

A Double Ladder Signal Tower Goes Up



After the tower is lashed together, (which requires about 50 square lashes) it has to be carried and positioned in the exact location, before it can be hoisted.



Once in position, the crew divides into "Lifters" who lift and then push the tower up, and "Pullers" who use two of the guylines to pull the tower until it is standing.



During the Carwash Fund Raiser in May of 1997, Troop 888's third 14 Foot Double Ladder Signal Tower is just about to be secured. Using rope tackles, its four 50' guylines are tied to four anchors that are already in place. Our next tower is scheduled to be built for the Troop 888 Scout Show, on Saturday, February 27 near the parking lot at St. Stephen's Church.

Other Troop News

- Since its start in 1995, as with any Scouting activity, learning and challenges have always been a part of Troop 888's program. As a result, we have been fortunate to take home many honors at District and Council Camporees. Sometimes, in an event, we have placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Sometimes, even 1st and 2nd, 1st and 3rd, or 2nd and 3rd. Well, get a load of this! Three members of the same patrol—the Panthers—placed 1st and 2nd and 3rd in the NMB Middle School's school-wide Geography Contest. Congratulations to Dominick Bezmen, Justin Davidson, and Geoff Britzke. Talk about a sweep! Oh, yes. . . Dominick also took 1st place in the school-wide Spelling Bee as well. Now that's an intelligent patrol!

- The Junior Leaders have come up with some new methods for running our troop more effectively. Their plans should result in smoother and better-run interpatrol and troop-wide activities during our troop meetings.

Troop Scout Show: Feb. 27

Because the overnight Council Scout Expo scheduled for February 20 and 21 was canceled, the *following weekend* Troop 888 will have a fund raising Scout Show. Please change your calendars. The general public will be invited. Instead of an alternate camping trip in February, the Patrol Leaders' Council has voted to have a "Lock-In" in the Parrish Hall of St. Stephen's on the Friday night before the show. Featured at the show will be a signal tower and a Double A-Frame Monkey Bridge. Indoors we will set up Scouting displays and serve chicken bog.

Most of the construction of the show's pioneering projects will take place on Friday afternoon and early evening. Pizza and rented movies will be a part of the Friday night "Lock-In" festivities.

More information will be provided during February's troop meetings. Tickets for the Scout Show will be available for full-scale sale as early as February 1. Money from each Scout's sales will go into their individual accounts for summer camp and this July's Philmont Trek.

Troop Court of Honor, Monday, February 22

Each Scout's entire family is encouraged to attend the special, dinner/troop meeting, Monday, February 22 at St. Stephen's Church. A Court of Honor ceremony will be conducted, honoring each Scout for his achievements as a member of Troop 888. Parents and families will be able to view troop meeting and camping displays, troop and patrol equipment, photo albums, and a fun-for-all interpatrol competition demonstrating team work and Scout skills. Don't miss this very special troop event!

"Narc News"

(Mrs. Bezmen's Advancement Corner)

An important note about changing requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout—starting on April 1, 1999, you will be *required* to take Personal Fitness. Safety and Sports become one of the elective merit badges. Whereas before you needed to earn Swimming OR Sports, *now* you must earn Swimming, OR Hiking, OR Cycling.

If you have any questions about what you need in order to complete a certain rank, you can see what's not marked off on the advancement charts, and then look up the requirements in your Boy Scout Handbook. If you still have a question, you can ask me. There has been so much work going on and badges are being earned each week! As these guys continue to impress and progress, we anticipate another Board of Review real soon.

Troop 888 Information Line: 272-3498