



# Troop 23 – Hot News

## August 24, 2020

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### **TOMORROW! - TROOP KICK-OFF EVENT:**

Our first Troop Meeting will be Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrentville. This will be a Class B uniform event. Scouts must wear a mask or buff/neck gater, and practice social distancing guidelines.

The meeting will include a hot dog dinner, some canoes and kayaks, fishing (if scouts bring poles), Frisbees, Jenga, etc. Advancement for First Class if scouts want to work on something. Scouts may also bring blue cards to turn in and/or get signatures from Counselors or the Scoutmaster. Most importantly, this will be an opportunity for the Troop to talk about what future meetings the scouts would like to see.

### **ADVENTURES & ADVANCEMENTS AT SUMMER CAMP 2020:**

In keeping with 2020's theme of unprecedented times, this year's Summer Camp was unlike past years and yet it was still a resounding success! Troop 23 was proud to continue Camp Freeland Leslie's trend of providing Scouts with a great outdoor experience, all while keeping them safe and giving them a much-needed break from their everyday world. Among the many new safety precautions, Scouts and adults were tasked with maintaining social distancing and wearing face coverings whenever they were within six feet of one another. Together they met that challenge with the determination and success that are the signatures of Troop 23. To read the full recap visit: [Adventures & Advancements at Summer Camp 2020](#)

### **ADULT VOLUNTEER HEALTH FORMS & YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING:**

All Troop 23 adult volunteers must be 1) current with their BSA-required Youth Protection Training (YPT) and 2) have a current YPT Certificate on file. In addition, adult volunteers should also have a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B with a copy of both sides of your insurance card) on file with the Troop. Health forms accompany the Troop to events that are not held at First Presbyterian Church (campouts, daytrips, service projects, etc.); and, help us to ensure the best possible medical care for you in the event of any emergency. The forms can be found here:

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_ABC.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf)

Adults who need to provide updated YPT Certificates and Health Forms received emails requesting this documentation on Monday, August 17. Printed copies of certificates and completed forms can be turned in at troop events. Or, images of them can be sent by e-mail to [judez21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judez21@sbcglobal.net). If you have any questions; please contact Judith Zapf, T23 Membership/Forms Coordinator at [judez21f@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judez21f@sbcglobal.net)

### **TROOP 23 SCOUTS HEALTH FORMS:**

Scouts must have current Annual Health and Medical Records on file with the Troop. This includes a one-page part A, a two-page Part B with an immunization record, and a copy of both sides of the Scout's Health Insurance Card. Forms are at [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_AB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf). Families of Scouts whose forms have expired received emails requesting these updated forms. The forms can be turned in at troop events or e-mailed (along with any questions about health forms) to [judez21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judez21@sbcglobal.net), T23 Membership/Forms Coordinator. If your Scout has decided to no longer participate with Troop 23, please reach out to Jeff Jeffers at [frankejefers@yahoo.com](mailto:frankejefers@yahoo.com).

### **SCOUT INFORMATION UPDATE:**

We are currently in the process of updating our Scouts' grade levels and school information in Troopmaster. Please review the list found here: <https://troop23wheaton.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Troop-23-Scout-Grades-and-Schools.pdf>. If your Scout's grade level and school information is correct, no action is necessary. If his grade level and/or school information is incorrect, please provide the correct information to Judith Zapf at [judez21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judez21@sbcglobal.net). Thanks in advance for your help.

### **AVAILABLE SERVICE PROJECTS:**

While it is challenging at this time to find opportunities for Scouts to participate in service activities, the following projects are open to all scouts. These are considered Conservation Service Projects; they have to do with preserving natural habitats, preventing soil erosion, removing invasive species, conserving water, etc. Because of current COVID-19 limitations, large groups cannot work together. Family groups are encouraged to participate in these events.

#### Elmhurst Great Western Prairie Volunteer Workday

Third Saturday of the month – Sept. 19; Oct. 17; Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-noon

Berkley Avenue at Illinois Prairie Path

The Elmhurst Great Western Prairie is a small, long and narrow remnant of native black soil eastern tall grass prairie. It contains several geologic features with corresponding plant communities. The site is an important birding and butterfly habitat and has been designated a major Monarch

Butterfly Waystation by <http://monarchwatch.org>.

Most workdays involve cutting and clearing brush. Volunteers should wear durable work clothes. Scouts and families can visit the website: <https://www.epd.org/elmhurst-great-western-prairie> and sign up on their own. The Elmhurst Park District requires all participants to complete and sign a liability waiver and fill out a volunteer sign-in sheet.

#### Lambert Lake Redevelopment Project (Glen Ellyn)

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-noon

Lambert Lake was built, as part of a storm water retention system. Previously a swampy area, used by locals as a dumping area, the lake and all the surrounding landscape were crafted using the available fill, much of it containing building & demolition materials (concrete, bricks, etc.). The goal for the Lambert Lake Preserve is more correctly termed as a re-creation of what a landscape and lake like this might have been like in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Each scout will need to have a parent or guardian present for the entire time. To sign up, Scouts can send an email to [LambertLakeRestoration@gmail.com](mailto:LambertLakeRestoration@gmail.com). All volunteers will be required to complete a waiver.

### **NEW TROOP 23 MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS:**

We have updates to our Troop 23 Merit Badge Counselor List. Note the following:

- Ms. Carlson has been added as a Personal Fitness Merit Badge Counselor.
- Mr. Herr has come on board as a Merit Badge Counselor for Chess, Digital Technology, Fishing, Fly Fishing, Home Repair, Programming, Scouting Heritage, and Theater.
- Mr. Zedan has joined the ranks of Merit Badge Counselors for Communication, Game Design, Model Design, and Building, and Pioneering.
- Mr. Busse has added Camping and First Aid to the list of Merit Badges he covers.

THANK YOU Ms. Carlson, Mr. Herr, Mr. Zedan, Mr. Busse, and all our Merit Badge Counselors! We appreciate your support. It is especially helpful when Scouts are turning to Merit Badges for interesting and engaging ways to spend their time. An updated Merit Badge Counselor List was provided by email to Scouts ranking First Class and above. Troop 23 is always looking to add adults to its Merit Badge Counselor List. For more information on become a Merit Badge Counselor, visit: <https://troop23wheaton.org/about/happenings/2020-adult-volunteers-merit-badge-counseling-overview>

### **CALENDAR UPDATES:**

Check here <https://troop23wheaton.org/about/happenings/2020-calendar/> for the current schedule.

### **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AND/OR FEEDBACK, PLEASE CONTACT:**

- Jeff Jeffers, Scoutmaster at [frankejeffers@yahoo.com](mailto:frankejeffers@yahoo.com)
- Brian Dunbar, Committee Chairman at cell: 501.554.0016