Scout Collective 56 Troop Committee Meeting 3/26/19

Andres Ballesteros – Committee Chair; Sue Kriegsman – Trip Leader; Mike Ravicz – Trip Leader; Jeni Perreira – Summer Camp; Chris Loftis – Den Leader; Erin Banks – Early Ranks Advisor; Brian Zick – former Scout; Scott Donaldson – Advancement Chair; Kathy Kelts – Scribe; Larry Parnell – co-Quartermaster; Susan Stewart – Medical Records; Maren Chiu – Parent; John Greene – Parent; Andrew Hartness – Apparel; Mary Ellen Galante – Asst Crew Advisor; Michelle Holmes – Charter Organization Rep; Edward Bartholomew – Spring Fundraising; Gerry Katz – Trip Leader; Robin Bonner – Asst. Crew Advisor; Britt Rideout – Asst Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor/Lead Advisor-Philmont; Michael Payne – Asst Scoutmaster; Richard Klibaner; Colin Zick – Asst Scoutmaster; Jim Wheaton – Trip Leader; Shannon Taylor – Registrar; Hitesh Trivedi – Treasurer; Sally Watermulder – Activities Coordinator

March 22-24 Wilderness Survival: Michelle

* Great trip, guide Lou Falank, youth very engaged – finished merit badge – made fires without matches; spent night outside
* Some behavioral issues to address–from perspective of having been mom of a youth in a cohort that had behavioral issues; shared photo of grown-up youth who used to cause more problems than anyone now – college graduates, employed, in each others’ weddings –a MIRACLE.
* Currently troop is in a phase of rowdy boy behavior: not hurting, nor bullying but defiant, loud, oppositional – not doing chores; screaming and yelling and banging on ceiling – not responding to adult requests to stop. Instructor did not continue with instruction until chores were done: But sometimes girls ended up doing the jobs that were left undone. Youth leaders had trouble corralling younger kids. On previous trips, youth have stated “I don’t need to do what you say because this is youth-led.”
* To address these concerns, Michelle emphasized patrol system and duty roster – publicly posted; talked with youth ahead of time about meaning of youth-led. Youth leaders asked adults to lend their presence/stand with them to support. It was noted that girls are sometimes more discreet about their misbehavior. The committee offered appreciation to Michelle for creating the duty rosters. A concern was voiced that chores were not distributed fairly, perhaps because some boys had to make up previous refusal to do chores – had to do two chores at one meal.
* More serious issue: 3 youth discovered human excrement under their ground tarp – those youth stated that someone had done this to them and ran off; Liz cleaned it up; Michelle speculates that someone didn’t make it to outhouse BUT if it were an intentional action/prank, that would be more serious. Scott has had young Scouts at camp with similar incidents due to fear of getting to outhouse during nighttime. If Scouts feel fear of being teased or made fun of, so don’t come forward, that also is an issue of lack of feeling of safety in group. Question as to whether patrol leaders should have cleaned up the mess?
* Only adults brought up issues of behavior during “Roses, Buds, & Thorns.” Youth complained about being cold, etc.
* Other adult leaders shared incidents from previous trips during when boys stormed girls’ rooms.
* Solution will be worked on over time. Please share any ideas with Scoutmasters, Committee Chair, etc.

Food: Andrew

* Better, not perfect; patrols content;
* Andrew is working to teach Scouts about better food. Noted that abilities in kitchen/food prep had improved.
* Suggestion to change shopping venue: talk with trip leader – Whole Foods & ask for discount. Trader Joe’s? Shannon, who used to work in this department at Whole Foods, stated that they would be unlikely to offer discount to troop. Market Basket – too crowded?
* Also working on healthier choices.
* Also concern with discarded food – suggestion to share condiments – make spice kit? Store in basement in metal box or refrigerator. Andrew will check in with co-Quartermasters, Gail and Larry to see if there is a way to store condiments in our storage space.
* Also Andrew will check in with Lizbeth and David to plan recipe presentation to troop.

Class B apparel: Andrew - order printed blue shirts for class B uniform – Erin will take over this job.

April 26-28 Mt Greylock Backpacking Trip: Jim

* met with Jeffrey, good ideas for hikes and trails;
* stay at Michael Payne’s – 20 people total – floor space for youth; beds for 6 adults – for Friday night;
* for Saturday – none of the shelters/state parks will accommodate a group this size; is there a spot that would accommodate 20? OR camp in two different locations?; larger group sites not available for reservation until May 15; Off-season camping available – just no registration, first come, first serve
* Gail: Philmont group doing longer hike – camping separately? Or starting at different locations and meeting up Sat night? Or hike up to summit, have longer hike down for Philmont crew.
* Youth sign-up for April trip should happen in troop meeting soon – up to youth and adult leaders.

May 17-19 White Mountains Backpacking: Sally

* Group site for Fri & Sat – advance team to set up tents before sunset at 8pm; capacity for 24 people; have not yet worked out trails; Philmont trek and easier trek

June 21-23 Cape Cod Biking : Sue

* Cape Cod; smaller campsites at Nickerson State Park; need adults because intend to split into groups – 50 mile ride and shorter ride

Philmont: Britt

* Wilderness 1st aid at Camp Nobscott; $300 for anyone else who wants to come; earn first aid merit badge and wilderness first aid certification; any adults want to attend?
* Have all drivers, plane tickets, campgrounds reserved for Philmont. Still have 13 folks. Britt and Shannon training on Sundays. Some youth have not done much backpacking – Philmont is a 63-mile trek, climbing Baldy; no treks across middle country because of fire last year.

Summer camp: Jeni

* will register everyone by 4/1 but no 20 percent discount: if you have adventure card, can be applied for discount; Jeni will email parents to ask
* many youth want camping merit badge, but not all requirements can be done at camp; Jeni will organize info ;
* need actual part C medical form

Treasurers report: Hitesh

* Philmont - Trust will only pay for Cambridge Scouts – not Somerville, we will share;
* Trust paid summer camp for 12-14 people – will be split; installment still due first of the month

Spring fundraising: Edward - gearing up this week for trash bag sale; have script for kids to follow; Larry – leftover bags in storage room

Winter fundraising: David – tree order should be made in July!!

Quartermaster report: Larry/Gail

* made list of basic needs; how to purchase basic items and needed equipment; check with Hitesh or Neil
* tent check with youth soon – during a meeting;; speak with Jeffrey because he has year mapped out

Activity planning: Sally

* high adventure trip for next year 2020 –need to start planning now;
* canoe trip on Allegash in northern Maine;
* issue in 2018 was getting enough people to go; quick poll found 11 Scouts – so Sally will plan;
* David will lead; could be 6 day or 9 day trip in July or August; in August water level may be low; the outfitter designs trip with you when you arrive – built around kids’ interests;
* take Scouts a year younger: 13 by Sept 1 2020;.

Advancement: Scott - Girls troop account on Scoutbook, but Scott can’t access has to register again

Cub update: Erin - need storage for Pinewood stuff; check in with Gail and Larry (co-quartermasters)

Service update: Michelle - thinks we are good; okay if slots at food pantry are not all filled with Scouts, church will fill in

Erin – girls troop in Chelsea asking about all girls camping weekend end of April beginning of May; one overnight – okay make sure it doesn’t conflict with our end of April trip