

# Troop Committee Message

Jeff Stone & Jim Matson

Once again this year, Troop 608 **Scouts** have the **opportunity to attend two summer camps**. We will **embark on a high adventure trip to the Florida Sea Base in December**. We continue to offer opportunities for service to our community with Eagle Scout and other community service projects. We provided service to three Cub Scout Blue & Gold banquets in February. In addition, approximately 20 of our scouts and a handful of leaders will have the opportunity to attend the 2005 National Scout Jamboree in Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, later this summer.

The Scouting program our troop is able to offer to our youth is made possible by the efforts many people. We have an outstanding troop and a tremendous pool of resources, which allows us to offer a program, which is second to none.

Those who were able to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Adult Leader Retreat on February 5 learned that one of the goals we have for Troop 608 is to strengthen and improve our troop committee. The troop committee is the executive board of the troop. The primary job of the troop committee is to encourage and support the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters in carrying out the troop program. The committee handles and supports the infrastructure that is needed to maintain a good program, such as records, newsletters, advancement, and troop equipment. It is our job to ensure that the monthly campouts and outings, planned by the boy leadership, happen. The troop committee determines troop policy, and ensures that the troop is operated in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America and our chartering organization, The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

**As a parent who has one or more sons in Troop 608, you need to know** that parents are strongly encouraged to become active adult participants with our troop. Many of our parents are serving as Assistant Scoutmasters, fewer are serving as Troop Committee Members, and many are not in any position within the troop. In order to be successful, Troop 608 needs involvement from all of our parents. We have established a goal to strengthen the troop committee. In order to accomplish this goal, we feel that we need to make it easier and more convenient for you to be a part of the troop committee. For this reason, we have made some changes in the organization and structure of our troop committee.

Troop committee meetings are now held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, from 7:00 until 8:30 PM, during the troop meeting, in the meeting room of the Sacred Heart Cathedral parish hall. Scheduling our meetings during this time allows parents to avoid having to commit to an extra meeting day in order to become involved. **The next troop committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2005. All of our current committee members and interested parents are encouraged to attend!**

The Troop Committee will identify specific areas where assistance is needed. Instead of just asking individuals to serve as troop committee members, we will identify specific areas where assistance is needed and provide specific responsibilities and duties for each position. This will allow you to know exactly what is expected of you as well as alleviate the situation where few people are attempting to accomplish the work of many.

Thank you for investing your time in Scouting, and, specifically, in Troop 608. We look forward to working with you as we endeavor to strengthen our troop committee in support of a strong program for, and led by, our Scouts. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact one of us.