

SC 56 Committee Meeting 9/10/20

Present: Jim Wheaton (chair), Susan Stewart, Gerry Katz, Britt Rideout, Robin Bonner, Mike Ravicz, Sue Kriegsman, Hitesh Trivedi, Colin Zick, Michael Chiu, David English, Jeni Pereira, Lizbeth Green, Edward Bartholomew, Andrew Hartness, Kathy Kelts

Fall Meeting Schedule: Lizbeth and David met with Roberto, new SPL, on Tues. Begin meetings on 9/29 – weekly, 7-8/8:30pm. Concern that Scouts will be overwhelmed with online schooling, so beginning virtual Scout meetings later in month.

Fall Day Trips: Scout leadership team (youth and adults) meeting next Tues for planning for next 6-8 weeks. Probably going to plan day trips, possibly every other week. Each family driving separately for COVID safety, and T-accessible sites.

David will schedule another bike ride. And canoeing on the Charles in October. Need adult suggestions for hiking trails with wide paths, other outdoor activities that allow for 6' distancing.

Suggestions from committee: Nobscott good for hiking. Alewife, Fells. AllTrails to find loop hikes. Bay State circuit trail. Lincoln town trails accessible by commuter rail from Porter Square. Arboretum – for walking or biking. Meet or end in a field to teach first aid or other advancement skills at 6' distance. Also check what council is doing – NEBC hosting programs. Email any additional suggestions to David.

Suggestion for adults in troop to support individual Scouts to plan an outdoor activity so that different Scouts have leadership opportunities, and burden of adult leadership is distributed. David will send email requesting adult volunteers.

How to support new crossovers: Pair up experienced Scout buddy with new crossovers. And adults to communicate with new parents.

Philmont 2021 planning:

- payment due 10/1/20; third of total cost. Registered crew of 8 (minimum.) Hitesh requesting invoice to request grant funding. Britt will provide.

- Planning for Philmont being open next summer. Cancelled 2018 and 2020 treks. Lots of work being done to rehab areas burned in 2018. Have commitments from 4-5 Scouts. Mike leading, Roberto going. Dante and Bianca maybe. Nora again. Mark & Gerry possibly. Will need a female adult leader. Britt not planning to hike, but might drive.
- Age minimum 13.5 going into 9th grade. Age 15+ makes trek easier!
- Should we have a back-up plan if Philmont is cancelled – maybe with Maine High Adventure? David will check on their availability.

Reports from Adult Chairs

Recruitment: Susan - some inquiries over summer; goal to reach under-served communities; possibly send short description to churches of all denominations – as well as mosques, synagogues, etc. Describe short-term (COVID) and long-term plans – specifically once the troop has planned its fall activities. Liz McNerney has boxes of brochures – Susan will take some text; Have Andres translate into Spanish?

Some ideas for broadening recruitment:

- List troop in Find-It Cambridge.
- Speak with staff at local community agencies so they can spread word: MAPS, Centro Presente, Margaret Fuller House, etc.
- Facebook page – Cub Scout pack has one, but our troop has not due to legal issues/concerns about photo publication, etc. Everyone needs to sign photo waivers if we decide to post photos.
- Ask Scouts to recruit. Write up email template they could use? Plan a night to invite new recruits – or invite recruits to join on a specific hike/day trip. Recruiting is a requirement for 1st Class rank.

Also have to focus on retention- haven't retained new members well in past few years. Pairing Scouts and parents – new and old - might support.

Advancement: Gerry - not much since last Court of Honor; Personal Management will be offered this fall. Citizenship in Community progressing with Colin. Family Life merit badge in spring/summer with Kathy; 4 out of 11 Scouts have finished. Kathy will resend emails to participants after first troop meeting 9/29 and/or announce at first meeting that she is still available to support completion.

The merit badges that require long-term record-keeping are most challenging for youth. Good for troop to offer since these harder merit badges are not found in many places such as MBU's. Need to be flexible and creative with requirements due to COVID limitations. Also consider COVID's effects on morale, energy levels, etc. Youth may not have same energy to put towards merit badges that require lots of work at home.

Treasurer- No dues for now. Only canoe outing might have some cost. Some money left over from last year. Charter fee/registration fees – paid by Trust.

Fundraising – wreath sales. Not trees this year. To maintain COVID safety, Scouts could drop off notes for neighbors, or sell via email. How to collect money? Venmo, paypal, contactless check pick-up.

Is this one thing too many for Scouts? Does it make sense to fundraise when we don't need the money? Or would this bring a sense of normalcy for youth? Many local families may want to decorate this year due to travel restrictions, etc. Continuing sale this year keeps community connections.

Maybe raise money for food pantry rather than individual Scout's dues? Or split money between individual Scout accounts and a charity/the food pantry? Families who don't celebrate Christmas may want to donate to food pantry – cash or canned goods?

Concerns expressed that this sale is not inclusive of other religions, and may not send the message we want to send as we try to recruit from all local populations. Other kinds of wreaths – fall, decorative? Not possible from this vendor.

Service: Nationally, Scouts aligning with FEMA. Service projects for church in this environment? Food bank collection. Or turkey/Thanksgiving basket deliveries. Council does Scouting for food in early November. Or collect food/cash donations for food bank during

wreath sale as a way to mitigate the Christian holiday aspect of the wreath sale.

Order of Arrow: Jim - e-mails from OA lodge should have been received by Scouts. Scouts will sign up for ordeal/induction weekend - available in person at camp in NH this October. Edward will forward email, since some Scouts have not received it. Scouts have two years to complete ordeal –an extension due to COVID. There will be more opportunities post-COVID (next spring? Summer?) Adults nominated, Gerry and Liz, have not heard from OA.

Youth Protection: Remember to stay up-to-date with Youth Protection. New training implemented two years ago. All adults have to complete every two years. Takes one hour. Most everyone will have to repeat this year.

Next Committee meeting: Thursday 10/1 7-8pm.

After that, last Thurs of month ongoing.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Kelts.