

Parents Meeting for Troop 870 January 9, 2012

Meeting called to order by committee chair Kari Francis at 7:30pm.

Kari announced that many of the volunteer chair positions are currently occupied by adults with scouts that have just Eagled/aged out or would be aging out soon. There is a great need for new parents to fill these positions. Some of the positions that are open, or will be soon, include:

**Committee Chair:** Kari will be stepping down in August after serving for 2 years. This is not a difficult position. Talk to Kari for more details.

**Friends of Scouting Chair:** Tony Vinson is leaving since his son has Eagled out. This is a once a year job arranging a FOS representative to come to our Court of Honor. Contact Tony for details.

**Activities Chair:** Cheryl Paul's son Brad will be aging out soon and she will be stepping down. This committee always needs eager volunteers. The more people involved, the lighter the load for everyone.

**Fundraising Chair:** Mark Kuhlman will be stepping down as his son is aging out soon. All of the initial set up for the flag fundraiser is already completed. This job is basically a management one at this point. Contact Mark for details.

**Hospitality Chair:** Tess Bauder and Nadine Senderling would like to move on to something else. This position entails sending out emails before COH and the winter party letting patrols know which refreshments to bring, buying paper goods, and setting up the tables. Contact them if you are interested.

**Chaplain:** Rudy Balciunas is retiring from this position as his son Stefan has Eagled out. Duties include giving the blessing before meetings, and helping scouts with religious awards and merit badges.

**Merit Badge Counselor Chair:** Alison Muratore is the sister of Daniel who will be graduating this May. Her duties include making sure that all merit badge counselors are registered and trained, and recruiting new merit badge counselors when needed. She also provides a current list of our troop mb counselors to scouts and the website. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Alison.

#### Treasurer's Report

Leah gave the financial report and announced that the troop balance is currently \$15,461. Several large camping payments are coming up soon though, so this number will go down. Liz Dimopolous will be taking over the treasurer duties from Leah. They are currently in the training stage. Liz is taking all incoming deposits for the troop. Leah will still be writing/signing the checks until Liz is completely switched over. Any flag fundraiser payments will now go to Liz.

#### Advancement Report

Leah reported that she is getting comfortable with the job. She has served on 2 Eagle boards and will be on another one next Monday night, the 16<sup>th</sup>. There are 4 scouts sitting for their SMCs tonight. If they all

pass, 2 Boards of Review groups will be needed next Monday night. Look for an email from Jennifer Crucian.

#### Hospitality Report

Tess and Nadine announced that they would be sending out an email soon to let people know what to bring for the Court of Honor at the end of the month.

#### Recharter Report

Joe Layden announced that the troop recharter was coming along. 55% of the troop has turned in their paperwork so far. Sharon Marston is training with Joe to take over the recharter duties for next year. Joe also reported that the CPR class is going to be rescheduled and to look for details in an email soon.

#### Training Report

George Rodriguez has stepped in as the new Training Chair. All certificates of completion need to go to him. He will be sending out an email soon to let people know which training they need. Kari reminded everyone that YPT needs to be repeated every 2 years. Along with that it is a good idea for committee members to take "This is Scouting", and Troop Committee Challenge. Go to MyScouting.org to create an account and take the training.

#### Outdoor Committee Report

Tess Bauder reminded everyone that there is a Philmont crew only campout this weekend 13-16 at Lake Georgetown. This camp will be the closest simulation to the actual Philmont camp that the scouts have done. They will change campsites each night, hiking with their gear to a new one each day. The scouts will return on Monday afternoon.

The Double Lakes campout is the following weekend, 20-22. This camp is open to all scouts. The gear load will take place on Thursday night at 6pm. The departure time is Friday afternoon at 5:30pm. There will be geocaching activities on the campout, and several Webelos will be camping with our scouts. Be sure that the scouts are on their best behavior in front of these young guys. The scouts will return on Sunday around 11am.

#### Other Reports

Lisa Phillips announced a new idea for the troop called a "swap shop". The first one will take place on March 26 during the scout meeting. Parents are encouraged to bring any gently used, but no longer needed, camping/hiking gear to the troop meeting to sell. The owner sets a reasonable price for the item. Great items for sale include: tents, hiking boots that are too small, backpacks that no longer fit, foot lockers that are no longer needed, etc. This will give the parents of the newer scouts a chance to acquire these items at a reduced rate, and give others a chance to clean out their garages.

Carolyn Van Kirk proposed spending some troop funds on a wooden Eagle plaque that will be engraved with all of the Troop 870 Eagle Scouts and the year of their award. The top section will be engraved

with an eagle and will cost \$42. The remaining boards with the names and dates will cost \$149. The committee approved this idea. The plaque will be displayed at meetings and Courts of Honor.

#### Scoutmaster /SPL Report

SM Mike Lovelace introduced the new SPL, Jack Galliker, to the committee. Jack reported that this month's theme is Geocaching. The meetings will be dedicated to learning how to use the GPS unit, playing games using the units, and working on the geocaching merit badge. If you own a unit, please bring it to the next few meetings as the troop only has a few. Jack reminded everyone that next Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> is a school holiday, but there will still be a meeting. There will also be a chance for scouts to work on the Tenderfoot requirements for physical fitness and flag raising at Brookwood Elementary. Jack will be asking the scouts for suggestions next week on how to improve meetings. Have your scout come with ideas. The service opportunities this month are Scouting for Food on January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>, Scout Sunday on February 5<sup>th</sup> and Epicurean Evening on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike Lovelace announced that he was concerned at the lack of rank advancement for many of the new scouts. 15 scouts are still Scout rank, 14 of which have been that since July 1<sup>st</sup>. 4 scouts have been Tenderfoot since July 1<sup>st</sup>, and 4 have been 2<sup>nd</sup> Class since then. The patrol leaders will be checking with these scouts to see which requirements they need to advance. He wants these boys advancing before the new wave of Webelos comes in this Spring. If your son still has summer camp Trail to Eagle requirements that need to be signed off, have him talk to his patrol leader.

#### Service Report

Kari reminded the committee how important Scout Sunday is. It is our chance to show our charter organization how much we appreciate them. The scouts will be making dutch oven "man crepes" for the congregation on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. No prior dutch oven experience is needed. Please come up to UBC and help out, even for just an hour if you can. Scouts are welcome to attend church services at UBC that morning.

Al Estes discussed two other service opportunities coming up: Scouting for Food and Epicurean Evening. Flyers will be placed on doors in Bay Oaks on January 28<sup>th</sup> for Scouting for Food. The food donations will be picked up on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Scouts are needed for both days, but more will be needed on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Scouts are also needed at Space Center Houston on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Epicurean Evening. Scouts will be picking up trash, but they will also be allowed to sample the food that is being served. Adult chaperones will be able to eat as well.

Final announcement: Patrick Stepchinski has photos from Base Camp at BTSR. If you have not gotten one and would like one for your scrapbook, please contact him.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm

