Troop 23 – Hot News
November 9, 2026

TROOP CALENDAR:
For the full calendar, visit http://troop23wheaton.org/calendar/

• 11/9	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 11/14	Saturday, 8:00am-5:00pm	TFC University of Scouting Training
• 11/16	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 11/17	Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm	Committee Meeting, Adult Leaders and Parents
• 11/21-22	Friday-Saturday	Campout - Johnson's Mount (Tentative)
• 11/23	Monday	No Troop Meeting
• 11/30	Monday, 7:00-8:30pm	Troop Meeting
• 11/30	Monday	Luge Ticket Money Due for January Campout
• 12/3	Thursday, 7:00-9:00pm	Troop Leadership Council
• 12/5	Saturday, 9:00am	Fallen Heros Wreath Laying

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 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 – 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.

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

JANUARY CAMPOUT:
Luge ticket money is due Monday, November 30th for January campout for those who want to luge. Please see separate email send Oct. 22nd for additional information.

January 16-18 (Saturday to Monday/MLK Day) the Troop will cabin camp at Owasippe Scout Reservation, in Michigan, for our Winter Sports campout. Sunday, we will go to the nearby Muskegon Adventure Park which includes one of the four ice luge tracks in the US.

Tickets to luge are **optional** and include training, sled, helmet, and pads. There are also "day" passes to buy on site, to ski, skate, and/or snowshoe ($10-40), or a free sledding hill (sled rental $3, or bring one).

Park Luge Rules:
All participants must have a health insurance policy and sign a waiver upon purchasing tickets. Participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by a legal guardian and must be accompanied by an adult. All participants will be asked to weigh in on scale that will privately confirm your body weight to our check-on staff. The ticket purchase is responsible for confirming all participants comply with our weight and height guidelines. Refunds will ***not be offered*** *if a participant does not meet weight or height requirements.*

Size Requirements
- *Minimum height: 48"*
- *Minimum weight: 65 lbs*
- *No maximum height or weight limit*

The online waiver link will be provided after the Troop purchases the luge tickets, so parents can sign before the trip.

Payment of **$79.50 per person** is due in advance, by **Monday November 30**, to our Treasurer, Mr. Smith, via cash, check, or Scout Account. First come, first served, since the park has a limited number of tickets in each time slot. The Troop will purchase tickets ASAP after that meeting. This fee includes their per-ticket processing fee.

We may need to use more than one 2.5-hour window on Sunday Jan. 17, depending on the group size and available tickets.
It is **not required to purchase a luge ticket**. Scouts who don't wish to luge can participate in any other activity there, including the sledding hill, or observe the luge run.

The park refund policy after ticket purchase:

- Over 21 days in advance: 75% refund
- Under 21 days: 50% refund *if* they resell your ticket

Alternatively, a Scout may sell their spot to another Scout.

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