

## Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on October 7, 2013

Committee Chair Mike Marston called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### Committee Volunteers

#### **Parent volunteers are needed immediately for the following positions/committees:**

1. **Activities Committee Chair and Activities Committee**—this committee plans campouts and other activities and handles registrations for these events. If enough parents serve on this committee, each person will only have to plan 1 outing per year.
2. **Equipment Chair** – tracks inventory of scouting gear and maintains troop equipment in the storage closet in the garage and also takes care of trailer maintenance/repair.
3. **Service Projects Chair** -- communicates with UBC and organizations in the community about service opportunities and schedules troop service projects
4. **Hospitality Chair/Committee** -- coordinates refreshments for Courts of Honor 3 x per year and the December Holiday Party. Basically this chair/committee decides what refreshments will be served and then assigns the food and drinks to be brought to the different patrols.
5. **Court of Honor Program Coordinator** – prepares and prints programs for troop Courts of Honor 3 x a year

The troop needs lots of support from many parents to make campouts and other activities possible for our scouts! One of the best things about volunteering for any of these positions is that training is provided. Volunteering is also a great way to get to know the scouts and their parents too. Please contact Mike Marston or the current chairperson if you are interested in any of the positions listed above, or if you would like more information about getting involved in the troop. Joe Layden currently serves as Activities Committee Chair and Equipment Chair. Al Estes is the current Service Projects Chair, and Julie Lovelace is the COH Program Coordinator.

### Upcoming Events

- This month's campout may be at Sam Houston National Forest October 18-20. (SHNF is currently closed due to the govt. shutdown. ) Deadline to register is October 7. Backup reservations have been made to camp at Martin Dies Jr. State Park in case SHNF is still closed that weekend. Loading will take place on Thursday, October 17. Scouts will be helping with a service project at SHNF if they are able to camp there this month. Scouts participating in this conservation project will be able to fulfill the service requirement for the Camping Merit Badge. These service hours will not count for the 3 hr. service requirement for Fall Camp if they are being counted for the Merit Badge.
- The Rebuilding Together Houston service project is scheduled for October 26. Scouts and adults helping with this project will be cleaning old paint from siding and trim, replacing some siding pieces, repairing gutters, and painting siding and trim on a house for an elderly individual. (The house is located at 6006 Kenilwood, south of the 610 Loop and west of Mykawa.) Mr. Francis will bring all tools for this project. 4-5 adults and 8-10 scouts will be needed. It will be an all day project; scouts should be able to earn 8 service hours. Scouts volunteering to help may be able to count 8 hours of service for the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge as long as they clear this with a Merit Badge counselor ahead of time. Scouts should bring safety glasses, gloves, their troop t-shirt with a cover shirt, sunscreen, and insect repellent. (See Mr. Francis' October 9 e-mail to volunteer and for more detailed information). The Francis family is helping with a similar project on October 19 if anyone else would like to help out that day. Contact Mr. Francis if you are interested in working that weekend.
- In person Youth Protection Training (YPT) will probably be scheduled for October 28 during the troop meeting. This training is required for adults attending Fall or Summer Camps (or other long term campouts) in Texas. The training is valid for 2 years. This is not the same as the online YPT.
- Another service project coming up is the UBC annual Fall Festival on Oct. 31. Scouts from our troop help with the set up and tear down (each takes about 1 hour). Anyone wanting to earn a couple more service hours can talk with the

youth director at the church about working at some of the booths the night of the festival. Al Estes will provide more information later this month.

- Order of the Arrow (OA) elections will be held on October 28 to elect new members.

### Treasurer Report

The treasurer report was distributed on the back of the agenda. Our balance as of September 30, 2013 is \$16,815.78.

### Fall Camp

Registration has closed for Fall Camp at Camp Karankawa November 22-26. Parts A, B, and C of the BSA medical form must be turned in by November 11 to Becky Forrest, our Medical Forms Chair. Part C requires a physical exam and a signature from the physician. These forms are available on the troop website and can be scanned and e-mailed to Becky. Be sure to use the 2012 medical form link.

From now through November, Joe Layden will send out additional information pertaining to Fall Camp only to those scouts (and their parents) who have registered to attend.

### Troop Recharter/Registration

Sharon Marston distributed forms for recharter. These are due to Council on December 5. She has requested that these forms be submitted to her by the October 28 meeting. YPT is required to register. Sharon will contact parents whose YPT has expired. Parents can send a PDF version of their YPT certificates to her. The troop would like to have at least one adult registered for every scout.

Please refer to Sharon's October 10 e-mail regarding rechartering for more detailed information.

### Veterans Day Flag Duty

Flags for the Veterans Day holiday will go out on November 9 and will be picked up on November 13. Families who have not done their 2 required flag holidays for this year should plan to help out with this last one.

Paul Nguyen is planning to have a work day (tentatively scheduled for October 26) to repair flags at the storage facility. He will send out an e-mail with more information.

### Advancement Chair Report

Leah Galliker discussed the new electronic sign up system (Sign Up Genius) that she and Mrs. Crucian are trying out to schedule volunteers for monthly BORS. The easiest way to sign up is to click on the link in the invitation email you already received or go to [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). Look for the Troop 870 Board of Review sign up page. More parents are needed to help with BORS on October 14.

Leah recently attended the first Advancement Academy at SHAC headquarters with 200 other Advancement reps. The new BSA Advancement Guide was reviewed at the Academy. There are no major changes in advancement at this time.

### Merit Badge Counselor Report

Kari Francis stated that a few MB counselors still need to turn in their applications. 33 badges still need counselors. The troop could use a counselor for the photography MB. We have one scout who is interested in earning this MB, but his father cannot serve as his counselor unless at least 4 more scouts are interested in earning this badge. This parent can teach a photography class to a group of scouts, including his son, as long as there is a minimum class of 5 scouts.

### Senior Patrol Leader/Scoutmaster Announcements

SPL Chris Layden reviewed the service opportunities for this month and reported that the theme for October is citizenship. In addition to the service projects mentioned previously, he mentioned that Farzam Farahani will be having his Eagle Project workdays on October 12 and October 19. Farzam will be organizing a food drive to benefit the Houston Food Bank.

Mr. Lovelace said that one of the maintenance supervisors at UBC requested that our troop make some concrete markers for parking and traffic control for the Fall Festival. He would like to have some scouts and adults help with this project on October 12. (See his e-mail from October 10 for more details).

Mike stated that there are reports of some scout charter organizations not renewing troop charters because of the BSA membership policy change. Troop 870 is in good standing with UBC, our charter organization. It is important that our troop maintain a solid relationship with UBC, so please encourage your scouts to participate in Scout Sunday at the church in February. Participation in other service projects benefitting the church also helps with visibility and fosters good relations with UBC.

### Other Business

The Scout Shop currently has a special on uniforms. Boys or adults purchasing a complete uniform (shirt, pants or shorts, and socks) can take 10% off the total price now through Oct. 27. This discount applies to Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturing, and adult uniforms.

Assistant Scoutmaster Training will be held on Oct. 19 at Bay Area Park. Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) Training will be held on Oct. 26 at the park. Contact Mike Marston if interested.

**REMINDER:** On Sunday, November 3 there will be a joint Eagle COH at UBC for 5 of our scouts: Joe Godwin, Matt Lovelace, Matt Mucha, Joseph Sukkar, and Alan Stepchinski. If you plan to attend but have not replied yet, please RSVP with # attending the ceremony to [pelagroup@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pelagroup@sbcglobal.net) or to 281-461-4537.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE:** At all troop activities, scouts and parents need to check in/check out with the Scoutmaster in Charge (SMIC). This is so we know all people that need to be accounted for during that activity!

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski