Scout Collective 56 Troop Committee Meeting 4.30.19

Present: Andres Ballesteros – Committee Chair; Sue Kriegsman – Trip Leader; Mike Ravicz – Trip Leader; Jeni Perreira – Summer Camp; Erin Banks – Early Ranks Advisor; Kathy Kelts – Scribe; Larry Parnell – co-Quartermaster; Susan Stewart – Medical Records; John Green – Parent; Edward Bartholomew – Spring Fundraising; Gerry Katz – Trip Leader; Britt Rideout – Asst Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor/Lead Advisor-Philmont; Michael Payne – Asst Scoutmaster; Colin Zick – Asst Scoutmaster; Jim Wheaton – Trip Leader; Hitesh Trivedi – Treasurer; Sally Watermulder – Activities Coordinator; Julie Corso – Spring Fundraising; Michael Chiu – Philmont advisor; Kate Scherlis – Winter Fundraising; Melaku Zewde – Trip Leader; Gail McCullough – co-Quartermaster; Jean Carter – Parent; LiXing Watermulder

April 26-28 Backpacking on Mount Greylock - Jim: Two groups – Philmont crew/older Scouts and less experienced/younger Scouts. For the younger group, some struggle working as a team; took 4 hours to go 2.5 miles. Jim reports there were some complaints and lots of learning. Most important: learned what it is like to carry a pack, and now should review what they did not use and eliminate it from their pack for the next trip. Challenging weather: freezing rain then to snow at higher elevation – but Scouts did not get too wet; total whiteout on top of Greylock, winds 35 mph. All trails had running water – not very well maintained. Equipment in pretty good shape.

May 17-19 Backpacking on Mount Cardigan, NH – Sally, Gerry, Melaku: Need new Scout leader as previous volunteer has prom that weekend! About 14-16 Scouts – capacity for 24 people. Have campgrounds and possible routes. Same campground both nights - Clark Brook, group site 1 mile from lodge. Somerville Philmont Scouts will join. Split into two groups: one rigorous hike, one less so, but both groups will reach summit. New Scout, Grant, joining this trip. Philmont crew will hike with full packs. Other group might just hike with daypacks.

June 21-23 Biking trip on Cape Cod – Sue: About 7 Scouts signed up. Multiple distances for bike rides. Two Webelos who have just crossed over may join trip. Since school is out, will leave for trip at noon – time for real cooking. May have an environmental educator Eagle Scout in evening

Philmont – Britt: Full crew of 12 (8 Scouts, 4 leaders) with one Scout on waiting list; need firm confirmation by May 9 for names to go on plane tickets. After that point, would need to buy replacement ticket if there are any changes - this cost would be absorbed by Scouts. Shakedown June 14-16 starting at Camp Sayre – three days of hiking in Blue Hills. All other logistics all set.

Summer camp – Jeni: 20% off if you have Adventure card – so Jeni bought Adventure cards for all. Several Scouts interested in swimming merit badge - may be offered in advance of summer camp by Sam Zewde. Camp deposits should already be in to Hitesh or Neil, Treasurers.

Troop room/gear update - Larry: Continued progress on cleaning out old stuff; will be able to create an inventory soon. Need some smaller size hiking boots – size 6.

Spring fundraising – Edward & Julia: Collecting money tonight for trash bag sale. Will do a big push this week with announcement and email; next week is last day to bring in money. Isabelle will post on website sales forms, script, etc; also sent out via email. Proposal to set up table for direct sales (not pre-order.) Would need adult volunteer, pick a date, gauge Scout interest, pick location, permission from store. Cub Pack is doing May Day in Harvard Square – energy bars and trash bags.

2019-2020 Activities – Sally: Process = adult leaders make trip idea suggestions, committee tweaks, Scouts then vote on trips. See Sally’s draft list.

* We will plan for Maine High Adventure canoe trip in summer 2020; more Scouts now the right age- 13 by September 1, 2020; so have to get canoe ready – canoe trips Sept, May & June because of weather (need to avoid cold/hypothermia); shakedown at Lake Umbagog Memorial Day weekend; High Adventure participants have to do 2 of the 3.
* Gerry: suggestion to plan closer trips for shorter travel time/smaller carbon footprint; Ipswich? Camp Cachelot in Plymouth? Day trips Sudbury/Concord? Britt: Ipswich River Audubon – canoeing and camping; Kate – Cape?
* Edward: Day trip idea: urban travel via various types of public transportation, treasure hunt – with canoeing on Charles?
* Michael: offering house as base for Mt. Greylock or other western MA trips in winter or other seasons; Clark Museum (art) and MassMOCA; spring: sheep shearing at local farm; Williamstown area; lots of hiking trails. Michael offers one free dinner, kids cook one meal; camp out one night or stay in house both nights.
* Erin: historical sites, final leg of Paul Revere ride; guide available; Concord
* November – conservation trip required by Maine High Adventure – either November or April; no need to return to more recent sites as trails are well- maintained. Turkey roast: invite parents to join for meal; can do Totin Chip; Saturday night only at Camp Sayre.
* December – see Christmas lights; use various modes of public transportation. Indoor climbing – Metro Rock, Brooklyn Boulders, Central Rock in Watertown – do they offer merit badge? Erin: Chelsea – indoor archery and puzzle room
* Jan/Feb – Downhill skiing? – more expensive than cross country or snowshoeing; Scout weekend at Waterville Valley, or Attitash; Jiminy Peak has downhill and snowshoeing – in western MA; gets some snow cover in January - typically plan to go further north to get snow; For safety with downhill skiing, use buddy system – pairs paired. Possibly MLK weekend or school vacation: extended weekend trip to Mont Megantic – Quebec; who would lead it? Longer than 4 hour drive
* March – ice fishing or Red Gate farm
* February – cooking merit badge?? Tano Holme with Harlem troop?

Any other ideas – please email Sally. THANKS to Sally for all of her work.

Treasurer Report - Hitesh: got Philmont check from Trust for full expenses for 7 Scouts. Summer camp all set – Trust will cover 14 Scouts; families may not receive $50 deposit back if needed to cover cost of extra Scouts. Trash bag sales will go towards Scout’s individual accounts; adults also have accounts.

Winter Fundraising -Kate: Christmas trees? Some concerns from Scouts about the ecological impact of cutting down trees – but Christmas trees are farmed on soil that other crops won’t grow on; and composted after Christmas. In past, Troop has tried to find alternatives with no success.

* Last year’s tree supplier is asking for 25% down in July. Final orders due Tues after Thanksgiving, 12/3. Plan to pick up that week and distribute first weekend in December 12/7&8.
* Kate will run ordering process, and David and Kate will pick up trees. Needs 4 adults to split weekend supervising shifts – Saturday busier than Sunday first weekend in December
* Also, move to credit card/electronic payment system? Help from Brian Zick?
* Sue: question about pre-sale for trees, etc earlier in year? With trash bag sales? Orders by 11/1?

Class B uniform shirts – Erin: sales now? – check in with Andrew Hartness (who did this last year.)

Court of Honor: Tues. June 4; Scott, Liz, & Andres working on timelines for girls’ advancement. Jim: will affect Order of the Arrow election, as Scouts must be First Class.