

To the Parents of Troop 654,

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Scouting year. There are a lot of great activities that have been planned for this year and more activities still to be added. We are also starting off the year with some changes in adult leadership. The first leadership transition will be our Scoutmaster. Brad Carriker is stepping down as Scoutmaster after three years of great service. Brad is succeeded by John Carney. The second transition will be our Troop Committee Chair. Frank Tse is stepping down as the Troop Committee Chairman after close to four years of great service. John Edgar is the new Committee Chair. Both Brad and Frank will remain active in the troop and help provide some good continuity to the new leaders.

We have two main themes for this year – Scout Leadership and Adventure!

### **Leadership!**

Del Stover is leading a team of adults to focus on an on-going effort to develop scout leaders at all levels and mentor those leaders throughout the year. We believe 100% that the best-run troop is a boy-led troop. The leadership team is focused on helping the scout leaders hold meaningful and fun weekly meetings. We know the weekly meetings need a complete overhaul and that is priority number one. The patrol method and patrol leaders will receive special attention this year and each campout will include special leader development activities. The leadership training, however, is not just for those already in leadership positions. Second Class Scouts will also receive leadership training so that they are ready to lead when they reach first class.

### **Adventure!**

As you can see from the Troop 654 calendar on the back, we have a great set of activities already in the works! This summer we are going to have a troop 50-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail that will be open to all 654 scouts. Part of each campout this year will be to prepare the boys for longer backpacking trips. There will be an older scout high adventure program that will include opportunities for Class V whitewater rafting, dog sledding, Philmont, Sea Base, and 50 mile canoe/bike trips. Each of the troop activities will have opportunities for advancement, leadership, and a guaranteed good time – and each high adventure activity will require a certain amount of attendance, engagement, and advancement. We are also putting together a three year adventure plan for the troop that will feature “destination” trips in out years.

### **Adult Support – making it all happen.**

At two evening planning sessions held in August there were over 20 adult leaders were present and contributing at each meeting. It is awesome support and it is what enables Troop 654 to operate. We will need even more support. Shortly you will receive a list of those positions that we still need to fill. Please contact John Carney on the Scoutmaster side and John Edgar on the Committee side to sign up to support your son.

Frank Tse

Brad Carriker

John Edgar

John Carney

