

MARY E. WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH

Watchung, New Jersey

Annual Report of Watchung Boy Scout Troop 32 Year Ending December 2013

I am pleased to report that we continue to have a very active Troop. One of our goals every year is to promote a positive impact of Scouting in our local community. This year we logged more service hours per scout than any year since I've been involved. It is wonderful to witness young men demonstrate what it means to live according to the Scout Oath and Law. I take great pride in watching Troop 32's scouts run the Troop.

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is the highest youth leadership position in the troop. He heads the Patrol Leader Council (PLC), which is comprised of the Troop's youth scout leaders. The PLC plans the Troop activities. The SPL with the help of the Assistant SPL runs the monthly PLC meetings as well as the Troop meetings. Tony Hayeck served as SPL during the Spring. In June, Freddie Hayeck was elected to SPL in June and appointed Micheal Erickson as the Assistant SPL.

The Troop has many other youth leadership positions. Each position has responsibilities to that help the scouts learn to become more responsible and improve their leadership skills. Those that become SPL or assistant SPL have already held several other positions in the Troop and have proved their leadership abilities. Each has done a fine job of guiding the troop throughout the year.

Advancement/Membership

This year three scouts, Brian Delfs, Freddie Hayeck, and Walter Pennett, earned the rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, Scouts must earn 12 merit badges that are specified for Eagle Scouts. These 12 merit badges are often considered the most difficult to obtain. The scouts must earn at least an additional 9 merit badges, serve in troop leadership, and complete a project that helps to community and showcases their leadership ability. Eagle Scouts along with rank advancements by others in the Troop will be honored during the Troop's annual Advancement Dinner and Eagle Court of Honor in February.

At the end of 2013 there were 25 scouts in the troop. In January 2014, 13 boys aged out of cub scouts. This is the largest group of cub scouts eligible to join the Troop in recent history. At the time of this writing, 5 have joined the troop and many more have been given applications that we expect to receive. Younger scouts bring a lot of energy and give the older scouts more opportunity to hone their leadership skills. We are very excited to have so many 5th graders join the troop.

Program

Once again, the Troop's Outdoor Program provided a number of leadership opportunities for older Scouts and introduced younger boys to some great outdoor experiences. Some of the trips the Troop participated in during the year were the annual Watchung Mountain District's Klondike Derby, an Orienteering Camporee run by the US Army Cadets at West Point Military Academy and the Boy Scout District Camporee where scouts participated in a day long challenge of Scouting skills and knowledge. This year we invited the last year cub scouts to join us and two other Boy Scout Troops for

an “You R What U Eat” outing. Here the scouts got to sample 8 different exotic meats, including python, kangaroo and even scorpion. The Troop also spent a week at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation/Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ for traditional Boy Scout camping.

The Troop meets every Wednesday (except for the first Wednesday of the month) from 7:30 – 9:00 PM at Bayberry School. Troop meetings consist of a Flag Ceremony, announcements, awards, Scout skill instruction, team building, a physical activity and/or game.

Training

The Scouts were trained in BSA’s Youth Protection. Active adult leaders of the Troop are trained in BSA’s Youth Protection and Risk Zone. A number of adult leaders are trained in specific BSA outdoor skills as well as First Aid, CPR, Defibrillator AED, and Wilderness First Aid.

Community Service

Boys from the Troop performed a variety of Community Service activities during 2013 that totaled approximately 800 hours. The Scouts actively participated the annual Watchung Township clean-up day, the opening of the Watchung Museum at the Texier House and staffed the water station during the Bob Beckert 5K Memorial Run. The Troop served as Color Guards for events around town including the Memorial Day Ceremony, the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, Veterans Day Ceremony, and the Tree-of-Lights Ceremony. The Troop performed hundreds of hours of service associated with the Eagle Scout projects. Scout Sunday was celebrated during a Service at Wilson Memorial in February, and the Troop participated in the Covenant Service at Wilson Memorial during Thanksgiving.

Fund-raising Activities

The main fundraiser of the year is the Christmas Wreath and Grave Blanket Sale conducted during the Holidays. The Troop’s current fees are \$100 per Scout or \$150 per family (2 or more Scouts). This includes an annual subscription to Boy’s Life magazine and fees due to Patriot’s Path Council/BSA Registration Fees/Insurance. No boy will ever be turned away due to lack of funds; this has been a long-standing practice of the Troop.

Adult Leadership

There were a few changes in leadership this year. Andrea Hayeck, in addition to Unit Commissioner, took on the responsibility of overseeing Eagle advancement for our troop. When Matt Stefanovic joined the troop, his father, Randy Stefanovic became an Assistant Scoutmaster. Recently Randy also became our official liaison with Wilson Memorial Church.

Below is the current Leadership Team. There are a number of parents/adults not listed that assist in the running of the Troop, including serving as Merit Badge counselors. The adults collectively volunteer hundreds of hours to ensure that the scouts have fun while learning to become responsible young adults.

Committee Chair – Greg Varnerin

Scoutmaster – Jay Stiles

Assistant Scoutmaster – Major Ed George, Fred Hayeck, Ray King, Richard Pease, Randy

Stafanovic
Recording Secretary – Greg Varnerin
Treasurer – Lucina Celeste
Advancement Chair – Karen Pennett
Fund-raising Chairs – John Pennett/Sue Tucker
Parent Coordinator/Special Events – Sue Tucker
Committee Members – Ira Dicken, Andrea Hayeck, Ron Celeste

We extend our deepest appreciation to Wilson Memorial for your continued support since 1937 and the use of your facilities for our Troop Committee meetings as well as our Scout Advancement Dinner and Eagle Court of Honor. The Scout program is able to thrive and provide our young men with ample opportunities to grow in a positive direction so that they may mature into strong, wise adults because of your continued support. We are very proud of our 76 year partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay M. Stiles

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Scoutmaster, Watchung Troop 32