



Scout Master Minute by Sam Harris

Scouts, you have hopefully begun working on your gift lists for this year. I would expect you to start with gifts for others. The best gifts are things you do or that you make, even if they are not expensive or expertly crafted. Gifts from your hands and heart are the ones your family will cherish over time. Few of us truly need more “stuff”. Set a bit of your free time aside to help the less fortunate. There are many families in our community who are in need, and your help can mean a lot, costing you no money. In this way, you are equal to anyone else, no matter how mature or blessed with possessions and money.

But it’s the list of things you might ask for that I have in mind today as I write this. Your list may have started with things you want but can’t afford, or something special. A new game, a bike, a cell phone, a musical instrument. You’re going to think I’m clueless, but here’s a list with things more valuable than stuff.

Dear folks, while it’s great to get stuff, what I want most this year is:

1. Your time and interest. Get involved in our troop. There is so much to be done, and it’s worthwhile for me and for you. (I saw the adult leaders having fun once, but don’t tell them you heard it from me.)
2. Responsibility to do more things for myself, along with guidance, forgiveness and patience when I don’t

do it right at first. It’s not the easy way, it’s the right way.

3. Useful things. I’m old enough to know that a bunch of toys are not going to give more than temporary satisfaction. How about a piece of camping gear, or that missing uniform part? (Synthetic thermal underwear is a gift I’ll use in the near term, for sure.)
4. For you to teach a merit badge class. Your profession and hobbies are in the list if you look for them. It makes me proud, seeing you up there as the expert.
5. High expectations. Discipline with love, and guidance, even when in my inexperience, I don’t understand or agree.

If you receive any of these gifts, you are a lucky guy. Trust me. If you use your ability to give to others, you are even luckier.

Mr. Harris



Getting involved, patience, forgiving, being responsible, and helping others are key gifts for happiness.

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THE QUINN HOUSE

Signs and Wonders
The Quinn House
120 So. Perry Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
Troop 648



Thanks for all your donations!

this year. This has affected the donations this year, but we praise God for your interest, your love and your gifts that enables us to continue our missions here.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us here at THE QUINN HOUSE, I'd like to thank you all for your wonderful donations this year. We truly appreciate your donations that has enabled us to help out so many in Gwinnett County this year.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers as this has been a slow year for us in terms of donations. There are more folks that are in need

Thank you again for your donation of all the things

you collected including the \$50.00 for the needy in the area.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL! The staff and residents all send a very special **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

Sincerely,
Gene Brinkley– Director

Dustin Austin and Daniel Karasek-Being Thankful and Noah Carlson-Being funny

Even though Thanksgiving is in November, we should always think about what we are thankful for.

"I am Thankful for friends, family, Scouting, emotions, holidays and for living in America."

Dustin Austin

"I am thankful for my family and friends" - Daniel Karasek

Let's keep these thoughts in mind as we enter 2009!

Noah is such a witty Scout who likes to joke around so he was happy to share this joke.

What did the turkey do to the stuffing?

He gobbled it up!

Here's another fowl joke from Boy's Life.

What side of the chicken has the most feathers?

The outside!

Track Rock by Shelby Gillentine and Daniel Poland

Article by Shelby Gillentine

I made at least three requirements in one day on my first campout at Track Rock. I am a new Scout in Troop 648 and I am having a blast. The weather was freezing at Track Rock. The food I made was good. We made corn beef hash for breakfast. Everyone liked it. A lot of Scouts got to go on the zip-line, but I didn't because I was too busy. We encountered snow, rain, and hail. I had a lot of fun on the horse ride. I rode a black and white horse named "Buttons". I hope I can go on the next trip and have the fun I had on the previous trip.

Article by Daniel Poland

What I liked best about Track Rock was riding the horses and hanging out with my friends even though it was wet and cold!

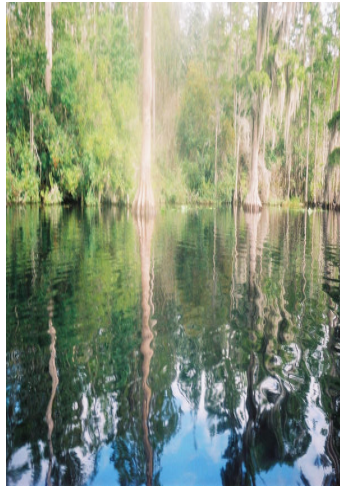


The weather at Track Rock may have been cold, but the boys endured it and had fun anyway!



OKEFENOKEE SWAMP BY BRANNON BOOTH

As I eased the canoe into the water, I noticed the canoe gradually tipping. In a last attempt, I tried to equalize the balance of the weight, but I could not stop it from reaching it's inevitable fate. Unfortunately, my canoe had been packed incorrectly. All of my gear was soaked for the weekend, but that didn't stop me from having an awesome time! Nicky and I led the troop much of the way through the swamp as we paddled to our destination. What started out as



The swamp was a great adventure.

a dismal trip turned out to be the highlight of my month.

Please see the pictures of the swamp on the website. Thank you Jason Conrey for sending the pictures in.

Merit Badges

If you are interested in starting a merit badge you will need to talk with Scout Master Harris about the merit badge you want to begin and ask for a blue card. You will also need to find out who the merit

Merit badges can be fun and turn into great hobbies!

badge counselor is in our troop or find out who is a merit badge counselor for the merit badge you want to earn. You will need to meet with the merit badge counselor to discuss your requirements. To find out more about merit badge requirements go to www.meritbadge.org.

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Congratulations to James O'Brien on his rank of Second Class.

Congratulations to Darren Austin on his rank of Star.

Great job James and Darian!

Please let Mrs. Hummel know if you have received a new rank since November 2008 and I will post it in the next Trading Post.

Congratulations to our Pop Corn Winners!

Jon Hummel \$1500- 1st place

Jaylen Robinson \$1000- 2nd place

Matthew Cruthers \$500- 3rd place



Thanks for all your hard work!

Thank you to all the boys who sold popcorn to help raise money for the troop.

Thank you also to Mr. Jeff Cushion who did a great job organizing the Popcorn Fundraiser and planning a pizza party for the boys who sold popcorn.

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3324 Medlock Bridge road
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Sam Harris- Scout Master
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Please see our website for all the updates on camping trips and other activities. Pictures are also located on the troop website.



Do your Best!

THANKFUL THOUGHTS ALL YEAR BY Mrs. Hummel

I know that we have celebrated Thanksgiving and are recovering from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season and now we are looking ahead at 2009. Before we embark on what may be a cautious New Year, let's rewind to Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the blessings we have as Americans. Our forefathers, who first came to this country, sought freedoms and a new life. Because of their vision and desires to create a better life for themselves and generations to follow, we have a great and beautiful nation in which to live.

People look at today's gloomy economy, political changes, environmental concerns, etc. and ask if America will survive and prosper.

If we would just step back in time and remember the hardships those first settlers had to en-



Be thankful for each sunrise we have and the beauty of America! Picture from the Fowler farm.

dure such as little food, harsh winters, disease, and the death of many that first year, we can surely overcome the trials we are faced with today.

So give thanks, not just at Thanksgiving, but everyday for the many blessings you have. Blessing such as a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a glass of milk. Food that you eat in your heated kitchen

which has a refrigerator to keep your milk and jelly cold and the bread you conveniently bought at a grocery store.

As you reflect on these thoughts, think of how you can help others who are less fortunate, not just during the holiday season, but throughout the New Year!