



# SMOKE SIGNALS



December 2010

The Official Newsletter of Troop 555

Sponsored By: Knights of Columbus #1414

## Grand Canyon Trek

*by Mr. Hopkins*

At the last COH, Mr. Hopkins told us about a hiking trip he's planning for June, 2011. He still has room for 2 or 3 more Scout hikers, plus another adult. The trip will be to hike across the Grand Canyon in 4 days, from the North Rim down the North Kaibab Trail to the Colorado River, then up the Bright Angel Trail to the South Rim. We'll cross the river on a small steel bridge built just for hikers and mules.

The total distance is just 25.4 miles, but on the way the trail goes down one mile in elevation, then back up most of a mile to the South Rim. This trek has been compared to hiking from central Canada to northern Mexico, because of the differences in temperature and ecological zones that hikers pass through!

The North Rim is at 8,200' above sea level (compared to less than 600' here in Columbus). Spruce, fir, mule deer, and black bears live there.

The Colorado River at the "Silver Suspension Bridge" is 2,450' above sea level. It flows through a hot, dry desert with cactuses, yuccas, desert grasses, lizards, mice--and pink rattlesnakes that are unique to the Canyon.

The trip will cost \$700 or a bit more, including transportation. That's a lot, but it's less than a trip to Philmont. Including travel time on Amtrak, and 1/2 day acclimating to the altitude at the North Rim, we'll be gone for nine days in all.

If you will be 14 or older and First Class by June 1, 2011, contact Mr. Hopkins for more information or to put your name on the list. But act quickly, because the deadline to apply for a Grand Canyon camping permit is the last week of January! Mr. Hopkins will need your firm commitment, your parents' signed permission, and a \$100 nonrefundable deposit by January 15. (You'll get your deposit back only if we fail to win a permit from the Park Service.)

## Pine Trees Report

*By Matt Massengale*

On the Weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, three of the four Pine Trees were there at the Rock Climbing Cooking Outing. We climbed until we had calluses. Of course, Craig was too chicken to go! By the way, Mr. Brown stayed behind while we climbed. He defended our campsite against the bird people! Good thing too. My Granola Bars were very valuable.

## BINGO!

Bingo Sign-ups

Earn \$35 plus TIPS!!

You also earn \$15 additional dollars for the Troop!

Sign-up sheet is available at every meeting.

For more information contact

Mrs. Luehrmann, 812-546-5811

Check out the troop  
website at:

[www.555bsa.org](http://www.555bsa.org)

There's only **ONE MORE**  
**Newsletter** before this term is over!

Get your article in to the Scribe **TODAY!**

## Weekly Meeting Planner:

January Theme: Wilderness Survival

### Monday 3rd of January – Committee Meeting

Opening and Closing		Cyclones
Skills Instruction	Wilderness Food	Pine Trees
Patrol Meetings	Week 1 of Winter Rendezvous	
Inter-Patrol Activity	Sled Relay	Flaming Burros
Leave No Trace		Vikings

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of January

Opening and Closing		Vipers
Skills Instruction	Cold Weather Cooking	Cyclones
Patrol Meetings	Weeks 2+3 of Winter Rendezvous	
Inter-Patrol Activity	No-Snow Dodgeball	Pine Trees
Leave No Trace		Flaming Burros

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of January – PLC

Opening and Closing		Vikings
Skills Instruction	How to Stay Warm	Vipers
Patrol Meetings	Week 4 of Winter Rendezvous	
Inter-Patrol Activity	Save Waldo	Cyclones
Leave No Trace		Pine Trees

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of January

Opening and Closing		Flaming Burros
Skills Instruction	Presentation of the Colors	Vikings
Patrol Meetings	Older Scout Discussion	
Inter-Patrol Activity	Ultimate Frisbee	Vipers
Leave No Trace		Cyclones

### Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of January - Elections

Opening and Closing		Pine Trees
Leave No Trace		Vipers

**Vote Matt Massengale  
For SPL!**

(Yes, campaigning was allowed!)