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We are excited about the opportunities that Troop 180 offers that include:

- A Boy-Run Program that offers Scouts the opportunity to develop and use Leadership Skills
- Special Attention to New, Younger Scouts; helping them to quickly become active, achieve and have fun with Scouts
- An Advancement Program that has produced 45 Eagle Scouts since 1982
- A program of Superactivities that includes Troop 180 trips to destinations like Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and National Jamborees in Europe and Troop 180 hosting of International Scouts here in Michigan
- A Venture Patrol program for older Scouts that was featured in the article, “Climbing the Cliffs at Kelso” (10-99) and “Worth Retelling “ (12-03) issues of SCOUTING magazine

You are welcome to visit our Troop/Crew 180 web site at: <http://www.troopcrew180.org> to learn about our troop

Or Contact our Scoutmaster Bruce McCrea; scoutmaster@troopcrew180.org

SCOUTING – FUN WITH A PURPOSE!



Troop 180

Welcome

Welcome to Troop 180. We know your son, your family and your community will benefit by being involved in Scouting. Among the most important skills your boy will learn in Scouting are the skills of living together, not only in the outdoors, but anywhere. You will watch as your son gains confidence in his ability to plan, organize and complete activities. The confidence he gains and the skills he acquires will help him in school, sports, college and life beyond.

Meeting Time

Boy Scout Troop 180's chartering organization is the Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, Michigan. Our troop meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 at the synagogue, and our upcoming activities include at least one troop outing each month. Each month there is an updated activity sheet sent by email and available at the Scout meetings.

Troop 180 has an excellent relationship with our chartered partner, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, and with Asbury United Methodist Church. These relationships culminated in a special Scout Sabbath – Scout Sunday collaboration last February. The second annual Scout Sabbath – Scout Sunday collaboration is scheduled for February 9 and 11, 2007.

How We Operate

Troop 180 has a strong commitment to training our boys to have the skills and experience necessary for leadership. Ours is a boy-run troop. Elections are held every six months. The senior patrol leader is elected by the entire troop. The members of each patrol elect a patrol leader. A Scout can serve a maximum of two six-month terms in one position. The patrol leaders meet monthly for joint planning on a Sunday afternoon at the home of the Scoutmaster. The boys plan their activities and do much of the work to make them happen. They will organize meals, coordinate supplies, make and fulfill duty rosters, etc. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are available for help in planning and to make sure the Scouting requirements are met for each activity, but the bulk of the work is designed and carried out by Scouts.

Scouts pursue and earn badges for rank advancement as well as personal interest. Occasionally, there are opportunities to work on or earn badges through our Troop and there is an Advancement Specialist on the Troop Committee who keeps track of each Scout's advancement process.

However, one of the reasons badges are a part of Scouting is to acquaint the boys with resources in the community, enhance their communication skills and give them a sense of ownership over their own growth and education. To this end most of the badges will be planned and earned by the Scout contacting a badge counselor from a list approved by the Council and arranging to meet the requirements. It is often more fun if two or more work on the same badge at the same time. It is a matter of policy that no Scout is to be alone with a counselor, there should be another adult or parent at all meetings.

Introduction To Troop 180

Our troop currently has about 35 active Scouts divided into the Venture Patrol for high school age Scouts and the White Wolf Patrol and the Lynx Patrol for Scouts in grades 5 through 8. All our patrols would welcome new members. We invite our Scouts to bring friends thinking about joining Boy Scouts to troop meetings.

Equipment and Uniforms

Scouts should have the basic personal camping equipment listed in the checklist on pages 224 and 225 of the Boy Scout handbook. A duffel bag can be used instead of a backpack for most Troop 180 campouts. The troop owns a camping trailer, tents and equipment for cooking and setting up a campsite. The Scouts need their own mess kit, personal gear, sleeping bags, etc. Each Scout needs a Troop T-shirt and uniform consisting minimally of a shirt with all the appropriate patches, a neckerchief and holder. Troop 180 has its own number patch to make it easier to sew. It consists of one patch with the numbers on it, instead of 3 different patches. It is part of the new member packet. Additional troop numbers cost one dollar and are available by asking.

Either official Scout uniform shirts or troop T-shirts may be worn at regular Troop meetings. Scouts should wear their uniform shirts and not the troop T shirts for boards of review, courts of honor, and other specified activities. Official Boy Scout pants, shorts, belts, socks and hat may be purchased if desired. There are occasions when a full uniform is required but these are infrequent and new Scouts generally wait until one of these occasions occurs before buying the whole uniform. All Scouts need a Boy Scout handbook.

The Boy Scout headquarters at 4000 West Michigan Ave. in Lansing, houses a store where uniforms, patches, books and other Scout supplies can be purchased. The Holden-Reid store in Frandor also sells a limited line of official Scout uniforms and supplies.

Earning Boy Scout Badges – Ranks and Merit Badges

Ranks

The key badges a Boy Scout earns are called "ranks." After earning the "Boy Scout" joining badge, a Boy Scout can earn, in order, the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirements for all of those ranks are listed in the back of the Boy Scout handbook. They can also be found on line by using the Links page at www.troopcrew180.org. This web site will direct you to other information sources.

There is no requirement that a Boy Scout must complete one rank before he starts working on the next rank. A new Scout can complete some of the requirements for Second Class, and First Class and earn merit badges that he can use to satisfy Star, Life, and Eagle requirements before he completes his Tenderfoot. We expect that many of our new Scouts will be able to complete Second Class and First Class swimming requirements and perhaps even earn Swimming merit badge at our troop swims, before they finish their Tenderfoot. However, ranks must be completed in order.

When a Scout completes a requirement for Boy Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class, the older Scout (at least First Class rank) or adult troop leader who is working with him will initial and date that requirement in the Scout's handbook. For that to happen, it is essential that Scouts bring their handbooks to troop meetings, campouts, and other troop activities.

While a parent can help a Scout learn how to satisfy a rank requirement, we ask that the person who checks the Scout and initials the requirement be an older Scout (at least First Class rank) or adult troop leader.

One requirement for every rank after Tenderfoot is "Demonstrate scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life." We believe that this is an important requirement and that standards for this requirement should be raised as a Scout advances from rank to rank.

The final two requirements for each rank are the "Scoutmaster conference" and "board of review." In a Scoutmaster conference, the Scout and Scoutmaster discuss how he is doing in the troop, what he has done to meet the requirements for the rank he is completing, and what his plans are for the next rank. The board of review is then conducted by three members of our troop committee, reviewing both how the Scout is doing and how our troop is doing. Our committee members in charge of advancement, Karl and Gillian Olson, schedule these boards of review. We like to have our senior patrol leader and patrol leaders of patrols other than the one the Scout belongs to sit in on boards of review for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, so they can gain experience and get a better perspective about how the troop is doing.

As soon as a Scout successfully completes his board of review for a rank, he has earned that rank. The rank badge will be formally presented at a troop court of honor (awards ceremony), but a Scout is considered to hold a rank as soon as he completes his board of review for that rank, regardless of whether or not the rank has been formally presented at a court of honor. If a Scout earns a rank well before the next scheduled court of honor, we will present the rank badge to him at the end of a troop meeting and then present the card and the mothers pin at the next scheduled court of honor.

The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require service projects, serving in a troop position of responsibility, and earning merit badges. Eagle Requirement #3 states, "Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than you already have), including the following:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

The merit badges on that list are called "required" merit badges because they are required for Eagle. Other merit badges are called "optional." If a Scout earns more than one merit badge in category g. or j. of the required list, the others can be used as optional badges. This "required list" is used in the requirements for Star and Life. For example, Star requirement #3 states, "Earn 6 merit badges, including 4 from the required list for Eagle."

Merit Badges

Merit badges are badges that each relate to one specific field or topic. A merit badge is earned by working with an adult "merit badge counselor." You can find current requirements for all the merit badges in the Boy Scout Requirements book which can be purchased at the council office or on line by following the Link at www.troopcrew180.org. There are also many other merit resources at <http://www.meritbadge.com>

We encourage parents of our Troop 180 Scouts to register as merit badge counselors for fields in which you have knowledge and ability. There is no fee to register as a merit badge counselor. To register as a merit badge counselor, you must complete two forms, the standard Boy Scout adult leader application form (You need to complete this form even if you have already completed one to register in a pack or troop adult leadership position) and the merit badge counselor application form in which you list the merit badges you are willing to counsel (up to six) and your qualifications to serve as counselor for each of those badges.

You can obtain those forms from our Troop committee members in charge of advancement. When you return your forms, they will submit them to the Chief Okemos Council office. The Chief Okemos Council advancement committee checks the qualifications and references on individuals who have applied to be merit badge counselors and then makes their decision about approving the applications at their meetings the first Tuesday of each month.

A merit badge can be introduced by a counselor at a troop meeting, advancement workshop, summer camp, or national jamboree, or a Scout can decide to work on a merit badge and contact the counselor directly. When a group of Scouts work together on a merit badge, each Scout must still show individually that he satisfies each requirement. While Scouts are working on merit badges, we must make sure that BSA youth protection guidelines are followed at all times and that a single Scout is never alone with an unrelated adult. If a Scout is the only one working on a merit badge, a parent should go with him to the counselor and stay with him during the time he is with the counselor.

To begin working on a merit badge, a Scout must get a blue merit badge card from the Scoutmaster, fill it out, and have the Scoutmaster sign the section that states that he is approved to work on that badge. He will then meet with the counselor in a group at a troop meeting, advancement workshop, or summer camp, or individually with his parent or with a buddy or two after contacting the counselor directly. During that first meeting, the counselor will go over the requirements with the Scout(s) and explain how he/she expects the Scout(s) to complete the requirements. It will usually be the Scout's responsibility to make arrangements to meet with the counselor one or more times to go over what he has done and finally have the completed merit badge signed by the counselor on the blue card. Part of the experience for a Scout of working on a merit badge is contacting the counselor and making arrangements for these meetings. We urge parents not to shortchange your sons by doing this for them.

The blue merit badge cards have three parts. When a Scout completes a merit badge, the counselor will tear off and keep the section that is the "Counselor's Record" and will sign the other two parts. When a Scout turns the other two sections of a completed blue card in to the Scoutmaster, the Scoutmaster will sign the "Applicant's Record" section, tear it off, and return it to him. This is his record that he turned a completed merit badge application in to the Scoutmaster.

The Scoutmaster will then give the other section of the blue card to the Advancement Chair. He will turn that section in to the Chief Okemos Council office with the advancement report that lists the Scouts and the merit badges they have earned.

Fund Raising and Escrow

Troop 180 participates in the annual Chief Okemos Council popcorn sale and holds other fund raising projects. The troop retains 30% of our popcorn sales revenue. 50% of the troop's earnings (15% of the total revenue) from a Scout's popcorn sales are placed into that Scout's escrow account, an account the Troop 180 treasury holds for every Scout. A Scout may use his escrow account money for Scout uniform parts, camping equipment, summer camp, dues, and major Scouting trips. It may not be used for non-Scouting purposes. If a troop member leaves Scouting, any money remaining in his escrow account is retained by the troop

Costs of Scouting - \$75 Per Year To Fund The Fun!!

Annual Boy Scout Dues is \$75.00 per year per scout. Dues will cover Scout registration and the Scout's troop operations cost, which includes rank badges, merit badges, badges of office, and year pins presented at courts of honor, campsite fees, camporee fees for Scouts and adults, adult fees for summer camp, cabin rental for the cabin camp, reimbursement for mileage for parents who request it for longer trips, food for the camp cooking evening and Apple Butter Festival at Fenner, the main course for the June court of honor picnic, etc. Scouts may purchase Boys Life for an additional fee of \$12.00 per year as established by BSA. If you are already subscribing to Boy's Life, your subscription will continue for the balance of the year. Checks are made out to Boy Scout Troop 180. New members joining Troop 180 during the year pay a prorated share of the annual dues.

Dues may be paid by;

- A. Direct payment to the Troop, or
- B. Escrow account payment. (See the information above on Fund Raising and Escrow.)

New Scout Dues – When new Scouts join Troop 180, annual dues are prorated, and an additional, one-time \$11.00 fee is due. The \$11.00 fee covers the cost of Scout's neckerchief, Troop 180 number patch and name badge. The Troop awards a free T-shirt to the Scout. Dues are prorated depending on when a Scout joins the Troop as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Dues</u>
January	\$75.00
February	\$68.75
March	\$62.50
April	\$56.25
May	\$50.00
June	\$43.75
July	\$37.50
August	\$31.25
September	\$25.00
October	\$18.75
November	\$12.50
December	\$6.25

(Note: The Troop Charter is renewed in January, therefore our dues run from January to December. Collections take place in October and November of the year preceding the Charter renewal).

In no case will the dues or the contribution amount preclude a boy from participating and benefiting from a great Troop 180 Boy Scout experience. Financial assistance will be made available for those requiring it.

Other costs of being a Boy Scout include food for camping trips (purchased by patrols with the cost of approximately \$3.00 per person per meal divided among patrol members and the adults who eat with them) and the summer camp fee if you spend a week at summer camp with our troop. Troop fund raising projects enable Scouts to raise part of the cost of summer camp or Scout equipment themselves, and there are summer camp scholarships available for those in financial need.

Parental Involvement

We welcome parent involvement. In fact, without it, programs fizzle. One of the most important things parents do is show interest in the activities and encourage the participation and progress of their Scout. Parents are encouraged to be part of camping activities, attend committee meetings, and attend part or all of the Troop meetings. A parent who is registered with the BSA has voting privileges on the Committee and may be counted as a part of “two deep leadership” during activities. This registration costs \$10.00 per parent per year and includes in the cost a subscription to Scouting magazine for leaders. Parents who are already registered with a Cub Pack or with the district or council may “multiple register” with Troop 180 at no additional charge.

“Two deep leadership” is a term used in Scouting to ensure the safety of all Scouts and leaders. It means that there are always at least two leaders for every event. (See Page 16 to sign up!)

Membership and Leadership Policy

The Boy Scout Troop 180 and Venturing Crew 180 Committees value tolerance, diversity, and the lessons of the Scout Oath and Law.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP – Membership in Boy Scout Troop 180 is and will continue to be open to all boys who meet the national BSA age requirements and are willing to make the commitment to strive to live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. Member in Venturing Crew 180 is and will continue to be open to all youth who meet the national BSA age requirements and are willing to make the commitment to strive to live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

ADULT LEADERSHIP - It is our responsibility and moral obligation to screen the leaders of our Scouts for youth protection purposes. We believe such screening should be based on a potential leader’s past and present conduct. We find that all who behave consistently with tolerance, diversity, and the lessons of the Scout Oath and Law are fit to be Scout leaders.

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

Scoutmaster

Bruce McCrea (scoutmaster@troopcrew180.org) has been Scoutmaster of Troop 180 since November 1978. He has completed Wood Badge training and has served on several Wood Badge staffs. He has also been course director of many weeklong junior leader-training courses. He has been presented with the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, the Silver Antelope, and the United Methodist Church's Cross and Flame Award. He was Scoutmaster of U.S. troops attending the 16th World Jamboree in Australia and the 18th World Jamboree in the Netherlands.

His "Suggestions for Traveling Overseas with Boy Scouts" is part of the packet of information that is sent by the International Division of the Boy Scouts of America to groups that write inquiring about the possibility of traveling overseas. He has been chairman of the first three Michigan International Camporees in 1997, 2000 and 2004, and is chairman of the fourth Michigan International Camporee which is planned for the summer of 2008.

Assistant Scoutmasters

Troop 180 has several active Assistant Scoutmasters. A number of them have earned their Eagle Scout. Assistant Scoutmasters have a variety of responsibilities, which range from working with our new Scouts to advising our Venture Crew. We also have several former Troop 180 Scouts who are now college students and maintain their involvement with our troop and with scouting by registering as Assistant Scoutmasters.

Troop Committee

Troop 180 has an active troop committee and all parents are encouraged to become part of it. It meets every three to four months on Sunday evenings. Our troop committee completes behind-the-scene tasks that are necessary for our troop to function and there are also usually at least one or two troop committee members at each troop meeting. Some of the positions are: Treasurer who, among other tasks, maintains the accounts, trains the Scout scribe in record keeping, Secretary who has the responsibilities of handling publicity, preparing newsletters, etc., Advancement Specialist who encourages and keeps records of individual Scout advancement, develops merit badge counselor lists and works with Troop Librarian to maintain troop library of merit badge pamphlets, Equipment Coordinator who works with the quartermaster on maintaining and keeping records of troop equipment, and Outdoors Coordinator who makes reservations for overnight activities, collects permission forms and money for those activities, and files tour permits with the council office. Many of our troop committee members have also served Scouting on the district and council level. The Chair of the Committee coordinates the activities of the troops and the Venture Crew. He would be glad to answer any questions about the Committee.

A list of the Troop 180 Committee roster is available from the Troop Committee chair.

Troop Communications

Troop communications are excellent. Highlighted by the "Scoutmaster McCrea's Email Machine ☺" our Troop operates in an open and highly interactive manner. The near weekly emails from our Scoutmaster provide full details on outings, plans, status, scouting protocol and

operations. They often carry congratulatory messages to our Scouts who have achieved noteworthy accomplishments. The emails are forwarded to all adults who have email capability. Hard copies of the email messages are made available at the weekly Troop meetings.

In addition, leadership activity communicates via phone, weekly at Troop meetings and at the quarterly Troop Committee meetings.

Venturing Crew 180

Venturing is BSA's program for high-school age youth. All boys who are members of our Troop 180 Venture Patrol, the patrol for high-school age Scouts, are also members of Venturing Crew 180. Venturing is a coed program, and there are also several girls in Venturing Crew 180. Venturing Crew 180 meets the second Tuesday each month at 8:00 PM and holds some combined activities with Troop 180 and some Venturing Crew-only activities. The unit committees for Boy Scout Troop 180 and Venturing Crew 180 act as a single unit and have the same chair. If there is a high-school age girl or boy in your family who might be interested in Venturing, she or he is encouraged to call one of the Venturing leaders (crewadvisor@troopcrew180.org).

District-wide Roundtables

District-wide Roundtables are meetings for Scout leaders and are held on the second Thursday of each month. The topics are of interest to parents, Scoutmasters and Assistants, and Committee Members. See the yearly calendar from Chief Okemos Council for a schedule of upcoming Roundtables or ask Bruce about them.

Your Scout's First Campout

At least two and a half weeks prior to each campout, we will distribute a troop newsletter which will contain a permission form for that campout. We then request that the completed permission form and food money be returned a week later, a week and a half prior to the campout. Parents (both mothers and fathers) are welcome to participate in any campout. They need to indicate that they will be participating on their sons' permission forms and include food money for themselves as well as their sons.

On almost all of our campouts, the Scouts do patrol cooking. Each patrol plans the menu for their patrol and has one or two of their members purchase the supplies for the meals for their patrol and one or two adult guests who will be eating with them. (If you participate in the campout, you will be a guest with your son's patrol.) The patrol then develops and uses a "duty roster" for the campout in which they rotate the positions of fire and water, cook, cleanup, etc. among their patrol members. Sometimes, when there are not enough members from one or more patrols on a campout to enable the patrols to work effectively, we will combine the members of two patrols into one campout patrol. In situations in which new Scouts have not yet been placed in a permanent patrol, we will assign them to a temporary patrol for the campout and let them get to know our Scouts better before they decide on a permanent patrol.

While all campsite fees, camporee registration fees, orienteering meet entry fees, etc., are paid using the dues money the troop collects, we ask each Scout and adult participating in the campout to pay his/her share of the food money. This money (\$3 per person, per meal) should

be in the form of cash, not a check, so that we can distribute it to the Scout(s) who will be purchasing the food for each patrol.

We do normally ask that each Scout turn in his completed permission form and his share of the food money for a campout at the troop meeting that is a week and a half before the campout. This is very important, our outdoors committee member needs the information on number of Scouts and leaders and potential drivers to make sure we have enough adults, enough drivers, and someone to pull our troop trailer, and to file this information with our council office on a tour permit application. In special cases, it is sometimes possible to squeeze someone in if he turns his permission form and money in at the beginning of the last troop meeting before a campout. However, we would like to receive the permission forms and money by the date they are due if at all possible.

Unless otherwise specified, we will meet for all our Troop 180 campouts in the lower parking lot of Asbury United Methodist Church, which is on the south side of Lake Lansing Road between Route 127 and Wood Street, across from the Krispy Kreme. This is where we keep our troop trailer. The newsletter will state the time we plan to meet, the time we plan to depart and the approximate time we plan to return there. If it turns out that our return time will be significantly earlier or later than that, we will start a chain of phone calls notifying everyone of the change in arrival time. Parents should be prompt in dropping off and picking up Scout, otherwise our volunteers are unnecessarily inconvenienced.

The equipment lists in the Boy Scout handbook are very useful. The group equipment list on pages 226 and 227 is aimed primarily at backpacking trips. For our drive-in campouts, the troop will supply almost everything listed there plus many extras from our troop trailer. The troop owns about 20 "4 man" tents that each sleep two or three Scouts. Most weekend campouts we can drive to the campsite to unload our vehicles and the trailer.

In addition, our Troop maintains the "staples bin". A bin which is kept stocked with disposal items e.g. paper towels, soap pads, and trash bags, and condiments e.g. peanut butter, jelly, catsup, etc. The objective of the staples bin is to help ensure the Scout's meal dollars are used to purchase substantive food stuffs. The staples bin houses the miscellaneous needs.

The individual equipment checklist on pages 224-5 combined with the clothing list on pages 203-4 shows what a Scout should bring on a campout. As it states on that equipment list, each Scout is responsible for his own personal eating kit, usually including knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl, and cup. We do not use paper and plastic. There is not the concern about weight and bulk that there would be in a backpacking campout. A Scout can pack his equipment for one of those campouts either in a backpack or in a duffel bag or some similar bag. Boy Scout uniforms are welcome on any campout, but they are not required except at camporees where many troops will be camping together, at summer camp, and on extended trips like traveling to and from Philmont and the trip to Europe.

Troop 180 follows the BSA youth protection rule that no Scout can share a tent with an unrelated adult. That means that you could share a tent with your son or he could share a tent with his buddy, but his buddy can not spend the night in the same tent as you. Please contact us if you have any questions.

How To Contact Us

Information access: If you have an email address, you may receive current information or updates periodically via this route. You may contact the Scoutmaster (scoutmaster@troopcrew180.org) with questions.

Web Site: The Troop/Crew 180 web site at <http://www.troopcrew180.org> includes much history of the Troop, permission forms that can be taken off the web, printed and submitted, etc.

Troop 180 Annual Plan

Troop 180 plans a full year of Scouting fun and adventure. Every month we are camping, hiking, climbing, orienteering, or simply building skills. Our Annual Plan is developed each August by the patrol leaders council and approved by the troop committee. There is a theme for each month's troop meetings and a weekend activity every month. Fall and spring weekend activities are camping trips, while winter brings some indoor activities.

For the month of February, we rent a cabin at Camp Rotary near Clare with bunks for 40, heat, hot and cold water, and kitchen and toilet facilities. Many of the participants in this trip spend Saturday skiing at nearby Snow Snake. The cabin camp dates for 2007 are February 23 to 25. In March, we have a combination Advancement Workshop and Lock-in at the Strategy Center, 4000 Marsh Road. This year's lock-in dates are March 17 and 18. Every summer, usually in late June, we spend a week at Boy Summer Camp. Next summer's Troop 180 dates at Mohawk Campsite at Northwoods Scout Reservation are June 24 to 30, 2007

Service to Others

Troop 180 is actively involved in the Scouting goal of service to others. Troop 180 has a special commitment of service to Fenner Nature Center. Many Troop 180 Eagle projects have taken place at Fenner, and every October, Troop 180 plays an important part in the Fenner Apple Butter Festival by running crosscut sawing and camp cooking presentations. We also participate regularly in Adopt-a-River and East Lansing Project Pride.

Troop/Crew 180 Superactivities

Each summer, Troop and Crew 180 organize and run a "superactivity" for our experienced Scouts and Venturers. Recent superactivities have included a hiking trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and Venturing Crew trips to Trinidad, Tobago, and Curacao, to Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, and Italy, and to Ireland, Scotland, England and the Eurojam European Jamboree.

Troop and Crew 180 also inform our Scouts and Venturers of opportunities outside our troop and encourages them to take advantage of those opportunities. In the past few years, they have served as Northwoods CITs and participated in the Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard, council Philmont trips, the U.S. National Jamboree, and national BSA trips to Japan and Korea.

We are especially proud of Troop 180's record of International Scouting activities. Troop 180 has hosted Scouts and leaders from Australia, Denmark, Ghana, Japan, Scotland, Slovakia, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe, and Troop 180 trips have taken our Scouts and

leaders to Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, and Wales. Troop and Crew 180 have participated in every Michigan International Camporee and had more participants than any other unit in the 2004 Michigan International Camporee.

We maintain very close ties with two International Scouting Friendship Troops, the 113th Blue Mountain Scout Group, in Bratislava-Petrzalka, Slovakia, and the 1st Queens Royal College Scout Group in Port of Spain, Trinidad. We hosted the Slovaks in 1997, visited them in 1999, hosted them in 2000, visited them in 2003, and toured the British Isles and camped at the Eurojam jamboree with them in 2005. We hosted the Trinidad Scouts in 1997, visited them in 2002, hosted them as part of the 2004 Michigan International Camporee, and visited them in 2005.