

Scout Collective 56 Troop Committee Meeting 11/2/21

Present: Jim Wheaton, Sen Blankenship, Hitesh Trivedi, Sue Kriegsmann, Michelle Holmes, Robin Bonner, Gerry Katz, Richard Klibaner, Susan Stewart, Gail McCullough, Penny Haney, Ed Henley, Mary Ellen Galante, Neil McCullough, Beth Boyle, Syd Cash, Eileen McCullough, Pankaj Bonsal, Mike Ravicz, Edward Bartholomew, John Green, Andres Ballesteros, Andrew Hartness, Britt Rideout

- 1.) Welcome back and welcome to newcomers: introductions, suggest registering as an adult in Scouts
- 2.) Remaining fall activities: await report from Scoutmasters
- 3.) Meetings: Committee 1x/mo; goal to wrap up at same time Scout meeting wraps up; first Tuesday; may conflict with Cubs;
- 4.) Policy for snow/inclement weather cancellations: key 4 – Scoutmasters, Committee chair, Charter Org rep make decision. Send email with clear subject line. If Cambridge schools are cancelled due to weather, troop & committee meetings cancelled. Plan to create Google drive – with specific email lists, troop & adults: more info later
- 5.) Updated COVID policy: everyone eligible must be fully vaccinated; both shots plus 2 weeks; FDA just approved Pfizer vaccine for 5-11 year olds; 11 year olds must be vaccinated by January to protect everyone; Michelle is epidemiologist and has provided guidance
- 6.) Need for volunteers – in addition to Old Goats; please email Jim if interested
 - a. Registrar – Shannon through rechartering? Register, send to council in fall (now.) Detail oriented; large time investment in fall but less later, make sure adults have done Youth Protection Training- every two years
 - b. Training chair – for youth and adults; finding opportunities in local council and region, inform troop
 - c. Others: Activity leaders; new parents can shadow or partner up with an experienced leader; adult advisors support the youth leader and make the reservations for the trips, monitor for safety
- 7.) Activity calendar – Spring 2022;
 - a. Need for adult advisors for every event: Scouts choose the activities, but adults generally plan the offerings: for this year, might need to

focus more on hiking to prep for Philmont; suggestion: eliminate white water rafting, reconsider length of cross country ski hike/distance to site

- b. Budget & Scout/Family payments: plan activities, calculate cost then divide equally so all Scouts pay activity fees (whether or not they go on trips.) \$375 for half year – total \$8,000. Have funds from 2020. Some Scouts do alternate activities to raise their own money. Scout raises half of participation funds – has to earn money; equity issue to make sure that there is no distinction between more & less affluent Scouts' experiences
 - c. Philmont hiking workups: for success and fun, must be experienced at backpacking for 4-5 hours, make camp, break camp next a.m.; also altitude effects: start at height of Mt. Washington – so New Englanders need extra training, such as hiking in White Mountains – higher grade trails; Philmont=8% grade trails; for age 14+ or 13 & finished 8th grade; troop plans more and less challenging hikes for different ages, skill levels; youth get stronger over time, adults wear out – if you lose adult on trail to <2 deep leadership, whole troop comes off trail; typically plan 2 hiking trips for entire troop and one shakedown trip Memorial Day weekend: 3 days; high level of safety oversight; staffed camps with varied activities, check-in at each; June 27- July 11
- 8.) Fundraising: Tree/Wreath sales; get emails from the buyers, rather than dealing with payments; deadline for turning in orders 11/23 – Tues before Thanksgiving; Scout sends the purchase link to the buyers – cc parent; or link is public on website; customers do need to know WHO they bought from; QR code on flyer or separate piece of paper – Beth Boyle volunteered; weekend after Thanksgiving: tree distribution – Sat & Sun 12/4 & 5
- 9.) Personal Fitness merit badge: Michelle will lead; required for Eagle and for Philmont; begin January end in spring, 90 day tracking of activity
- 10.) Service projects: help church because we receive meeting space for free; in past have done coffee hour at church but church not meeting in person yet; Michelle will check in about food pantry; neighborhood clean-up can count; will put service project planning on hold for right now; has to

be service to church – 4 hours typically required, but this year?? Maybe helping church unpack, assemble Ikea furniture – move Scout stuff out of basement?

- 11.) Recruitment with diversity focus – Susan working on wider recruitment effort, making sure different populations are targeted; language communities, girls. Will return to diversity brainstorm in future.
- 12.) New parents: medical form completed annually, Youth Protection Training - Google work space will be able to list requirements and check-offs
- 13.) Need Training chair:
 - a. New parent training 1-2x year – for crossovers before summer camp then in fall? Training on advancement and youth leadership of Scout program (vs. adult leadership in Cubs) Possibly using the Nov 20 weekend at NEBC, because the Cubs will be there as well. Our troop runs its own IOLS – one day training. Try online modules on MyScouting.org
 - b. FAQ document updated on website – including history of inclusiveness even before Scouts BSA was inclusive
 - c. IOLS: Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills; was done in summer for MHA leaders
 - d. Wood Badge – for adults
 - e. Intro to Leadership for Troop Scouts (ILST) – 4 hour program; propose to Scoutmasters and Patrol Leadership Council – often youth taught then to NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) Learn from other troops & crews.
- 14.) Advancement: Personal fitness;
- 15.) Scoutmasters: meet with Patrol Leadership Council, review spring trips for hiking prep vs. white water rafting, cost, location/driving distance, level of difficulty for current group
- 16.) Patrol meetings in separate rooms – patrol method.