

Minutes for Troop 870 Parent Meeting on November 3, 2014

Mike Marston, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Fall Camp Nov 22-26

The troop now has 25 scouts and five adults registered and paid for fall camp. The merit badge selections have been entered and approved. We have requested the screened cabins which sleep 12 each, and are waiting for confirmation from Camp Edgewood about the housing next week. If we are not in cabins and boys need to bring tents we will communicate this to the troop asap. SMIC Chris Grafe will meet with the camp adults and outdoor committee next week to plan the loading time, scheduled for Nov. 21st, and departure time for Nov. 22. All campers will need a current Part C, along with Parts A and B to attend fall camp. Campers also need three service hours before attending camp, and all adults who attend must have a current YPT certificate. Please check with Suzanne Sambell if you are not sure if your Scout needs service hours or has an incomplete medical form.

December Campout

Bill O' Hara announced that the December campout will be held Dec. 12-14 at Ratcliff Recreation Area. An email with the registration form attached has been sent. Cost for this camp is \$25. Ratcliff Recreation Area is located in Kennard, TX about 2.5 hours from Houston.

Flags Fundraiser

Paul Nguyen reminded everyone that flags are going out on Saturday for the upcoming Veterans Day holiday. Currently we have 17 scouts signed up but there are additional routes that have not been filled. The flags will be available Saturday from 9 am-12. The flags will need to be taken in and brought back to the storage facility on Thursday, Nov 13. Scouts who have signed up will receive an email from Paul with your assigned route.

All Scouts are required to help with two holidays.

Service Projects, Chris Lupo

Upcoming Service Opportunities:

A. SHAC 100th Anniversary Land Stewardship Day at UBC, Saturday Nov. 15. The troop will be completing a landscaping project for the new playground location at the church. 8am – 12 Hours for this are recorded and go toward earning the Council Centennial Celebration patches.

B. Food Drive – November 21 and 22 @area Kroger stores and the Bay Area Turning Point food bank. You should RSVP directly to Bay Area Turning Point to participate.

C. Reindeer Run at St. Johns Hospital, December 6. The troop will help with the set-up and clean-up of the race. Scouts are also welcome to participate in the 5k or 1K run.

Also, on December 18 the troop will once again participate in a toiletries drive for the Seafarers . Each patrol will be assigned items to donate and bring to our Dec. 18 holiday celebration. The scouts will wrap the items in shoe boxes that night and then later deliver them to the Seafarers.

Advancements, Leah Galliker

Leah reminded those who are going to fall camp that they do not need to ask for blue cards for the camp merit badges. If they do not complete the merit badge at camp, they may then need to request a blue card. She also wanted everyone to be aware that camping nights spent in cabins (as we plan to for this year's fall camp) do not count toward nights for the Camping merit badge. She also gently reminded everyone that she is still looking for enthusiastic volunteers who would like to learn more about the troop advancement process. Parents, please consider this volunteer need for our troop. A well-trained Advancement coordinator is crucial and you can learn everything you need to know from Leah. Boards of Review will be next week, possibly up to 8, so volunteers once again are needed, no experience necessary.

Eagle Project, Xander Rodriguez

Xander is planning his Eagle project and approached the parents for suggestions on his proposal. He plans to work with the Pineloch Piranhas swim team to refurbish their swim team benches. The benches all have peeling paint, which is causing problems with small children at swim meets as well as making it hard to distinguish the numbers on benches where swimmers must line up. Xander plans to remove the old paint and then sand,

paint and seal each of the 8 benches. He will also devise a plan for a better renumbering of the benches.

Scoutmaster Announcements/ Steve Sambell

Mr. Sambell also noted that Dylan Senderling will be presenting his proposal for an Eagle project at our December parent meeting. His plan includes a food drive as well as a musical concert.

He also reminded everyone of the troop's expectations of scouts to participate in service projects. The troop provides many opportunities for service, and prefers that scouts use these events to earn their hours. However, if a Scout would like to have hours considered from another source, they must have them pre-approved by the Scoutmaster. Please remind your Star Scouts that in order to complete Life requirement #6 they have been assigned a skill to teach using the Edge method. These are required skills for advancement to 2nd and 1st Class ranks, and the Star scouts should be reaching out to those who need to complete these ranks.

Chris Layden, SPL

Chris reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings and noted that last Sunday's Frisbee outing attracted about 10 Scouts. He is planning another casual troop event, a football game, during the December holiday break, and hopes to see more scouts there.

Recharter

Sharon Marston is still accepting the recharter forms. Fees are \$70 for Scouts with the Boys Life subscription and \$60 without. Adults are \$25 to recharter. All forms should be returned to her ASAP. Also, if your YPT is expiring before the end of the year, please remember to renew online as soon as possible to avoid issues with the recharter process.

Venture Patrol

Barton Bennet updated the formation of the new group within the troop. They will now be a Venture Crew. So far there are five scouts and five adults who will be chartered as a separate group. At our meeting on November 17 a

Scout Venture official will attend our meeting and provide more detailed information about the organization of a Venture Crew. It is an opportunity for Scouts age 14-21 that allows them to plan and participate in high adventure outings, about 4 times a year. These scouts will also still be member of Troop 870 and have agreed that they will participate in at least 30% of the troop's activities.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

November 24 – No Meeting due to Fall Camp – Happy Thanksgiving!

**Dec. 18 – !NOTE! THIS IS A THURSDAY Troop Meeting with Holiday Party in Fellowship Hall
(There will not be a meeting on Monday, December 15 – due to school finals)**

No Troop Meetings on December 22 or December 29

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14