

Minutes for Troop 870 Parent Meeting on January 6, 2014

Sharon Marston (standing in for Committee Chair Mike Marston) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Volunteers

Sharon noted that there are still some 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.

January Campout

This month's campout is Camporee at Camp Brosig, near Sealy, on Jan 17-19. Registration forms due to Jennifer McBurnett by Jan. 7.

Service Projects

Scouting for Food is planned for the following dates: On Saturday, January 25, troop members will meet at St Clare's Catholic Church on El Dorado at 9:00 am to distribute fliers about the food drive. On Saturday, February 1st, troop volunteers will collect the food items. Al Estes will be sending an email with details about Scouting For Food.

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.

Sunday, February 2 is Scout Sunday with Dutch Oven cooking of Man Crepes for UBC congregation.

Troop Advancement Chair Report

Leah Galliker noted the Cooking merit badge is now officially required for Eagle. New requirements for the Cooking badge are currently being produced. If a Scout has already begun work on the Cooking badge they may continue under the existing requirements if the badge is complete by December 31, 2014.

January 27 will be our next Court of Honor, and Leah will be requesting volunteers for with upcoming BOR's. Those interested can sign up using the Sign-Up Genius. She also encourages Scouts to make sure their blue cards are turned in by next week.

Treasurer Report

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

Scoutmaster Announcements

Mike Lovelace introduced three Troop 870 alumni Eagle Scouts: Jared Dalpe (2010); Brad Paul (2010) and Ryan Mays (2011). These three young men are now either attending college or have graduated. They each spoke about the value of their scouting experience and specifically how achieving their Eagle rank, and using leadership skills learned within Scouting, has provided advantages for them in applying to colleges, in the classroom and in job interviews.

Mike proposed the idea of a name badge for scout shirts. He saw this recently at another troop, and noted it could be very helpful especially for first year Scouts and Leaders so they can easily get to know their fellow Scouts' names. This was discussed and it was agreed that a badge design committee will move forward with this idea.

He encouraged more Scouts to sign up for the Camporee, and noted that at next week's meetings Scouts will again work on Camporee skills, such as lashings and tent set-up. For those who were not aware, Mike announced that Andrew Francis was elected Senior Patrol Leader at our December meeting.

Planning has begun for an Eagle Scout Parent Orientation meeting to explain the BSA requirements and the Eagle process. This has been done in the past and is very helpful in relieving both Scout and parental anxieties about the Eagle process. More details will be coming soon.

Summer Camp

Joe Layden noted that Summer Camp will be held this year at El Rancho Cima, near Wimberley in the Hill Country, and that signups will begin next month.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Suzanne Sambell