

Troop 870 Parent Meeting Minutes January 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 by Mike Marston, Troop Committee Chair.

Campouts – The January campout will be at the Griffith League Scout Ranch near Bastrop, from Jan.14-16. The load out will be on Thursday, Jan. 12 Departure is scheduled for 6:30 am on Saturday, please arrive at least 10 minutes early and be ready to depart at 6:30. The troop will come back on Monday (MLK Day – school holiday). The troop will be backpacking (carrying their gear) on extended day hikes on this campout. **Very Important – Scouts must bring at least 2 liters of drinking water in Nalgene- type containers, to carry on the hikes.** Please visit our website - look for Camping Info - for a list of what to pack. <http://troop870wubc.com/> Also, the weather is expected to be wet, so please pack rain gear. Mr. Estes is the SMIC for the campout and will send out any updates.

February Campout will be the District Camporee February 24-26 at Camp Brosig in Sealy. Camporee is a district competition among area Scouts. It's also a good chance for Scouts to interact with Scout friends in other area troops.

March Campout - March 11-12 Biking to Battleship Texas. Scouts will ride bikes to the Battleship and spend the night. Barton Bennett will be there to provide tours of the ship that night. Many adult volunteers are needed to ride along with the Scouts, and to drive SAG wagons for the ride. Please note this is the first weekend of spring break.

Mr. Bennett mentioned another opportunity to visit Battleship Texas with the Sea Scouts. Scouts age 13 and older can sign up to boat to the Battleship and overnight there on April 15. He also mentioned he is planning to offer a class for scouts working on the Family Life and Personal Management badges which are both Eagle required. He will send an email with schedule information.

Summer Camp – Summer camp is set for June 18-24 at Camp Hale in Oklahoma. Please note there will be travel days on either side of these dates. Signups are ongoing for both Scouts and needed adults. Signups should be complete by March as the registration for summer camp merit badges begins on March 31. Please look for emails from Joe Layden with details for summer camp.

Philmont – The troop has a spot at Philmont for 2018. Dates are June 15-27 (plus travel days). Scouts who are 14 and older, or have completed 8th grade and at least First Class rank may join a Philmont crew. Signups will begin this summer and practice hikes will begin in the fall.

Service Project Opportunities – 1) Scouting for Food is a Council Service Project that our troop has participated in for several years. It is part of the Souper Bowl of Caring and is held the two weeks prior to the Super Bowl. On Saturday, January 28, Scouts will meet and then hang door flyers on homes in the Bay Oaks neighborhood. On the following Saturday, February 4, Scouts will pick up the donated food. Chris Lupo will send more information regarding the schedule.

2) Epicurean Evening @ Space Center Houston on Thursday, February 9. George Rodriguez is coordinating troop volunteers. Big benefits are all the free yummy treats from local restaurants. Remember that all Scouts need at least three hours of service before they can attend Summer Camp.

Scout Sunday – February 5. The troop will cook and serve our “man-crepes” for the UBC congregation as a thank you for all the church provides for Troop 870. More information to come, but scouts will arrive early Sunday morning to cook and then serve crepes between the church services.

[Scoutmaster / Steve Sambell](#)-Mr. Sambell said he was pleased that 22 Scouts are signed up for the January campout. He mentioned the upcoming Court of Honor on January 30. Please remember the deadline for any advancement information is **January 23** to Amanda Brown. Other upcoming events for Scouts include the District First Aid Day on January 28. This is open to any Scout who would like to participate in first aid activities, (870 is not participating as a troop). It will be held at the Community Center in Clear Lake Park on Nasa Road 1.

Mr. Sambell emphasized the policy within the troop regarding meetings between merit badge counselors/Asst. Scoutmaster and Scouts. *In order to keep our meetings timely and efficient, Scouts will not meet with counselors during the meeting to discuss merit badge questions. Scouts should arrange by email, text or phone call to meet either prior to after the troop meeting. The leadership wants Scouts to take the responsibility to communicate with the counselor to make these arrangements. Please pass this on to your Scout and make sure he understands his role in the process.*

Mr. Sambell said he would like to move forward with the process of streamlining the types of tents used by our Scouts. In order to do so, the troop would purchase several tents and would encourage any Scout who is needing to purchase one, to also purchase this same tent. By buying from Hikers Direct, we are able to get a 60% discount if we purchase at least 12 tents. He plans to offer two choices for tents: a 3 person (really more of a 2 person), and a backpacking style tent.. Scouts are not required to purchase a new tent if they already have one, however he hopes that newer Scouts will purchase these and that it will make it easier to setup campouts if boys have the same tents. Please contact Mr. Sambell if you have questions or are interested in purchasing a tent.

[Volunteer Openings - Troop Committee Chair](#)

Mike Marston, our Troop Committee Chair for four years, has now resigned from this position, but will still be working on Flag service project and our website. To date, no one has stepped up be our next Troop Committee Chair. Even if you can only help for one year or six months, your time will be appreciated. Main duties are to coordinate the troop's schedule with a church representative, meet monthly with other Scoutmasters, and preside over the monthly parent meeting. This is an important volunteer position and we need someone immediately who is willing to help. Mike is available to help train the new Committee Chair. If you can give the troop a few hours of your time each month, please contact Mike Marston, Steve Sambell or Pete Reeder.

[Advancements](#) – Please have any completed Merit badge information to Amanda Brown no later than **Jan. 23** in order to have your advancements ready for the January 30 Winter Court of Honor.

[Calendar](#)

January 16 – No Troop Meeting (Campers will be returning form January campout)

January 23 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

January 28 – District First Aid Day
Scouting For Food Flyers Distribution

January 30 – Winter Court of Honor – 7 pm

February 4 – Scouting For Food – Donation Pickup

February 5– Scout Sunday at UBC

February 6 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

February 9 – Epicurean Night at Space Center Houston (service project opportunity)

February 13 – Troop Meeting - 7 pm

February 20 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

February 24-26 - February Campout – District Camporee @Camp Brosig

February 27 – Troop Meeting 7 pm

March 6 –Troop Meeting 7 pm

March 11-12 – March Campout Biking and Overnight to Battleship Texas

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm