

SC 56 Committee Meeting – 1.7.2021

Present: Jim Wheaton, Kathy Kelts, Richard Klibaner, Hitesh Trivedi, Sue Kriegsman, Mike Ravicz, Robin Bonner, Shannon Taylor, Susan Stewart, Gerry Katz, Britt Rideout, Michael Chiu, David English

1. Winter Activities: Liz – asked Scouts' preferences, chose hiking. Suggestion to use "Alltrails" to find loop hikes. End of January – Scouts will choose date in next meeting, probably 1/23 or 1/24 - Blue Hills then an activity at NEBC? Day hike; 5-7 mile hike with full packs to prep for Philmont.
Starting in Feb, 1x/mo activity. New senior patrol leader to be chosen at end of month. Scouts progressing with advancement.
2. 2021 Philmont and Philmont alternatives:
 - a. Jim – concern that BSA may pull plug on Philmont at last minute; Britt – no contingency plans from Philmont; concern about travel and COVID exposure risk with Philmont if vaccinations are not administered by June; Gerry – also concerned; Philmont next payment due 1/21/21. No refunds. Britt will work out money if troop decides Philmont is not safe. 3/21 is final payment date for Philmont. Philmont will refund if they cancel, if group cannot schedule an alternative. Also, have to consider the training – important that Scouts work together as team setting up/breaking down camp. And build the relationships between the group. Start 5 & 10 mile hikes now – with packs. Currently 5 enrolled to go to Philmont, 3 of whom have been before. A more experienced group can go more smoothly; also smaller group can be easier. Still need a female leader. Nora's mom may go. Gwei might be good to ask, or Zoe or Emma – graduate Scouts.
 - b. David: Maine High Adventure– test negative before going, stay in same group and add in only one guide. Negative tests for drivers. \$500 deposit, non-refundable unless they cancel. Dates?? Later in summer may be better with respect to COVID. But have to avoid black fly season. Need swim test for canoe trip.
 - c. What if neither Philmont nor Maine high adventure work out?
 - i. may have to continue day trips every other week.
 - ii. Alternative backpacking trip in White Mountains on our own? Hut trails – 5-7 miles from each other.
 - iii. CT stretch of Appalachian Trail– along Housatonic River for part.
 - iv. Northern Tier in December/January – 5 day sleep on lake, dog sled, cross country ski – they supply all gear.
 - d. Training requirements: Robin - wilderness first aid, needed for all trips. Solo has 8 hours online, one 8 hour day of practical in Conway, NH, May? If we host later in spring – be outdoors, everyone commute to day site, two days. Red Cross? Our Council? Other Councils? Mayflower Council does training 5x/year at their Scout camp. SOLO website shows all options for other courses hosted by different types of programs.

3. Food Bank and other Service Projects – Food bank pick-up today, 8 boxes of food to be delivered Friday afternoon. Feb date as well.
4. Recruitment – Susan will send recruiting email out to middle schools in Cambridge. Then Cambridge churches. Sent to Margaret Fuller House. In Cambridge, DHSP runs youth centers. Family liaisons at public schools. Kathy will help Susan research contacts.
 - a. Involving Pack 56 Arrow of Lights in upcoming activities – Join Jan hike with day pack, not full pack; have to be accompanied by parent if they have not crossed over into troop
 - b. Crossover – not discussed
5. Advancement
 - a. Next Court of Honor 1/19/21; Gerry will run report for troop and let Scouts know where they stand; some good movement; How do we encourage Scouts to continue to work on advancement? David: Scouts are requesting help Scoutmaster conferences.
 - b. Eagle Boards/Courts of Honor status Harrison – needs encouragement to complete paperwork; Kavita – next Wed night Board of Review. Jeffrey - achieved Eagle 6 months ago; will pick a Tues date soon for Eagle Court of Honor
 - c. Winter opportunities Liz: Scouts selecting next merit badge; use voting for last time; Citizenship in Nation may be good next choice. Jim will take lead on that MB beginning Tues 1/26/20.
6. Treasurer Hitesh:
 - a. Troop raised \$3200 from wreath sales. Hitesh will send individual emails soon – will ask what percentage they want to donate to food pantry.
 - b. Troop will reimburse Scouts for online merit badge classes. Mark has earned 27 online – he will speak with Troop to share his experiences. Some online merit badges are faster and Scouts may not retain as much information. Some find navigating online experience difficult. Start with an easier merit badge. Ours and other councils all around country offer them – might be good for non-Eagle required badges that match Scouts’ particular interests. School vacation week classes may be more substantive. Our own troop offerings are more substantive.
 - c. Have funds for ½ Philmont and Wilderness First Aid.
7. Fundraising – Wreath Sales Update See above.
8. Registrar/Rechartering – Shannon – thanks to Shannon for getting rechartering done. 15-minute virtual meeting with council will be done soon. Some parents dropped because YPT not completed. Girl troop – 5 girls is minimum – need more girls!! Everyone going to Philmont has to be registered as Venturer since we go as a co-ed Venturer crew. All parents should be registered for all three units: troop, crew, post. Shannon will contact people to register for other units.

10. Other reports: none

Dates to know:

Jan. 28 -- Next committee meeting