

SC56 Troop Committee Meeting 7/16/20

Present: Jim Wheaton, Jeni Pereira, Sue Kriegsman, Hitesh Trivedi, Susan Stewart, Robin Bonner, Larry Parnell, David English, Paul _____, Charlie_____, Michael Chiu, Michelle Holmes, Gerry Katz, Kathy Kelts

These minutes are organized thematically – not in chronological order of discussion. My apologies to new Scout parents whose names I did not catch while you were on the Zoom meeting.
Kathy Kelts

Summer meetings/activities: Scout survey before school ended: no one wanted weekly meetings; a few wanted every other week. A little less than half interested in merit badges. Most kids wanted bike ride of 15 miles, or hike. See Jim's email of 7/14 for pie charts of survey results.

Ideas:

- Kayaking on Charles? Can spread out. Charles River canoe and kayak. 2-person/family group Some pools open: Dilboy, Magazine Beach, McCrehan on Rindge to do swim test, if required by BSA before boating.
- Build a rope-bridge at a park? Work on each section individually, then tie together and walk across 1 by 1.

Plan: David will lead a bike ride in August. 15-20 miles. Bruce Freeman trail, Lowell to Acton? Would require cars with bike racks – each family bring own bikes. Or pick a trail we can bike to: Museum Way near science museum through East Boston to Chelsea.

September: In-person meetings? Or more planned Zoom meetings? Bike riding or hiking day trips? Camping wearing face-masks and sleeping in own tent? Plan activities month by month?

Liz sent email a week ago with questions on fall trips. Scouts need to vote. Several committee members reported that their Scout had not received this email. May hold off until we decide safety of various activities

How to be Scout-led when even adults are struggling??

Our medical doctor members point out that college students coming to MA may lead to increase in infections. Have sense that the lull we are in now is the eye of storm. Expect full year of restrictions on activity until vaccine.

If Scouts and adults are at low-risk for severe COVID illness, could do hikes with masks. High-risk people should stay home!

Transportation may be problem – cannot put multiple Scouts in one car.

Scout needing first aid would violate social distancing.

How to enforce social distance rules with youth? Hard for everyone – teens and others – to actually keep distance. In this troop, Scout behavior/responsiveness to adult limit-setting has been a problem.

Planned virtual camping for troop counts as camping nights for advancement. Games, skits. Setting up tent in own backyard or living room.

Zoom meetings: participation increased over time this past spring. Some ideas:

- Watch a video and talk about it.
- Online Pictionary at Scribble.io – other games using Zoom white board or other platforms.
- Cub Scouts have been making videos. We could do a focus on moviemaking.
- Teams of 2-3 Scouts– working on badges and share with troop.
- Teaching basic Scout skills virtually – first aid, knots.
- Breakout rooms on Zoom with 2-3 Scouts and an adult– Scouts teaching new crossover Scouts basic skills.
- Viewing some kind of online training together, such as First Aid.
- Virtual patrols – each take a week leading so that burden of creating online agenda/curriculum does not fall all to SPL and Scoutmasters
- Roberto is new SPL.

Adults please think of something you might be able to teach the Scouts over Zoom.

Fund-raising for fall? Kate Scherlis: March – June 2020, and summer high adventure trips all cancelled. Hitesh reports we are using dues from last spring for this fall. Tree sale fundraiser requires an estimate to supplier in next few weeks. Could be sales via email, but how would we distribute?

Option 1: Wait until we can be together again and sell at that time. Aim for tree sales in fall/winter 2021.

Option 2: sell wreaths only this fall – with contact-less pick-up. Kate to check in later in fall to see if supplier has wreaths. No central distribution site: scheduled pick-up for each Scout, then each Scout delivers own wreaths. Lots of red bows in basement of church.

Would we have Scout buy-in for fundraising if we are not going on trips? Could we donate raised funds to St. James food pantry as community service?

For next month's meeting: Community service during COVID