

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on December 2, 2013

Committee Chair Mike Marston called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Committee Volunteers

Mike thanked the parents who have volunteered to fill the following positions:

Equipment Chair – Al Estes

Service Projects Chair – Chris Lupo

Hospitality Chair – Amanda Brown

Secretary – Suzanne Sambell

Court of Honor Program Handout Creator – Jennifer Harlan

Activities Committee member – Gene Eldridge

The troop still needs a few more volunteers to help out on the Activities Committee and a volunteer who would be willing to serve as the Activities Committee Chair to succeed Joe Layden. This committee plans campouts and other troop activities and handles registrations for these events. 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.

Treasurer Report

Michelle Croce distributed the treasurer's report for October and November. If anyone ever has any questions about the troop's income or expenditures, please feel free to ask Michelle. The treasurer records are always available for review.

Fall Camp

The boys and adults who attended fall camp at Karankawa had to endure very cold and rainy weather conditions. A lot of the tents and gear were soaked. Several "lost" items that were not claimed by campers were laundered and brought to the meeting. If your scout is missing any belongings that may have been washed, contact Joe Layden to see if he has them.

December Campout

This month's campout will be at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook on December 14 & 15. Scouts will be focusing on Camporee skills such as first aid and fire building. Registration forms are due on Monday, Dec. 9. These need to be turned in to Outdoor Activity member Gene Eldridge. Steve Sambell is the Scoutmaster in Charge (SMIC) for this campout.

Philmont

The scouts planning to go to Philmont will be going on one of their preparation hikes this coming weekend.

Merit Badge Workshops

Workshops are currently scheduled for Dec. 19 & 28 and Jan. 2 & 16 at UBC, assuming there are enough scouts interested in completing partial merit badges. Mr. Sambell is coordinating these workshops. He will be sending out more information about these workshops in the coming weeks.

Service Projects

Scouts can volunteer at the **Christus St. John 5K Reindeer Run** this coming Saturday from 7 am – 10 am. They can earn service hours that will count toward summer camp. Scouts can run in the race in addition to volunteering. They will need to wear Class A uniforms when they are volunteering. The boys may change into running clothes if they are participating in the race.

Charles Phillips is coordinating the scout volunteers for this event. See his email from 12/4/13 for more details. Adults from the troop can also volunteer. Contact Charles if interested.

Seafarers Toiletries Drive – The troop will collect toiletries and other items that will go into holiday boxes for seafarers from around the world who will be traveling far from home during the holidays. The gift wrapped boxes will be delivered to the Barbers Cut Houston International Seamen's Center in La Porte in mid-December. (More details in SPL report that follows.)

Both the 5K Fun Run and the Seafarers Toiletries Drive are causes that our troop has supported for many years. Proceeds from the Reindeer Run go to help underprivileged people in Dickinson and Galveston.

Senior Patrol Leader/Scoutmaster Announcements

SPL Chris Layden reported that emergency preparation is the theme for December.

Scouts will be discussing appropriate size tents to be used for camping.

Christus St. John Hospital in Nassau Bay is having their annual Reindeer Run on Dec. 7. Packet pickup is scheduled for Dec. 5 & 6. Scouts can volunteer to help out at the race and earn service hours. They will most likely be setting up tables, assisting with children's activities, handing out water, and doing trash collection. They can also run in the race if they would like.

The Clear Springs Robotics coach will be the featured guest speaker at the December 9 meeting.

This month's campout will be at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook December 14 & 15. The troop will be working on basic scout skills and will have a cookout to try out cooking skills the boys have learned.

The annual Rama-Hana-Kwanz-Mas Pizza party will be on Monday, Dec. 16 in the Fellowship Hall at UBC. Hospitality Chair Amanda Brown will be e-mailing families to let them know what each patrol should bring for the party.

Matt Estes has volunteered to lead the toiletries drive for the Seafarers. Each patrol will receive a list of items that they can bring to the holiday party for the boxes that will be gift wrapped. Matt will send out e-mails with more information about this event. Thank you for stepping up to organize this event Matt!

Mike Lovelace announced that the elections for SPL and patrol leaders for the next term will be held the same night as the holiday party.

He also stated that parent volunteers are needed to help with Boards of Review (BORs) on Monday, Dec. 9. Even if parents have not served on a board before, we need your help! Easy instructions are provided to guide parents through the boards which usually don't require more than an hour of your time. Please e-mail Mike this week at m.lovelace@aquillix.com to volunteer. Thank you!

Reminder: No Troop Meeting on December 23 or 30. Happy Holidays! See everyone in January 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski