



Troop 23 – Hot News

September 13, 2026

TROOP CALENDAR:

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

• 09/14	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting, Wreath Kickoff, Parent Meeting
• 09/15	Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm	Committee Meeting, Adult Leaders and Parents
• 09/21	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 09/25-27	Friday - Sunday	Campout – Yellowstone Lake Wisconsin - Site 206
• 09/28	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 10/1	Thursday, 7:00-8:00pm	TLC – Troop Leadership Council
• 10/5	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Court of Honor/Meeting
• 10/23-25	Friday - Sunday	Campout – White Pines
• 10/26	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Halloween Party

WREATH KICKOFF PARENT MEETING:

Apologize for the late notice but wreath kickoff is this Monday.

- **Parents meet at 7:00**, likely upstairs in Stewart Hall
- Scouts will receive training and last year's sales receipts for follow up/recurring sales
- Scouts and parents are welcome to ask questions at any point: patrol, PL, wreath coordinator, etc.

TRAILER HITCH?:

We're looking for help to pull the trailer on the September 25th campout, and possibly other campouts this fall.

SUMMER CAMP MERIT BADGE "HOMEWORK":

Scouts who need to submit Summer Camp merit badge "homework" can use the following submission link:

<https://n8n.northernstar.org/webhook/homework-submission>

Submissions for all requirements will be accepted through October 15th. From October 16th through December 1st, only a limited number of requirements will be accepted for submission. Please be sure to submit completed requirements by the applicable deadline.

SCOUT DUES:

You may have received an email from Scouting America regarding membership renewal. National sends these notices approximately two months before a Scout's membership expires. Annual dues for the 2026–2027 Scout year are \$175 per Scout and are due by September 21st. These dues help support the national and council Scouting organizations. A subscription to *Scouting* magazine is optional and costs an additional \$15.

Dues can be paid through the Troop by Zelle at troop23camps@gmail.com, check payable to BSA Troop 23, cash, or using the Scout's Scout Account. Mr. Smith will accept payments at Troop meetings.

These dues are the same membership renewal fees referenced in the email from Scouting America. If you pay through the Troop rather than directly to Scouting America, the Troop will take care of the membership renewal on your behalf, and you will not have to pay a credit card processing fee.

We do not want financial concerns to prevent any Scout from participating in the Scouting program. If the membership dues are a financial difficulty for your family, please contact Ed Smith confidentially to discuss available assistance. If your Scout does not wish to continue with Scouting, please let Mr. Smith know.

News for **2027/2028**: Scouting is moving all members and units back to a common renewal date, in February 2028. We've been told members will renew for one full year this year, then next year in 2027 will renew for a partial year through February 2028.

ADULT DUES:

Adult registration dues of \$77 are paid by the Troop. To complete the Troop's registration for the 2026–2027 Scout year, all adult leaders must have current Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT), formerly known as Youth Protection Training (YPT), through November 1, 2026.

If your SYT expires before November 1st, please complete the required training before September 21st so we can process the Troop's registration renewal on time. You can check your current SYT expiration date by logging into your [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) account.

TROOP PROGRAM FEE:

The Committee lowered the annual Troop program fee to \$350 for the 2026-2027 Scouting year. The Troop typically collects this in late fall as our wreath sale fundraiser ends, and Scout Accounts are credited.

SHELF BUILDING DAY 2:

Thank you to our helpers, Brian Dunbar, Rick Busse, John Yates, and Steve Yates!

HONOR FLIGHT WELCOME HOME:

Join us for a special **Welcome Home** celebration at Cantigny honoring our senior war veterans. Scouts should arrive at the Visitor Center at 3:30pm in Class A uniform.

When entering Cantigny, let the gate attendant know you are attending the *Welcome Home* event. Scouts in uniform may also receive free admission to Cantigny. Please see the email last week for additional details.

HONOR FLIGHT MAIL CALL:

Scouts are encouraged to write a letter or card thanking a veteran for serving our country and helping preserve our freedoms. Cards should be mailed to Honor Flight Chicago and arrive by September 30th. Please see the email last week for the mailing address.

- ❖ This would also make a great Patrol meeting activity and an opportunity for Scouts to work together while showing their appreciation to our veterans.

INSURANCE CHANGE:

If your Scout's health insurance changed, please provide a copy of the new card for our records. Please include images of the front and back, and send in three copies if it will continue through summer camp.

SERVICE PROJECT - AS GOOD AS GOLD:

Please note: September 26 is a Troop campout weekend.

If your Scout is not attending the campout, there is an opportunity to volunteer at the annual picnic for *As Good As Gold*, a Golden Retriever rescue organization, at St. James Farm.

Volunteers can help with setup, cleanup, and activities during the picnic, which may include helping care for the dogs while their owners get food. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers can sign up for two-hour time slots, but even an hour of service would be appreciated if that works better with your schedule.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E48A9AB22A5FE3-65020946-volunteer#/>

FREE ITEMS AVAILABLE

We have a few items found in storage that we would like to offer to our members before they are discarded or recycled.

- * Gun Locks: Approximately 40 available.

Please contact Steve Yates if you are interested in these items. Items not claimed will be discarded or recycled.

WREATH SALES COORDINATOR

Susan Yates (susan@jevyates.com) graciously volunteered to be an interim wreath sales coordinator but would like assistance.

HOT NEWS INFO:

Have some information for the weekly Hot News? Please forward the details of your news item to

camthai@gmail.com by Noon on Saturdays and it will be included in that week's issue.

HOT NEWS UPDATES FOR SEPTEMBER:

Please forward Hot News updates for the month of September to Steve Yates (steve@srtware.com) from September 12th – 27th.

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