



Monthly Newsletter  
**Pack 208**

**TROOP 208**  
providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



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

March 2025

Check our website periodically for updates & flyers:

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

**March 1st** ~ Pack 208's Annual Pinewood Derby  
Last call to rev them pinewood block engines and let the cars roar down the tracks!



March 15th District Pinewood Derby @ St Paul's Lutheran Church in Maumee House. We will provide the details to the Pack winners.

**March Pack Meeting = Thursday March 20th**

Blue & Gold Banquet ~ our annual dinner (burp!)

**6pm** at the Legion Hall; more details soon

The main course will be provided for dinner

Looking a little further down the calendar... **SPRING !!**

April 17th - April's Pack Meeting ~ Crossover

May 15th - May's Pack Meeting (ending the year)

**May 26th ~ Swanton Memorial Day Parade**

Usually we meet at 10:15am at Crestwood School

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 ~ Flag Day**

Each year the Legion sponsors an evening when we respectfully retire worn US Flags.

Want a great, fun outing with your Cub Scout?

**Cub Companion Day (Cub Scouts) Campout**

May 3rd & 4th at Camp Miakonda

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/CubCD>

\$40 Early Bird price (due by April 11)

\$50 Regular price after April 11

This is a great day to literally run all around the great Camp Miakonda with your Cub Scout doing many outdoor activities. Go for the day or stay for the night too! **FUN !!**

As we have already seen this year the weather isn't always pleasant. We 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."

**March 11th** is our Winter/Spring Court of Honor to recognize the Scouts' achievements. A chance to shine for your families and show off your hard work!

**Spring Camporee @ Courageous Acres Park**

April 25th - 27th, 2025 is the Swan Creek District Spring Camporee. The theme is disAbilities Awareness .

**PSR - Summer Camp 2025**

June 29th through July 5th

Nessle Campsite (where it's cool & quiet) again

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 (we have to get you registered as a leader).

For the parents of our Scouts - if your family needs some help to send your Scout to camp please let us know. There are discrete ways to help you so they don't miss out on camp.

**BIG, BIG REMINDER - BSA PHYSICALS !!**

Every Scout and Leader attending Summer Camp will need a complete **BSA** physical completed before going to PSR. Plan on getting it done **SOON PLEASE** (before June)! They are good for 12 months. If you need a form, please see Mr Raven.

If there are any parents who are considering the opportunity to come out for a few days/nights with the Troop please let Mr Raven know so we can make sure you're able to join us.

If you want to see the entire Leaders/Parents' Guide:

<https://www.psrweb.org/files/5713/2020-Camp-Frontier-Leaders-Guide>

download it for your benefit/reading



**Happy Birthday to the American Legion**

106 years old in March

Today there is so much more that the American Legion tries to do for our communities and youth such as Boys & Girls State, helping with sponsorships in school programs and so much more which includes sponsoring Boy Scouts units across the country. Happy Birthday Legion !

# Something Special out of History... *Polio Vaccine*

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/salk-announces-polio-vaccine>



On March 26, 1953, American medical researcher Dr. Jonas Salk announces on a national radio show that he has successfully tested a vaccine against poliomyelitis, the virus that causes the crippling disease of polio. In 1952--an epidemic year for polio--there were 58,000 new cases reported in the United States, and more than 3,000 died from the disease. For promising eventually to eradicate the disease, which is known as "infant paralysis" because it mainly affects children, Dr. Salk was celebrated as the great doctor-benefactor of his time.

Polio, a disease that has affected humanity throughout recorded history, attacks the nervous system and can cause varying degrees of paralysis. Since the virus is easily transmitted, epidemics were commonplace in the first decades of the 20th century. The first major polio epidemic in the United States occurred in Vermont in the summer of 1894, and by the 20th century thousands were affected every year. In the first decades of the 20th century, treatments were limited to quarantines and the infamous "iron lung," a metal coffin-like contraption that aided respiration. Although children, and especially infants, were among the worst affected, adults were also often afflicted, including future president Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in 1921 was stricken with polio at the age of 39 and was left partially paralyzed. Roosevelt later transformed his estate in Warm Springs, Georgia, into a recovery retreat for polio victims and was instrumental in raising funds for polio-related research and the treatment of polio patients.

Salk, born in New York City in 1914, first conducted research on viruses in the 1930s when he was a medical student at New York University, and during World War II helped develop flu vaccines. In 1947, he became head of a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh and in 1948 was awarded a grant to study the polio virus and develop a possible vaccine. By 1950, he had an early version of his polio vaccine.

Salk's procedure, first attempted unsuccessfully by American Maurice Brodie in the 1930s, was to kill several strains of the virus and then inject the benign viruses into a healthy person's bloodstream. The person's immune system would then create antibodies designed to resist future exposure to poliomyelitis. Salk conducted the first human trials on former polio patients and on himself and his family, and by 1953 was ready to announce his findings. This occurred on the CBS national radio network on the evening of March 25 and two days later in an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Salk became an immediate celebrity.

In 1954, clinical trials using the Salk vaccine and a placebo began on nearly two million American schoolchildren. In April 1955, it was announced that the vaccine was effective and safe, and a nationwide inoculation campaign began. Shortly thereafter, tragedy struck in the Western and mid-Western United States, when more than 200,000 people were injected with a defective vaccine manufactured at Cutter Laboratories of Berkeley, California. Thousands of polio cases were reported, 200 children were left paralyzed and 10 died.

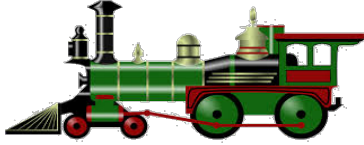
The incident delayed production of the vaccine, but new polio cases dropped to under 6,000 in 1957, the first year after the vaccine was widely available. In 1962, an oral vaccine developed by Polish-American researcher Albert Sabin became available, greatly facilitating distribution of the polio vaccine. Today, there are just a handful of polio cases in the United States every year, and most of these are "imported" by Americans from developing nations where polio is still a problem. Among other honors, Jonas Salk was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977. He died in La Jolla, California, in 1995.

Jonas Salk was born October 28, 1914, in New York City. In 1942 at the University of Michigan School of Public Health he became part of a group that was working to develop a vaccine against the flu. In 1947 he became head of the Virus Research Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh he began research on polio. On April 12, 1955, the vaccine was released for use in the United States. He established the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in 1963.

# Upcoming Activities

## 2025 National Train Day at Toledo Amtrak Station

May 10th 2025 ~ a  
Free Open House,  
Model Train displays  
and more... FUN!



For the young (and more senior) train enthusiast this is a great way to spend your Saturday. Fun & history both.

Sound interesting? Want more details? Check

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalTrainDayToledo/>

## Cub Day Camp 2025 at Camp Miakonda

Week 1 June 16th - 20th  
Week 2 June 23rd - 27th  
Week 3 June 30 thru July 3rd; TWILIGHT Camp  
Week 4 July 7th thru 11th  
Week 5 July 14th thru 18th

Information on price, hours, etc. will be coming out in the spring and Cub Scouts can both complete advancement requirements AND have a lot of fun too!

<https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/cdc>

## Cub Scout Adventure Camp

Session 1 @ PSR July 27 - July 30  
Session 2 \$ PSR July 30 - August 2

<https://www.psrweb.org/content/115527/Cub-Scout-Adventure-Camp>

## On the trivial side... Did you know that:

- \* Pound cake is called that because the original recipe used one pound of each ingredient.
- \* On average, lightning strikes Earth 100 times per second.
- \* In Thailand, there's an annual Monkey Buffet Festival where residents of Lopburi leave 4.5 tons of fruit, veggies, and other treats to honor the approximately 3,000 monkeys that live near the Phra Prang Sam Yot temple.
- \* There are more fake flamingos in the world than real ones.
- \* "Gnurr" is the term used to describe the lint that collects at the bottom of your pockets.
- \* If you sneeze uncontrollably after being suddenly exposed to bright light or intense sunlight, you might have inherited a genetic trait called Achoo Syndrome.
- \* A rainbow on Venus is called a "glory."
- \* The fear of long words is called

*hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia.*

That's a mouthful and after seeing that, I'm scared, too.

## Mud Hens Scout Experience 2025



As soon as we get the schedule for the 2025 Mud Hens Scout Experience which should include a sleepover we'll share!

Have you ever slept on an outfield before? No rocks or roots under your back to interrupt your sleep? This is an experience! And the Scouts get to stay up after the fireworks and watch a movie on the screen plus run around the outfield having fun.

Sleepover is an additional fee (per person)

details & date(s) to come soon at this link:

<https://www.milb.com/toledo/tickets/scout-experience>

## For the Scouts / Families - BUTTER BRAIDS

The Troop will be selling Butter Braids again

The sale will start on Mar 4th (take orders)

The sale ends on March 25 (orders due)

The product will be delivered on April 15th

We'll have it at the Troop Meeting



Once more - If 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. Ask Mr Waterstradt if you have any questions; he'll work to get you help so your Scout can get the benefit of going to Camp.

- \* Due to thermal expansion, the Eiffel Tower can "grow" up to six inches in the summer.
- \* If you go to the sky deck of the Willis Tower in Chicago on a clear day, you can see four other US states: Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin.
- \* A blue whale's heartbeat can be heard from two miles away.
- \* While she was a teenager during World War II, Queen Elizabeth II became a junior officer in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and became a trained mechanic.
- \* The real name of a hashtag is actually octothorpe.
- \* A polar bear's fur isn't actually white; it's translucent. It only appears white because it reflects visible light.
- \* For most people, it's impossible to lick their elbows. (Go ahead, try it.)

I know, some of this sounds really weird!

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/dannicaramirez/weird-facts>

# March Historical & Current Events



[www.aboutfamouspeople.com](http://www.aboutfamouspeople.com)

March 1st

Ohio entered the Union, 1803 the 17th state  
Congress authorized the creation of Yellowstone National Park, 1872



March 3rd

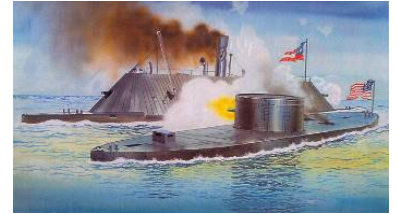
The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect. 1789  
Navy Reserve established, 1915



**Star Spangled Banner** adopted as National Anthem of the United States, 1931

March 4th

England's King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn for an area of land that later became the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1681



March 5th

Navy SeaBees established, 1942



March 7th

Army Distinguished Service Medal was authorized, 1918

March 9th

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

March 10th

Daniel Boone's expedition of Kentucky began, 1775  
Alexander Graham Bell places the world's first telephone call, to his assistant in the next room. 1876

March 11th

General Douglas MacArthur vowed "*I shall return*" 1942



March 12th

The Girl Scouts of America were founded, 1912

March 13th

The planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel, 1781

March 16th

Congress authorized the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., 1802  
Professor Robert Goddard launches the first liquid fuel rocket. 1926

March 17th

The Camp Fire Girls created, 1912



March 18th

Schick, Inc. marketed the first electric razor, 1931

March 20th

Harriet Beacher Stowe publishes the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* . 1852



March 21st

Thomas Jefferson became Secretary of State under President Washington, 1790

March 23rd

The United States Mint produced its first coins made by a press, 1836

March 24th

Largest oil spill in United States history happened in Alaska, 1989

March 27th

President George Washington and Congress created United States Navy, 1794  
First long distance telephone call made from Boston to New York, 1884

