

Minutes for Troop 870 Parent Meeting 6/6/2011

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Kari Francis. Rudy Balciunas gave an opening prayer, and then several announcements were made:

1. Advancement Chair position is still open--please consider stepping up and taking a role. This position can be broken up into several positions
 - Writing the Court of Honor Script and designing the program (this should be really easy, because there is already a "template" in place—all you would need to do is change the names)
 - Keeping track of merit badges and blue cards
 - Tracking rank advancements, service hours, camping hours, attendance etc.
 - Eagle project paperwork coordinator (this person would need to be named as the official Advancement Chair, because they he/she keeps track of all the Eagle recommendation letters, and paperwork etc.) This position requires a significant amount of driving back and forth to SHAC headquarters with Eagle paperwork, so person who accepts this position must be willing to drive...

Please see Kari or Julie Lovelace if interested in any part of this position.

2. Calling all Exxon Mobile Associates... George Rodriguez is an Exxon Mobile associate looking for several more EM associates or their family members to form a team to work with to earn service donations from Exxon. Steve Ludovice as an individual, is able to earn up to \$2,000 annually for the troop, but he can also be involved with George and at least 3 other EM people on a team to earn up to \$10,000 annually for the troop. This would involve a little organization on the front side, but the paperwork is really easy to turn in, and could really benefit the troop! If you or a family member is an Exxon Mobile associate, please see George Rodriguez about this exciting opportunity. Kari will send out an email to the troop looking for "Team Members". Shell and BP have similar programs, as may the company you work for! Please see your Human Resources to see about corporate donations for volunteering.
3. Troop meeting will not be held at UBC next Monday, June 13th, due to Vacation Bible School. The troop will meet at Main Event—Liz Dimopolous will look into getting us a package deal or a group rate. Watch your email for more info...
4. There will not be a Parent Meeting in July. We will meet again August 1st.
5. If anyone wants to volunteer to remove the spray paint from the troop trailer before we leave for summer camp, please see Kari.

After the announcements were made, Kari asked everyone to introduce themselves, so that we could continue to put names with faces, and committee positions, and get to know our new scout parents a little better.

Leah Galliker gave the Treasurer's Report; As of now there is \$14,000 in the account, but summer camp expenses always take a large chunk of that—we will have a better picture of where we stand at August meeting. The books are always open if anyone has questions. On a side note, Leah mentioned that the Marines that received the care packages that we sent to them in Afghanistan were thrilled!! (especially the women!)

Julie Lovelace reported that there is one scout having a scoutmaster conference, but will not be here for the BOR meeting, so watch your emails for a request from Jennifer (date TBD) for parents to sit on his board. Mike will be passing out the awards from the COH to scouts that were unable to attend, at tonight's meeting. A question was asked if scouts need to request Blue Cards before summer camp, and the answer was no. The camp will let Julie know if there are any partials (scouts that did not complete a particular merit badge) and she will create a blue card for them after camp. The troop does not put a time limit to complete outstanding partials. Please have your scout contact Farzam Farhani, our troop librarian, to see if he has Merit Badge books your scout may need before summer camp.

Becky Forrest requested that Medical Forms A, B, and C please be turned in by troop deadline of June 15th. She has sent out an email focused on scouts going to summer camp. Becky will not be at The Main Event, next week, but you can email the form to her or give it to her at the meeting 6/20.

Leah Galliker gave out some final details for SeaBase: Reservations have been finalized. Actual dive booties may provide better protection than water shoes for snorkeling. There will only be one clothing locker at base camp per crew, so please use soft-sided duffel bags to pack, and PACK LIGHT! Dry bags will be provided. The airline (SouthWest) allows for one checked bag, and one carry-on. Drop off your scout at SW passenger drop-off at 6am on 6/15. Leah will meet you there and get your scout checked in. Scouts return around 6pm on Thursday 6/23. Leah will email out itinerary, but will be travelling on the 23rd so you will need to check flight status yourself.

Cheryl Paul is collecting donations to help feed the horses at BTSR, since the wildfires have destroyed most of their food sources. The troop is hoping to collect \$870. All but 2 scouts got their first choices for merit badges—watch your emails for merit badge schedules as well as fees that may accompany those badges. We leave July 1st. Watch for email communication regarding details and times.

Mike Marston reported that the troop will be going to Schlitterbahn Galveston, Aug 12-13. They will camp at Galveston State Park Friday night, go to Schlitterbahn on Saturday, and return home Saturday evening. This will be more expensive than a regular troop campout to cover the cost of the waterpark ticket. Mike will need a headcount by mid July in order to file the Tour Plan, so keep an eye out for emails from him as well.

Alan Estes reported that since everyone had met their service requirements for summer camp, there wouldn't be any service projects planned until we got back from BTSR (except Eagle Projects).

There was a Question /Answer session:

Q: Is Fall Camp the week before or after Thanksgiving?

A: Fall Camp starts the weekend before Thanksgiving, and they return Wednesday before Thanksgiving. However, it has not yet been decided whether they will attend Fall or Winter Camp (which starts the day after Christmas). That will be decided at the TOW (Troop Organizational Workshop) in August.

Statement: If your scout is volunteering at Twilight Camp for cub scouts he must get approval from Mr. Lovelace first.

Scout Master Mike Lovelace announced that there would be a PLC (patrol leader conference) next week at Main Event.

Mark Kuhlman reported on the Flag fundraiser

- 86% of 2010 subscribers renewed their subscription
- Subscriptions increased by 42% from 2010 to this year
- 27% of the Pine Brook subdivision has signed up to participate
- Cash receipts for the year from individual subscribers are about \$12,500
- Troop member purchases and Neighborhood entrances will bring in around \$1,000
- 8 flags were stolen this 1 Holiday vs. 2-3 stolen for all of last year.
- We have about 100 flags that aren't being used. 44 of them are not yet on flag poles.
- There are enough kits for 12 teams to install holes while en route
- Residents from other neighborhoods have asked us to service their neighborhoods as well, but we need to perfect our system first. Next year we can decide if we want to expand.

The take away message is please have patience!! We have only done this for 5 Holidays, and are still working on solutions to make things run easier and smoother. It is a work in progress!

Stefan Balciunas presented his Eagle Project Proposal—watch for emails from him requesting help.