



Monthly Newsletter

# Pack 208

# TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1926



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH

March 2026

Check our website periodically for updates & flyers:

[www.swantonscouts.org](http://www.swantonscouts.org)

March 7th District Pinewood Derby @ the St Paul's Lutheran Church  
Best wishes to our Cub Scouts at the District races !!  
As always, we'll post pictures on the website and the first names of our Winners in the newsletter for each group.



## March Pack Meeting - Thursday March 19th

Blue & Gold Banquet (whoo-hoo !!!)

6pm at the Legion Hall; St Patrick's Day Theme...

Will we see Mr Waterstradt dance an Irish jig?



March 28th at noon - Pick up (and dispose of) the Wreaths from Wreaths Across America (no snow??)

## April Pack Meeting = Thursday April 16th

7pm at the Legion Hall and Cross Over ?

Our young scouts should be wrapping up their year's advancement and adventures, getting ready for their new challenges in Scouting.

May Pack Meeting - End of the (normal) program year and our last Pack Meeting for 2025-2026; May 21st.

## May 25th ~ Swanton Memorial Day Parade

Usually we meet at 10:15am at the Sports Center

A moment to honor those veterans who have sacrificed some, or all, of their lives so that we may enjoy lives others in foreign lands only dream about. Please join us for the parade if you're not of town (wear your uniforms please).

## June 14th (tentative) ~ Flag Day

Each year the Legion sponsors a retirement ceremony when we respectfully retire worn US Flags.

Schedule/details to follow

## Pack Leaders Committee Meetings

1st Tuesday each month at 8:15pm; April 7th is the next meeting at the American Legion Hall

March 24th will tentatively be our Winter/Spring Court of Honor guys and Friends of Scouting presentation. What are you working on that we can finish for your advancements and other awards guys?

## Swan Creek District Spring Camporee

April 24th - 26th The Theme is GAME DESIGN, we'll be out at PSR for the weekend (sweet!!!)

Mr Raven & Mr Waterstradt NEED SUMMER CAMP!!

## PSR - Summer Camp 2026

Week 2 June 28th thru July 4th

Nessle Campsite

Plenty of time to get ready for our current and future (the Webelos II) Boy Scouts to plan for a week of Camp. And time for any parents who'd like to go to plan for it too. Scouts, Summer Camp is a great chance to try things you can easily do here in Swanton. Choose well.

PSR Summer Camp Fees (camperships available too):

Meal Plan A - eat in the dinning hall - \$486 early bird fee

Meal Plan B - cook in the campsite - \$416 early bird fee

The regular fee is \$20 more if paid after the Early Bird (May 4th); we'll keep providing details as we get them.

## Summer Camp Physicals

Scouts (and adults) **must have a physical** completed for Summer Camp - and if you Scout will be getting a Sports physical for school, get them both signed at the same time. **Please** get them taken care of before June!

Adults also need a BCH Camps Approval (Michigan)

## For ALL SCOUTS (Pack & Troop)



Your Scout wants to attend Camp, but there are some problems in paying for it? Erie Shores does have help available - Camperships. These aren't unlimited and you must apply early for

consideration, but help may be available. Please ask Mr Waterstradt if you have any questions; he'll help!

The application is now available online and we're discrete.

As you may have noticed we are in the winter season again, our leadership would like to remind all of our parents and volunteer leaders that "If Swanton Schools close due to weather, then our meeting that night will be cancelled."

## **How "Monopoly"® helped win World War II** *excerpt from Mary Pilon*

<http://deadspin.com/how-monopoly-helped-win-world-war-ii-1686340304>

*By World War II, Monopoly was a blockbuster, with Magie already largely written out of the narrative. The game's legend only grew, as did stories of what role it played during the war. In this excerpt, we learn how the game intersected with prisoners of war.*

Bombs were dropping all around the London offices of MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service. It was March 26, 1941, and earlier that month, Hitler had ordered an expansion of the concentration camps at Auschwitz. Blocking out the explosions, an agent took to his typewriter and wrote to Waddingtons, the British game company that was producing England's version of Monopoly. On the other side of the war, Germans had realized the potency of using games as a teaching tool for the Hitler Youth, including *Juden Raus* (or "Jews Out") and *Bombers over England*, a game that rewarded players for dropping bombs on the English countryside.

In his letter, the agent recapped the conversation he'd had with Waddingtons' top executive, Victor Watson, earlier that day and stressed the need for secrecy. Waddingtons had just been enlisted in one of the Allies' most peculiar missions. A similar effort involving game companies was under way across the Atlantic.

During World War II, the Allies used a variety of objects, including games, to smuggle goods in to prisoners of war. Radios were hidden in cribbage boards, silk maps in decks of playing cards, and compasses in buttons or in the lining of clothing. Table tennis sets proved to be particularly useful, as maps could be easily folded up and tucked into the handles of wooden paddles. Cigarette cases, cigars, books, cotton handkerchiefs that changed color with the aid of certain liquids, a pencil that held a map, a cigarette holder–telescope, games of Snakes and Ladders, and reversible uniforms that allowed soldiers to disguise themselves as German officers—all these came into play.

In America, military officers purchased Monopoly boards and steamed off their top layer to create a center cavity. Inside, they placed maps. The process was tricky—some boards steamed open more easily than others—and bypassed the direct involvement of Parker Brothers.

Other game companies participated in the war effort. Milton Bradley turned its game-making factories into ones that manufactured missiles, submachine guns, rifles, and joints used in aircraft landing gear. The company also continued to manufacture some games for soldiers—as their founder had done nearly a century earlier during the Civil War. Now under new management, Milton Bradley would become profitable in 1942 and remain successful for years.

The Geneva Conventions allowed POWs to receive some letters and goods, including games, to help them pass the time. But relief groups such as the Red Cross did not want to risk their integrity as aid organizations by participating in smuggling activities, so the Allies set up fictitious relief agencies, such as the British Local Ladies Comfort Society and the Lancashire Penny Fund. The addresses of blitzed buildings were sometimes used as well. Waddingtons knew how to manufacture some of the specialized smuggled goods and how to modify the Monopoly boards in which they could be hidden.

Clank, clank, clank went the keys of the agent's typewriter. In a letter addressed to Watson, the agent asked for games to be made up containing maps of Norway, Sweden, Germany, France and Italy.

The Germans were aware of what the Allies were up to and issued propaganda accordingly. They said that the English had "opened up a non-military form of gangster war" by violating the rules of the Hague Conventions. In order to safeguard the homeland, Germany would retaliate by opening up "death zones," and it warned that "escaping prisoners of war, entering such death zones, will certainly lose their lives."

Heartwarming as the tale of Monopoly saving the lives of soldiers may be, it's also unlikely that the games were used directly in aiding escapes. It would be virtually impossible to know the scope of the Allies' use of Monopoly boards or how many POWs were helped by the hidden maps and goods—if any at all. No sets explicitly used for this purpose have ever been found, a fact that gives some game historians pause. However, the mission was believed to have been entirely classified, and materials related to it were destroyed as World War II ended and the Cold War began, in case it became necessary to use such tactics again.

But the spread of this legend, as well as the United States' embrace of Monopoly after the war, spoke to the solidified place the game had in the American psyche. Monopoly was no longer just a popular pastime; it had become representative of what was good about America and a positive symbol of capitalism.

One theory has it that the secret service operatives smuggled maps to POWs so that they could escape in the event that the war ended in anarchy. Another holds that just the idea of plotting an escape helped prevent POWs from becoming submerged in the mental darkness that can plague wartime prisoners—giving them relief from the sense of hopelessness and stigma associated with being captured by the enemy. The board games with their smuggled compasses and maps also served as reminders to the prisoners that people on the outside were thinking of them and trying to get them out. Then, there were the actual games.

"The importance of providing amusement for the forces in their leisure hours and in long periods of waiting and monotony in out of the way places," Prime Minister Winston Churchill wrote to the president of the Board of Trade, the man in his cabinet tasked with economic affairs, in the summer of 1943, "and for the sailors penned up in their ships for months together, cannot be overstated."

"It made an enormous difference to one's esprit to know that there were people in England trying to help one," John Powell Davies, a navy flier, told a reporter, decades later, of the Monopoly mission. Davies was among those who spent time in Germany's Colditz Castle prison, a high-security facility for recaptured escapees and important prisoners.

Neither was the irony of the Get out of Jail card lost on the prisoners, among them Lieutenant Colonel James Yule, who worked as an army intelligence officer. Captured in Norway and sent to a prison camp there, he escaped. Captured a second time and sent to Colditz, the handsome mustachioed soldier aided in the escape of other prisoners.

"Without Monopoly," he later joked, "there wouldn't be an England."

# Upcoming Activities

## Upcoming Events & Training

Training Day at Miakonda (Spring 2026)  
 Saturday March 7th, 2026 @ Camp Miakonda  
 just a heads up to put on your calendars

Cub & Companion Day 2026  
 Saturday May 2nd, 2026 @ Camp Miakonda

BALOO / IOLS 2026 (for Cub Scout Leaders)  
 Weekend Training (Friday May 15th thru Sunday  
 May 17th) at Camp Miakonda  
 BALOO - Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation  
 Lots of good material provided in this course if you go

Camp Miakonda Day Camp 2026  
<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/cdc>  
 Weeks 1, 2, 4, & 5 are 9am to 4:15pm  
 Week 1 June 15th thru 19th  
 Week 2 June 22nd thru 26th  
 Week 3 June 29th thru July 2nd  
 Twilight Camp (5pm to 9:15pm)  
 Week 4 July 6th thru 10th  
 Week 5 July 13th thru 17th  
 Fees (Weeks 1, 2, 4, & 5) \$255 Early Bird (May 1st)  
 Fees (Week 3, Twilight) \$105 Early Bird (May 1st)  
 PLEASE check the website for specifics & details  
**Scout Physicals are required for all participants**  
 Registration is open (see the website provided)

It's time to start planning for the "boys of summer"



## Toledo Mud Hens 2026 Scout Experience



Activities are being planned by the Mud Hens staff and they'll keep us informed. A great time to spend with the family and enjoy some baseball!



Friday May 29th  
 Boots & Baseball Weekend & Post-Game Drone show  
 Friday July 24th  
 Harry Potter Night & Post-Game Fireworks show  
 for both games the Gates open @ 6pm  
 and Game Time is 7:05pm  
 More details when the Mud Hens have firmed up  
 their plans and the schedules.

**Catholic Religious Awards**  
 Congratulations to our Recipients Jonathan (Light of Christ) & Kenneth (Ad Altare Dei) and thanks to Nancy and Father Jason for working with them!



LIGHT OF CHRIST



Light of Christ



Ad Altare Dei

# March Historical & Current Events

March 1st  
Ohio entered the Union, 1803 the 17th state

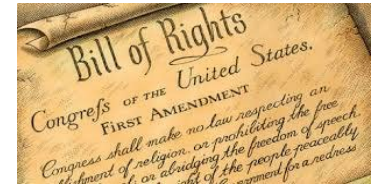


March 2nd  
King Kong, the motion picture, premiered in New York, 1933



March 3rd  
The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect. 1789  
**Star Spangled Banner** adopted as National Anthem of the United States, 1931

March 7th  
Army Distinguished Service Medal was authorized, 1918  
Monopoly board game is invented 1933



March 9th  
The battle of "USS Monitor" & "CSS Merrimack" occurred at Hampton Roads, Virginia, 1862

March 10th  
The U.S. government issues paper money for the first time. 1862

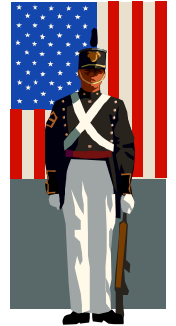


March 12th  
The Girl Scouts of America were founded, 1912



March 14th  
Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, 1793

March 16th  
Congress authorized the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., 1802  
Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" was published, 1850

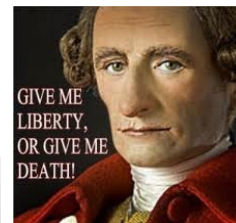


March 17th  
**On this day everyone is a little bit Irish- It's Saint Patrick's Day!**  
The Camp Fire Girls created, 1912



March 19th  
United States House of Representatives began televising day-to-day business, 1979

March 22nd  
The first movie shown to an audience occurred in Paris, 1895



March 23rd  
Patrick Henry's *Give me Liberty* speech occurred, 1775



March 24th  
Elvis Presley joins the U.S. Army. 1958



March 25th  
RCA first produced color televisions, 1954

March 26th  
Dr. Jonas Salk invents a vaccine to fight polio. 1953



March 27th  
President George Washington and Congress created United States Navy, 1794

March 29th  
Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls. 1848  
*Historical note: The "American" side of the Niagara Falls shut off in 1969 by the US Army.... And it may happen again soon!*



Meat, butter and cheese rationing began as a result of WWII, 1943

March 30th  
Alaska sold to United States by Russia, 1867  
The Queensboro Bridge, linking Manhattan and Queens opened, 1909