

TROOP 315
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

October 11, 2007

Dear Great Unaka District Troop Leader:

Greetings to all Scouts and Scouters. It's time for the Unaka District Merit Badge College. Again, Troop 315 will be hosting this year's event.

DATE Saturday January 5, 2008

**TIME 8:00 am ... Check-in and opening ceremony (Note: 8:00 am Time)
3:00 pm ... Closing**

LOCATION Mars Hill Presbyterian Church, Athens, TN

FEES \$10.00 per Scout or Explorer
Fees include: lunch, patch, and handout materials
There (may) be adult leader training this year.
This is subject to change. Information coming by November Roundtable

FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THE REGISTRATION FORM
NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE TO SCOUTS WHO FAIL TO ATTEND
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: B.S.A. TROOP 315

DEADLINE Registrations must be returned postmarked by Sat. December 15, 2007. Rosters will close after that date.

And one last reminder, we will start at 8:00 am this year!!!!

Scouts will be assigned their choice of merit badge classes on a first-come-first-serve basis... so ... please return your registration form AND fees as soon as possible. This improves your Scouts chances of getting the classes of their first choice. Remember too, some classes are limited to a small number of participants. Only paid Scouts will be signed up for classes.

EACH UNIT MUST HAVE A LEADER ATTEND THE SEMINAR ALL DAY. This, of course, is for safety and emergency reasons. Leader help in transporting scouts to the “off-site” merit badge locations, and during lunch delivering food will be appreciated!

Attached is the registration form to sign up for the merit badge classes. **Please list 5 choices of merit badge classes, in order of preference, for each Scout.** List the choices on the registration form by using the code for each class.

Some merit badges will have requirements that cannot be completed at the seminar. These requirements may be completed prior to class and brought to class **OR** may be completed in the home troop later. Likewise, be sure to check out the Advanced Preparation next to the Merit Badge...and Be PREPARED!!

An “incomplete” will be issued to Scouts stating which requirements were not finished at the seminar. **Attendance only, in a merit badge class, does not guarantee passing any requirements for the merit badge. Participation is a must.**

Some merit badges will require an additional fee for extra materials. Check the listing under the advanced preparation column for costs. **Extra fees must be brought to class and paid to the merit badge counselor.**

Some merit badge classes will require a minimum class size. After the closing date, classes with too few participants will be cancelled and those Scouts will be reassigned to other classes of their choice.

ALL SCOUTS ARE TO ATTEND THE MERIT BADGE COLLEGE IN THE COMPLETE REGULATION SCOUT UNIFORM ... (at least as much of it as the Scout has).

It has been shown many times that Scouts in uniform, whether it be at troop meetings or special events, the events go better, are enjoyed more, and significantly benefit the Scouts, Scouters, and Scouting in general. Scouts need to bring pen and paper too.

And lastly, the scouts attending **Must have read and be familiar with the Merit Badge Booklet.**

This year, I have added three new Merit Badges. Please take note of these, especially since we are offering (4) Eagle Required merit badges. The new merit badges are:

CP Crime Prevention
GE Genealogy
FL* Family Life (* Denotes an Eagle Required Merit Badge)

There are some Requirements for these Merit Badges that **MUST** be completed before the Merit Badge College date. Please make sure that your scouts read the merit badge booklets and complete the required Advance Preparation.

Also, for those scouts taking the (AV) AVIATION Merit Badge, please take note that the fee has increased to \$30.00. This is to cover the increased aviation fuel costs.

After the closing date for registration, I will notify the Scoutmaster of the classes that each of the Scouts will be taking. There are several things that must be done for the Scout to get the maximum benefit of the class. These include:

1. The Scout should get the merit badge pamphlet and read it thoroughly.
2. Research and prepare any reports asked for in the requirements.
3. Requirements that need time spans will not be handled by this program unless:
 - a. The Scout brings the finished work to class
 - b. The Scoutmaster certifies the completion

Mail registration forms and payment back to:

**Joe Mishtal, ASM Troop 315
1001 Valley Drive
ATHENS, TN. 37303
You may also Fax them to me at 423-746-5159**

**ANY QUESTIONS, CALL ME @ 745-2351(Home) OR 423-506-1588(Cell)
Or email me at jpmstar@msn.com**

