

Welcome to the March 2026 Edition of the T-172 Newsletter!

And just like that Spring weather is here!

February was a great month full of Scout adventures and Snow. We started our month off with our annual Order of the Arrow elections. Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society and provides worthy scouts increased opportunity for leadership responsibility, service, and of course fun. I highly encourage all of our scouts to complete their Ordeal to seal their membership and to participate in OA activities. Congratulations to Abby, David, Teja, and Bryan for being chosen to join the Brotherhood. Next Step is to attend the 3/10 OA Open House and register for a spring or fall Induction weekend to earn your sash and officially join.



Venturing Crew 172 (9th grade to 21yr) hit the Rock Gym for their February meeting. Are you in 9th grade (or 14 yrs old) and want to try something different? Crew 172 focuses on group planning and service with a lighter schedule for older scouts. Current year high adventure trip participants are invited to join Crew activities



A huge thank you to everyone that came out to support our two February fundraisers! The Adult Pinewood derby was a ton of fun and raised much needed funds for Pack 35 and Crew 172! Stay tuned for spring fundraiser opportunities. We are always looking for help from parents willing to organize a fundraiser!







We even held our first ever Troop Open House last month. While we typically prefer scouts to attend “regular” Troop meetings this Open house was 100% youth planned and executed providing an additional leadership opportunity for our patrol leaders. I look forward to revamping our August Space Exploration Day into a second Troop Open House to support fall recruitment.





Thankfully the blizzard held off long enough to get our full Cabin and Snowtubing Trip in. Our scouts had fun exploring Camp Trexler and of course Tubing at Blue Mountain.

Finally on 2/22 we officially welcomed James Nobili (P-200 AOL) to T-172B!. James completed AOL early and has been meeting with us since December but the official crossover ceremony was held as part of the Pack Blue and Gold.



This month

We will start off March with our 2nd Scout Sunday at St Paul's. Scout Sunday is a service focused on the benefits of scouting and community service and is timed to coincide with Cub Scout Pack Blue and Gold celebrations of Baden Powell's Birthday on 2/8. Our Scout Sunday is a little later this year but it will still be just as impactful for the congregation to see and get to know the troop that they support.



Next up will be Josh Wood's Eagle Court of Honor on 3/7 at 12:30pm-2:30pm. Please join us as we celebrate Josh achieving Scouts BSA's Highest Rank! All Scouts are encouraged to attend (Class A with merit badge sash, note new scouts who have not yet earned a MB do not wear a blank sash).



The next day Crew 172 will hit the slopes at Shawnee Mountain for their Scout Weekend. This is a great opportunity for interested scouts to give skiing or snowboarding a try. Lift tickets, rentals, and even lessons are offered at a significant discount on Scout Weekends.



After a full weekend break (I know I couldn't believe it either), We will head to Camp Minsi in the Poconos and spend Saturday afternoon at Kalahari Waterpark. The PLC will finalize the trip plan soon, but I hear that Totin' Chip (required to carry a pocket knife) and Firem'n chip (required to be allowed to start or tend the fire) are on the schedule.

We will also welcome more Cub Scout AOLs into the T-172B and G this month. P-52 Crossover on 3/1, P-35 crossover on 3/19, and P-39 crossover on 3/26. Our Troops focus on both AOL and community recruiting. We encourage all scouts to talk to their friends and bring them to a meeting. The Recruiter badge is one of the most important in Scouting!

This Month (full [calendar link](#))

- 3/1 T-172 B&G Scout Sunday at St Paul's 10am-12
- 3/2 PLC and Patrol Meetings
- 3/3 Crew 172 Meeting

- **3/7 12:30-2:30pm Josh Wood Eagle Court of Honor**
- **3/8 Crew 172 Ski/Snowboarding Day**
- **3/9 Troop Meeting**
- **3/11 Troop Committee / Parents Meeting 7-8:30pm at TBD**
- **March 13-15 AND March 27-29, 2026 National Youth Leadership Training**
 - NYLT is an amazing leadership program for youth. Want to be a better leader? Do not miss NYLT! <https://www.wccscouting.org/nylt>
 - Scouts must attend both weekends: March 13-15 **AND** March 27-29, 2026
 - Registration is **closed**.
 - 1st eligible scout to register gets a \$150 Scout Account credit after completing the course, see your SM for details.
 - Don't worry NYLT will be back in the fall!
- **3/16 Troop Meeting**
- **3/19 Pack 35 Crossover**
- **3/20-22 Kalahari&Camp Minsi Weekend**
- **3/23 Troop Meeting**
- **3/26 Pack 39 Crossover**
- **3/28 St Paul's Cleanup**
- **3/30 PLC & Troop Meeting**

Long-Term Planning

- **7/12-21 Maine High Adventure**
 - We have 15 scouts and adults registered for this awesome adventure! That leaves us with several open spots for scouts who are still interested.
 - See SM Smith if you want to join us.
- **7/26-8/1 Goose Pond Summer Camp** - Registration is now open, see details on the events page.
 - 10 B and 4 G Scouts already signed up!
 - We truly hope that all scouts take advantage of this awesome summer camp experience. Camp is harder on the parents than the scouts.
 - This will be my 5th summer camp with T-172B and I am just as excited as our scouts are.
 - If you know you have a conflict, the RSVP includes an "I cannot attend" option
 - Promo video available here: <https://youtu.be/B38ljOGEyaw>
 - Summer camp sign-up is open. [Summer camp signup](#)

Future Youth Training

- ILST - Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops 6/7
 - All Youth leaders with fall roles are required to attend and participate in ILST on 6/7 at SM Smith's

Future Adult Training

IOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Skills 4/11-12

- This required training for Assistant Scoutmasters teaches you all you need to know about Scout advancement and the important safety rules.
- All new ASM leaders should complete IOLS within 6 months of registering. Does not need to be completed in our Council.
- <https://www.wccscouting.org/iols>

CPR/AED WFA 4/25

- All Day situational First Aid training for when help is >45min away.
- High Adventure trips require WFA training for 1-3 adult leaders depending on the trip.

WOODBADGE 2026 5/29-31 AND 6/13-14

- Want to learn how to best serve as a leader both in and outside of the Troop? Take Wood Badge! Don't worry, the songs aren't that bad.
- <https://scoutingphilly.org/leaders/training/woodbadge/>

Thank you for all you do to support Troop 172!

Yours in Scouting,

Bob Smith, T-172B Scoutmaster, Crew 172 Advisor

Rob Spruhde, T-172G Scoutmaster

Vidhya Jayakrishnan, T-172 B/G/C Committee Chair