

Troop 870 Parent Meeting Minutes March 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Erich Klein, Troop Committee Chair.

Flag Program – Parents in attendance helped to stuff envelopes which will be sent to flag subscribers. So far, about 125 subscribers have renewed on line and hopes are that more will do so, reducing the number of letters that will need to be mailed. The troop services about 400 residential subscribers and 100 neighborhood entrances. Our flag program raises about \$18,000 each year that allows the troop to subsidize summer and winter camps and buy needed equipment. Subscribers can now use PayPal/credit card to renew via the troop's website. Work Days are tentatively scheduled for April 29 and May 6 to repaint markers and clean flags.

Volunteer Positions Needs

We currently need parent volunteers for the following positions:

Flag Coordinator - handle the duties involved on distribution and returns

Flag Subscriptions - manage the administration of subscriptions/website payments.

Outdoor Committee – Plan a monthly campout. Help the troop to participate in campouts by handling the required paperwork and planning for a monthly campout.

Boards of Review – We always need volunteers to sit on review boards. No experience required.

Contact Amanda Brown to volunteer.

Quartermaster – To replace Al Estes. Will maintain troop equipment, plan for new purchases and/or plan work days for maintenance.

Thank you to Willy Moree who has stepped up as Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator.

New Scout Parent Meeting - Scheduled for April 2. Will be led by Steve Sambell and Joe Layden.

Campouts – The **March campout** is the Bike to the Battleship on March 11-12. Bikers will meet at UBC at 9:00 am on Saturday, we will have bike prep and safety check and plan to leave UBC by 10. Scouts should wear Class B uniform for the ride. Any scouts planning to spend the night must pack their Class A uniform. Make sure you have returned the Overnight Release Form that was attached to Jim Stein's email. This form is required if overnighting. Load-out information will be emailed this week.

April Campout – Webelos Woods at Challenger Park. Troop 870 will be building and supervising the bonfire activity. Plan is to spend both Friday and Saturday nights. Signups coming soon.

May Campout – This is a one-night New Scout campout at Bay Area Park. Tentative date - May 20.

Summer Camp – June 18-24 Camp Hale, OK. Departure on the 17th and return late on 24th. Merit badge information and signup should be available soon. Second payment due with badge selection.

Service Project Opportunities – Chris Lupo reminded everyone that Scouts must have completed three hours since Fall Camp to attend summer camp. Upcoming opportunities are the Eagle projects for Matt Estes and Dominik Crucian, and if scouts participate in bonfire and camp at Webelos Woods in April, they can earn hours as well. The troop is open to new service projects, so if you know of potential service opportunities, please send Chris an email.

Senior Patrol Leader Chandra Fincke – Scouts working on bike safety and sharing their personal bike adventure stories to prepare for Bike to the Battleship. Noted that Camporee was well attended by

younger Scouts, but not by older Scouts, which lessened the opportunity for younger scouts to observe and learn from older members. Parents of older scouts are strongly urged to have their scout participate in as many camping events as possible. Future meetings-team-building and fire building.

[Scoutmaster /Steve Sambell](#)-Mr. Sambell also spoke about the lack of older Scouts on campouts. He stressed that campouts are an essential part of being a troop member and that he expects each Scout to camp at least four times each year, at a minimum. [Tent Purchase](#) – The troop is moving forward on the plan to purchase 12 new tents which will be then for sale at cost to troop members. This will help to streamline the types of tents used by Scouts. 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 at campouts if boys have the same tents. The plan is to have the tents by the April parent meeting. [GoPro Camera](#) – Troop has purchased a camera to use at campouts. The troop historian will be in charge of the camera and is expected to work with troop webmaster to post pictures. [Philmont](#) – The troop has a spot at Philmont for 2018. Dates are June 15-27 (plus travel days). Eligible Scouts are 14 and older, or have completed 8th grade and are First Class rank (or above). Signups are available now. Philmont is a pinnacle of Scouting achievement and all eligible Scouts are encouraged to attend Philmont at least once in their Scouting Career. [Camping Equipment](#) – some troop equipment will need replacing in the near future. Also the troop is looking for someone to replace Al Estes as Quartermaster. Please contact Mr. Sambell, Erich Klein or Rich Bourns if you are interested in helping to maintain the troop's gear and camping equipment.

[Advancements](#) – The troop is moving to use of a new data entry program, TroopMaster Web to handle advancement information. This program is cloud-based so each Scout will eventually be given a personal log-in to enter information and check their advancement.

[Eagle Project](#) – Dominik Crucian -Will landscape a garden area at UBC near the South entrance. Plan to pull out dead plants, replant bulbs, mulch and lay a brick border. Tentative dates are either April 28-29 or May 5-6. Dominik will send an email soon with detailed information for volunteers.

Calendar

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

March 13 – No Troop Meeting - Happy Spring Break!

March 20 – Troop Meeting/Boards of Review – 7 pm

March 27 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

April 2 – New Scout Parent Meeting

April 3 – Troop Meeting/Parent Meeting – 7 pm

April 7-9 Campout - Webelos Woods, Challenger Park

April 10 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

April 17 – Troop Meeting – 7 pm

April 24 – Troop Meeting 7 pm

April 28-29 - Dominik Crucian Eagle Project workdays

April 29 - Possible Flag Work Day

Adjourned at 8:20 pm