



January-February 2011



Troop 469

[Website](#)

www.DanPatch.nbsa.org
www.NorthernStarBSA.org

Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding at Afton Alps!

This Saturday, January 15, we'll be going downhill skiing and snowboarding at Afton Alps. Be at Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church (NHUMC) at 8 a.m. to carpool to the scenic slopes of Afton. Cost is \$20/scout, includes lift ticket, skis, poles, boots and helmet. Yes, helmet. Helmets are required for all scouts (and parents) participating in this scout event.

Can't make it to NHUMC by 8 a.m. or need to leave early.... Meet us at Afton in the Oakwood Room. Be sure to tell the folks at the front gate you are with Troop 469.



6600 Peller Ave. S., Hastings, MN 55033, 651-436-5245

Sat., February 5 – Father/Son Day at Izaak Walton

Join us at the Bush Lake Chapter of [Izaak Walton](#) for some father/son bonding. This is a great way to get together with other guys for food and fellowship, including brats, cookies, hot chocolate and activities including ice fishing, boot hockey, rocket launching, geocaching and more. Dress for the weather and defy nature by enjoying Minnesota's great outdoors in winter.

We'll start at 11 a.m. and be around until about 5 p.m. Come when you can; leave when you have to. Friends and their dads are welcome, too! This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend to scouting.

Facilities are located at 7515 Izaak Walton Road in Bloomington. Remember, there is a new road to get there – it's just north of the old road, off of East Bush Lake Road. See map on last page.

Friday, February 4 – Overnight at Izaak Walton

Looking for even more fun? Join a few other hearty souls in spending the night in the Izaak Walton cabin. Bring your sleeping gear, games and outdoor gear for an evening of fun close to home.

Enjoy a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning and help cook for the Adult Leaders' meeting that starts at 9:30 a.m. Contact Ross Dunbar for more information. Rkd10141@msn.com or 952-835-8853.

Troup 469
Scoutmaster
Kent Whitson
(952) 426-5355
kentwhitson@msn.com



**Newsletter articles
or suggestions?**
Contact Dean Sherman
dean.sherman@target.com

Sat., Feb. 5 - Adult Leaders Meeting at Izaak Walton

Note new location and time for this meeting. We will meet at Izaak Walton, enjoy a scout-prepared breakfast and then get some business done, starting at 9:30 a.m. (not our usual early 7:30 a.m. start.)



Ice Skating Merit Badge – This Sunday (Jan. 16)

Want to hone your skating skills and get a Merit Badge all in an hour (give or take)? Meet this Sunday at noon at Westwood Elementary (3701 West 108th street) School's rink.

Bring your own skates and gear and join fellow scouts for a fun afternoon. And if you have a hockey stick.... Rumor has it a hockey game might just break out afterward.

2010 Wreath Wrap Up

Congratulations to all Scouts (and parents) for a fantastic 2010 wreath sales season. Troop 469 surpassed last year's sales totals by a significant amount. This success represents a lot of hard work by many people. Your wreath coordinators (Brian and Ted) say THANKS!!!

FYI – Brian Mundahl will be passing the retail wreath sales baton to Ann and Greg Allen in 2011. A great big thanks to Brian for his 5 years of dedicated service to wreath sales.

Re-charter / Re-register

It's that time of year again, time for the BSA Annual Registration. Please submit a check for \$30 (for each scout) made out to Troop 469 to Dennis Postler by January 24th. This covers the cost of each scout's registration and subscription to Boy's Life magazine. All registered adult leaders are required to complete Youth Protection Training prior to being registered, or have completed it within the past 2 years (see Youth Protection Training article elsewhere in this newsletter for how to complete that training). Any questions please call Dennis Postler at (612) 759-5026

WANTED: Leaders and Merit Badge Counselors

We need adult leaders and merit badge counselors to help our scouts continue to advance their skills and rank advancement. Please consider sharing your expertise with scouts. If you are interested in becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster or serving in another adult leadership role, contact Scoutmaster Kent Whitson. If you want to complete a merit badge counselor application or for a current list of merit badge counselors in the area, connect with Dennis Postler (dennis.postler@foth.com or 612-759-5026).

Youth Protection Training

If you have not already done so, or it has been more than two years since the last time, please be sure to check out the online Youth Protection training course. The course only takes less than an hour and is available on the www.NorthernStarBSA.org website. This training is

- strongly encouraged for all parents
- **required for parents who will be going on overnight campouts.**

It is important for both scouts and parents to know what the expectations are and how we can keep the scouts, and parents, safe.

After completing your training, print a copy of the completion certificate for your records and then send a copy to the Dan Patch District Coordinator (cirle@northernstarbsa.org) and include our troop number (469) so that you'll be properly registered.

During February 14th's troop meeting we will be showing portions of the BSA Youth Protection DVD to the scouts. Some of this content is sensitive and we encourage you to follow up and discuss it with your scout afterwards. Questions or concerns – contact Scoutmaster Kent Whitson or Ed Schmidt (612-599-3481).

March 5 – Klondike Derby

Uphold a Troop 469 tradition by participating in the District Klondike Derby and bring home the award for the fastest sled in the area! The derby will be held in Bloomington's Moir Park.

We need a parent or two to help facilitate the troop's participation. This is a good way to contribute with a minimal time commitment. No experience necessary! Contact Scoutmaster Kent Whitson if you can help.

March Campout – Fred C. Anderson

Mark your calendar for the weekend of March 18-20 for our first weekend campout of 2011. More details to follow and campout planning will take place at our March 14 Scout meeting.

Boundary Waters Bound – June 2011

It's not too late to sign up for the troop's high adventure trip to Minnesota's own Boundary Waters Canoe Area next June. What a great way to start the summer! Contact Ross Dunbar for more information at Rkd10141@msn.com or 952-835-8853.

Coming in February - Base Camp Adventure

Details are still be finalized but be ready to visit Northern Star Council's newest camp facility the weekend of February 25 or 26 – Base Camp. Spend an afternoon exploring this exciting new facility located near historic Fort Snelling and MSP.





Base Camp facts:

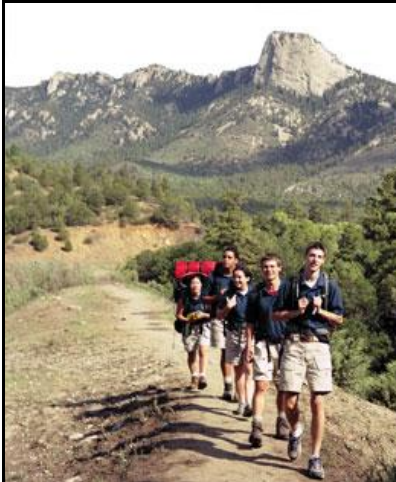
- **NASA Space Shuttle Simulator** - Test your flight skills and teamwork in one of only eight NASA space shuttle flight simulators in the nation.
- **Indoor Rock climbing** - 60 different people can scale three distinct lifelike replicas of the Taylor's Falls rock face at the same time.
- **Outdoor Rock and Ice Climbing** - Test your courage on a simulated wall of ice that's open year-round or on the climbing towers.
- **Archery** - Practice skills in our indoor archery range.
- **High Ropes Training Courses** - The indoor and outdoor high ropes courses encourage individuals, as well as team members, to work together to get through a challenging course, securely harnessed in at all times.
- **Sunken Amphitheater** - Up to 200 people can watch performances in a seating arena carved right into the Base Camp floor.
- **14,000 Acres of Wild Land** - Base Camp is located near thousands of acres of wild areas and parks inside the metropolitan beltway
- **Hiking and Biking on Historic Trails** - The facility is surrounded by abundant natural resources rich in history. Discover trails along Historic Fort Snelling, as well as the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.
- **State-of-the-Art Technology** - Enjoy the latest AV technology, including flat-screens and a large screen for viewing by hundreds of people.
- **Underground Railroad** - Learn firsthand how slaves escaped to freedom by participating in a simulation experience.
- **Extensive Library/Resource Room** - Base Camp is where expeditions begin! Maps and computers help plan trips around the region, nation and world

High Adventure: Philmont Planning

BSA High Adventures are a highlight of the Scouting experience. Philmont Scout Ranch is the premiere U.S. high adventure camp. Our troop requested a reservation for the summer of 2012 this last November. A lottery was held in early December to determine who received a reservation.

The results are in and Troop 469 did **not** receive a reservation. We have been placed on the waiting list. We do not know our position on the waiting list, or the likelihood of success. If we are offered reservation we may have a short amount of time in which to make a commitment. Please keep open the possibility of attending Philmont in the summer of 2012.

Alternative strategies are also being considered. Northern Star Council receives upwards of 100 slots per summer, which then forms ad hoc crews comprised of Scouts/adults from multiple Troops. Troop 469 may be able to exclusively fill out a crew or two in 2012.

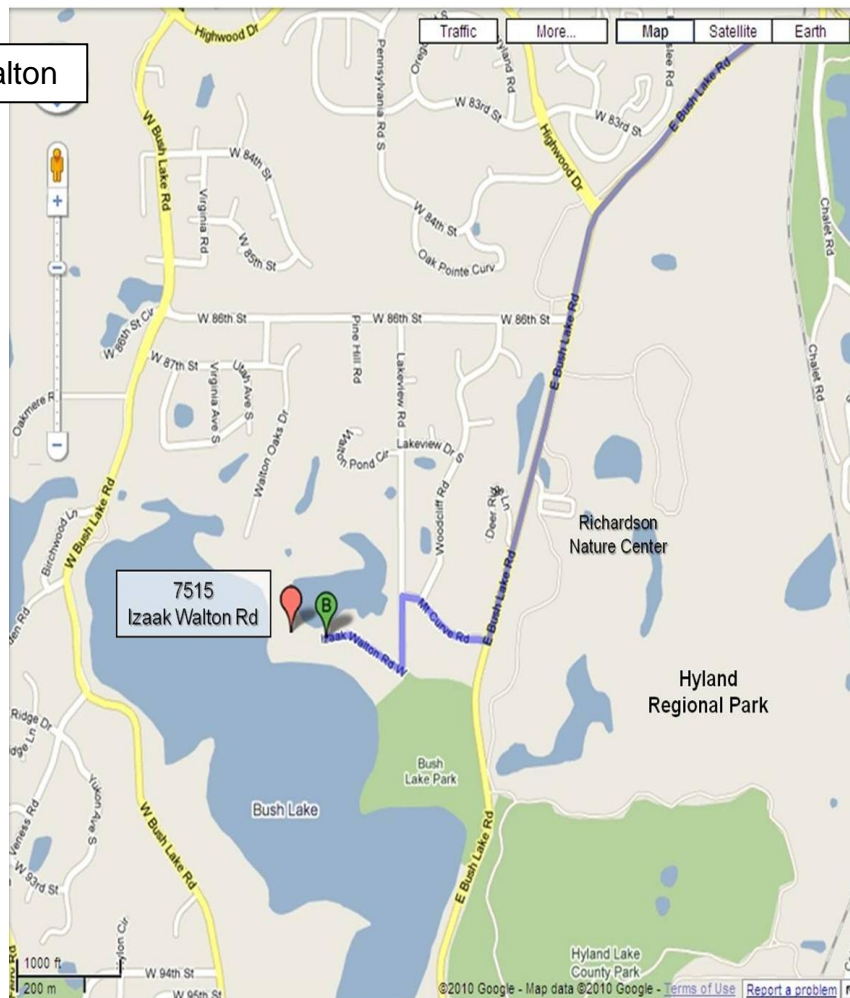


Philmont Scout Ranch is located in northern New Mexico. Its primary focus is on 12-day backpacking expeditions. In 2010, there were 35 different itineraries ranging from 50 to 100 miles. There are a wide variety of activities in addition to hiking available (e.g. several types of shooting, mountain biking, climbing). Expedition crews are made up of 7-12 members (boy and adults). Find more details at [Philmont Scout Ranch](#). Things to know:

- Boys must have completed 8th grade and be 14 years old.
- The camp has daily expedition starts from June 8 to Aug. 9.
- Expeditions are 12 days, plus transportation to and from camp (assume at a minimum a two week commitment).
- The expedition itself is \$740. An initial payment of \$100 is due in Feb 2011, with additional payments in Oct 2011 and Mar. 2012.

Parents and boys – Decide now if you are up to the challenge of a Philmont Expedition. Please give this trip serious consideration. It is a once in life time opportunity and is not to be missed! Contact Ted Winker at 952-854-3941 if you are interested.

Map to Izaak Walton



Key Upcoming Dates

Date(s)	Day	Type	Time	Location	Description
1/10	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	Troop Meeting: Snow Sports MB
1/15	Sat	Troop	TBD	NHUMC	Skiing, Snowboarding & Tubing @ Afton Alps
1/17	Mon	Troop			No Meeting (MLK)
1/24	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	Troop Meeting
1/31	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	Troop Meeting
2/5	Fri	Troop	TBD	Izaak Walton	Overnight
2/6	Sat	Troop	TBD	Izaak Walton	Outdoor Adventure
2/7	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	TLC – Troop Leadership Council
2/14	Mon	Troop			No meeting (Presidents Day)
2/21	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	Troop Meeting
2/28	Mon	Troop	7 p.m.	NHUMC	Troop Meeting
3/5	Sat	Troop	TBD		Klondike Derby

Planning ahead

Many Point Scout Camp – July 24-30, 2011

Thanks for your support!