



# MAHICAN DISTRICT

## Mahican Smoke Signals

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### District Director’s Message

Amanda Schmidt  
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### The Ingredients for a GREAT Scouting Year!

That’s right my Mahican friends, **FALL = SCOUTING.** September marks the start of the new scouting year and EVERY unit should be a buzz about how to get this year off and rolling RIGHT. There are some key ingredients in doing so:

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** Every pack should set a Join Scout Night rally and be planning where to recruit from. Please contact JSN and Membership Chair, Sue Haener for further details and instructions at [shaener@comcast.net](mailto:shaener@comcast.net) or 734-771-1428.
2. **EVENTS:** Boy Scout Troops should keep the summer fun of camping alive at this year’s Fall Camporee at Historic Fort Wayne. Registration is open on <http://glcscouting.org/mahican/index.html> and you can contact Adam Jewell for more details at [eagle48146@hotmail.com](mailto:eagle48146@hotmail.com). Cub Scout Pack should plan a fun activity to get the hoards of new scouts that they’ll recruit at their fall rallies excited about joining. Plus, it’s a great way to get the new cub’s parents excited and involved too!
3. **POPCORN:** It is the ONLY fundraiser that is directly targeted to the Boy Scout of America! With new incentives, online selling refined, and tasty new products, SELLING POCORN is BETTER THAN EVER! Contact Stephanie and David Flournoy at [mahicanpopcorn@yahoo.com](mailto:mahicanpopcorn@yahoo.com) for more details.

### Editor’s Thoughts - Changing the Shift

Every summer, while our youth are having fun at camp, we end one Scouting year and begin another. This is a time when we routinely shift people around on the District staff. Some of the changes are minor, some, like changing the District Commissioner, are really major. This summer Marla Zebarah came to the end of her term of service and Lou Pezet smoothly stepped in. Having worked with both of them I can say that they are two of the most competent and likeable Commissioners that I have known in 20 years as an adult Scouter in what are now five Councils.

The Ultimate Scouter, to me, is a member of the Commissioners Staff that when things are tough says to the Professional Scouter, “Put me where you need me the most.” Then they go in and do what needs to be done.

Marla is an Ultimate Scouter. At a time of great personal stress she stepped up to the plate for a District in crisis and supplied the hit that brought the folks on base across the plate. She managed Three Rivers District through the complete re-organization of the DAC Commission staff. She came to bat again when the CVC and DAC were merged and again supplied a solid hit. Lastly, when Three Rivers and Huron Districts were merged she proved her steadiness at the plate doubling the size of the new Commissioner’s Staff. Marla, who never wanted to be a Commissioner, went 3 for 3 at bat, for an average of 0.999. In my league she is truly a Distinguished Commissioner.

Our obsession is, and must be, to deliver the best possible Program to make real the Promise of Scouting to our youth. No one is more essential to this goal than the District Commissioner and their staff. *Vale* to Marla and *Ave* to Lou.

**See you at Roundtable on September 8<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Calvary Lutheran Church,**  
**3320 Electric Ave, Lincoln Park**



I would like to thank everyone in the Mahican District for allowing me to serve as your District Commissioner. I have met some really wonderful people over the last 2 ½ years.

When I was first asked to serve, I was rather scared. I had never served on the Commissioner Staff before; my late husband had been the Commissioner in the family! However, I decided that I would take up the challenge, and knew someone would let me know if I wasn't doing the job the right way!

I have learned SO much about both Scouting and myself while doing this job. I have been through both a Council Consolidation and a District Consolidation. There have been some rough spots, but I feel I have done some good overall.

Lou Pezet will be the new District Commissioner. He was District Commissioner for the Three Rivers District before becoming Assistant Council Commissioner serving the South Service Area (which included both Huron and Three Rivers).

I will still be around. I haven't quite decided yet what area of the District I want to inflict myself on yet, but will be available to anyone who needs my varied knowledge.

Yours in Scouting,  
Marla Zebarah



## District Commissioner's Comment

Marla Zebarah

[marlazebarah@comcast.net](mailto:marlazebarah@comcast.net)



**THANK YOU MARLA!**

See at Roundtable 7:00 PM Thurs Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Calvary Lutheran Church. 3320 Electric Ave. Lincoln Park





## District Chair's Moment

John Savage jsave123@comcast.net

### HELP WANTED!!

Do you know someone (including yourself) who would be a good addition to one of Mahican District's committees? We need more people to help with our job of supporting YOUR Pack, Troop, or Crew. If you can suggest someone, please send me their contact information. Remember, the person you suggest does not have to spend a lot of time on District work. With many hands we can make light work for everyone. Everyone is welcome, including those who are leaders in our units. Please think about the people you know and suggest a name or two!

**Who:** District Committee Members and Commissioners

**What:** People to help on Activities, Training, Outdoor Adventure, Membership, Finance, Commissioners, etc. Both workers and leaders are needed.

**When:** Now – Right at the beginning of the new Scouting Year

**Why:** To help YOU give the best Scouting experience to your youth.

**How:** Email John Savage (jsave123@comcast.net) and suggest someone you think would be a good addition to our Mahican staff. This could be anyone you know who can help in some area of the district.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the District Committee meeting at WCCC Downriver on Northline Rd ½ mile west of Allen Rd, Thursday Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7PM in the multipurpose room.

John Savage,  
Mahican District Chair



Don't forget Roundtable!  
7:00 PM Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

Calvary Lutheran Church, 3320 Electric  
Ave, Lincoln Park

Change is Here!

Sue Haener is our new Mahican Membership Chair

She wishes to pass along this information on Join Scouting Night

### Scouters

**The Most Important Night of the Year in the Life of Your Unit is Coming Up  
Join Scouting Night!**

**Cub Scouts – This is the Night That Can Make or Break Your Pack  
Boy Scouts – Build a Strong Troop by Building A Strong Pack**

It's the most exciting time of year... Membership drive!

Mahican District pulling together, working towards a common goal.

We look to sign up 12 new Cub Scouts per Pack - an attainable goal.

This is enough boys to start a Tiger den to fill in open spots in your existing Dens.

Personally I think 15 new Cubs per Pack is a nice round number.

I attended Day Camp and saw the excitement, achievements and fun our Cub Scouts had.

My only thought was we need more Scouts!

One hundred and one years after its founding, Scouting is needed more then ever.

There is still time to get the materials and information you need to run a successful

**Join Scouting Night.**

Below is a link to the Great Lakes Council **Join Scouting Night** home page. There you will find links to support materials to make your Pack grow.

[http://www.glcscouting.org/SchoolNight/SN\\_Materials.html](http://www.glcscouting.org/SchoolNight/SN_Materials.html)



**Cub Masters, Scout Masters, Commissioners, JSN Coordinators  
PLEASE plan on attending Roundtable.**

**If one person can make such a difference what difference can a team make?**

**Sue Haener Membership Chair 734 771 1428 shaener@comcast.net**

**ROUNDTABLE: 7:00 PM Thurs Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Calvary Lutheran Church, 3320 Electric Ave, Lincoln Park**

# Fall Camporee – Historic Fort Wayne



## Participant Events:

*Horse Shoes, Needle in the Fort, Running Hoops,  
Checkers Tournament  
Displays of Canons, Flags, and Old Time Photos  
Demonstrations of Cooking and Black Smith Shop  
Tour the Tuskegee Airmen Museum  
Learn about American Heritages and Cultures*

**Each Troop should bring their troop flag. Every morning a Flag Ceremony will be performed. We would like each troop to leave their flag up all day.**

*Hello Troops of the Mahican District!*

*The Fall Camporee is only 1 month away, September 30th - October 2nd at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. In case you didn't hear, there will be a Civil War Reenactment during on Saturday (here's the best part!) your boys will be a part of the reenactment! 2 or 3 boys from each troop will be able to participate, see requirements below. The reenactment is tentatively scheduled for 3:30pm, family and friends are welcome to come for the Reenactment ONLY. Parking is \$5 per car.*

*I am looking for help with the cooking demonstration. Do you have a favorite dish or recipe you love to cook? At the Fall Camporee you'll have the opportunity to share it with hundreds of scouts! Instruct the boys and involve them (when appropriate) in preparing, making, and cooking the dish, giving the boys a real hands on experience! Of course, sample the dish too! Currently one station is scheduled, homemade apple sauce. So, if you know how to bake bread, cook corn on the cob, or any other dish, please sign up to help give the boys a delicious experience and opportunity they will not forget!*

*A reenactment, cooking, displays, games, and so much more! Don't miss out on this year's EPIC Fall Camporee!*

*To avoid late fees, please sign up before Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> on Doubleknot.com*

*Yours in scouting,*

*Adam Jewell*

**Each troops can send 2-3 scouts to be part of a Civil War Reenactment!**

## Requirements:

1. SPL and Scoutmaster from each Troop choose the Scouts that will participate.
2. Scouts must be mature (Attention to Drill is Mandatory)
3. Each Scout will wear a Civil War Uniform supplied by Historic Fort Wayne
4. Each Scout will train from noon on Saturday until the start of the reenactment (approximately 3:30 PM on Saturday)
5. Scouts must be able to listen to and follow instructions from the Re-enactment Leaders.
6. Family and friends are welcome to come down to Historic Fort Wayne on Saturday to watch the re-enactment (parking is \$5 per car)



*Learn more at Roundtable 7:00 PM Thurs Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Calvary Lutheran Church, 3320 Electric Ave, Lincoln Park*

# Scouts in the Media

## Editor's Note

The following article, written by Troop 1061's Scribe First Class Scout Nico Ayala, will appear in the Sept. Issue of Knight Notes, the monthly newsletter of the Fr. Saylor Council of the Knights of Columbus, Allen Park (the Troop's Charter Organization). Knight Notes has a print circulation of 1,000 and is read online by several hundred more.

See: <http://www.fr.saylor3774.org/knightnotes/Knight%20Notes%20September%20C%202011.pdf>

This classical description of a week at summer camp is written with the authentic voice of a Scout, I could never write anything this good. Just imagine the effect this article has on 1,300 or so men and how many of them will look back over the decades and remember Scouting and the days of their youth.

## Troop 1061 – Summer Camp 2011

This year's Summer Camp at Cole Canoe Base was one of the best and most fun we ever had. The days were mostly sunny, but we also had a couple of dark and gloomy days with on and off rainstorms – over 4" over 3 days! Because we are Boy Scouts we didn't let the rain bother with our merit badges or activities.



We had lots of fun at Cole Canoe Base. They had lots of activities for us to do while we were there. One thing we attended was the Beast Feast. The Beast Feast is a big cook off where all the troops made one dish and took it to Outdoor Skills center. All the campers got to try each dish and at the end there was a panel that voted to see who would be the Beast Feast Champion. Our Scoutmaster Gene Reiden entered his "Mean Gene's Wacky Macky Salad" and took home a trophy for the best side dish!

The camp holds quite a few contests – one of which is the Campsite Gateway competition. Our gateway was designed by Mr. Pelley and the boys practiced building it for a few weeks prior to camp. Every scout in the troop had a part in building, knot tying, lashing, and raising the gateway – and it looked great! We took home a 2nd place award for our efforts and beat out many troops that have been camping at Cole Canoe Base for years!

The last activity that we did before we had to pack was the big bonfire. Everyone would go to the stadium where they built this stack of logs which the staff set on fire and was very big. Then they gave out the awards and prizes for all the week's activities. Then they had us do skits which we all found hilarious. After that it was a long walk down the dark road to our camp.

This year's summer camp was the best we ever went to. We had a lot of fun doing all the activities they had for us to. The best part of this summer camp is all the badges we have earned. The young men of Troop 1061 earned over 100 Merit badges over the course of the week!



See You At Roundtable 7:00 PM Thurs Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

Calvary Lutheran Church, 3320 Electric Ave, Lincoln Park

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## Sept To Do List

**Cubmasters!** You have one enormous TO DO for September. Yup, **School Night for Scouting.**

If you do it right it will be easy. You have your Den Leaders and assisting parents there so that any new Cubs can be quickly and easily integrated into your existing Dens.

You are ready to talk to and sign up the first graders that will comprise your new Tiger Den. You have an assistant leader to help the parents fill out the applications while you talk to those all important couple of adults that will assume the leadership of your new Tiger Den.

The Scoutmaster of the Troop you are affiliated with is there with a couple of Scouts to take care of the Cub Scouts so that you can concentrate on the parents.

Your Join Scouting Night Team - Committee Chair, Membership Chair, Unit Commissioner, a School Night for Scouting helper from the Mahican District Committee and your Charter Organization Rep – is there to take care of making sure that New Leader applications are properly made out and signed.

You have an outdoor family fun activity scheduled for September so that the new Scouting families can find out just how much fun Scouting is (See this issue of Scouting magazine for ideas.)

**Boy Scouters.** Adam Jewell has been busy all summer putting together our Fall Camporee at Historic Fort Wayne. I think we now realize that input from all of us is essential if our District events are going to succeed. Let him know your plans and volunteer to help at [eagle48146@hotmail.com](mailto:eagle48146@hotmail.com) or phone 313 689 6700. Now is the time to go to doubleknot and sign you Troop up. Don't let them be left out in the cold! If you have trouble using Doubleknot come to Boy Scout Roundtable and one of the Commissioners will help you out.

**Fall Camporee – Historic Fort Wayne**  
**Sept 30<sup>th</sup> to Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

**REMEMBER:** Roundtable is 7:00 PM Thurs Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Calvary Lutheran Church, 3320 Electric Ave, Lincoln Park

From The Editor

Ron Pelley

ronpelley@comcast.net



## Using Communications to Build Relationships and Develop Marketing

The picture below appeared in the July 20<sup>th</sup> issue of The News Herald. It shows newly minted Eagle Scouts Zac Michalik and Ryan Yantz at a meeting of the Huron Township Council with Township Supervisor Elke Doom.



Troop 237 has not just honored these two young men for their accomplishments, the Troop has helped to build relationships with their community. Eagle projects often benefit their Charter Partners. I cannot tell you how many Pastors have warmly shook my hand and told me how proud they were over the Eagle Projects their Scouts had built for their church.

Every time you communicate the wonderful things your Scouts have done and the fun that they have had, you tell your community how important Scouting is. This means that when the time comes for FOS, the biggest part of the Marketing job is done. People know the values of Scouting. If you are reluctant to go to the news media just e-mail me and I will be glad to help. Your Scouts deserve recognition.