

# SC 56 Committee Meeting – 1.28.2021

**1. Winter Activities:** David – Hike on Riverway; meet at REI/old Sears Building on Fenway. 10 am Sunday 1/31/21. 4-5 mile hike on Emerald Necklace Trail with medium weight packs, 20-25 lbs. Gerry, Liz, Mike & David – adult leaders. Eli & Emily – youth leaders, will send email with packing list. Basic day hike supplies: food, water, extra socks, etc. Full backpack (not daypack)– will help youth adjust load bearing straps, etc. REI or Hilton's Tent City will help adjust pack, even if you didn't buy it there. High temp expected to be 27 degrees, dress in layers. Public bathrooms probably still closed.

February trip? Waiting on snow situation – maybe some snowshoeing and New England Base Camp for hands-on-skills: fire-building, etc. New Senior Patrol Leader will be selected this coming Tues 2/4.

Also in February, bird watching hike along ocean front within parent driving distance. Sunday 2/7/21. For merit badge group, but could probably accommodate 1-2 more youth or adults. Can see ducks that nest in the Arctic. Classes will continue until end of February. 11 requirements! Jim will start Citizenship in Nation after Birdwatching is done.

**2. 2021 Philmont/Maine High Adventure:** Committee decided to postpone Philmont to next year due to anticipated remaining COVID risk this summer.

David has talked with Maine High Adventure – July 17; will hold for us. Need \$500 non-refundable deposit. Mike & Gerry prefer earlier in summer – June. August would also be possibility. What are the COVID safety plans at Maine High Adventure? Very distant from city/hospitals. Group stays in own bubble with just one guide. Adults may be vaccinated by summer, but youth will likely not. Youth may have to quarantine for 10 days before trip.

Maine High Adventure takes youth going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Or hire a private guide so there is no age limit? Trip is customized for skill level of group. Backpacking required for this trip as well. Can take 11 people, with guide=12 (state of Maine limits group size to 12.) August preferred because more adults will be vaccinated? Weekend (or longer) trip for younger youth?? Can plan canoeing training trips via AMC, & Spirit of Adventure has canoes to rent.

Major summer trip keeps youth engaged: plan most feasible trip. Think outside of box – plan our own trip? Hiking or canoeing somewhere in New England. Michelle can help design safety protocol. Derrick willing to help plan location. 50-mile stretch of AT in CT. 80 miles of MA AT. But are trails/trailheads more crowded than waterways?

Summer camp not likely to happen this year.

### 3. Food Bank, Park Cleanup and other Service Projects:

February Food Bank – Emily has been organizing. Email should come out soon. Gail McCullough will help David, since Jeni may not be available. Food pantry prefers cleaning supplies and other items over food.

May be other opportunities to cleanup along river – last weekend was successful. Collected many bags of trash & leaves. Gerry will remain in touch with organizer.

### 4. Recruitment:

#### a. Involving Pack 56 Arrow of Lights in upcoming

**activities:** Jim will reach out to invite them to Sunday's hike; parents must accompany.

#### b. School Outreach:

Susan sent letter to Cambridge public middle school liaisons -waiting for approval from superintendent's office. Also sent to charter schools. Will hold on private schools because may not be the best way to reach underserved youth. Links to Kavita's interviews included. Troop parents can post on school listservs. Susan will sent letter to all adults for posting anywhere we can.

### 5. Advancement

#### a. Eagle Status:

Kavita interviewed by Boston Globe today.

#### b. Upcoming merit badge opportunities:

Jim will offer Citizenship in the Nation after February.

#### c. Council opportunities

#### d. Order of Arrow:

possible opportunity late spring. Jim will let troop know when something is scheduled.

### 6. Treasurer:

No report.

### 7. Registrar:

With registration, we had to buy membership at NEBC . May give youth merit badge and other opportunities for activities at NEBC at a discount.

### 8. Other Reports:

In-person meetings likely to resume in September; probably a push to vaccinate youth before school begins again in fall.

**Dates to know: Feb. 25 -- Next committee meeting.**