

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on March 4, 2013

Mike Marston called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Training Chair Position

Joe Layden has volunteered to fill the Training Chair position. The chairperson is responsible for tracking the BSA training the parent volunteers take. The tracking is done to make sure the troop is following BSA guidelines and to assure that adult volunteers have the proper training, especially safety related, for all scouting activities. Joe also serves as the chair of the Outdoor Committee.

Upcoming Events/Campouts

An orientation session for parents of incoming/new scouts is scheduled for 7 pm on March 25 at UBC.

Our troop activity for this month is biking to the Battleship Texas on Saturday, March 16. David Romero is collecting registration forms for this event. These can be dropped off at Mr. Lovelace's house between now and Monday (March 11), or scouts can turn them in the morning of the event. **Please e-mail Mr. Romero to let him know if you plan to participate in this activity but can't turn in your registration form by March 11.** Participants will be divided into 2 or 3 groups. Expected arrival time at the Battleship is between 10:30-11:00 a.m. Scouts who are planning to ride just to the Battleship need to be picked up there at noon. Parents need to make arrangements to transport bicycles home. Scouts have the option of participating in a 50 mile bike ride to and from the Battleship grounds. Parents are needed to ride along with the scouts and also to follow in rider support vehicles.

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.

There will be a 2014 Philmont meeting on March 21 for eligible scouts and their parents.

Advancements

Dates for scheduled scoutmaster conferences (SMCs) and Boards of Review (BORs) are posted on the troop calendar. Scouts need to request the conferences ahead of time. Most conferences are scheduled on campouts if possible. Scouts are required to wear their full Class A uniforms for conferences and BORs. The SMCs are on the first Monday of each month.

BORs for March are scheduled for March 18.

Routine Camping costs

Mike Marston reported that the camping fees for monthly campouts will decrease from \$20 to \$10. The grubmaster fee will increase from \$10 to \$15 to cover food expenses.

Fundraising

A decision has been made to postpone adding Bay Oaks subdivision to our flag distribution service. Although expansion of routes is possible, the troop has had some issues with families following through on their commitments to help with this fundraiser. If the troop add Bays Oaks in the future family commitments would need to increase to either additional holidays or longer routes.

Paul Nguyen is working on streamlining the distribution process to make things easier. He is considering using flatbed trailers to transport flags to designated sites so that several scouts can distribute flags from one central location in Pine Brook rather than having all of them go to the storage facility to pick up and return flags. Another option Paul is considering is utilizing parents' trucks to serve as the distribution/pick up sites for the flags. Scouts and their families would combine efforts using either trailers or trucks for delivery and would not have to worry about carrying flags in smaller vehicles.

All families are required to help out with two of the four holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Patriot's Day, Veteran's Day) for this fundraiser. Paul asks that families indicate that they are "tentative" on the fundraiser sign-up sheet if they are not sure about committing to particular holidays. That way he can make sure there will be enough coverage for every holiday.

Scout Master Announcements

Mike Lovelace gave a recruiting update. Ten scouts have committed to joining our troop. One scout is a transfer and the other 9 are Webelos. These scouts have been assigned to four different patrols.

Scouts are needed to help with upcoming bridging ceremonies. One is scheduled for this coming Friday at 6 p.m. at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook. Two scouts and one adult are needed for this ceremony. Other ceremonies will take place on March 18 and May 18.

Incoming parent orientation will be at 7 p.m. on March 25. Any parents who have questions about troop activities or procedures are welcome to attend this meeting.

Mike also discussed an upcoming SHAC (Sam Houston Area Council) survey that will be sent out via e-mail to parents in Troop 870. BSA may reevaluate its membership policies and is seeking input from scout families. Mike wanted everyone to be aware of this survey. He distributed information regarding BSA's membership policy to parents who attended the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact him for more information.

Eagle Project Presentation

Michael Fodroci will be constructing an 8 x 8 x 8 wooden cage for rehabilitating injured local raptors for The Wildlife Center of Texas. Work dates for his project are March 23 from 10-4 and April 6 from 10-4. He will be building the cage at his house (4410 Island Hills Dr. in the Brookwood subdivision) and will transport the cage to a rehabilitator's house in Clear Lake on the second work date. Michael would like to have about 10 scouts and a minimum of 2 adults to help with his project on both work days.

Service Opportunities

Upcoming service projects include:

- **March 9 - Plant trees at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook from 8 am – 2 pm**
- **March 23 - Michael Fodroci Eagle project day 1, 10 am – 4 pm**
- **March 24 - Carry flags at UBC service from 9 -10 am**
- **March 30 - Spread mulch for Mrs. Nicklow**
- **April 6 - Fodroci Eagle project day 2, 10 am – 4 pm**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski