

## Scout Collective 56 Committee Meeting 12/18/18

Abbreviated meeting following potluck.

Present: Andres Ballesteros, Michael Chiu, Kate Scherlis, Christine Schueller, Susan Stewart, Isabella Ehrlich, Michelle Holmes, Gerry Katz, Derrick Jackson, Larry Parnell, Edward Bartholomew, Mike Ravicz, Sue Kriegsman, Britt Rideout, Brian Zick, Marietta Sbraccia, Michael Payne, Robin Bonner, Gail McCullagh, Lizbeth Valerio-Green, Mary Ellen Galante, Hitesh Trivedi, Jeni Pereira, Melaku Zewde

December trip: Lizbeth - Boda Borg: trip went well. Left punctually! Adults did not participate in activities.

January trip: Gerry - 2 openings (down two Scouts.) Open to whoever would like to come. Communication with staff in VT has not gone smoothly. YOP items borrowed for individual Scouts will be there on day of trip. Meet in Henderson Carriage Building parking lot (same parking lot as last two trips.) Final communications will be via email since no meetings in January before this trip. Make sure all items on packing list are still in packs, since pack check was several weeks before trip.

February trip: Susan - cross-country ski trip in White Mountains. A few Scouts wait-listed; thanks to Andres for setting up trip lottery; Susan has collected ski sizes. Sam – youth leader – will email all the Scouts who lotteried in.

March trip: Michelle - 16 youth, several on waiting list; 3 women, 1 male leader. Is there a man who would like to drive? Kavita may be youth leader – will send out notice about who is selected.

April trip: Gail - Mt. Greylock backpacking; plan is for 2 male and 2 female leaders so that we can offer two different hiking routes. No limit on number of Scouts who can attend. Jeni may also lead since Mary Ellen cannot do it. Other leaders are Gail, David and Jim.

Trip lottery process: There was a question about the lottery process. Andres explained: the process was explained via email and in troop meetings. Youth signed up for the trips they are interested in. Andres will now send lists to entire troop for all three lotteried trips. After Andres sends out this list, adult trip leaders will maintain the list for their trips.

Philmont: Brit - spoke to Somerville troop to recruit more participants; 4 committed from this troop; suggestion of connecting with Watertown troop. We need at least one more girl, max 4 more youth. Kate will touch base with Brookline troop to recruit more participants. Dates: 6/28 fly out; 6/30 trek begins; fly back 7/12

Advancement: Brian Zick, Michelle, Paul and Sam presenting about path to Eagle tonight - required for all 1<sup>st</sup> class Scouts and parents but open to all; Derrick is Eagle advisor.

Inclusion: Marietta- Honored to have Bennett share about Autism Spectrum Disorder in a presentation to two of the patrols: Scouts felt empowered, Bennett felt proud. Bennett will present to second half of troop in January. Marietta encourages other families/Scouts to think about sharing important information about differences with troop.

Treasury: Hitesh - will send emails for Spring dues, factoring in what each Scout earned through tree sales. Dues must be paid before Feb trip. Question raised about how dues are figured: based on projected cost of trips. In spring, Activities chair, Sally Watermulder, proposes trips, troop committee decides on options, Scouts vote .

Summer Camp: Jeni –plans to register in January & February; Jeni will do a slide show of summer camp 2018 to recruit participants. This year camp is 7/21-7/27; will need parents to support for whole or part week. Gerry reminded parents that there is also the possibility of additional provisional weeks for individual Scouts – discounted with Adventure card. Summer camp is a great strategy for obtaining rank advancement and badges on the way to Eagle.

Christmas Sales: Kate– historically troop sold 80 trees, this year 90;140 wreaths, this year 250; 10 garlands, this year 39. Also about 10% donations; total \$11,000 in sales. 23 Scouts sold. Some challenges: Some items were mistakenly given out; David made 2 trips to NH, rented 26' truck, and several local trips to replenish product.

Ideas for future:

- Non-cash payments with Paypal/Venmo? Google does that Scouts use on their parents phones? Email copy of order to customer?
- Maybe some Scouts co-lead with an adult and set up electronic records/payments system? Link setting up this system with American Business or Digital Technology merit badge? Will need additional adult leaders to accomplish this. Kate is not the person to do this.
- Rough order for Christmas product must be placed in July.
- Pilot new electronic system with trash bag sales this spring?
- Teach knot-tying and saw skills in the weeks before the sale? Or, sell nylon straps as an add-on?

Community Service: Michelle - next food pantry date is 1/12, with Mike R as adult leader.

Personal Fitness Merit Badge: Michelle - will run 6:30-7pm, before start of troop meeting, beginning in January, with Gerry & Larry co-leading; Michelle will create Google doc for requirements. Some requirements require 90 days. Scouts have already signed up.