



Troop Journal

A monthly publication for the scouts, parents and leaders of Troop 222

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Introducing the new troop newsletter

This is the first issue of the Troop Journal. It is a newsletter published by the Committee Members of Troop 222 to better inform every one of troop activities. The newsletter will be published on a monthly basis at the first Troop meeting after the monthly Committee Meeting (held on first Thursday of each month).

The newsletter will contain stories of past events, information on upcoming events, a calendar for the next 2 months and interesting articles related to scouting. Anyone is welcome to submit articles for the newsletter. Each patrol is highly encouraged to submit an article. You can email them to newsletter@aztroop222.com.

Vinnie elected SPL for a second term

Congratulations to Vinnie on his re-election to Senior Patrol Leader. He did a fantastic job in his first tenure and should continue in his second.



Troop 222 celebrates 25 years

It's hard to believe that Troop 222 is 25 years old. That means our troop was formed in 1984! With such a long life's history, certain traditions are formed. One of those traditions is to earn the Big G Gold award at

Camp Geronimo. This year is no exception. The troop has earned this award for 25 years in a row. Congratulations to all of the scouts and leaders who made this possible.

Committee member profile—Chris Cropley

Chris's first experience in scouting was as a Wolf Scout in 1975. Unfortunately the Pack dissolved before he could graduate to a Bear and dropped out of scouting. His next encounter with scouting was in 1987 when he became a Den Leader for a small pack. He stayed in this position for 2 years before he had to stop due to job relocation.

In 2003 he volunteered as a Bear Den Leader in Pack 824. He continued on with Pack 824 as a Webelos leader for the following two years. He began his career with

Troop 222 in 2006 when he crossed over with some of the Webelo scouts from his den. The troop utilized his computer skills to develop the troop's website (www.aztroop222.com).

Chris helps the troop by maintaining the website. This includes updating the calendar, posting photos and adding content. He also writes and gathers information for the newsletter. If you have photos that you would like to share, you can email Chris at webmaster@aztroop222.com

We need your Scout-O-Rama ideas

Our troop has secured a booth at Scout-o-rama on November 1. We need something that we can display and do in our booth. Put

your thinking caps on and come up with ideas in the next few weeks. Give your ideas to the SPL for consideration.

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A Scout is:

Trustworthy

Loyal

Helpful

Friendly

Courteous

Kind

Obedient

Cheerful

Thrifty

Clean

Brave

Reverent

4 scouts attend BSA Aquatics Summer Camp

Four scouts from our troop attended the BSA Aquatics camp this summer at Lake Pleasant. This is a 4-day program run by the Grand Canyon Council. The program only runs during the day, so the scouts were bused from various locations to the camp. The scouts who attended were Aaron, Jacob, Cody and Tyler. The four boys



each earned 4 merit badges: Canoeing, Rowing, Weather, and reptiles & amphibians. Cody earned Archeology instead of Weather which he already had. It was a great Experience and a very fun camp. It is highly recommended for all scouts who can attend next year.

Troop yard sale needs your help

The Troop will be holding a yard sale on September 6 to raise money for the general fund. Any donations of yard sale items will be greatly appreciated! We will also need help on September 6 to run the sale. Contact Wanda with any questions.

A Scout is loyal - A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation. Lord Baden-Powell once said that "loyalty is a feature in a boy's character that inspires boundless hope."

You might be a Boy Scout if....

- you spontaneously break into strange songs in public
- you carry your own toilet paper wherever you go
- you tie up your little brother...and he can't get loose
- you always cook enough food for twelve
- you help little old ladies...whether they want it or not.
- your neighbors hide when they see you going around the neighborhood with, "that order form"
- you have to go to the bathroom and you look for a buddy
- you collect used candles and dryer lint
- you always have hat hair
- your favorite color is "Olive Drab".
- you keep a bucket of water by your side while cooking dinner
- you roast mini marshmallows on a paper clip over a candle, put it on a golden graham with a shaving of chocolate," just to get the flavor"
- you open letters with a pocket knife

www.aztroop222.com





newsletter@aztroop222.com

On my honor
I will do my
best
To do my
duty to God
and my
country
and to obey
the Scout
Law;
To help other
people at all
times;
To keep
myself
physically
strong,
mentally
awake, and
morally
straight.

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10 excellent choices for backpacking foods

1. Jerky – Lots of protein and stays well for long periods of time
2. Bagels – compact, dense and keeps well for several days
3. Trail mix – store bought or make your own, great to eat on the trail
4. Ramen noodles – a quick, hot and inexpensive meal with lots of sodium
5. Instant soup – Warms you up on a cool evening, lightweight and easy to pack.
6. Dehydrated meals – Expensive item, but easy to prepare and fills you up.
7. Dried fruit – Healthy, stays well for long periods of time and tastes good
8. Instant oatmeal – A good hearty breakfast that stays with you.
9. Tuna – Lots of protein and great with crackers. Get the tuna in the foil pouch.
10. Energy bars – great way to keep up your energy levels while hiking.

Backpacking food Do's and Don'ts

DON'T bring canned goods – they are too bulky and heavy
DO remove any excess packaging – excess packaging = excess weight in your pack
DON'T bring perishable foods – if you do, eat them the first day!
DO bring high calorie foods – you will burn the calories while you hike
DON'T bring more food than you need – it adds unnecessary weight to your pack
DO bring a small trash bag – you have to pack out your trash
DON'T bring meals that require a lot of preparation – sometimes hunger can't wait!
DO choose foods with a high salt content – you need to replace what you sweat out

Troop calendar

Aug 11 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Aug 18 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Aug 25 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Aug 29 to Sept 1 – Grand Canyon Rim to Rim hike

Sept 1 – Labor Day – No Troop meeting

Sept 4 – Committee Meeting at Bill Johnson's Big Apple Restaurant at 7pm

Sept 6 - Troop yard sale at Georgia Micola's home

Sept 8 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Sept 12 to 14 – Lynx Lake Campout

Sept 15 - Court of Honor at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Sept 22 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

Sept 29 - Troop meeting at Deer Valley Middle School at 7pm

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As an
American I
will do my
best to:

Be clean in
my outdoor
manners,

Be careful
with fire,

Be
considerate
in the
outdoors,

Be conser-
vation-
minded.

Indian Gardens backpack trip report written by Chris Cropley

On August 9 & 10, five members of our Troop went on an overnight backpack trip to the Indian Garden campground in the Grand Canyon. The campground is 4.5 miles down into the canyon on the plateau that can be seen from the rim.

This was only my second backpacking trip and my first time hiking into the canyon. I was concerned that I would not be physically prepared for such a grand adventure. Two months before the trip I started hiking the hills of Thunderbird Park every day. Once I was able to hike it 2-3 times without trouble, I moved up to hiking North Mountain. I was able to hike the mountain twice in a row before the Grand Canyon trip. I was as ready as I was going to be.

The Grand Canyon looks spectacular from the rim, but it looks even grander from the within the canyon. The view changes as you descend deeper into the canyon. The bright angel trail is rocky and uneven from the wear and tear of the mules. I was constantly watching where I was stepping to avoid twisting an ankle or falling off the edge. I had to occasionally remind myself to stop and look around to admire the view.

After 2 hours of hiking we arrive at the campground. It is an oasis in the middle of the barren desert. There were large green cottonwood trees providing much appreciated shade. Green shrubs and bushes provide a little privacy between campsites. A variety of cactus reminds us that we are still in the desert. Each campsite has a picnic table, ramada and food storage boxes. The local wildlife will not waste any time getting to your food if left unattended for even a minute.

The afternoon temperature at Indian Garden peaked at 103 degrees. Everyone spent the

afternoon napping in the shade, regaining our strength from the mornings hike. Later in the day we explored the area, played in the creek and talked with other hikers. In the evening, a park ranger gave a talk on how the local wildlife survives in the wilderness. That night I slept on top of one of the picnic tables. A spotted skunk paid a visit to eat the few chocolate covered raisins that were left under my table (thanks, Vinnie).

We woke before dawn the next morning to get an early start on our hike out of the canyon. The sun had come up by the time everyone had eaten breakfast and packed up their gear. Not long after leaving the campground, the scouts started hiking in high gear and left Bud and I in the dust. We stopped many times to rest and catch our breath. It took us twice as long to get out of the canyon as it took to get in.

It was a fantastic experience and I will definitely do it again. The Boy Scout motto played a major part in my enjoyment of the trip. If you are prepared with proper training, hydration, food and equipment, you will have a pleasant experience. There are many stories of people who were not prepared and suffered for it. If you are planning on hiking the canyon for the first time, do your homework. Get advice from someone who has hiked it before and be prepared!



Do Your Best!

