Monthly Newsletter
Pack 208

TROOP 208
providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH **October 2026**

Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website www.swantonscouts.org



It's that time of the year again…. ***POP, POP, POPCORN!***
We'll be taking orders for Popcorn and/or selling it through the first week of November. There are PRIZES!! We'll get our Popcorn, that was ordered, for the Pack meeting on November 19th so we can pass it out Please encourage your Scouts to help sell popcorn. It helps to fund the Pack and the Troop and also helps them to pay for their own Scouting through the profit sharing. Thanks everyone! Now go sell!

October 15th ~ October Pack Meeting
7:00pm at the Legion Hall

2026 Scouting for Food Campaign

Oct 17th is distribution of SFF Door Hangers @ 9:30am
pick up of SFF bags the following Saturday; Oct 24th
All of the food items collected remain in the Swanton community to help those in need and has been gratefully appreciated for the support in the past. A great service project for both our Cub Pack and Scout Troop with great appreciation of the parents (drivers) who are needed to help too. Thank you in advance!

Want to do some SAFE Trick Or Treating?

October 24th & 25th at Camp Miakonda. Safe for the young kids, just need to buy your tickets and your friends can get tickets and go too. Candy and activities.

November 19th ~ November Pack Meeting
7:00pm at the Legion Hall

General Note for our Parents - We really need your help!

First we do appreciate any suggestions or ideas you may have about how we can improve our program and effort to better support your Scouts. we're listening and always willing to try new things.

Second if there are School activities (like concerts) please let us know so we can try to schedule around them if there's a conflict with our Pack or Troop.

Lastly we appreciate your helping your daughter or son with their Scouting efforts, kids grow fast! You are always welcome to ask us questions or join up too.

Fallen Timbers District Fall Camporee

Oct 2nd thru 4th, details to follow in September
Operating Engineers Local 18 in Cygnet, OH
These are not Remote Controlled toys, these are real and what professional Operating Engineers train with so Scouts will get a great experience.

Fallen Timbers District Winter Weekend ONE

Dec 4th thru 6th @ Camp Miakonda
Winter Weekend details and theme information will be provided as soon as possible.

Merit Badges @ Miakonda Jan 9th, 2027

Scouts who want to participate need to watch the Council website for updates because once the site goes live the Merit Badge classes will book up fast!

Fallen Timbers District Winter Weekend TWO

February, dates and other details will be provided as soon as possible.

Why TWO Winter Weekends? With the Council re-organization of the Districts and Troop/Pack 208 now part of the (newly created) *Fallen Timbers District things are changing!*
We the merging of Northwest District and some of the Commodore Perry units becoming Fallen Timbers we're also merging the traditions and schedules of 3 districts which means some new events may be seen!

As always, we want to have the Youth run the Troop so we need them to bring ideas and plans for us to help with.

As we approach the fall and winter 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." The weather and/or roads may clear up that morning, but if Swanton closes, we will defer for safety and caution always.



"The President's Own"

United States Marine Band

www.marineband.marines.mil/About/Our-History/John-Philip-Sousa/



John Phillip Sousa

October 1st, 1880 through July 30th, 1892
The Marine Corps' 17th Band Director

Sousa was born Nov. 6, 1854, at 636 G Street, SE, Washington, DC, near the Marine Barracks where his father, Antonio, was a musician in the Marine Band. He received his grammar school education in Washington and for several of his school years enrolled in a private conservatory of music operated by John Esputa, Jr. There he studied piano and most of the orchestral instruments, but his first love was the violin. John Philip Sousa gained great proficiency on the violin, and at the age of 13 he was almost persuaded to join a circus band. However, his father intervened and enlisted him as an apprentice musician in the Marine Band. Except for a period of six months, Sousa remained in the band until he was 20.

In addition to his musical training in the Marine Band, he studied music theory and composition with George Felix Benkert, a noted Washington orchestra leader and teacher.

After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Sousa remained in Washington for a time, conducting and playing the violin. He toured with several traveling theater orchestras and moved, in 1876, to Philadelphia. There he worked as a composer, arranger, and proofreader for publishing houses. Sousa was fascinated by the operetta form and toured with a company producing the musical Our Flirtation, for which he wrote the incidental music and the march. While on tour in St. Louis, he received a telegram offering him the leadership of the Marine Band in Washington. He accepted and reported for duty on Oct. 1, 1880, becoming the band's 17th Leader.

The Marine Band was Sousa's first experience conducting a military band, and he approached musical matters unlike most of his predecessors. He replaced much of the music in the library with symphonic transcriptions and changed the instrumentation to meet his needs. Rehearsals became exceptionally strict, and he shaped his musicians into the country's premier military band. Marine Band concerts began to attract discriminating audiences, and the band's reputation began to spread widely.

Sousa first received acclaim in military band circles with the writing of his march "The Gladiator" in 1886. From that time on he received ever-increasing attention and respect as a composer. In 1888, he wrote "Semper Fidelis." Dedicated to "the officers and men of the Marine Corps," it is traditionally known as the "official" march of the Marine Corps.

In 1889, Sousa wrote the "Washington Post" march to promote an essay contest sponsored by the newspaper; the march was soon adapted and identified with the new dance called the two-step. The "Washington Post" became the most popular tune in America and Europe, and critical response was overwhelming. A British band journalist remarked that since Johann Strauss, Jr., was called the "Waltz King" that American bandmaster Sousa should be called the "March King." With this, Sousa's regal title was coined and has remained ever since.

Under Sousa the Marine Band also made its first recordings. The phonograph was a relatively new invention, and the Columbia Phonograph Company sought a an ensemble to record. The Marine Band was chosen, and 60 cylinders were released in the fall of 1890. By 1897, more than 400 different titles were available for sale, placing Sousa's marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded, and the Marine Band one of the world's first "recording stars."

The immense popularity of the Marine Band made Sousa anxious to take his Marine Band on tour, and in 1891 President Benjamin Harrison gave official sanction for the first Marine Band tour, a tradition which has continued annually since that time, except in times of war.

After the second Marine Band tour in 1892, Sousa was approached by his manager, David Blakely, to organize his own civilian concert band, and on July 30 of that year, John Philip Sousa resigned as Director of the Marine Band. At his farewell concert on the White House lawn Sousa was presented with a handsome engraved baton by members of the Marine Band as a token of their respect and esteem. This baton was returned to the Marine Band by Sousa's daughters, Jane Priscilla Sousa and Helen Sousa Abert, in 1953. The Sousa baton is now traditionally passed to the new Director of the Marine Band during change of command ceremonies.

In his 12 years as Leader of the Marine Band, he served under five Presidents, and the experience he gained with the Marine Band would be applied to his civilian band for the next 39 years. With his own band, Sousa's fame and reputation would grow to even greater heights.

Upcoming Opportunities for Scouts / Scouters / and Families too!

Training Day at Camp Miakonda Nov 7th

As soon as we get details from the Council we will share them with you. Typically a good day of training and other fun and at no charge for youth or adults.

Christmas in Swanton Dec 5th

* A chance for Boy Scouts to earn some money to help them pay for their Scouting experiences (meat sticks)

* A chance for families to come out (after the parade) and see some good crafts and items in time for Christmas gifts or some yummy foods (cookies) too!

Disney On Ice - Find Your Hero

Huntington Center in Toledo
December 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th
7 total performances over 4 days

We're watching for 2 more family events (typically they are announced later in the fall):

A Walleye Hockey Game experience

The Harlem Globetrotters come to town

If you have never watched the Globetrotters perform, in person, you're missing a great entertainment for the entire family

We'll pass these on when we get any information.

Burned Biscuits

When I was a kid, my Grandma liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then.
And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day.
On that evening so long ago, she had placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my Granddad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

Yet all my Granddad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Grandma and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing... never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Grandma apologize to my Granddad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Granddaddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Grandma put in a hard day of work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!" (we say this in the in the Troop too)
As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults, and choosing to celebrate each other's differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.
And that's my prayer for you today... that you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!
We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the basis of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!
So, please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine.
And PLEASE pass this along to someone who has enriched your life. Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

The leadership of the Pack and Troop encourage all of our Scouts to participate in their respective religious award program as part of their Scouting efforts. If you have any questions, please ask Mr Waterstradt or Mr Raven.

October Historical & Current Events

www.aboutfamouspeople.com

October 1st

John Phillip Sousa became the 17th Director of the US Marine Band, 1880



World War II began with the Nazi invasion of Poland, 1939



October 2nd

"Peanuts" comic strip debuted, 1950

October 3rd

George Washington proclaimed the first National Thanksgiving, 1789

President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day, 1863

The "End" of the Berlin Wall occurred, 1990



October 4th

Construction of the ironclad ship, the *Monitor* , was authorized by the U.S. Navy, 1861



October 6th

The American Pharmaceutical Association, the first nationwide organization of its type, was founded in Philadelphia, 1853

October 7th

The first Colonial Congress met, 1765

The aircraft carrier, U.S.S. *Saratoga* , the world's most powerful warship, was launched at the Brooklyn, New York Navy Yard, 1955



October 9th

The Washington Monument opened to the public, 1888



October 10th

The United States Naval Academy opened in Annapolis, Maryland. It combined at one site a group of schools previously located in the port cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Norfolk, 1845

October 12th

Columbus arrived with expedition in the present-day Bahamas, (Old Style calendar; Oct.21, New Style), 1492

The first celebration of Columbus Day in America was held in New York City, 1792



October 11th

A naval force was established by the Continental Congress when it authorized construction of two warships, increasing the number to four on October 30; 1775

The first supersonic bomber, the B58, was ordered into production by the U.S. Air Force, 1954

October 14th

The first mechanical switchboard was installed in the New York City telephone system, and the exchange was called "Pennsylvania," 1923



October 16th

The U.S. Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 1991

October 17th

Al Capone convicted of income-tax evasion, 1931

A bill creating the Department of Education was signed by President James Carter, 1978



October 20th

The United States Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase, 1803



October 22nd

Airplanes were first used on battlegrounds, 1911

October 23rd

Twenty-five thousand women marched in New York City demanding the right to vote, 1915



October 28th

The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland, 1886

October 30th

George Washington established the U.S. Cavalry, 1776