

Parents Meeting for Troop 870 March 5, 2012

Meeting called to order by committee chair Kari Francis at 7:03 pm. She welcomed the new parents to the troop and asked them to introduce themselves.

Kari announced that there have been a lot of parents who have volunteered to fill the open positions. Karen Zimpfer agreed to chair Hospitality, Michelle Croce will be the new Treasurer once her schedule allows, Paul Schaider is the new Chaplain and Claire Green is the new Board of Review Chair. There are still volunteer slots that need filling:

Secretary: Julie Lovelace is filling the position in the short term. This is a once a month commitment that includes taking the minutes at the parents meeting, and then typing them up and distributing them via email.

Outdoor Activities Committee: This committee always needs eager volunteers. The more people volunteering, the lighter the load for everyone.

If you are able to help with either of these positions, please contact Kari.

Treasurer's Report

Leah Galliker gave the financial report and announced that the troop balance is currently \$11,600. The first few flag fundraiser checks have come in for this year, so things are looking good. She reminded everyone that the books are always open and you may request to see them at any time.

Advancement Report

Leah Galliker stated that there are 12 scouts sitting for their SMCs this month. If they all pass, at least 4 Boards of Review groups will be needed Monday night in two weeks. Look for an email from Jennifer Crucian or Claire Green.

The parents were also reminded that the scouts need to be in their Class A uniforms for the Board of Review. This means they must have scout pants/shorts, Class A shirt with current rank patch, merit badge sash with any merit badges earned sewn on, neckerchief and slide, scout belt, and scout socks. If they are out of uniform in any way, they will not be allowed to sit for the board. These boards are a very important part of rank advancement and it is crucial that the scouts are prepared.

Fundraising Report

Mark Kuhlman explained the basics of proper flag care. He advised that you should carry a screwdriver or pencil along when collecting the flags as the poles tend to plug up at the end with mud and allow water to sit in the pole. The water will come out of the top when the pole is moved, leading to a wet flag and wet car. Also, be sure to place the sewn sleeves on the flags once they are dry and rolled up. Each scout is responsible for helping with 2 of the four holidays. Subscription sales at pool tag days do not replace a holiday.

Outdoor Committee Report

Erica Stepchinski reminded everyone about the upcoming golf outing to Green Caye. Forms are due by March 19th. If you have your own clubs, please bring them. Clubs will be available for use at the course. The scouts will be working on their Golf Merit Badge.

Becky Forrest reminded all that the updated medical forms are due by June 15th if you plan to attend summer camp. The physicals (part C) must be updated yearly. New parents should turn medical forms part A & B as soon as possible. They must be turned in before the scout can go on an outdoor activity.

Joe Layden told everyone to be on the lookout for an email regarding merit badge class offerings at summer camp. He would like to have each scouts list of choices by the first Monday in April. He recommended that scouts try to sign up for at least one Eagle required merit badge. New scouts are encouraged to take First Aid.

Lisa Phillips reminded the parents about the Swap Shop happening on March 26th. This will be a good time to buy and/or sell gently used camping gear.

Mike Marston announced that the overnight at Battleship Texas would be April 13th. The scouts have the option of biking back from the Battleship to UBC on the 14th.

Scoutmaster /SPL Report

Scoutmaster Mike Lovelace introduced SPL Jack Galliker to the new parents. Jack reported that there are several service opportunities coming up: bridging ceremonies for Packs 95, 957, and 848, the 5K run in memory of former ASM Steve Nicklow on the 24th, and mulching at Mrs. Nicklow's home on the 31st. There are two themes for this month, Golf and Inventing. Next month the theme is Cycling. He also reminded parents that there is Troop Leader Training on the 30th from 6-9pm.

Mike Lovelace stated that Troop Leader Training is for the older scouts of advanced ranks, and that the new parents did not need to worry about it.

Service

Al Estes reminded parents that each scout must have completed 3 hours of service since fall camp, if they plan to go to summer camp. The troop requires 3 hours for each long term camp, and with all of the service opportunities our troop provides, this is an easy requirement to meet. The new scouts are exempt from this requirement for summer camp 2012. Al also reminded everyone that the flag fundraiser does not count for service. When considering which service projects to attend, keep in mind that the troop places priority on projects for UBC, our charter organization, and Eagle Scout projects.

Kari also stated that the patrols complete with each other for most service hours, best meeting attendance and most camping hours. That should be a good incentive to sign up. She also said that more parent help is needed at the service projects.

Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator

Alison Muratore introduced herself and let the parents know that we are always in need of more merit badge counselors. Currently there are 35 merit badges that we do not have a counselor for. Many of our current mb counselors have older boys and will be leaving the troop soon, so parents will be needed to replace them as well. Becoming a counselor is very easy: be a registered adult, take YPT, and be knowledgeable in the merit badge subject matter. The Eagle required badges always need several counselors, so look over those requirements and consider signing up.

Meri Dix told everyone that there are still some items in the uniform bank. Email her if you need something. She also placed an order for more troop t-shirts and they should arrive in about 2 weeks.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm