



Troop 23 – Hot News

March 9, 2026

TROOP CALENDAR:

For the full calendar, visit <http://troop23wheaton.org/>

- 03/09- Monday, 7:00-8:30 pm Troop Meeting
 - 03/16- Monday, 7:00-8:30 pm Troop Meeting
 - 03/20-03-22, Friday-Sunday Campout – Greene Valley
 - 03/23- Monday, 7:00-8:30 pm Troop Meeting
 - 03/30- Monday, 7:00-8:30 pm **NO** Troop Meeting
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ANNUAL PLANNING CONFERENCE:

Our annual Planning Conference, extended this year and including leadership training, will be April 11-12 at Von Oven in Naperville. We expect to alternate planning sessions with training and fun. Please attend if you are:

- Patrol leader
- Assistant PL
- Want to be a PL, SPL, ASPL in the next 6-12 months
- SPL staff
- Willing to help teach a short session or two

Note PL/SPL elections are April 6. If you cannot make the entire time, please come when you can. By rule the gate will be unlocked while we're there. The Troop will pay for food. Because of the American Legion Pancake Breakfast service project, we currently anticipate starting at 11 am Saturday, and ending late morning Sunday.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4BA4AD2FA0FD0-62663002-troop>

AMERICAN LEGION PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

The American Legion Pancake Breakfast Service Project fundraiser is also Saturday, April 11. A signup form will come later. We'll have two times: 7am-10am / 10am-1pm. In order to accommodate those attending the Annual Planning Conference, we are asking those not attending the Conference to sign up for the *later* (10 – 1) time slot.

MERIT BADGE RESOURCES:

Registration is open for Merit Badge University 2026. This MBU will be on Saturday, May 2 at Camp Big Timber in Elgin, Illinois. Details on the schedule, cost, etc. can be found here: <https://scoutingevent.com/127-MBUCBT>. Scouts should contact Mr. Yates for badge approval.

Scouting America offers great online resources for merit badges and is available for free to all Scouts. You can find merit badge pages and PDFs for all badges, as well as digital resource guides for many badges. You can find all these resources here: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/> (scroll down to bottom of page merit badge resources).

MAY CAMPOUT:

We're looking for 1) new (2026-27) AOL or Webelos dens to join us at our May campout, and 2) any level den interested in having one of our Scouts serve as a den chief.

UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

March will be "on your own" for volunteer opportunities. Please see the link to the DuPage County Forest preserve workdays. This is an excellent opportunity to get volunteer hours, specifically conservation volunteer hours! Use this calendar link to sign up: [DuPage County Workdays](#) March workdays are as follows:

- March 14th 8:30-11:30AM Churchill Woods
- March 14th 9AM-12PM Fullersburg Woods
- March 15th 8:30-11:30AM Churchill Woods
- March 15th 1-4PM Springbrook Prairie
- March 21st 9AM-12PM Willowbrook, Maple Grove, Springbrook Prairie, and Wayne Grove

Make sure to document your hours in your scout handbook. Mrs. MacKinnon will sign the hours in your book and log them into Troopmaster. In addition, we have many Life Scouts actively working on their Eagle Projects who will need help from fellow scouts. These hours can be logged as volunteer hours toward your rank. This is an excellent opportunity to support your fellow scouts while learning more about organizing and planning an Eagle Project.

PARENTS OF TROOP 23 FACEBOOK PAGE:

Troop 23 parents and families – if you are on social media, please make a request to join our Troop's Parent Facebook page! This is a great place for updates, info, and to connect with other Troop 23 families. Families new to Troop 23 are especially encouraged to join! Link to the Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1240415152659151/>

ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Troop 23 has the following Adult Leader opportunities open for all looking to get more involved in Troop 23:

Wreath Sales Coordinator - We need a volunteer to be our Wreath Sales 2026 Coordinator. This is a fun, and festive, opportunity to help the Troop manage its biggest annual fundraising project. Tasks include updating and printing the sales flyer and order forms, collecting orders, ordering wreaths from the suppliers, and distributing the wreaths to Scouts. Our prior coordinator, Carrie Olsen, will be available to help get you started and outline all that's required.

Hot News Coordinator – Looking for a way to support Troop 23, but aren't able to fit weekly Troop meetings and other events into your schedule? Hot News Coordinator may be for you! We are looking for a volunteer to prepare and distribute the weekly Hot News. Tasks include compiling updates into the weekly newsletter document and distributing it electronically each Sunday. Periodic/interim communications are occasionally needed. Time commitment is roughly 1-2 hours each week. Contact Ruth Lange ruthlange@yahoo.com with any questions if you are interested.

HOT NEWS INFO:

Have some information for the weekly Hot News? Please forward the details of your news item to ruthlange@yahoo.com by Noon on Sundays and it will be included in that week's issue.

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

Steve Yates, Scoutmaster at steve@srtware.com

Jeff Jeffers, Committee Chair at frankejeffers@yahoo.com 630-456-5043