



Troop 23 – Hot News

October 12, 2026

TROOP CALENDAR:

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

• 10/12	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 10/17	Saturday morning, 2 shifts avail.	American Legion Pancake Breakfast (signup board)
• 10/19	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 10/20	Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm	Committee Meeting, Adult Leaders and Parents
• 10/23-25	Friday - Sunday	Campout – White Pines
• 10/26	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Halloween Party - \$5 for pizza and drinks
• 10/26	Monday	Wreath Sales Due
• 11/2	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 11/5	Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm	Committee Meeting, Adult Leaders and Parents

WREATHS:

Contact is susan@jevyates.com. Scouts can turn in receipts+money at any meeting on or before Monday, October 26. All assistance verifying money+orders is appreciated.

Attention Scouts – if you have order forms you do not need, they bring them to the troop meetings to Mrs. Yates.

WREATH ZELLE PAYMENTS:

A spreadsheet with Zelle wreath payments the troop has received is [here](#). It will be updated about once a day. When accepting payments with Zelle, be sure the customer writes the Scout's name in the note in the Zelle app.

If customers are having trouble, ensure they scan the QR code from inside their bank's app (open app > Send Zelle > "scan QR code to pay with Zelle" or similar), as per the flyer.

TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING – FAMILY TROOP MEETING DISCUSSION:

NOTE: We will discuss converting to a family troop, meaning, to admit girls. As of early this year Scouts BSA allows mixed troops instead of separate troops. If you cannot attend or would prefer confidentiality, please share your views/questions/concerns with [me](#) and/or [Mr. Jeffers](#). We can share them anonymously in the meeting if desired.

National's PDFs, which include some Q&As/guidelines/rules:

[Family-Troop-Decision-Guide](#)

[Family-Troop-Best-Practices](#)

(ignore any references to "merging" troops, which does not apply)

Joining info: <https://teamits.il.3cx.us:5001/meet/3b1cd35eed775aed2613b725b09ed03ffe289ca9> - from Chrome or Firefox

Or dial [\(630\) 596-1161](tel:6305961161), PIN: 4117508

On your smartphone, download the:

Android [<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.tcx.webmeeting>] or

iOS [<https://itunes.apple.com/app/3cx-webmeeting/id1039756959>] app

2026-27 CONSENT FORM:

Hello T23 Families! It's the time of year when we ask for signed consent forms as we prepare to recharter our Troop's affiliation with Boy Scouts of America through American Legion Cantigny Post 556. Please print, sign, and

return the form to the Registration/Advancement table at Monday night meetings on or before **Monday, October 26**. Direct questions to T23 Membership and Forms Coordinator Ashley Dockery at aly234@yahoo.com. The form is online at troop23wheaton.org/consent-form/.

SCOUT DUES:

You may have received an email and/or text from Scouting America regarding membership renewal. National starts sending 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 or text 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. Mr. Smith can be contacted at troop23camps@gmail.com.

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.

SERVICE PROJECT – AMERICAN LEAGION FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

The American Legion Fall Pancake Breakfast at Cantigny is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026. This is a Class A event and ALL scouts are encouraged to sign up for a shift. Scouts can sign up for one or two shifts. Sign up boards will be at our upcoming Scout meetings. Shift One: 7-10AM and Shift Two: 10AM-1PM. Please see [Mrs. MacKinnon](#) if you have questions. Please sign up for shifts on the Troop 23 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1240415152659151/permalink/29055334760740483/>

SERVICE PROJECT – CONSERVATION SERVICE HOURS:

Scouts needing conservation service hours, please check out the DuPage County Restoration Workday calendar using this link: [Fall Restoration Work Days](#). Due to the nature of the work, a parent will need to attend the workday with the Scout. If you take part in a workday, please give Mrs. MacKinnon the following information to be recorded into Troopmaster: date, location, and brief description of work completed.

SERVICE PROJECT – MITCHELL JOHNSON EAGLE PROJECT PRESENTATION:

Please join Mitchell as he presents his eagle project, a wooden candle altar, to the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1st. Services are at 9:00am and 11:00am. The church is located at 802 E Geneva Rd in Wheaton. Consider wearing your Class A uniform to support him.

OKPIK - COLD WEATHER CAMPING TRAINING:

As discussed at the 9/14 meeting: <https://scoutingevent.com/127-Okpik2627>

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.

2026 UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING – NOVEMBER 14:

November 14, 2026; 8:30am – 3:30pm; Sycamore High School, Sycamore, IL. Cost: \$20.00

Check out this opportunity for adult direct contact leaders, committee members, recruitment volunteers, and parents! Den Leaders, OA members, SPLs and PLs are also invited. Each participant can choose five 50-minute training courses in their area of interest from a listing of over 100 courses. This is a way to revitalize your energy and heighten your skill level as we move Troop 23 forward. Information and enrollment can be found at

<https://scoutingevent.com/127-ATTENDEE26>.

Youth Training: Learn about leadership roles such as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Den Chief, and Order of the Arrow (OA) Lodge Officer. **Registration is free before November 8.** [Youth Information and Registration](#)

Adult Training: Explore the available courses and training opportunities. Troop 23 will reimburse the adult registration fee.

[Adult Information and Registration](#)

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.

HIGH ADVENTURE - SUMMER 2027:

Save the date – Troop 23 High Adventure planning for sometime after July 11, 2027.

DEN CHIEFS NEEDED:

Cub dens of all levels can benefit from having a Den Chief! Scouts can develop leadership skills while earning requirements toward Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. Interested Scouts should speak with their Patrol Leader (PL) or contact Mr. Yates for more information.

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.

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