



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: TLtroopPA1997@yahoo.com or text John Stewart at 570-316-7600

THIS WEEK WE LEARNED:

FOXES (Ages 5-6)

Topic: Fire Safety Fundamentals

***Always let an
older Trailman
or adult handle
fire***



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

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

NAVIGATORS (Ages 12-14)

Topic: Advanced Fire Management and Fire Ranger Skills



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

PROVERBS 27:17

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 earn 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*