

## Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on August 5, 2013

Advancement Chair Leah Galliker called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. She presided over the meeting for Committee Chair Mike Marston who is on vacation.

### Scoutmaster Announcements

Mr. Lovelace would like the troop to participate in or contribute to Holly Fitch's Girl Scout Gold Award Project coming up on August 10 (this coming Saturday) from 7 am – 10 am. Holly is a CLHS senior who is organizing a 5K Fun Run at the Seabrook Trails in Meador Park that will benefit The Houston Food Bank. How can we help out? By signing up to run and/or by donating items most needed by the Food Bank. See the attached flyer for more information. If anyone would like to contribute to the food drive, Mike Lovelace has offered to transport donations to the event. Food can be delivered to his house at 4011 Peach Country Ct. before Saturday morning. Holly would really appreciate our support for this very worthwhile project. Thank you!

We will have a **guest speaker, Mr. Stephen Daniel with HPD** who will be presenting an **active shooter defense class at the August 12 meeting. All parents and high school age scouts are encouraged to attend.** Feel free to invite neighbors or friends who may be interested in this class. Mr. Daniel's discussion is relevant to the workplace, school settings, or other places where people might be in danger. Please plan to attend and learn how to react and survive in the event of a crisis of this nature.

While parents and older scouts will be listening to the guest speaker, the younger scouts will be meeting separately to discuss fishing.

On **August 19**, scouts will have their **Troop Organizational Workshop (TOW) meeting** to make plans for 2014 campouts, activities, service projects, and themes. TOW planning will conclude in September.

**Eagle Scout Eric Stone** who is a sophomore at Rice University will be our **visiting speaker at the August 19 meeting.** Eric will talk about his summer experiences of backpacking and building trails and restoring campsites in Monongahela National Forest in W. Virginia. Scouts and parents are invited for his talk.

**Troop Leadership Training (TLT)** will be held at UBC on **August 23.** Scouts will set up camp outdoors and cook dinner outside. They will "camp" in UBC later that evening where they will continue their training. This is the first time that our troop has been given permission to stay overnight inside UBC, so scouts need to be on their best behavior : )

All scouts who currently have a leadership position should attend TLT even if they have attended previous sessions. If some of them feel that they have learned just about all there is to know, they can help out by teaching!

Michael Fodroci's Eagle COH will take place later this month or possibly next month. Look for an e-mail announcing the date.

Troop 870's **Court of Honor** will take place on **August 26<sup>th</sup>**. All parents are invited to attend.

Summer Camp lessons learned:

- The troop will consider closer options for future camps. Other options for travel may be considered such as flying or chartering buses with other troops for long term camps.
- There were a few behavior issues at summer camp which have already been addressed. Adult leaders have been reviewing ways to improve future campouts.
- Ideally, new scouts should have more weekend campout experience under their belts before going on longer term campouts.

### SPL Report

There was no SPL report since Chris Layden was not present.

## Advancement Chair/Merit Badge Counselor Reports

Leah Galliker reviewed information about completing partial Merit Badge requirements. (See attached handout prepared by ASM George Rodriguez). If a scout starts a MB at camp but does not complete all the requirements there, he can finish these with the registered MB counselor in our troop or another troop. The counselors must be registered with the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC).

Scouts can register to take MB classes at the Museum of Natural Science and other approved places that offer classes, but they need to get prior approval from the scoutmaster or an assistant scoutmaster before starting a MB elsewhere. Full or partial blue cards should be given to Mrs. Galliker so she can keep track of what has been completed. It's best to turn in partials right away so that they don't get lost.

Kari Francis talked about Merit Badge counselors within our troop. Counselors are now required to re-register annually. She distributed a list of merit badges that we have counselors for and also listed which merit badges need counselors (see attached list). If anyone is interested in finding out more about becoming a MB counselor contact Mrs. Francis. All current or prospective counselors must have up to date YPT certification. Please give Kari a copy of your YPT card if you haven't submitted one already. Counselors must retake this training if it has expired.

August 12 is the **deadline for requesting Scoutmaster Conferences** this month. **BORs** will be held on **August 19**.

Joe Godwin is our newest Eagle Scout. He had his Eagle COH last week. Congratulations Joe!!

Al Estes provided handouts for those interested in upcoming adult training opportunities. The SHAC website has more information about this training.

## Upcoming Events/Campouts

Outdoor Committee Chair Joe Layden thanked Jennifer McBurnett for the outstanding job she did on all of the planning for the summer camp trip to Skymont.

The **next campout will be on August 17-18 at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook**. Loading will take place on Aug. 16. Scouts will be fishing at the park. The Philmont group will do a practice hike that same weekend on this campout. These scouts will hike from UBC to Pine Gully Park on Saturday and then will hike from the park to UBC on Sunday.

The September campout will be at Lake Livingston. The troop will be canoeing there.

**More parents are needed to serve on the Outdoor Committee to help with campout/activity reservations and planning. Please contact Mr. Layden if you are interested in helping out or would like more information on getting involved. Committee members may only have to plan a couple of activities a year if there are enough volunteers helping out. It's a great way to serve the troop and get to know the parents and the scouts!**

## Treasurer Report

Michelle Croce presented the treasurer report. Michelle stated that the troop received a \$250 donation for helping with the Village Fair trash pickup. She also handed out a summary of our **flag fundraiser**. **The troop has made \$11,686.00 so far this year on this fundraiser.**

Michelle mentioned that she can assist anyone who is interested in registering on the Shutterfly website to access troop photos posted by historian Andrew Croce.

## Service Opportunities

The new ASPL for Service is Sam Stills, a new scout in our troop who moved here from Oklahoma. Welcome to the troop Sam!

Al Estes reminded parents that scouts are required to do a minimum number of service hours before they can attend fall or summer camp or attain certain rank advancements. The troop has many monthly service opportunities, including helping with Eagle Scout projects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski