



TROOP 486 NEWS

A Publication of Troop 486, Glendora, California
San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America

February 2012 Volume 3 Issue 2 www.Troop486.net Steve Iiams, Scoutmaster

Essential Meetings

Our monthly **Troop Parent Meeting** will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, 555 E. Mountain View Ave., Glendora, on Monday, February 6, at 7 p.m.

Roundtable is where scouting parents share ideas about activities and leadership. This month, the meeting is Thursday, February 9, 7 pm, 251 S. Elwood Avenue, Glendora.

Webelos Day

Troop 486 scouts and adults participated in a successful Webelos Day December 17. Weather was in the mid-60s, cloudy, with drizzle. Fine gourmet freeze-dried Mountain House meals were enjoyed. Thirteen Webelos from **Packs 482, 490, 491, and 493** participated in classes on backpacking meals and stoves, trail etiquette, and fire-building safety.

Eagle Project



In photo above, Kevin V. coordinates his **American Red Cross Bloodmobile** donation drive in Glendora, December 30.

Rummage Sale

Mrs. Schubert will host our second annual rummage sale Saturday, February 25. Start collecting unneeded **tools, toys, lamps, furniture, clothing**. A big money-maker, profits will be applied toward accounts of scouts who help.

Weekend Outing

Mr. Bowers will be sponsoring the February 17-19 weekend for a troop outing. Traditionally, we plan a snow outing in February. Sometimes the weather works in our favor and sometimes not. From all indications, **we'll be setting off on a backpack** this year. E-mails to follow.

Merit Badges

Arcadia Wilderness Park is offering the following merit badges: **Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Soil & Water Conservation**. Contact the City of Arcadia at (626) 356-5309 or go online at www.ci.arcadia.ca.us.

The secret of sound education is to get each pupil to learn for himself, instead of instructing him by driving knowledge into him on a stereotyped system.

Robert Baden-Powell
Founder of Scouting



February Calendar

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 4 Citizenship in the Community MB, Arcadia Wilderness Park
- 6 Troop Parent Meeting, 7
- 7 Troop Meeting, 7
- 9 District Roundtable, 7 pm, 251 S. Elwood Ave, Glendora
- 11 Soil and Water Conservation MB, Arcadia Wilderness Park
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 No School, GUSD
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Troop Meeting, 7
- 16 Citizenship in the Nation MB, Arcadia Wilderness Park
- 17-19 Troop Outing, Mr. Bowers
- 20 President's Day
- 20 No School, GUSD
- 21 Troop Meeting, 7
- 22 Ash Wednesday
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 25 Troop Rummage Sale, Mrs. Schubert
- 28 Troop Meeting, 7

Trail Safety: Backpack Weight Distribution

The contents of a backpack must be balanced. Especially for long-distance treks, pack heavier items in the upper portion of the pack, centering the pack weight above your body where it's easier to carry (on easy-to-moderate tread). On the other hand, if off-trail and boulder-hopping, pack heavier items close to the back in the middle portion of the pack for better stability.

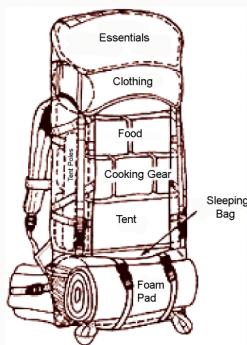
Strive for an even left-right distribution of weight, so that one side of the pack isn't heavier than the other.

Slimmer is better. When all packed, cinch down all compression straps and load stabilizers, in order to ensure a secure, stable load and a slim profile.

Remember, the fatter your pack, the farther you must lean forward to bring the pack's center of gravity over your hips.

Lastly, throughout your trip, ease the potential for strain by periodically adjusting the straps to shift the load.

Most importantly, the weight of a backpack should be placed primarily on your hips—not your shoulders or your waist. When you are fully loaded, comfort-test your pack—could you carry it all day long?



Excerpted from our free Troop 486 *Illustrated Backpacking Handbook*, downloadable as a .pdf file from www.Troop486.net.

Baden-Powell: “The Siege of Mafeking”

The most famous British action in the Second Boer War (South Africa, 1899-1902) was the Siege of Mafeking. A siege is a military blockade to cause the surrender of an army defending a city. Mafeking (MAH-feh-king) was a small town under siege by the Dutch.

Colonel Robert Stephenson Smith Baden-Powell, later the founder of scouting, was Commander of the Mafeking garrison. Outnumbered by 8,000 enemy Boer troops, 1100 soldiers under Baden-Powell withstood the siege of daily shelling for 217 days, defying predictions by both sides of their “certain” surrender.



Later to become one of the inspirations for the Scouting Movement—a cadet corps of about 50 boys aged 12 to 15 was recruited to act as messengers on bicycles during the siege. The work of the cadets released the men to fight. Boys were assigned ranks and given khaki Glengarry caps. The highest ranking cadet, Sergeant Major Warner Goodyear, age 12, is sometimes called the first Boy Scout.

Much of Baden-Powell's defense of the six-mile town perimeter consisted of cunning military deceptions. Fake landmines were laid in view of enemy spies. His soldiers pretended to avoid non-existent barbed wire. Guns and a makeshift searchlight (made from a candle and biscuit tin) were frequently moved around to increase their apparent number. The local people gave Baden-Powell a nickname, “Impeesa,” meaning “the wily wolf that never sleeps.”

And yet, in the gentlemanly military era of the day, Sunday cease-fires were negotiated with the enemy so that polo

matches, teas, concerts, and theatrical plays could be held. Mafeking established a daily newspaper in an underground printing press, and many of the articles poked fun at the enemy's ineffectiveness.

In the end, Mafeking was a decisive victory for the British and a crushing defeat for the Dutch. Promoted the youngest Major-General in the army at 44, Baden-Powell was treated as a national hero when he returned to Britain in 1903. When he began the Scouting Movement a few years later, his military fame contributed to the rapid initial growth of scouting.

Excerpted from www.Wikipedia.org and www.TokenCoins.org.

Gear Guide: Daypacks

Daypacks are ideal for carrying light loads over short distances. They are usually a small one-to-three pocket configuration suitable for carrying just essentials, water, and lunch. Even an inexpensive book bag is sufficient for a day hike.

General purpose daypack capacity ranges from 500 to 2,500 cubic inches. In daypacks of 3,000



cubic inches or more—for a long day of hiking—look for models with a framesheet and at least one internal stay. A padded hip belt and padded, contoured shoulder straps are also good to maximize comfort.

We may use a daypack in conjunction with a backpack as a way to leave behind most of our gear while conducting a side trip. A very light daypack can also double as a bear bag.

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