

Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on September 16, 2013

Committee Chair Mike Marston called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- This month's campout will be at Lake Livingston September 20-22. Loading will take place on Thursday, Sept. 19. Return time on Sunday will be around noon or 12:30 p.m.
- Lane Francis' work day for his Eagle project will be on Sunday, Sept. 22 at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook. Start time is 8:00 a.m. He needs 6-10 older scouts to help with his project. No rain date is planned.
- On Monday, Sept. 23 there will be a meeting for parents of scouts who will be going to Philmont in summer of 2014. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m. at UBC.
- Michael Fodroci's Eagle COH will be held at UBC on Saturday, September 28. Scouts attending the ceremony should dress in full Class A uniform.
- Next month the camping outing will be to Sam Houston National Forest (October 18-20). Scouts will also be helping with a service project there. Scouts participating in this conservation project will be able to fulfill the service requirement for the Camping Merit Badge.
- A Rebuilding Houston service project is scheduled for October. Mr. Francis will be providing more information about this project in coming weeks.
- Another service project coming up is the UBC annual Fall Festival on Oct. 30. Scouts from our troop help with the set up and tear down.
- NASA has cancelled the Ballunar Festival this year, so the troop won't be helping out with this event.

Fall Camp

The troop voted to go to Camp Karankawa for Fall Camp Nov. 22-26. Registration forms and Merit Badge selections are due to Joe Layden by September 30. MB selections must be approved and signed off by an Assistant Scoutmaster. Scouts should sign up to take at least one Eagle-required MB. There are 5 time periods for MB classes. Scouts must select classes for at least 4 periods and have second choices listed for each time slot. The drive to camp is about 2 hours. We will not be renting vans for this trip. Additional drivers are needed to transport scouts to and from camp. Please contact Mr. Layden if you can help with driving.

Advancement Chair/Merit Badge Counselor Reports

Leah Galliker discussed some of the FAQs parents have about advancement. She referenced the MB blue card flowchart that Mr. Rodriguez prepared and distributed last month. One of the questions that comes up frequently is how to keep the older boys in the troop active to mentor the younger scouts. Leah reported that BSA National does not have a lot of requirements about how often scouts should attend meetings after they have been a Life Scout for 6 months. BSA National gives consideration to the following regarding older scouts' involvement: 1) Is the scout registered on a yearly basis? 2) Is he a member in good standing? 3) Is the scout involved in other community activities along the lines of scouting?

Our troop cannot require minimum standards of meeting attendance (no more or less than National BSA advises).

Older scouts can help out with younger scouts by teaching skills that are being emphasized for the scouting theme each month. Another way to keep them involved is to have more options for activities geared toward their age group on our campouts. High Adventure activities offered at fall and summer camps are great, but the programs usually take the older scouts away from base camp. If the troop can find day activities that are out there for older boys (such as Mile Swim, hikes, etc.), maybe more of them will attend AND be available to help lead/mentor the younger scouts.

Kari Francis requested that all MB counselor applications be turned in by September 30. Counselors are now required to re-register annually. 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 YP training if it has expired. Kari will have an updated list of MB counselors for our troop in early October.

Treasurer Report

Michelle Croce was not present so no treasurer report was given.

Scoutmaster Announcements

Mr. Lovelace distributed annual BSA registration cards to parents.

He said that **scouts who are out of uniform at troop meetings will be sent home from now on.** Scouts are identified by the uniforms they wear, so they need to be appropriately dressed in proper attire for our meetings and other scout functions. If scouts have outgrown any of their uniform clothing, the troop has a uniform bank available (currently organized by *Mr McGehee (TXredneckpreacher@gmail.com)* ~~Mr. and Mrs. Croce~~). ~~The Croces~~ *He* have shirts, shorts, pants, and socks that scouts can purchase for a few dollars.

Farzam Farahani will be presenting his Eagle project to the troop at the September 30 meeting. His project will most likely be scheduled for 2 weekends in mid-October.

Michael Fodroci's Eagle COH is coming up on Saturday, September 28.

On Sunday, November 3 there will be a joint Eagle COH at UBC for 5 of our scouts: Joe Godwin, Matt Lovelace, Matt Mucha, Joseph Sukkar, and Alan Stepchinski.

Mike stated that he will be transitioning from his role as Troop 870 Scoutmaster soon. He is planning to divide his responsibilities into 4-5 areas that several adult leaders will be able to take on. He will be available to train others who are willing to assume Scoutmaster duties. Mike will also continue to help with the annual troop triathlons, and he will assist Life Scouts working toward their Eagle rank.

The overnight Troop Leadership Training held at UBC was successful. It was great to have the indoor church facilities for the troop to use for this training.

Other Business:

- **More parents are needed to serve on the Outdoor Committee to help with campout/activity reservations and planning. It's a great way to serve the troop and get to know other parents and the scouts! Please contact Mr. Layden or Mike Marston if you are interested in helping out or would like more information on getting involved. Committee members may only have to plan one or two activities a year if there are enough volunteers helping out.**
- The current *Outdoor Activity* committee chair (Joe Layden) would like to transition out of this role by the end of next summer. Joe is also the Equipment Chair and would like to transition out of this position as well. He is willing to train anyone who may be interested in either position. Contact Mike Marston if you are interested in volunteering for either position.
- Flag Fundraiser Chair Paul Nguyen thanked everyone who helped out with the Patriot's Day flag distribution and pick up. He plans to have a work day soon to repair about 20 flags. He will send out an e-mail with more details.
- For the October Boards of Review, Leah Galliker and Jennifer Crucian are going to try out a new on-line sign up system called *{Signup}Genius*. They can use *{Signup}Genius* to set up a monthly schedule that parents will be able to use to sign up to volunteer for Boards of Review. With this system parents will receive e-mail reminders for dates they volunteered for, and they can also reschedule their volunteer dates if necessary. This system should simplify the scheduling process.
- Recharter paperwork for next year will be due in December (yes, the date has changed again!) Sharon Marston will have this paperwork to distribute at the October parent meeting. The BSA registration fee will be higher for 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski

Minor corrections, shown in red italics, by Mike Marston 9/22/2013