

## Troop 870 Parent Meeting Minutes May 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Mike Marston, Troop Committee Chair.

**Campouts** –The May campout will be held May 20-22 at Stephen F. Austin State Park. The park is currently closed to the public because of the rains, but it is likely the troop will be allowed to camp there on these dates. There will be an email with the registration form coming soon.

**Philmont** – The Philmont crew will also be camping that weekend at Stephen F. Austin SP. They will also leave on Friday, May 20 so that they can hike both Saturday and Sunday.

**Summer Camp** – Summer camp is set for July 17-23 at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch. Because the troop is planning to travel by train, there is an extra day needed for travel to/from the camp. The train will leave Houston on Saturday, July 16 in the early evening and will depart Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and arrive in Houston early morning on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. Summer campers will need to bring a footlocker (used for summer and fall camps), a folding Army-style cot, and a tent for this campout. If you don't have a cot, they are available at Academy, or ask if there is a troop member they could borrow from.

**Flag Fundraiser** - There will be a Flag Workday at the storage area on Saturday, May 14. There will be two shifts available, 9-12 and 12-3. This will be a Route Prep workday, where Scouts will check residences for the sleeves and markings for flag placements. All Scouts should have signed up for two holidays this year for flag distribution, and must participate in at least one work day. If you haven't signed up yet, please check the troop website under "Flag Volunteers." For the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, the flags will be put out on Thursday May 26, and brought back in on Thursday, June 2.

There is still a need for Flag Coordinators for each holiday. This would entail a Scout and parent to coordinate the distribution of the flags from the storage facility during a holiday. Please contact Joe Layden or Mike Marston if you can help us with this.

**Swim Test** – Swim test for Scouts and adults who will be participating in any Scout water events will be held next Monday at the Brookwood Pool, 11730 Mighty Redwood. The test will begin at 6:00 pm. Adults should bring a chair. Scouts should wear swim trunks and troop t-shirt.

**Senior Patrol Leader** – Xander Rodriguez noted May's theme is Swimming. The May 9th meeting will be the troop swim test, the 16<sup>th</sup> is Boards of Review and the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the Spring Court of Honor. Alan Collins will be the Master of Ceremonies. May 20-22 is the campout at Stephen F. Austin State Park. Younger scouts will work on 1<sup>st</sup> class requirements with the help of older Scouts.

**Scoutmaster Steve Sambell** – Reminded newer Scouts to make sure to purchase the new Scout Book, he also highly recommended the cloth cover for the book. Mr. Sambell reminded parents to make sure their Scouts are using their books to record their camping nights, service hours and the duties they performed at camps as the books will be checked for this information during boards of review. Scouts should familiarize themselves with the swimming requirements before the test. He encouraged adults to take the test, the troop will have a canoeing event in June and all participating adults must have a valid swim certificate. He reminded new Scout parents to check the progress of their scouts toward the Tenderfoot 30 day physical fitness requirement that were recently started. New parents must complete the pamphlet exercises at the front of the Scout book. He also reminded all Scouts that three completed service hours are required to attend summer camp. (New Scouts are exempt from this policy for their first summer camp)

**Ben Edwards, Asst. Scoutmaster** - Ben asked parents to encourage their child's progress with cooking skills. As the scouts begin to prepare and cook meals at campouts, they should have basic cooking knowledge and not plan to bring ready-made foods to camp.

**Service Project - Chris Lupo**

1. Rebuild Together project in conjunction with Engineers without Borders is still a project for the troop, but the date is still not set. This project will be to help with renovation of a veteran's home in Houston near U of H. An email will be coming soon with new information.

2. Bay Area Turning Point Food Drive – Scouts will help coordinate food drives at area Krogers to support the Bay Area Turning Point shelter for abused women and children. Dates are Jun 24-25. An email will be coming from Asst. Senior Patrol Leader - Service Kai Lupo.

Troop Treasurer – Michelle Croce -Michelle needs any receipts from the grubmasters at the April campout so that she can write your reimbursement check.

#### Open Committee Positions - URGENT

Our troop can't function without all the adult volunteers – you can work behind the scenes with committee work or directly with Scouts as an Assistant Scout Master. Please contact Mike Marston for more information about any of the following positions.

Activity Committee Chair -

Treasurer –

Troop Committee Chair

Registration Coordinator

Twilight Camp - David Colling - Asked that any Scouts wanting to work at Twilight Camp must let him know by May 12. Twilight camp is June 6-10 at Lomax Arena in LaPorte. The merit badges that can be earned at twilight camp this year are Insect Studies and Scouting Heritage.

#### Calendar

Monday, May 9 – Troop Swim Test at Brookwood pool - at 6:00 - Map/directions are attached below

Saturday, May 14 – Flag Work Day at Extra Space Storage on Space Center Blvd.

Monday, May 16 – Troop Meeting/Boards of Review

Monday, May 23 – Spring Court of Honor

Thursday, May 26 – Flags out for Memorial Day

Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day Holiday – no meeting

Thursday, June 2 – Flags into Storage

Monday, June 6 – Troop Meeting – Summer Uniform – Class B's only for summer meetings.

Adjourned at 8:10

Suzanne Sambell  
Troop 870 Secretary \_