

Troop 870 Parent Meeting Minutes April 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Erich Klein, Troop Committee Chair.

Flag Program – Parents in attendance helped to complete the flag subscriptions mailout. So far, we have 270 subscribers, with a goal of at least 400. Subscribers can now use PayPal/credit card to renew on the troop's website. Each Scout is required to participate in one Work Day and two Holidays for the Flag Program. Mr. Marston noted that you should be able to sign up for the workdays/holidays on our Troop 870 website by this week. Workdays are April 29 and May 6. Holidays are Memorial Day; Independence Day; Patriots Day and Veterans Day.

Volunteer Positions Needs

Mr. Klein emphasized that our troop could not exist without our dedicated parent volunteers. If you are not yet helping in the troop we ask you to please consider volunteering for one of the following positions. Contact Erich Klein or Steve Sambell for more information.

Flag Coordinator - handle the duties involved on distribution and returns

Flag Subscriptions - manage the administration of subscriptions/website payments.

Outdoor Committee – 12 Volunteers needed. Plan a monthly campout. Help the troop to participate in campouts by handling the required paperwork and planning for a monthly campout.

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

Quartermaster –Maintain troop equipment and plan for new purchases and/or plan work days.

April Campout – April 7-9 Webelos Woods at Challenger Park. Troop 870 will be building and supervising the bonfire activity. Loading is Thursday night at 6:30 and departure is Friday at 6:30.

Mr. Sambell needs a few adult volunteers on Saturday afternoon to help with wood delivery for the bonfire. Please email or call him if you can help with this. If Scouts cannot attend Webelos Woods, but want to help build the fire on Saturday, they should plan to be there from 1-4, lighting of the fire will be at 7:30. They could also help with clean up on Sunday, from 10 - 12:30.

May Campout – This is a one-night New Scout campout at Bay Area Park. Date - May 20. All new scouts should attend if at all possible. Canoeing and camping skills.

Summer Camp – June 18-24 Camp Hale, OK. Rich Bourns noted that Scouts must provide Merit badge selections to him by May 1 to guarantee class place. Rich will not collect merit badge fees, Camp Hale asks scouts to bring money for these payments to camp. Scouts will need to have a current Medical (with Part C) on file before attending camp. Make sure to note any food allergies or restrictions on camp registration form. A suggested packing list is available at: www.Halescoutreservation.org

Swim Test - Scouts should also make sure to attend our May 8th meeting which will be held at the Brookwood swimming pool for our annual swim test. This test is required for all Scouts.

Service Project Opportunities – Chris Lupu reminded everyone that Scouts must have completed three hours since Fall Camp to attend summer camp. Upcoming opportunities are Dominik Crucians' Eagle project or participation in bonfire building and cleanup at Webelos Woods this weekend.

Eagle Project/Court of Honor – Dominik Crucian will landscape a garden area at UBC near the South entrance. Project is planned for May 13. Chris Layden's Eagle Court of Honor will be Saturday, April 15 in the UBC Chapel. Please RSVP to Joe Layden if you are planning to attend.

Scoutmaster /Steve Sambell-Mr. Sambell welcomed thirteen new scouts and their families to the troop. Active membership in the troop is now at 57 scouts.

NYLT - National Youth Leadership Training - June 4-9, and June 11-16 held at Camp Bovay. Scouts who are 14 years old and First Class should plan to attend this one week camp if they want to hold a leadership position in the troop. Scouts will need scoutmaster approval to attend. Please visit this website for more information or to register www.sambhoustonbsa.org/nylt.

A "Leave No Trace Trainer Course" is being held at Camp Brosig on April 21-23. This is a very informative course, especially for those Scouts interested in backpacking or who are considering attending Philmont. No age restrictions, you may register by visiting www.sambhoustonbsa.org/bsa-leave-no-trace-trainer-course-2015-02-27.

Tent Purchase – The troop is moving forward on the plan to purchase 12 new tents which will be for sale at cost to troop members. Mr. Sambell asked that new scouts not purchase a tent yet as he hopes to have these new tents available very soon.

Philmont – The troop has a spot at Philmont for 2018. Dates are June 15-27 (plus travel days). Eligible Scouts are 14 and older, or have completed 8th grade and are First Class rank (or above). Signups are available now. Philmont is a pinnacle of Scouting achievement and all eligible Scouts are encouraged to attend Philmont at least once in their Scouting Career.

Advancements – Mr. Sambell stressed that Scouts and their parents or those helping them complete badge requirements should ensure that the required actions are completed. If a merit badge requires an action this should be verified. He asked that parents please monitor badge requirements with their scout before meeting with the merit badge counselor. He also asked that parents please consider the age and interests of their Scout when selecting a merit badge for completion. He prefers that Scouts complete the outdoor skills merit badges at long term camps in summer and winter and save ones like Communication/Citizenship badges for classes outside of camps.

Communications - Scouts are responsible for knowing the names and contact information for all of the members in their patrol. Parents -make sure that your Scout knows it is his responsibility to contact other Scouts about patrol business (not the parents)

Camping Equipment – Mr. Estes demonstrated the troop's camp chuck boxes and showed parents his work on color coding all the cooking equipment so that each patrol can do a better job of tracking their equipment. Mr. Estes has done a lot of work with organizing the troop's gear and we are currently looking for a parent who would like to help with the Quartermaster duties, managing the troop's gear. Please contact Mr. Sambell, Erich Klein or Rich Bourns if you can help us with this very important troop position.

Calendar

April 7-9 Campout - Webelos Woods, Challenger Park

April 10 – Troop Meeting /Boards of Review – 7 pm

April 15 - Chris Layden Eagle Court of Honor

April 17 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

April 24 – Troop Meeting 7 pm

April 29 - Flag Work Day

May 1 - Troop Meeting

May 6 - Flag Work Day

May 8 - Required Swim Test - held at Brookwood pool

May 13 - Dominik Crucian Eagle Project workday

May 15 - Troop Meeting

May 20-21 - New Scout Campout at Bay Area Park

May 22 - Court of Honor

May 24 - Flags Out for Memorial Day

May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday/No Meeting

May 31 - Flags In

Adjourned at 8:20 pm