



Nature Calls



16th Ajax Scouts
Newsletter

September – October 2011

Troop

Welcome to the 2011 - 2012 Scouting year for the Scout Troop at 16th Ajax. Meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm so please try to arrive by 6:50 pm.

Announcements



Please ensure youth bring a bottle of water and a pair of indoor shoes. The school has asked us to ensure Scouts do not wear their outdoor shoes in the gym in order to help preserve the floor.

Dues and Drop Off

Please note that dues are \$2.00 per week and are due to Patrol Leaders each night. Dues can be paid in advance. If you wish to pay for the entire year the total amount is \$72. Dues are used to fund normal operations of the troop such as badges, food for parties and some outings.

Please note the following:

- dues are payable whether youth attend the evening or not.
- dues are also expected for nights where activities are held outside of the gym but are collected the following week.
- Records will be kept by the Patrol so please stay current.
- dues that are more than two months in arrears must be paid before youth may attend camps.

Parents are requested to walk their youth to the gym. This is also an ideal time to sign up for camps and outings. Leaders are not able to take responsibility for youth for the

evening until there are two adults present so your youth may be asked to wait outside the school.

Activity/Camp Sign Up and Fees

Sign up and fees are due when stated in the newsletter. Generally, sign up occurs at least one week before an outing. Exceptions may be made but only as explicitly stated by the leader responsible. Advance sign up is required so that we can provide final attendance numbers and ensure adequate food supplies. Refunds may be available in case of illness only if the fees have not already been paid by the Troop or food purchased. Sign up and fees not received prior to an outing may result in the denial of attendance.

Meeting, Tuesday Sept. 6, 2011

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Full Uniform Requested

It's our first meeting of the year! Tonight parents are asked to stay for the very important information night. Scouts will be getting right into how to set up tents, and practicing this skill as teams. The evening will end with an activity and games to start the team building necessary for a successful year.

- **Final Sign up for Halibuton Training Camp, Sept 23 - 25 and camp fees of \$45.**
- **Sign up for Family BBQ on Sept 17**
- **Sign up for Cranberry Marsh Bird Box Clean Out , Sunday, Sept. 18**



**Optional Attendance
Bicentennial Butterfly Festival
Pickering**

Saturday, September 10th

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

Alex Robertson Park (west side of Sandy Beach Road, south of Bayly)

Help Environmental Stewardship Pickering create a pollinator garden at Alex Robertson Park. Witness the release* of 200 monarch butterflies in celebration of the City of Pickering's 200th birthday. This is a rain or shine event. *Butterflies will be released weather permitting



Meeting, Tuesday Sept. 13th

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

Activity Uniform

Team building and camp preparation will be the focus of this evening. We will also be learning about the origins of the Cranberry Marsh Bird Box Project that 16th Ajax Scouts is involved in each year.

- **Final Sign up Cranberry Marsh Bird Box Clean Out, Sunday, Sept. 18**
- **Final Sign up for Family BBQ on Sept 17**



Annual BBQ

Saturday Sept. 17th

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Greenwood Conservation Area, Glenview #1 Picnic Shelter (Flyer attached)

Full Uniform

Don't miss our annual 16th Ajax group BBQ! All Family members of registered Scouts are invited to arrive at 4:00pm for a barbeque and corn roast followed by advancement ceremonies for all 3rd year youth moving to the next section. We invite all family members to stay after dinner for fellowship around a rousing campfire. Come out and meet the leaders and other parents. Please refer to flyer and map included with this newsletter.

Cranberry Marsh Bird Box Clean Out

Sunday, Sept. 18th

**South end of Halls Road, map attached
9:00am**

Activity Uniform

Tuesday Sept. 20th

Troop Meeting

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

Activity Uniform

Tonight youth will participate in a presentation and learn how to pack for camp with a bunch of fun thrown in. Ideally youth should pack their own gear for each camp and we'll be teaching them what to bring and how to pack. Taking responsibility for their own packing builds confidence and helps ensure they have a terrific camp experience.



Haliburton Training Camp Sept. 23rd to 25th

Haliburton Scout Reserve

Arrive in Full Uniform

We are thrilled to be able to offer the youth the opportunity to participate in the Training Camp held at the Haliburton Scout Reserve. The camp fee of \$45 covers all meals during the camp, fuel costs, firewood if necessary, campsite costs, transportation (if applicable) plus any craft or skills materials. Please see the flyer attached.

Different skills will be taught to each of the different levels:

- 1st year** - Scout Basics (Axe, Saw, Knife, Stove and Lantern, and Fire Challenge)
- 2nd year** – Orienteering Basics and Challenge
- 3rd year** – Water Craft and Safety

There will be an award for the Best Group Site!

Tuesday Sept. 27th

Troop Meeting

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

Activity Uniform

The program will consist of a camp review, a presentation about building Bat Boxes.

- Sign up for Apple Days, October 14th and 15th
- Sign up for Night Hike, October 18th

Scout Popcorn Fundraiser

Scout Popcorn sales will commence in late September, early October. This is our major fund raiser for the year! Sales make it possible to provide great camping experiences.



Tuesday, October 4th

Troop Meeting

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

Tonight is Scout History Night. Why do Scouts shake hands with the left hand?

- Sign up for Apple Days, October 14th and 15th
- Sign up for Night Hike, October 18th

Tuesday, October 11th

St. Patrick's Catholic School Gym

Activity Uniform

Ultimately, Scouts set their own programming. Tonight youth will be learning about the different camps available to them and ideas they may want to consider for their own programming for a fun and successful Scouting year.

- Final sign up for Apple Day (October 14 & 15)
- Final sign up for Night Hike, Tuesday, October 18
- Sign up for Santa Claus Parade
- Sign up for Fall Camp, November 25 - 27

Friday, October 14th &

Saturday October 15th

Apple Day Days

95 Bayly Street, Ajax

(No Frills plaza, corner of Bayly and Monarch)
Full Uniform

Although not a fundraiser, but a long standing tradition for Scouts Canada, Apple Day brings in a substantial amount of donations in to our group.

There'll be hot chocolate and munchies.

The Scouts will be working in shifts, supported by Venturers, so be sure to sign up!





Tuesday, October 18th, Troop Hike to Tim Hortons

Meet at SouthEast corner of the Sobey's parking lot on Kingston Rd, west of Harwood.

6:45pm drop off

Activity Uniform and outwear

Tonight we'll be hiking from Sobey's to Tim Hortons on the corner of Rossland and Harwood. Pick up will be at 9:00 pm.

Make sure youth are properly equipped with good walking shoes (or boots in the case of wet weather), jacket or windbreaker, 16th Ajax Necker, hiking stick if one is available, small back pack with bottled water and change of socks, pair of mitts and a hat.

We'll be discussing proper gear, clothing, food and nature observations.

Saturday, October 22nd Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) Training

St. Andrew's Church on Church Street
Full Uniform

One day of training for those youth who are, or are interested in becoming, a PL or APL, or for third years that wish to improve their leadership skills, our Owasco Area Service team will be hosting a full day of training on how to be a successful PL/APL. If you are interested in participating, please speak to Scouter Gina.

Mark your Calendars! Upcoming Activities

Training Camp - Sept. 23 - 25
Family BBQ - Sept. 17
Cranberry Marsh – Sept. 18
Apple Day - October 14 & 15
Popcorn Sales Begins – October
PL/APL Training – October 22
Santa Claus Parade - November 12
Fall Camp – November 25 - 27
Santa Gift Delivery – December 3

Attachments

1. Sept. 17th, BBQ Flyer
2. Cranberry Marsh Map
3. Haliburton Training Camp Flyer



Contact Information

Troop Scouter

Ute Sack

Troop Counselors

Lori Dolan
Peter Sack
Gina Love

Please do not hesitate to contact any of our leaders if you have questions or concerns.