

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on February 4, 2013

Sharon Marston presided over the meeting since Mike Marston was not able to attend. She called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Re-chartering is now complete.

Upcoming Events/Campouts

This weekend there will be a preparation hike starting at Evelyn Meador Park in Seabrook. This hike is for scouts going on the Pedernales Falls Campout (Feb 16-18), for those interested in going to Philmont in 2014, and to introduce hiking/backpacking to scouts with little or no previous hiking experience. Scouts should be prepared to hike 2.5 miles. Scouts that do not have a full-size backpack or hiking boots are welcome to attend. Scouts should bring their day packs even if they don't have all their hiking gear yet. (See Joe Layden's e-mails for more information).

The campout to Pedernales Falls is scheduled for February 16-18. Plans are to leave Saturday morning and return on Monday since the scouts and some parents have the MLK holiday off. 20 scouts have signed up for this campout. We have enough drivers and seat belts to accommodate everyone. The scouts will be reviewing what equipment they need to bring during their meeting.

Webelos Woods is scheduled for March 3. Meeting time is at 8:00 a.m. at UBC. Our troop will be responsible for building the bonfire again. This will count as a service activity for our scouts. Camping will be on Saturday night only.

Senior Patrol Leader/Scout Master Announcements

SPL David Bauder gave the program update. Regarding the upcoming Pedernales Falls campout, make sure that scouts have good hiking shoes that have been broken in. Don't buy shoes the week before! Mr. Lovelace mentioned that even high top sneakers or other shoes that provide good ankle support would be sufficient. Thick socks that don't slip are highly recommended. Scouts should not bring large pots and pans for this campout.

The next Troop Leader Training will be on Friday, Feb. 22. All scouts who currently hold a leadership position in the troop are required to attend one of the 2 sessions. The second session is on Feb. 24 from 1-4 p.m. Steve Sambell has offered to host this one on his boat. If scouts cannot attend either session, please send Mr. Lovelace an e-mail to make other arrangements.

Eagle Project Presentation

Joseph Sukkar is planning to build 8 benches for Galveston Island State Park. His work dates will be Feb. 23 from 9-3 and March 3 from 10-2. He needs 10-12 scouts and 3-4 adults for the first Saturday and 5-6 scouts, 2-3 adults for the second Saturday. Joseph will send out e-mail notices later this month with detailed information about his project.

2014 Philmont High Adventure

Troop 870 won a lottery slot for a 12 day expedition to Philmont (June 17-June 29, 2014). There will be 2 days of travel added on each end of the trip. Scouts who are eligible to go must be 14 or older or have completed the 8th grade and must be at least 1st Class rank. There is a 12 person limit for this expedition, with a minimum of 2 adults. Philmont costs \$800 per person, but the total will be more when supplies, gear, plus travel expenses are factored into the cost. Those scouts who are eligible to go to Philmont will be receiving more information about this trip soon.

Summer Camp at SkyMont in Tennessee

Jennifer McBurnett is the coordinator for summer camp. Discussion followed concerning whether to drive or fly to SkyMont. ASM Steve Sambell has been looking into costs for flying. This option would save 2 days of travel time; however it would be more expensive than driving (approximately \$370 vs. \$300). He will find out if foot lockers can be checked on the plane. Someone would still have to haul the troop trailer with gear to Tennessee. The majority of parents present at the meeting voted for the flight option.

Wicking t-shirts

Andrew Croce has been looking into wicking t-shirts for class B wear since the boys have had heat rash issues in the summer with the cotton t-shirts. The cost of the wicking shirts will go up \$5 to \$15. The scouts will choose the design and color.

Treasurer Report

Michelle Croce reviewed the treasurer report. Total inflow for January - \$3560.00. Total outflow - \$5034.33. Current balance as of Jan. 31, 2013 is \$15,754.39

Service Opportunities

Joe Layden stated that help is needed on March 9 to plant trees in Seabrook.

Al Estes reviewed service events for the past two weekends. The Scouting For Food flier distribution and collection days went well. Over 394 pounds of food were collected for this service project. There were about 30 scouts and adults who volunteered for Scout Sunday at UBC. The troop prepared man crepes for the congregation.

Scouts can volunteer to help with the Epicurean Evening at Space Center Houston on Feb.7 from 6-9:30. Four adults are needed to volunteer. Scouts should wear their class A uniforms. Volunteers will not have to pay for admission and can eat for free.

Matt Estes, ASPL for Service, will be sending out more information regarding these upcoming service opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski