

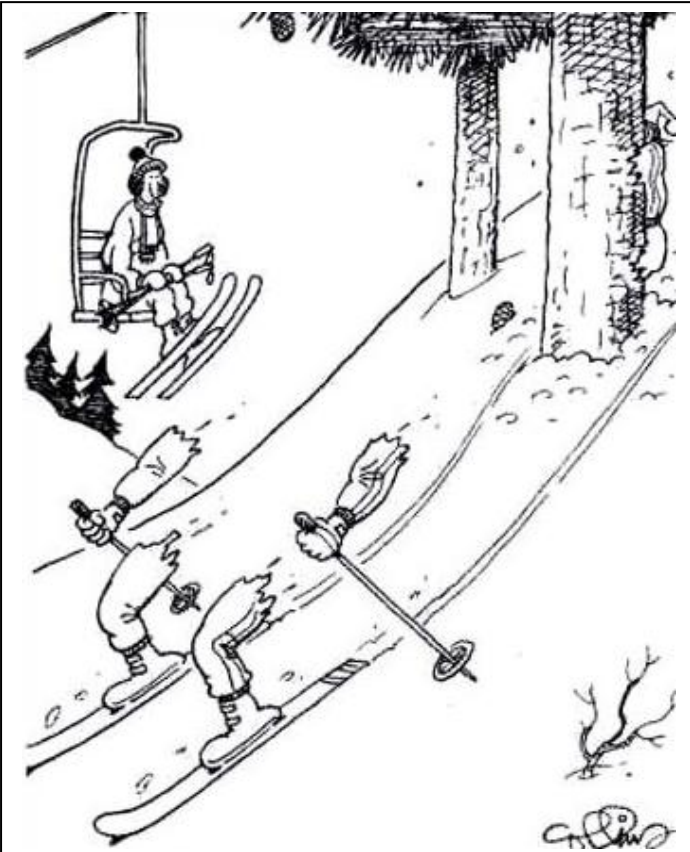


Scout-O-Gram

Troop 344

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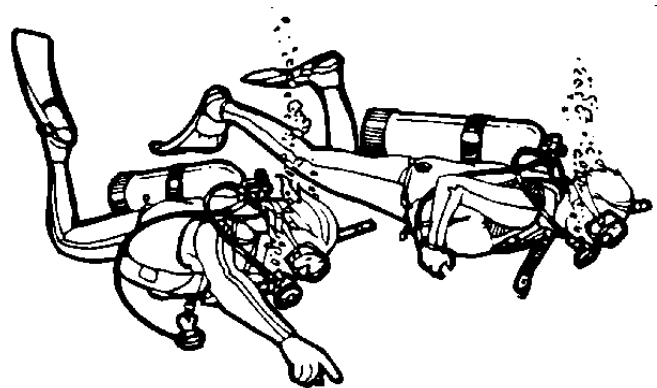


Holiday Valley Ski Trip

On Friday, January 29, 2016 members of Troop 344 will be embarking on a weekend ski trip to Holiday Valley Ski Resort in western New York. The Troop will be renting Dawson lodge at Camp Merz, a Scout camp located near Mayville, New York. Dawson Lodge has accommodations with two dorm rooms (10 & 24 each), furnace heat, showers, restrooms, full kitchen, meeting hall, and a gas fireplace. Scouts wishing to attend must fill out and return the ticket form and permission slip with their money by Tuesday, January 12, so that we can make appropriate plans for transportation and food. Costs for the weekend trip will vary depending upon the equipment a person needs. If your Scout already has or can borrow ski equipment, he will just need to pay for food/gas expenses and a lift ticket.

Lift ticket prices: \$54/adult \$40/junior (ages 6-11)
Skis/Snowboard Rental: \$27/\$29 adult \$21/\$25 junior
Helmet Rental: \$5.00
Gas, Food, and Lodging: \$40/person

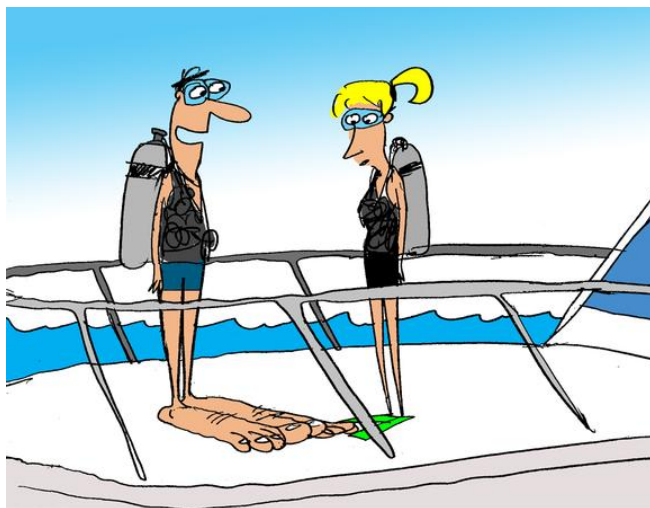
Maximum costs for juniors (ages 6-11) should be \$110.00 plus meal money for on the way home. Maximum costs for adults should be \$128.00 plus meal money for on the way home. All fees must be paid by January 12, 2016 for us to get the discounted rate through the ski resort. **Anyone paying after this date may incur higher rates.** All participants should eat supper before we leave.



High Adventure 2016

Troop 344's high adventure experience next summer will be a scuba diving certification and adventure to Crystal River, Florida. The dates for the trip are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 9 through Sunday, July 17, 2016. Scuba certification begins with **completing** a home study course (materials provided). We will use Scout meetings to help the Scouts complete the home study course. In Florida there will be two days of diving (all equipment provided) with a certified instructor. Those two days will include five confined water dives in a pool and four open water dives in fresh water springs. Upon successful completion of this class individuals earn a PADI international Open Water Diver certification that never expires. Scouts age 12 to 14 will receive a PADI Junior Open Water Diver card which is labeled qualified to dive when accompanied by another

certified diver who is of legal age or a PADI Pro. Age 15 and older receives a PADI Open Water Diver card. **Note:** A Junior Open Water Diver certification card can be upgraded at age 15 or older so there are no longer age-related restrictions while scuba diving. All Scouts will also earn their Scuba Diving merit badge. After we get scuba certified we will do additional dives in one of the local crystal clear spring fed rivers which have up to 200 feet of visibility, snorkel with manatees, swim in the Gulf of Mexico, and kayak for a day on the Chassahowitzka River. Scouts must be 12 years old by July 10, 2016 and have the rank of Star to be eligible for the trip. Parents may join us provided space is available. Priority will be given to registered Scouts and the adult leaders of the Troop. Estimated cost for the 8 day trip is **approximately \$750**. The costs include the scuba classes and certification, all scuba/snorkeling equipment, transportation, lodging, food, and kayak rental. Space for the trip is limited. We are requesting that any interested individuals make their \$100 deposits as soon as possible. If your family is having financial difficulties that makes placing a deposit or paying for the trip difficult, please call or talk to the Scoutmasters privately to see what options are available. We do not want any Scout denied this opportunity due to finances. Once we have the total participant numbers and all reservations are made, the final cost of the trip will be set. A final payment schedule will be provided at that time (probably early February).



"I used to be self conscious about my giant feet. But, they've been a real asset since I started scuba diving."

Website Members Area

To log in and access the Members Area of the Troop website you must have a user name and password. Each Scout's username is their first initial and last name (no spaces). Their password is their numeric birthday. For example, if the Scout's name was Joe Scouter and he was born on July

6, 1998, his user name would be jscouter and his password would be 070698. Please check over your Scout's information to make sure that it is all correct. Any inaccuracies should be brought to our attention so that they may be corrected. You can print out a Troop phone list from the reports section of the Members Area. **In addition, please go over your Scout's individual history (also found in the Members Area of the Troop website) on a regular basis and continue urging him to make progress.** The younger Scouts can come prepared to any meeting ready to check off on their Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class requirements. We have several older Scouts and adults in attendance that can accommodate them. Participation in Troop outings can help as advancement opportunities are built into these events. Some activities the Troop has planned do have a rank requirement and working on advancement continuously will help ensure the scout's ability to participate. The key point is that the Scout must want to advance. We provide the opportunities for advancement; the Scout must take the initiative.

TroopMaster Mobile App

TroopMaster Mobile is a free mobile app for **Android, iOS and Windows Phones**. This app will allow leaders, parents and scouts to access scout and troop data via a mobile device without the need of a constant internet connection.

TM Mobile Instructions:

1. Download and Install TM Mobile from your app store.
2. Open app on your device and click 'Settings' from the toolbar and enter your settings from below.
3. In the app go to 'Sync' screen and click the 'Sync' button

TM Mobile Settings:

Server: troopmasterweb1.com UserID: (Your ID)
 Customer: 010022 Password: (Your Password)

Upcoming Events of Note

We have prepared an online calendar which covers the Troop's activities for the next year. Please check the Troop website frequently for any calendar updates. The following are upcoming events. Additional information including times, locations, and driving directions can be obtained from the calendar on the Troop website.

January 29-31, 2016

Snow skiing at Holiday Valley, New York

February 5-7, 2016

Winter Weekend at Camp Miakonda

February 27-28, 2016

Camp Alaska, Location TBA

March 15, 2016

Summer camp deposits of \$75 for Camp Berry due

