

Minutes for Troop 870 Parent Meeting on September 8, 2014

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

Boards of Review

A sign-up sheet was passed around for next week's boards of review.

Grub master Fees

The parents voted to include the grub master fee with the camp registration. Therefore, going forward, the camp-out fee will be \$25, with \$10 going to the troop and \$15 going to the grub master. The intent will be for the \$15 to be paid by the troop treasurer to the grub masters on the Monday night prior to the camp-out. Adults will continue to track their costs separately.

Brazos Bend Campout

Tonight was the deadline for turning in registration forms for the next camp out Sept. 19-21.

Fall Camp Nov. 22-26 at Camp Edgewood

- * Steven McGehee was collecting registration forms, initial payment, off-campus permission slips and merit badge selection sheets.
- * The scouts can select badges in up to 5 periods and the merit badge requests should be signed off by an ASM and turned in to Steve or Suzanne Sambell as soon as possible.
- *The total fee for camp is \$175 and a \$75 deposit is due with registration form. This cost includes one van rental.
- *The troop must have at least one adult teach a merit badge course.

Service Projects

The group discussed potential service projects for October.

- *The Ballunar Festival has been canceled so it's not a possibility.
- * Shrimporee October 25 - Mr. Lupo is looking for a contact at the Rotary Club.
- * UBC Fall Festival Setup/Cleanup October 31 - The church needs help with setup and cleanup for the Fall Festival on Halloween as well as scouts to work during the event.
- *UBC Garden relocation - due to construction at the church, the garden must be moved and the church would like volunteers to help with this. Dates to follow.
- *Wings Over Houston set up Oct. 29-31 - was decided not to pursue this as a service project.

Fall camp attendance requires 3 service hours since summer camp.

Merit Badge Counselors

Once a year, merit badge counselors must complete an adult application -- separate from one filled out for rechartering -- and merit badge counselor form. Fill out completely and make sure to provide TDL. All blanks must be completed or the form will be returned to you at a later meeting. Position code for merit badge counselor is 42. Definite need for bird watching but check current list of merit

badge counselors to see complete list of badges offered. It's a good idea to volunteer on those that do not have many counselors or on Eagle required ones to lighten the load of the adults who serve as counselors for many merit badges.

[Order of the Arrow](#)

Order of the Arrow is the national camping honor society for scouts. Scouts and adults who are nominated take part in an ordeal and then become an ordeal member. They are not full members until they attend another ordeal at least 10 months later to become a part of the brotherhood. Eligible adults were considered for nomination, and election of scouts will be done soon. Eligibility: 1st class or above, 15 nights of camping and scoutmaster approved. Mr. Bennett also shared some information about the 100th Anniversary OA Conference in Michigan taking place next year.

[High Adventure](#)

The troop is exploring the possibility of attending a high-adventure camp -- Northern Tier Canoeing -- next summer.

[Religious Emblem](#)

Al Estes is working with the church to put together a religious emblem class taught by Jim Smith of UBC. The class will likely begin in 2-3 weeks with the goal of completing it by Scout Day in February. Talk to Al if interested.

[Location Change](#)

Beginning next week, troop and parent meetings will be on the 3rd floor in the Learning Center.

[Scoutmaster Announcements/ Steve Sambell](#)

Mr. Sambell asked parents to make sure their scouts are checking the troop calendar emailed in the last program update to see what jobs their patrol has in the coming weeks. Service patrol members should plan to be at the meetings early to help set up and stay a few minutes late to clean up. He also wanted parents to be aware that even if their scout is not able to attend the long-term camps, there are local opportunities to earn merit badges. Check online at the Health Museum and at the Museum of Natural Science. Additionally, the air terminal at Hobby offers an aviation merit badge. SPL Chris Layden discussed the upcoming camp out at Camp Brosig. As October's theme is cycling, the troop will be departing early Friday AM and riding bikes to Blue Bell. Return is Sunday afternoon. This is a 3 day weekend for CCISD. There will two options for the bike ride -- one longer and one shorter route. Chris also said the troop will begin having some games at a park every few months, which is a way to help bring the troop together, especially for those who are not able to make the monthly camp outs.

[Other topics](#)

Paul Nguyen thanked the flag volunteers for their work on Sunday and wanted to remind parents flags come back in on Saturday. He stressed that the boys should roll up flags neatly -- tight and in sleeve. If no sleeve, use rubber bands. If the flags are rolled up in a sloppy manner, they get dirty and must be

cleaned or replaced. If flags are wet at pick up, let them dry. Make sure to put flags in vehicle clean side up to avoid getting them dirty. The next flag holiday is Veteran's Day in November.

Ron Roark discussed the need to purchase a large trailer to replace the smaller trailer currently used by the troop. He looked at trailers at the dealer and determined that the 14 foot trailer (2 feet longer than the trailer we currently use and intend to keep) is around \$200 less than a 16 foot one. 16 foot trailer is \$4,800, but probably \$5k after propane carrier is added. Troop must decide between 14 and 16 foot trailer. Half ton truck will be needed to tow the trailer. The smaller trailer will be sold, preferably to another troop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm