

Troop 839



KINGWOOD, TX

We're Going Places!

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APRIL 2019



Galveston Island State Park Campout A Huge Success!

Over 55 Scouts and adults registered for the short trip down the Gulf Freeway to Galveston Island State Park for a weekend of fun in the sun.

From fishing to catching crabs to playing in the sand, the Scouts of Troop 839 demonstrated Scoutcraft with their cooking and true Scout spirit with their enthusiasm on the beach. It was even reported that a few of our newest Scouts made good on their promise to earn their Scout rank on the campout. Way to Go!

Time to get ready for our next big adventure at Schlitterbahn in May!



For more great photographs, check out our [Facebook](#) page!



Advancement Tip #1

Requirement 1a for Tenderfoot states you must “present yourself to your leader, prepared for an overnight camping trip. Show the personal and camping gear you will use. Show the right way to pack and carry it.”

The best time to do this is when we are getting ready to leave for a campout. Seek out one of the Assistant Scoutmasters, have your book, and have your bag ready to knock out this easy requirement!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Following Scouts!

B. Avant	Scout	B. Frazer	Scout
C. Haycook	Scout	N. Knepper	Scout
H. Noe	Scout	C. Stzer	Scout
T. Patterson	Second Class	B. Ronk	Second Class
J. Yates	Second Class		
F. Hutchinson	First Class		
C. Johnson	Eagle		

A total of 26 merit badges, including 23 Eagle required merit badges, were also earned in April. Are YOU advancing?!?



May is here and that means three things:

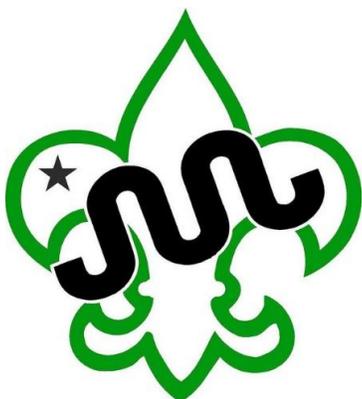
- 1) School is almost done!
- 2) Summer Camp is next month!
- 3) The May campout is a celebration!

So how are we going to celebrate the end of a fabulous Scouting year and kick off summer? By going to Schlitterbahn, of course!

On Friday, May 17th, we will be heading out to the Mays Family Scout Ranch in San Antonio to establish our base camp for a fun Saturday at Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels.

Why the Mays Family Scout Ranch and not Guadalupe River State Park? Easy! Our campsites are under construction. Being the good Scouts that we are, we just moved to another location. Easy Peasy!

Remember, you must be at least Scout rank to go. Also, because of the expense, all youth and adults are required to pay their half of the fees prior to the campout.





The call signs for all of our ham radio operators who took the February exam have finally been assigned by the FCC!

Your troop can now boast that you have 21 registered ham radio operators and three more who just passed their licensing exam! So what does that mean? Great question! It means that in an emergency, we have another way to communicate without having to rely upon cell phones (because they go out!). It means we have another way of communicating with people from around the world. It means we have started a new hobby that can last us a lifetime. It means that we can bring our radios on campouts and Scout functions, as they are the only authorized electronics on our campouts.

No cell phone? No problem! We just talk on the radio!

Interested in becoming an amateur radio operator? We hope so! Talk to Mr. deMasi, KC5NKW, or Mr. Godell, KG5VLY, and they will be glad to help get you started.



Happy Mother's Day to all of the Scout Moms! Without you, we couldn't do what we do, and whether we admit it or not, we need you!

Remember, behind every successful Scout is a mom who pushed, prodded, stressed, fussed, bribed, and everything else to help their Scout.

Advancement Tip #2: First Class requirement 5a says to "identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken."

Does this mean you have to memorize the plants? No! Make it easy on yourself and label your work. Not sure what you are looking at? Ask the Aggies!

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/index.aspx>

The purple crest we wear upon our uniform serves two purposes. First, it lets everyone know we are part of the World Organization of the Scouting Movement. Second, it reminds us, as Scouts, that every Scout is our brother or sister.



Newsletter Scratch N Sniff

Scratch this spot, and it will smell like a real newsletter!

Medical Forms Are Due!

For all Scouts and Adults who wish to participate in Troop 839 activities, you must have a current health form (Parts A & B) on file with the troop. If you are attending summer camp as well, you will need to have Part C as well as Parts A & B. If you are attending summer camp, you will need to turn in TWO copies of your medical form with current health insurance cards. With over 170 registered youth and adults, it isn't practical for the troop to photocopy every medical form. We appreciate your help with this!

"April was such a full month, and it was a blast. It's always great to see eager Webelos join our troop and learn new skills at orientation camp. From sunburn to sandcastles and everything in between, the campout at Galveston was a whole lot of fun: a new hit with the scouts in our troop! I can't wait for next month, with our visiting speakers, Natural Bridge safari, and Schlitterbahn coming up!" – Luke Kabbell



April was another big month for our Troop! We began by welcoming 18 new members followed soon after by an orientation class & campout. Then our Troop had fun swimming, fishing, and playing in the sand at Galveston Island S.P. In addition, the Troop participated in the Scout Fair, completed an Eagle project, and celebrated two new Eagle recipients during their Court of Honor not to mention all of the rank advancements and Merit Badges obtained. Overall I'd say it's been a pretty good month! – Mr. Elliott



Summer Camp Helps and Hints for Scouts and Adults!



Summer camp will be here before you know it. After the Schlitterbahn campout this weekend, the program during the troop meetings will be geared towards what to bring to camp. Invariably Scouts and parents forget, lose their notes, or aren't able to attend the meetings.

Pictures from Troop 839's 2017 summer camp trip to Hood Scout Reservation in Mississippi are here: <http://troop839.com/PicturesofOurActivities/2017Pictures/tabid/136/AlbumID/633-192/Default.aspx>.

Want to mail a care package to your Scout? Many parents do! It is a great way to send things that can make camp just a little more enjoyable, such as batteries, non-chocolate candy (because chocolate will melt!), a clean pair of Scout socks, or deodorant. Some parents have sent blow-up water toys or the like (just ask Oliver Russell! For a more comprehensive list of ideas, parents are encouraged to attend the parents' meeting during the troop meeting. You can ask parents of older Scouts what has and has not worked. Most parents don't tell their Scouts about a package, just in case the post office doesn't deliver the package in time. Be sure to send your packages before the Wednesday that camp starts. The mailing address for the camp (located on Parent Annex Page 1 of the Leaders Guide, is:

Scout's Name: _____

Troop 839

Hood Scout Reservation

8065 Old Port Gibson Rd

Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Here is a suggested list of items to bring to camp:

Complete Scout Uniform (Class A) – worn to and from camp and at all evening meals

Toiletry Articles (soap, shampoo, toothpaste with brush, shaving gear, deodorant)

T-Shirts	Shorts and/or Long pants	Swim Suit	Extra Underwear and Scout socks
Hat/cap	Extra Shoes or Boots	Poncho or Rain Gear	Notebook and Pencil or Pen
Scout Handbook	Washcloth or Loofa	Watch	Flashlight
Pocket Knife	Spending Money	Mosquito Net	Sleeping Bag or Sleeping Gear
Personal First Aid Kit	Battery Powered Fan	Towels	Cot
Combination lock	Trunk or Footlocker	Shower/Swim Shoes	See-through Nalgene water bottle
Pillow	Woobie (yes, it is okay!)	Gold Bond	Bug Repellent
Clothes line	Clothes pins (wood)		

A word about sleeping gear: It can be a bit muggy in Mississippi in June. Many Scouts use a twin sheet folded in half to sleep in and other Scouts have used a sleeping bag liner. Mosquito netting is very helpful. A battery powered fan and extra batteries (you can mail the extra batteries) are practically a must!

While some things are a must, some things just don't go well with Scouting. The following items are an immediate call home for a Scout to be picked up (per camp rules):

No Sheath Knives No Firearms or Fireworks No Pets

A plea from the adults in camp...

Parents, please talk with your Scout before camp about how to apply Gold Bond. It is understood they don't think they will need it. It is understood they will be embarrassed when you talk about it. It is also against BSA policy for any adult to help a Scout apply Gold Bond. If, as a parent, you are unsure how to properly apply Gold Bond, please ask one of the adults before your Scout goes to camp. It will be far less embarrassing that way. A helpful hint: putting Gold Bond into the sleeping bag and doing an impersonation of Shake N Bake is not recommended. Just sayin'

A word about electronics...

Cell phones are great to have on the way to camp and on the way home. During camp they will be locked and in the Scoutmaster's possession. Scouts WILL NOT have access to their cell phones, laptops, desktops, iPads, tablets, MP3 players, iPods, CD players, cassette decks, telegraph machines, or other electronic device while in camp. The only exception at this time are the ham or amateur radios used for two-way communication. All of the licensed ham radio operators know the rules, and are aware this privilege may be revoked if abused.

A Few Helpful Hints from Older Scouts and Their Parents

- Bounce dryer sheets in the dirty clothes bag help the smell. It will NOT eliminate it.
- Every Scout will shower at least twice. Beyond that, it is up to the Scout.
- A clean pair of Scout socks every day is expensive, so wear them at dinner only and wear regular socks during the day.
- Accept the fact that your Scout will bring home clean clothing. Not because they washed, but because they never put it on. Especially underwear.
- One pair of Scout shorts and two pairs of Scout Socks are NOT enough for a week at camp. They need more.
- A clean t-shirt and fresh socks in a gallon Ziplock bag for every day is a good idea. Put a Bounce dryer sheet in it. Your Scout can then put their dirties in it. (Hey, we can dream, right!)
- Label EVERYTHING with your Scouts FIRST and LAST name, including CLOTHING!
- Make sure the Scout fills out the personal information in the Scout book.
- Take pictures of their rank accomplishments in their Scout book before camp so you will have a record of what they have already accomplished after they lose their book (because they didn't put their name on it).
- While at camp, \$5.00 per day for spending money is plenty. On Friday give them a little more in case they really, really want that 'whatever it is' from the Trading Post that they Must Have. Two years ago the slushies in the Camp Hood logo cup cost \$5.00 each. One a day was great.
- Remember they will be stopping for lunch on Sunday going to camp and on Saturday coming home from camp. Saturday money will need to be provided along with the rest of the week's money.
- Your Scout cannot call you from camp. No news is good news!
- Do not send anything to or with your Scout that you don't mind losing forever.
- If the bug repellent doesn't have 100% DEET, it won't work, unless it is the all-natural stuff. Bugs are attracted to Off and Deep Woods Off, and they eat it like candy.
- Two years ago Camp Hood went live on Facebook for every morning and evening assembly. Search for Camp Hood on Facebook and follow them. Here is their current Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HoodScoutReservation/>. Moms loved watching to see their Scout.
- Don't expect a letter from your Scout, but send a stamped and addressed envelope anyway. Miracles can happen!
- One garlic pill a day starting now will help minimize ticks. No, they don't smell. No, they don't have any flavor. Yes, it works better than nothing at all. No, we won't tell you who tested this theory.

- Sulfur powder is great if you know how to use it. It is a waste of money if you don't, or if it gets wet. And it will get wet.
- If your spouse is going to camp, they need a care package, too.
- Tent pads are 8' x 8' or so. A tarp works great in keeping things from falling between the cracks of the wood tent pad. If it falls through the crack, it is gone forever.
- The dumb question is the question you didn't ask.
- All of these hints apply to the adults as well. Even the next hint. Seriously.
- When your Scout gets home, have them open their footlocker outside first. Let the clothing and contents air out. Trust me on this one.

This picture is from Hood Scout Reservation, and shows what their tent will look like.



If you want to read the Camp Hood Leaders Guide, it can be found here: <http://www.bsa-jackson.org/outdoor-programs/summer-camp/39998>.

The troop is in search of photographs from April's Troop Leader Training and Orientation Campout along with photographs from Scout Fair. If you have photos from either of these events, please E-mail them to troop839tx@gmail.com. Thank you!

The recent flooding in Kingwood should serve as a reminder that every Scout family needs to have an emergency plan for all types of emergencies. In addition to the emergency plan, we need to check in with one another. Patrol Leaders need to reach out to their patrol members to make sure everything is okay, and then the Patrol Leaders need to let the Senior Patrol Leader what is going on. We are a Scouting family, and families have to help their own!