

Troop 870 Parent Meeting/August 7, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Erich Klein

1. **Flags** – Patriot day is the next flag distribution (Sept. 7, 14). Mike Fincke is the new flag coordinator.

Benefits of the flag program

- Primary fund raiser – boys do not have to sell popcorn etc. (much easier)
- New pay pal payment method – much easier to sign people up (150 homes already used this). Advertised on the troop website.
- We raise enough money to fund the troop and offset costs of summer and winter camps
- Very visible (and patriotic) way we are part of the community (approx. 600 total flags)

Fundraiser - (each scout and parent is required to participate - 1 work day & 2 holidays) Workdays:

Virtually all of the flags have been capped. No need for another workday in 2017? However, we need to identify a 3rd person to be responsible for the workdays and flag maintenance. We also need to discuss the neighborhood entrances (Bay Forest and, potentially, Bay Oaks – were they invoiced?).

a. Holiday dates:

- Memorial: Wed May 24/Wed May 31
- Independence: Fri June 30/Fri July 7
- Patriot: Thur. Sept. 7/Thur Sept. 14
- Veterans: Sun Nov 5/Sun Nov 12

At the July meeting we discussed having new flag volunteer positions (subscriptions, workday coordinator, and even a youth scout leadership position). Overall, we need broad support for this program as it is our only fund raiser. Do we want to add this as a leadership position for the boys? **Discussion was to have two more adult volunteers to help with Flags: a coordinator of the two workdays and flag repairs, and someone to help with the flag distributions. Also discussed the idea that the troop's Service ASPL should be tasked with helping with Flag days and/or finding scouts that will assist the adults on flag workdays and distribution days. General agreement that including scouts in the leadership of the flag fundraiser should be done. Please contact Mike if you would like to help him with the flag fundraiser.**

2. Did we ever invoice Bay Oaks and Bay Forest? **Yes, they have been invoiced for this year and the previous years when invoices were not sent.**

Volunteer Update and Committee Positions Available – still looking for volunteers:

Joe Layden strongly emphasized the need for more adult volunteers to step up within the troop. Without adults helping to plan campouts and serve in other needed positions, the troop will not be able to continue serving the scouts as we currently are able to. Volunteers needed now for the following:

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 – you do not need to attend the event. **This is a great starting position to hold, involves providing and collecting camp registrations, sending emails and coordinating camp communications with the assigned Scoutmaster. A very effective way to start your volunteering in Troop 870. Please contact Rich Bourns to volunteer on the outdoor**

committee. Once the Scouts have finalized the troop's calendar (end of August) Rich will convene a meeting of all committee volunteers.

- a. **Merit Badge Counselors** – It was brought to my attention that we need more parents to volunteer for merit badge counselors. Adults - Do we want to have an adult leadership position for this? It seems we need to more actively recruit merit badge counselors. **Each Scout must confer with a Merit Badge Counselor when working to complete a badge. Therefore, the troop must have an adequate number of counselors who can meet with and guide Scouts on badge completion. The list of Merit Badge counselors and current needs is now updated on the troop website. Please visit the website and sign up to help. You will need to complete a BSA form (on website) but no additional payment is required to BSA to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor.**
- b. **Boards of Review** – **Volunteers** are needed most every month and there is no training required. This is a good opportunity for newer parents to interact with other scouts and see how the Scouts progress through the ranks – you will be impressed by the young men in our troop! It basically entails meeting with the Scouts and discussing their Scout activities and getting feedback on ways the Troop can improve. A large part of the Boards is to help the Scout become more comfortable speaking in front of a group. If you are interested contact Amanda Brown to volunteer or look for her emails at the beginning of each month. **BOR volunteers are still needed and provide an educational way for troop parents to become acquainted with other members of the troop and observe the Scouts in action.**
3. **Summer triathlon** – Saturday August 19th (6:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.) – Erich Klein and Jim Stein will lead this. Sign-ups forms available. We need at least 20 volunteers for a safe and fun event (19 so far). Nicky Rodriguez is coordinating the food/drinks during the event and Michelle Phalen will be coordinating the food afterwards (to celebrate the troop's 40th anniversary). Please contact both Michelle and Nicky to help with this. Thank you Nicky and Michelle for your help. **Volunteer sign up has been good, now we need to have all Scouts signed up for the event – registration forms have been sent by email. Remember that friends and siblings can participate for a small fee. Please make sure medical forms A&B are up to date to participate in the triathlon. Directly after the triathlon, at the Brookwood Park, we will hold a celebration of the troop's 40th anniversary. Michelle Phalen is coordinating the celebration – please contact her if you would like to help with food, drinks or décor.**
4. **September Campout** - Rich Bourns update – Lake Livingston September 22-24? **Planning underway – watch for emails from Rich with campout details.**
5. **Winter Camp** – Rich Bourns – Bovay Dec. 26-31? **Exact camp location and dates TBD.**
6. **Service Projects** – Eagle projects (remember scouts need at least 3 hours before attending winter camp). **Chris Lupo noted that there are no scheduled upcoming service projects but he did offer that the following groups have opportunities available for Eagle Scout projects: 1. Pearland YMCA, Bay Area Park, and UBC. Also, try Scouts' own place of worship, neighborhood groups and schools.**

Senior Patrol Leader/Scout Master Announcements Zach Sambell/Steve Sambell

Scoutmaster Steve Sambell announced that Zach Sambell was elected as the troop's new Senior Patrol Leader. Zach is a 5th year Scout, he will be a junior this year at Clear Lake. He thanked Chandra Fincke for his term as SPL and said he appreciated and plans to continue with all the improvements made by Chandra. Zach especially enjoys the camping aspect of Scouting and will work to promote camping among the troop; hopes to find ways to streamline and improve

meetings; and wants to keep the troop motivated to continue in Scouting. Zach announced that his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders are:

William Anguiano – Service, Allan Collins - Camping, Kai Lupo – Meetings. Zach has held an initial TLT (Troop Leadership) for ASPLs and patrol leaders. However, as all were not able to attend, he plans to hold another TLT sometime before August 21.

Steve Sambell addressed the parents noting that he, Al Estes and Ann Bernay and five scouts have just recently returned from Northern Tier, a five day, 50 mile, high adventure canoeing trip in northern Minnesota. Steve encourages all scouts to participate in at least one high adventure scouting trip, and noted Troop 870 is planning a crew now for Philmont in June 2018. He also encouraged parents to monitor their son's merit badge selection and help them to choose age-appropriate badges, letting them choose "fun" badges to earn at the younger ages/ranks, and preferably leaving most of the Eagle-required badges (exceptions being First Aid and Swimming) to earn when they have more Scouting experience. He hopes that this leads to Scouts being more motivated to earn their Eagle rank when they have the maturity to complete the tasks on their own. He emphasized the importance of a proper uniform at meetings and said that **Class B Uniforms must be an official Troop 870 shirt, not just a BSA shirt.** Once school starts, Scouts are expected to be in proper uniform even when coming from another extracurricular event and asked that families plan accordingly. Steve announced that he will serve one more year as Scoutmaster, until August 2018. He will continue to serve as an ASM after that and plans to participate in more high adventures with the troop.

He also addressed the following items in his notes:

- a. Next campout is in September 22-24 – Lake Livingston – **Details to come from Rich Bourns.**
- b. Philmont eligible scouts - Ron Roark (Leader)
September 2017 deposits due \$400
Payment deadlines Jan 2018 \$400, May 2018 \$400, June 2018 \$TBD final settle up
- c. Troop web is almost active - **Plans are to have available within the next month.**
- d. Troop elections – **Results above**
- e. Tent purchase - ALPS zephyr 3 with ground cloth - \$100.00 – see Steve Bernay – **One tent remaining for sale. Steve plans to order more.**
- f. Scoutmaster and ASM training – Saturday 10/7 – **Required training, along with the IOLS training (below) those interested in serving as an ASM or Scoutmaster. This is also required training for Scoutmasters/ASMs.**
- g. NYLT winter session is the week before Christmas Dec 18-23.
- h. IOLS (Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills) opportunity Oct 13-14 on San Jacinto District Calendar for up and coming ASMs and SMs

Discussion Items Not on Agenda

Al Estes – BSA is considering policy changes that could allow females in Boy Scouting. There will be an opportunity for you to enter your opinion on this matter at District Roundtable. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church on Space Center.
George Rodriguez – Reminded everyone of the upcoming solar eclipse on Aug. 21 and urged everyone to wear the official safety eyewear when watching the eclipse. It was noted that all students in CCISD will be given this eyewear at school on the 21st.

7. Upcoming events & Announcements:

August 21st - court of honor (in the Chapel) - **Bernadette Bennett – Bernadette is again chairing the hospitality for our Court of Honor on the 21st. Please watch for her mail regarding what to bring. She welcomes volunteers to help with set up and clean up that night.**

Sam Houston Area Council <communications@shac.org> - Join Sam Houston Area Council's mailing list and stay up to date regarding scouting events in the area etc.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18

Troop Calendar

**August 12 – Eagle Court of Honor for Sam McBurnett and Reed Blanchard 1:30 pm
At Clear Lake Methodist Church**

August 12 – Trip to Firehouse 10 am

August 14 – Troop Meeting, Boards of Review 7 pm

August 19 – Troop Triathlon at Brookwood Pool/Park 6-10 am

870's 40th Anniversary celebration held directly following triathlon

August 21 – Troop Court of Honor

August 28 - Troop Meeting/Troop Planning Workshop with SPL, ASPLs and Patrol Leaders

September 4 – No Meeting/Labor Day

September 7 – Flags out for Patriots Day

September 11 – Troop Meeting – Patriots Day

September 14 – Flags in for Patriots Day

September 18 – Troop Meeting

September 22-24 - Campout

September 25 – Troop Meeting