

Troop 870 Parent Meeting Minutes May 1, 2017

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

Flag Program – Joe Layden thanked everyone who participated in the Flag Workday last weekend, saying that about half of the route maintenance was completed. There is a second workday this Saturday, May 6. Scouts may come anytime from 8-4 and plan to spend at least three hours. Joe also stressed that the participation of troop parents is critical in the flag service project. Please make sure that you are available on the dates your Scout is signed up for flag duty, to help load flags, drive the assigned routes, and help with placement and return of flags. The troop has nearly 375 subscribers already and hopes for more. The subscription Pay Pal function is now fully available on our website. **For those Scouts who have not yet signed up for their two holidays, please do so asap on the troop website. More Scouts are needed to sign up for the Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays.**

Volunteer Position Needs:

The troop needs parent volunteers immediately for the following positions:

Flag Coordinator - Handle the duties involved on holiday distribution and returns

Flag Subscriptions - Manage the administration of subscriptions and website payments

Outdoor Committee – Help to plan a monthly campout by handling the required paperwork.

Boards of Review – No experience required. Contact Amanda Brown to volunteer.

Thank you to John Filak who is our troop's new Quartermaster, replacing Al Estes.

Campouts – **May Campout** – This is a one-night campout, geared to new scouts at Bay Area Park on May 20-21. The scouts will work toward their rank and will be canoeing. SMIC will be George Rodriguez. More info will be emailed regarding loading time and departure.

Swim Test – Our annual Swim Test will be held on Monday, May 8 at the Brookwood pool from 6:30-8:00. All Scouts are required to participate and pass this annual test. Adults who plan to participate in camps or any water-related activities should also complete the swim test.

Summer Camp – June 18-24 Camp Hale, OK. Departure on the 17th and return late on 24th. Merit badge information has been submitted. Any fees due for specific merit badges will need to be paid at camp. Rich Bourns is working to create a list of the known fees so that parents can plan for this. Leaders also reminded parents that scouts will need money for meals on the trips to and from camp, as well as some spending money for the camp store during the week. Rich has emailed a suggested packing list. Scouts do not need to bring tents, but should bring a cot, preferably folding, and bring their personal items in a footlocker (available from Academy), a large backpack or duffel bag.

Senior Patrol Leader Chandra Fincke – In May Scouts will be working on first aid skills. They will have their Swim test on May 8, and a Court of Honor on May 22. There is no meeting on May 29 for Memorial Day holiday. He said the plant project has been a success, with many scouts enjoying naming, decorating and tending to their plants. Chandra and Mr. Sambell have agreed that each member of the winning patrol in the plant competition will each receive \$20 to fund an out of troop activity. He noted that beginning in June, scouts can wear their Class B uniforms to meetings. Chandra is planning his Eagle project, which will be a restoration of trails in the Pinebrook neighborhood. He has set a tentative project date of June 10-11, more info to follow soon.

[Scoutmaster /Steve Sambell](#)-Mr. Sambell said that the troop had a successful bonfire at Webelos Woods last month and appreciated the high participation from the troop. District has decided to hold another Webelos Woods in the fall (November) and the troop may plan to participate in that, and then offer a winter camp (December break) vs. the Fall Camp. This will be one of the decisions that the Scouts will make as they plan their calendar for the coming year. He noted that he will not be able to attend the May campout and that additional adult volunteers are needed to help supervise. [New ASM](#) – Steve congratulated Jim Stein, who has completed training and is the troop’s newest ASM. [Tent Purchase](#) – Is finalizing the purchase of the new tents and should have them by the May campout. [Advancements](#) – The TroopMaster Web program will be available soon, with an individual log-in for scouts to enter and check on their advancement information.

[Philmont](#) – The troop is actively seeking members for a Philmont 2018 crew. Dates are June 15-27 (plus travel days). This will be a 12 day trek. Eligible Scouts are 14 and older, or have completed 8th grade and First Class rank (or above).

[Service Project Opportunities](#) –Scouts need three service hours to attend summer camp. Opportunities are the upcoming Eagle projects for Dominik Crucian, May 12-13, and Chandra Fincke, June 10-11 (tentatively). (See Dominik’s recent email for specific project information)

[NYLT – National Youth Leadership Training](#) - Will be held on June 4-9 and June 11-16 at Camp Bovay. Scouts who want to be eligible for senior troop leadership positions will need to complete this training. To be eligible, Scouts must be 13, have completed 7th grade and hold First Class rank. They will also need scoutmaster approval to attend. Visit www.samhoustonbsa.org/nylt to register.

[Sam Houston Area Council](#) – to stay up to date regarding all scouting events in the area, join the council’s mailing list at <mailto:communications@shac.org>

[Calendar](#)

May 1 – Troop Meeting/Parent meeting

May 6 – Flag Workday

May 8 – Swim Test at Brookwood pool 6:30 pm

May 15 – Troop Meeting

May 20-21 – Campout and canoeing at Bay Area Park

May 22 – Court of Honor - please wear full Class A with neckerchief

May 29 – No Meeting/Memorial Day Holiday

June 5 – Troop Meeting/Parent Meeting

Scouts may wear Class B uniform for all summer meetings starting in June

June 12 – Troop meeting

June 17 – Troop leaves for Summer Camp

June 19 – No Meeting (summer camp)

June 24 – Scouts return from Summer Camp

June 26 – Troop Meeting

Adjourned at 8:02 pm