

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on February 3, 2014

Mike Marston, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Committee Volunteers

Mike noted that there are still several critical volunteer positions open for this year.

Activities Committee Chair – Will work with Joe Layden to transition to become Chair of this committee. We also need several more **Activities Committee Members** to assist in coordinating campouts and troop outings.

Please contact Mike Marston or Joe Layden if you are interested in helping on this committee, or if you would like more information about getting involved in the troop.

Merit Badge Workshops

There will be two Merit Badge Workshops this month on February 6 and February 21. Both workshops will be at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Mr. Sambell, Mr. Croce and Mr. Rodriguez will be available to help scouts try and finish off trailing requirements for the following merit badges – Emergency Preparedness, Personal Fitness, and Cooking. An email will be sent out as a reminder. These workshops are not to begin the merit badge but to finish off any final requirements.

Service Project –Epicurean Night Space Center Houston , February 6

Approximately 8-10 scouts and 2-3 adults are needed to empty trash cans and clean up at the Epicurean Night festivities at Space Center Houston on February 6. Service time will be 6:15-9:00PM. The Scouts participating will be able to sample all the dishes the many restaurants bring. Parking and entry into Space Center Houston is free. In the past there have been lots of “rewards” at the end of the night.

Please remember that though this is a lot of fun, it is also a service project and scouts must behave accordingly.

Life-to-Eagle Process, Feb. 10 @ 6PM Great Room

Scouts and Parents of current Life Scouts and Star Scouts who are in high school are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the process to get to Eagle. This meeting will be prior to the regular troop meeting and conducted by Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Bauder.

Philmont Camp/Hike, Feb. 15-17, Lake Georgetown

This will be a 30 mile practice hike/camping trip for the Philmont crew. The Philmont crew from two years ago did the same practice and felt like it was a good experience. The departure date may be moved up to the 14th. A pack shake down will be coming soon.

Mr. Layden noted that the 2nd Philmont payment is also due tonight.

February Campout

This month's campout is Webelos Woods at Challenger Park on Feb 28-Mar 2. In the past the Troop only spent one night but it has been brought up that this is a good recruiting tool for the Webelos so would like to participate

on both nights. The Troop will be making man-crepes on Saturday night and will be responsible for the bonfire. Scouts are encouraged to attend even if they can only make part of the weekend.

It was noted that any parents wanting to become an ASM or receive additional training, there will be an Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) training class that weekend.

Mr. Estes will look into the possibility of utilizing a table/booth in Pack 848's Big Tent (Steve Willis) to give the older scouts the possibility of working on their teaching/leadership skills.

[Climbing Camping Trip, McKinney Roughs March 29-30](#)

This camping trip is for all ages and will appeal to the younger scouts and provide more high adventure for the older scouts. There will be two troop meetings for training on knots, equipment, outdoor code etc. which are part of the climbing merit badge. There are State Certified instructors at the course. There will be repelling and a challenge course and this year the scouts will be allowed to belay. Parents are welcome to participate as well. The departure will be early Saturday morning and return Sunday morning though the Philmont crew may leave on Friday night.

[Service Projects](#)

The Scouting for Food drive had a good turnout over the two weekends. The troop collected 250 lbs of food and the Interfaith Caring Ministry food pantry was very appreciative.

Scout Fair – Troop 870 will be participating in Scout Fair at Reliant Center for the first time. This event is being held on April 12 from 10-3. Volunteers will be needed for one hour time slots for outdoor cooking demonstrations.

A local Girl Scout Troop will be participating in the Bayshore Nature Cleanup on February 8 from 10-12. It is open to friends and family. Chris Lupo and Xander Rodriguez will be sending out information.

[Troop Advancement Chair Report](#)

Leah Galiker noted she will continue to stay on as the Advancements Chair.

[Treasurer Report](#)

Michelle Croce distributed the treasurer's report for January. Treasurer records are always available for review.

[Name Tags for Shirts](#)

Mr. Rodriguez announced that they were handing out the name badges for scout shirts. They are to be worn above the right pocket but are not mandatory to be worn. If the scout/parent elects not to wear the name tag please return it to Mr. Rodriguez as it may be able to be used at a later date by a new scout. When the new scouts start arriving a second printing will be done. Mr. Rodriguez will be sending out pictures of the implementation.

[Scoutmaster Announcements](#)

Mr. Steve Sambell introduced himself as the new Scout Master in conjunction with ASM's. Mr. Lovelace will be transitioning out of the Scout Master role but will still be working behind the scenes and scaling back. Mr. Lovelace will still be working with the older boys on achieving their Eagle.

Mr. Sambell has a son in the Troop and was a scout himself. Though he didn't reach Eagle he was a Life Scout and came very close. His goal is to focus on the boys having fun in the outdoors. There will be more focus on the Patrols and the Patrol Leaders will be assisting the SPL team more than in the past. Patrol Leaders will be communicating with the adults and SPL team and need to remember to be respectful and professional. The scout needs to respond to the emails, not the parent, and be responsible.

Goals are to get Scouts through First Class and learn the camping/outdoor skills. STAR scouts work on service and merit badges, Life scouts work on teaching/instructing/service, and Eagle scouts on service and leading.

In order to lead, the scouts need to be present. The Patrol Leaders will not be calling each week with reminders. It is the scout's responsibility to call his Patrol Leader if he is not going to be at the meeting. Patrol Leaders will be keeping a book of attendance. Encourage your scout to be engaged and active at meetings and campouts.

Summer Camp

Joe Layden noted that Summer Camp will be held this year at El Rancho Cima, near Wimberley in the Hill Country, on July 13-19 (leave Sunday and return Saturday) and that signups will begin later this month. The section of the camp that we will be attending is the Cockrell River Camp section. The troop will have 40 spots. Merit badge selection will occur probably in April.

Our troop will not be participating in the Rough Riders and if interested would have to register separately for a different week than our camp.

If possible, the Troop would like to have adult volunteers drive the campers instead of renting the vans. The Vans cost approximately \$2,000 (not including gas) and are the largest expense. This would reduce the cost to the scouts.

Please note, volunteers need to make sure they have signed a Driver's Pledge and have a current YPT certificate if they intend to drive scouts to any events. If you are not driving but are participating, then you still need the YPT certificate.

SHAC Centennial

Mr. Estes presented the new SHAC Centennial patch. It can be purchased at the scout shop for \$1. All of the wedges that are added on must be earned through participation at four events this year – Scouting for food (either weekend), Scout Fair, participation in Council camp, **something in the fall**.

The new Centennial Council Shoulder patch can be purchased at the Scout shop for \$7.50 and worn on shirt.

OA Ordeal

The OA ordeal for the new members is slated for April 25-27 at the Baytown Nature Center. The fee will be \$65 and cover the Ordeal, food, OA book, Brotherhood and sash. More information will be coming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Harlan