

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Joe Layden, Troop Activity Chair.

Summer Camp – Summer camp is set for July 17-23 at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch. Departure will be July 16 and return July 24 (by train), and van travelers will return late on the 23rd. Jennifer McBurnett is the committee contact for summer campout. Please contact her ASAP if your scout wants to participate in the High Adventure options at this camp. The second payment for summer camp will be due in April. Signups for camp merit badges will not occur until two weeks before camp, however, prior emails have included the attachment with information about the merit badges available.

Philmont – There is a mini- Philmont campout scheduled for April 22-24.

Northern Tier 2017 – Northern Tier is a High Adventure Scout Base in Minnesota. Northern Tier offers wilderness canoeing expeditions. Scouts may participate in this camp if they are at least 14 years old or have completed 8th grade. Troop 870 has reserved this opportunity for July 23-29, 2017. Please visit their website and talk to your Scout about participating in this adventure. <http://www.ntier.org/About/Summer%20Canoe%20Trips.aspx>

Flag Fundraiser – The signup sheets for flag distribution and workdays were available at the meeting. Each scout must participate in at least two holiday flag placements and at least one flag work day. The holidays are Memorial Day, July 4, Patriot’s Day and Veterans Day. Workdays this year are April 9 and May 14. Troop 870 sells subscriptions for the flag service in the Pinebrook and University Park neighborhoods, the mailings for renewals of the service will begin in April. The flag committee is in need of a volunteer willing to help with the billing process and data entry for the subscribers. Please contact Joe Layden if you are willing to help. This is a very important activity for the troop as it is our only fundraiser.

Merit Badges – Steve Bernay is the Troop’s Merit Badge Coordinator. Merit badges each have particular requirements and require a counselor to confirm a scout’s completion. You can help the troop by signing up to be a MB Counselor, you only need to complete the YPT (Youth Protection Training) which is done on-line, and the Adult Application form. You can choose to be a counselor for the merit badges that best fit your own skills. This is an easy yet valuable way to volunteer and support the scouts at a personal level. Please contact Steve Bernay if you have questions. You may also visit meritbadge.org for information about all the badges available to Scouts.

Service – Chris Lupo, Service Chair, noted that the troop is planning to perform our annual mulching service project at Lisa Nicklow’s home in April. The tentative date is April 2. The troop may also participate in a Food Bank drive at local Kroger stores in May or June. More details will follow.

Presidential Volunteer Service Award– Nichola Rodriguez reported that she has received notice that Troop 870 is now a certifying organization for this award. This award requires a certain number of volunteer service hours over a 12 month period. For more information please visit their website, presidentialserviceawards.gov/theaward

URGENT Volunteer Needs/Open Committee Positions

Activity Committee Chair

Treasurer

Troop Committee Chair

Registration

The troop needs parent volunteers – without them the troop could not continue. The parents who have served in the above positions have put in multiple years doing these jobs and it's time for someone else to step up and help the troop. Please contact Mr. Sambell if you have questions about the specifics of these volunteer positions.

SPL/Scoutmaster/Notes Scoutmaster Steve Sambell –Mr. Sambell welcomed Mr. Steve Joiner as a parent of Nathaniel, who is one of four Pack 957 Dynamite patrol members who will be joining Troop 870. Mr. Sambell also noted the success of Pack 957, Dynamite Patrol, as the overall winner at last week's Webelos Woods. The troop will also welcome four new members from Pack 848 and one member from Pack 95. The new parent meeting will occur at the April 4 troop meeting. Troop 870 alumni from each of these packs should plan to attend the bridging ceremonies; Pack 957 on April 1; Pack 95 on April 8, and Pack 848 on May 21st.

Webelos Woods – although the initial signup was low, the troop did finally have enough scouts sign up to successfully build the camp bonfire. Please watch the bonfire video attached to this email. He encourages scouts to participate in the monthly campouts, and emphasized that each patrol should try to participate in full. Mr. Sambell also would like parents to reinforce to Scouts that if their patrol is responsible for Games, Skills or Service, communication regarding the plan needs to take place between patrol leaders and members no later than Sunday afternoon. As a reminder here are the assignments by patrol for March:

Monthly theme – Sports

Service – Dragons

Skills – Eagles

Game – Phoenix

Order of the Arrow – If your Scout has been elected to participate, they should have received a letter recently with available 2016 dates for the Ordeal.

Advancements –BSA Advancement Changes – New requirements for merit badges/rank advancement are now in effect. If your Scout has started a badge under the old requirements they have until Jan. 1, 2017 to complete. Any new rank, badge started after Jan. 1, 2016 must use new requirements.

Finally, Mr. Sambell reminded parents that Scouts (not parents) should always let their patrol leader know ahead of time if they cannot attend a meeting. If your Scout has not been attending meetings or participating in Scouts in a regular manner, please contact the troop leadership and let them know whether or not your son is going to continue with Scouting. There are many hours required to maintain all the information necessary for active members and it would be helpful to know if there are those who would like to be considered inactive. Scouts can always return to the troop at a later time but if you know that your Scout will not be currently active please make the courtesy call to leadership and let them know.

 [FullSizeRender.MOV](#)

Calendar

March 14 – No Meeting – Enjoy Spring Break!

March 21 – Troop Meeting

March 28 – Troop Meeting

April 4 – New Parent Meeting/Troop Meeting

Adjourned at 7:50

**Suzanne Sambell
Troop 870 Secretary**