Scout Collective 56 Committee Meeting 2/26/19

Present: Andres Ballesteros – Troop Committee Chair; Kathy Kelts – Scribe; Larry Parnell – Adult Co-Quartermaster; Jeni Pereira – Summer Camp & Grubmaster; Gerry Katz – Trip Leader; Erin Banks – Early Ranks Advisor; Shannon Taylor – Registrar; Susan Stewart – Medical Records; Isabella Ehrlich – Webmaster; Jim Wheaton – Order of the Arrow; Neil McCullagh – Co-Treasurer; Kate Scherlis – Christmas fundraising; Edward Bartholomew – Spring trash bag fundraising; Stefan Economou – parent; Colin Zick – Assistant Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor; John Green – parent; Maren Chiu – parent; Melaku Zewde – parent; Hitesh Trivedi – Co-Treasurer; Michelle Holmes – Charter Organization Rep; Mike-Ravicz – parent; Robin Bonner – Assistant Crew Advisor; Neil McCullagh – Co-Treasurer; Chris Loftis – den leader; Ellen – parent of prospective Scout visiting tonight

February Cross-country Ski Trip, 2/1-2/3 – Colin & Susan: 12 youth, 7 adults. Mt. Washington Valley: AMC Highland Ctr. – stayed in bunkhouse- self-contained Youth learned basic first aid for winter; earned Winter Sports merit badge; skiing at Bear Notch site – soup, dogs, great ski conditions, ideal weather.

* AMC Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) for inner city youth provided skis at no cost and reduced cost lodging ($36/person to stay 2 nights & breakfasts.) If others would like to do the YOP training it is fun, provides opportunity to go hiking on weekend. Current YOP members: David, Liz, Colin.

March Wilderness Survival, 3/22-3/24 – Michelle: number of youth limited by size of cabin, still several Scouts waiting on waitlist. Will work on Wilderness Survival merit badge, which includes sleeping one night outside in shelters they build. We will borrow winter sleeping bags from AMC YOP. Pack check in two weeks: everyone will need two sleeping pads.

Service Update – Michelle: Overall going well, but some tweaks needed: our troop requires service to charter organization (St. James Church) – as condition of membership in troop. Kudos to Lucas and Eli who did church coffee hour with chili & soup, which was very much appreciated by church!

* Half dozen Scouts have not signed up for service, despite repeated email reminders to Scout and parents. Michelle needs back-up from adults (parents, trip leaders) to enforce service requirement. Current dilemma: should Michelle cancel upcoming food pantry slots that are not filled, or ask some Scouts to do more slots?
  + Andres: historically, service was snow-shoveling sidewalks at church at 6am! We can share this with youth to let them know what service could look like!. Troop policy: Scouts must be “member in good standing” to go on trips, which means service requirements must be fulfilled, dues must be paid, medical forms must be submitted. Andres will check with trip leaders and not allow those not in good standing to go.
  + Kate: previously these rules were enforced in the Troop and youth had to scramble to get the requirements done or not go on trip .
  + Isabella: with respect to dues payment, are there accommodations for financial hardship? Yes, families need to talk with one of key four adult leaders (David, Andres, Michelle, Lizbeth) and Treasurers (Neil & Hitesh)
  + Erin: will sign up Imani for service.

* St. James Food Pantry – it is difficult to find community service opportunities for kids – many organizations don’t want to take on the risk of supervising children. The St. James Food Pantry has a rule: want exactly the number of volunteers that they requested. This is because they are trying to make experience dignified for guests, show sensitivity to the stigma of food insecurity. When Michelle makes the sign-up sheets, we can’t sign up two siblings in one spot. Whole family cannot stay – only the Scout or Adult Volunteer who is signed up. Extra volunteers are of course acting on good intentions, but are not actually supporting the mission of the Food Pantry.

Backpacking at Mount Greylock, 4/26-28 - Jim: Jeffrey= youth leader; Shannon, Gail, Jim, David = adult advisors. Need to figure out which roads/camp sites are open. Jeffrey will pick assistant trip leader from among youth. There is room for everyone who wants to go (no waitlist/lottery.) Group will be divided into smaller patrols for treks. Question of how large group can hike together: On AT 8-12 person max per hiking group – what for this trip? Some Somerville troop members who will be on the Philmont crew will be coming as well, and possibly 3-4 older Webelos who will join the troop on a trip before crossing over in June.

Email list – Isabella: some families/Scouts are not receiving all emails. Please always use the Troop/Crew 56 Website or updated Google sheet provided by Shannon, Registrar. DO NOT REPLY ALL TO AN OLD EMAIL. Send all address updates to Isabella for website. From website: under Contacts, select send email to all. Shannon will resend link to Google sheet to everyone – might be friendlier for youth to use than website.

Mt. Cardigan Backpacking, 5/17-19 – Liz, Sally, Melaku & Gerry – adult leaders. Two treks, campsite at Mt. Cardigan; more advanced hike for Philmont Crew; less advanced for less experienced hikers; room for 24 on trip.

Church Retreat: Conflicts with scheduled June trip. Scouts not participating this year. Those signed up for that service will need to sign up for another slot.

Cape Cod Bicycle Trip , 6/22-23 –Neil: biking trip; Friday camping- riding from Nickerson Park to Dennis – 50 miles total – or per day?

* How are youth trip leaders selected?
  + Adult trip leaders ask for volunteers, SPL will possibly encourage; younger Scouts as assistant trip leaders.
  + Question: is a clearer process needed?
  + Historicially, Troop discouraged parent/youth leaders from same family. Adults and youth who are not related work better together, listen more to each other!
  + Youth trip leaders must be First Class, but there is flexibility around this requirement, especially as we have a Troop with newer Scouts. But youth trip leader must have some maturity.
  + Youth and adult trip leader responsibilities are spelled out in a Google document recently created by Sue Kriegsman.
    - Please ask Sue to send to Isabella to post on website. Also add column for “in good standing” to track this issue for trip leaders.
  + For Adult leaders – on website: “How to Lead a Trip”; and Sue has created Google spreadsheet for trip planning.

Philmont: Andres reporting for Britt: Wilderness 1st aid training end of March – can train 24 people – we only have 13 Philmont people going so will open up to other Scouts. Trust has often covered cost of course, though perhaps not cabin/food. Somerville Troop 3 has already opened the opportunity to their Scouts; they will pay for any Scouts attending (other than their Philmont youth.) Once numbers are determined, we will open it up to our Troop.

* Flights all set – flying in to Denver. Drivers: Mike, Richard & Richard’s wife. Camping and hiking in Leadville, CO - Great Sand Dunes park. Will camp at nearby campground, because sites inside park are booked. Jim, who has gone to Philmont before, states that this is a great acclimation hike.
* Next meeting: Sunday 3/3, 4:30pm.
* Reminder that Part C of medical form required.

Summer Camp, 7/21-7/27 – Jeni: sign-up sheet went around at Court of Honor on 2/5. 12 Scouts and 3 adults signed up. Jeni has photo album to show Scouts what camp is all about. 3-4 Webelos crossing over - could attend summer camp.

* Deposit required: $50 to treasurers by end of March; by end of April, no deposit returned unless medical or family emergency. Trust has typically paid $450/kid for camp. Goal: everyone signed up by end of March; $50 credited back to Scouts’ account after Trust funds received.
* Gerry: reminder that the two weeks before our Troop camping week are available for individual Scouts, with discount from Adventure Card. Also, several Scouts will be attending Eagle week(s) at Storer or NEBC. Individual registration on Council website.
* Side note: Crossover ceremony for Webelos entering Troop will no longer contain appropriated elements of Native American culture.

Gear Update - Larry: no specific updates. Erin: request that adult Quartermasters convey to youth Quartermaster a reminder to take care with bin with new Pinewood Derby track that the Pack will be placing in storage soon.

Treasurer Update - Neil: Similar to service update, there have been difficulties collecting dues from all Scouts, with families not responding to emails. Youth will not be able to go on camping trips, or advance, without dues.

* Philmont funding update: Trust – considering Philmont request - $20,000. At present, request has been reviewed and DECLINED. Currently being reviewed a second time, following conversation between treasurers and Trust. Our Trust contact requests patience as they work this through. Large number was a concern to Trust; they may fund partial and have families pay more. Presence of Somerville Troop members was NOT issue. (Somerville Troop Philmont participants will be cross-registered into our Venturer Crew.)
  + Committee discussion of tradition of regular high adventure trips so youth too young now can age into it.
  + Process for accessing Trust funding is changing to annual/biannual request rather than per event; they are looking to bring in other troops.
  + Two trusts – one has focus on Scout camping, can go beyond Cambridge; other just for Cambridge.
    - Trust established after selling Cambridge council camp land which generated funds.