOUR Trailman's adventures and character growth. Please send us:

- Photos of your boy practicing Trail Life skills at home
- Stories of character moments (helping others, showing responsibility, etc.)
- Examples of him using what he learned in meetings
- Fun outdoor adventures your family takes together

Send submissions to: <u>TLtroopPA1997@yahoo.com</u> or text John Stewart at 570-316-7600

THIS WEEK WE LEARNED:

FOXES (Ages 5-6)

Topic: Fire Safety Fundamentals

Key Skills Learned:

- •Never get too close to fires or try to make your own
- •Always let an older Trailman or adult handle fire
- •Never throw anything into a fire without adult permission
- •How smoke alarms work and what to do when they beep
- •Stop, drop, and roll technique if clothes catch fire
- •Crawl low under smoke to avoid breathing it in

Scripture Focus: God's protection and safety



HAWKS (Ages 7-8)

Topic: Building a Fire - The Three Components

Key Skills Learned:



- •The three essential fire components: tinder, kindling, and firewood
- •Tinder: small twigs, leaves, pine needles
- •Kindling: small sticks without leaves that burn easily
- •Firewood: larger pieces for sustained burning
- •Three fire building methods: log cabin, teepee, and lean-to structures

Scripture Focus: God's provision of what we need

Practice This Week: Look for examples of tinder, kindling, and firewood in your yard - identify the differences without collecting

MOUNTAIN LIONS (Ages 9-11)

Topic: Outdoor Fire Safety and Fireguard Requirements



Key Skills Learned:

- •Fire pit construction with 5-foot debris circle
- •15-foot safety circle requirements for tents and buildings
- •How to dig a proper fire pit (1 foot deep with rock circle)
- •Always have a fire watcher with water/sand nearby
- Proper fire extinguishing: let burn to ash, add water, stir, check for heat

• Fire starters: dryer lint and cotton balls with petroleum jelly **Progress Toward:** Fireguard Card (competency-based award)

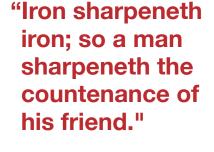
Scripture Focus: Responsibility and stewardship

Home Assignment: Start collecting an Altoids tin for next week's emergency

stove building project

NAVIGATORS (Ages 12-14)

Topic: Advanced Fire Management and Fire Ranger Skills



PROVERBS 27:17



Skills Mastered:

- •Complete Fireguard requirements and safety protocols
- •Advanced fire starting techniques with ferro rods
- •Fire management and extinguishing procedures
- •Leadership in fire safety education for younger Trailmen

Badge Progress: Working toward Fire Ranger Trail Badge and Fire Ranger Card

Scripture Application: Being trustworthy with greater responsibilities

Weekly Challenge: Research different types of tinder found in your local area

ADVENTURERS (Ages 15-18)

Topic: Fire Ranger Leadership and Learning



Leadership Focus:

- •Learned advanced fire safety techniques alongside other Trailmen
- •Observed fire management procedures and safety protocols
- •Beginning to understand the mentoring role they'll grow into

Character Development: Learning to lead by example while continuing to master new skills

Scripture Reflection: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." - Proverbs 27:17

Preparation for Next Week: Collect an Altoids tin for emergency stove building project

TROOP HIGHLIGHTS:

This Week's Focus: Fire safety education across all age groups, from basic safety principles to advanced fire management skills.

Skill Development: Trailmen learned age-appropriate fire safety techniques and began working toward fire-related badges and cards.

Looking Forward: Next week we'll build on these safety foundations with hands-on emergency cooking stove construction.

FAMILY CONNECTION:

Discussion Starters for the Ride Home:

- "What surprised you most about fire safety tonight?"
- "Which fire-building method do you think would work best for cooking?"
- "How does learning these skills help you become more responsible?"

Ways Parents Can Reinforce This Week's Lessons:

- Point out smoke alarms in your home and discuss evacuation plans
- Identify tinder, kindling, and firewood materials during nature walks
- Discuss fire safety when using fireplaces, grills, or camp stoves
- Practice the stop, drop, and roll technique (safely on grass)

LOOKING AHEAD:

Next Week: Emergency Cooking Stoves - Building Altoids Tin Stoves

Upcoming Events:

• October 7th - Fundraiser deadline for local meat stick orders What to Bring Next Week:

- **Mountain Lions, Navigators & Adventurers:** Empty Altoids tin for stove building
- Regular meeting materials

Preparation Needed:

- Start looking for an Altoids tin this week (any flavor/size works)
- Ask family members to save empty tins from mints

Fundraiser Update:

Premium meat stick sales continue! Local orders due October 7th. Online store available anytime at: https://countrymeats.com/pages/seller-profile/trail-life-troop-pa-1997

Upcoming Deadlines:

- October 7th Local fundraiser orders and money due
- Next Tuesday -Bring Altoids tins for older boys

Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact John Stewart for ways to help the troop

Contact Information:

- John Stewart (Troop Ministry Liaison): 570-316-7600
- Email: TLtroopPA1997@yahoo.com

TRAIL POINTS TO REMEMBER:

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." - Ephesians 4:32

This week, your Trailman learned that with knowledge comes responsibility. Fire safety isn't just about rules - it's about caring for others and being trustworthy with powerful tools. The older boys showed Christ-like character by patiently teaching and encouraging the younger Trailmen.

Special Note: The Fireguard Card is a competency-based award that represents real responsibility. Boys who earn this card have demonstrated they can safely manage fire for the entire troop - a significant step in their character development and leadership journey. This card is available to Mountain Lions. Navigators and Adventurers are eligible to ear a Fire Ranger Card.

Next Weeks Preview:

Woodlands Trail will learn about Camp Cooking and the Troop will cook Trail Bread over a fire.

We will discuss plans for our trebuchet build.

Money is due for the first part of our fundraiser.

Mountain Lions, Navigators, and Adventurers will work on Altoids Camp Stoves.

Trail Life PA-1997 meets Tuesdays at 6:00 PM Living Word Baptist Church, 40 Hess Lane, Sweet Valley, PA