

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on April 1, 2013

Mike Marston called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Parents of new scouts who were in attendance introduced themselves.

Upcoming Events/Campouts

The annual Scout Fair will be held at Reliant Park on Saturday, April 13.

An Order of the Arrow (OA) Ordeal weekend is scheduled for April 26-28. A dinner will be held at Clear Lake United Methodist Church on Friday evening. OA scouts will then camp at Baytown Nature Center and will help with a service project there on Saturday. Seven scouts from our troop were elected to OA this year. They are required to attend one of the OA ordeal weekends. All OA members are invited to participate in this ordeal. Assistant Scoutmasters Mark Francis and Al Estes will be attending the ordeal at BNC.

Advancements

Boards of Review for April are scheduled for April 8. Jennifer Crucian will send out an e-mail this week to ask for parent volunteers to help with BORs.

Congratulations to Daymond Crucian, our latest Eagle Scout! Daymond earned his Eagle rank on March 29.

Treasurer Report

Michelle Croce distributed the financial reports for February and March.

Fundraising

Paul Nguyen is the coordinator for our flag fundraiser. He reviewed procedures for proper care and handling of the flags and for installing the PVC holders and marking the curbs with the fleur-de-lis stencil. The week prior to putting out flags for the Memorial Day holiday, Paul would like some assistance to check curb markings and the placement of the PVC holders. He will also take care of PVC installations for new flag subscribers. He is planning to have a work day to assess the conditions of the flags that are in storage (look for future e-mail with more information). Paul will e-mail subscription flyers to the troop distribution list so parents can share this information with potential subscribers in Pinebrook or with others who may want to purchase a flag from the troop for \$50. The cost for an annual subscription is \$40 for 4 holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Patriot's Day, and Veteran's Day). For those who subscribe after Memorial Day the subscription is prorated for the remaining holidays.

All families are required to help out with two of the four holidays. Please respond to Paul's e-mail message about the flag fundraiser if you did not sign up for any holidays at the meeting.

Camping/Outdoor Committee

The troop will be camping at UBC and canoeing at Bay Area Park April 19-21. This activity is primarily geared for the new scouts, but older scouts are needed to help out. Please turn in registration forms to Cheryl Paul by April 8. There is no camping fee for this activity, but scouts need to pay \$15 for the grubmaster fee.

Adults who will be driving for this activity must have a Driver's Pledge form on file. All adults and scouts who are camping or canoeing must also have current medical forms submitted to Becky Forrest. Adults participating in any scouting activity must also have Youth Protection Training (YPT).

Becky Forrest (Medical Forms Chair) mentioned that it's time for a lot of the scout/parent medical forms to be updated. Parents need to check the date of the last medical form that was turned in and complete new ones if necessary. These forms are only valid for one year and are required for participation in scouting activities. Contact Becky if you have any questions about the forms. These are available on the troop website (www.troop870wubc.com).

Summer Camp

There are still 9 spots available for Summer Camp at Skymont in Tennessee. Jennifer McBurnett said that new scouts can still register through April 8. She will send out the camp information again for the new parents/scouts. A couple more adults are needed to drive the 3 vans to and from summer camp, so please consider volunteering. All adults and scouts attending camp must have current medical forms turned in to Becky Forrest. Everyone must have an up to date part C (physical form completed by a doctor). Physicals are only valid for 1 year, so please make arrangements for you or your scout to have another physical if his or yours is out of date or will expire before summer camp (June 15 – June 23).

Parents are needed to transport vans to and from the rental company on June 14 and June 24. Please let Jennifer know if you are willing to help with this.

Service Opportunities

April 6 – Day 2 of Michael Fodroci's Eagle project (refer to his April 3 e-mail for more info.) Delivery of cage to rehabilitator's house in Clear Lake.

May 5 – Village Fair trash pickup at Walter Hall Park in League City

REMINDER: Scouts planning to go to summer or fall camps must earn a minimum of 3 troop service hours. (Exception—these service hours are not required for new scouts who just joined the troop, but they are encouraged to participate in service projects.)

Other Business

If anyone is interested in being a Merit Badge Counselor please contact Kari Francis. A list of BSA merit badges and counselors is on the troop website (www.troop870wubc.com) under the Leader Resources tab.

New scout parents, please turn in registration forms, Youth Protection Training forms, and parent information forms to Sharon Marston.

Scout Master Announcements

Annual swim tests will be done at Brookwood Pool on May 6. These tests are required every year for scouts and adults who want to participate in any troop water activities. Please make sure that your scout does the swim test on this date if at all possible! It's difficult to schedule multiple test dates with our BSA certified lifeguards. Scoutmaster conferences will be conducted that same night. The parent meeting will also be held in the area near the playground.

Mike also mentioned that scouts will have an opportunity to participate in some Introduction to Scuba classes in June at the YMCA. A scuba introductory video will be shown at the May 13 meeting. Scouts can try out the classes for \$20. Classes may also be open to parents and siblings. These classes do not fulfill requirements for the scuba merit badge, nor are they for scuba certification.

Three scouts are needed to help with a flag ceremony at an upcoming event with Senator Ted Cruz on April 13 at Lakewood Yacht Club at 7:00 p.m. Please let Mr. Lovelace know if your scout is interested in participating.

On April 29 an FBI Special Agent will present the movie "A Game of Pawns" and will discuss state sponsored espionage targeting of American study abroad students and business people. Parents are requested to come for this event.

See Mike's program update (posted April 3) for more information about these events and other upcoming activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski