

## **Troop/Crew 56 Adult Committee Meeting 5/3/22**

Present: Richard Klibaner, Kathy Kelts, Jim Wheaton, Hitesh Trivedi, Penny Hainey, Edward Bartholomew, Robin Bonner, Paul Galante, Beth Boyle, Sen Blankinship, Diane Johnson, Neil & Gail McCullagh, Syd Cash, Britt Rideout, Andres Ballesteros, Andrew Hartness

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Tues May 17 – Dante Eagle Court of Honor: 6:15pm potluck meal, 7:15pm ceremony in church; wear uniforms! Encourage all youth to participate to show support for Dante & family given their loss this year. Pack also invited to join ceremony – Cubs helped with Dante’s Eagle project.
- Tues May 24 – Crossover for two Webelos; Sen & David will plan; we have a bridge to use in storage. Typically: Troop provides neckerchiefs & hosts ceremony. During COVID era, Pack hosted & Scoutmaster attended.
- Tues June 14 – Spring Court of Honor – let Gerry know about any rank advancement/merit badges earned, etc. well in advance of this date!
- Tues June 28 – Parent Meeting (no youth) – approve budget, dues, final calendar, social event for parents with potluck. Venue needed. Jim will ask around for any willing to host.

### **Activity Calendar:**

- 4/29-5/1 Trip recap – for non-Philmont contingent: light backpack for summit was a wise choice; good cooperation between Scouts, learning from small fails.
- Mid-May hiking trip – Sue & Mike working with Scout leaders tonight to prepare.
- 2022-23 Activity Planning:
  - Treasurers need to know budget by 6/28 parent meeting.
  - Discussion of Scout role in activity planning: For 2022-23: last week, Scouts voted on list of potential water-based trips designed to prepare for Maine High Adventure for summer 2023; These trips require planning in advance to get canoes, etc.
  - Adult role: Answer the questions: Safe? Allowed by BSA? Within a budget that allows us to remain an inclusive troop?
  - Some concerns around communication with Scouts. Did Scouts understand what they were voting on? Were Scouts involved in pack check left out of explanations? Parents may not have understood, but given Scout youth leadership, parent understanding is less important than Scout understanding.
  - Historically, Trip Czar (adult committee position) gets ideas from committee, gets ideas from Troop, figures out costs, talks with treasurers.
    - Around May 1, Trip Czar sends out list of possibilities by month, includes Wilderness First Aid, canoe dunk test, etc.
    - By mid-May, adult advisors sign up for each trip.

- Then Scouts vote.
    - This year trip planning by Scoutmaster who cannot come to Committee meetings. May need to rethink this set-up.
  - This year, Scouts had brainstormed many trip ideas but the step of presenting to committee did not happen. Only canoe trips were presented to Scouts last week which dampened Scout enthusiasm. But were those just the trips that needed more planning? Other comments:
    - All warm weather trips for 2022-23 are canoeing. Are 4 canoe trips needed to prepare for Maine High Adventure?
    - Should we consider other high adventure experiences like Sea Base? Or other activities like National or MA state jamboree? Council camporee?
      - Which of these activities are troop activities, and which activities Council plans that individual Scouts can attend?
      - When thinking about council & national level opportunities, Troop can make sure summer camp & our trips do not overlap with Order of Arrow or National Jamboree, etc.
  - Key Four will meet and review trip plans; bring issues to Patrol Leader Council
    - Suggestion to present budget parameters to Troop or PLC so youth are involved in the financial planning for trips?
  - Part of planning: including Cubs in trips; suggestion for crossover earlier in the year so new Scouts join spring trips & participate in planning for the next year
- **Financial**
  - Trust will cover Woodbadge for adults who participated.
  - Spring Trashbag Fundraiser in progress. Orders and payment due next Tues 5/10/22.
- **2022 Philmont** – affected by wildfires? Our troop chose a Northern route, currently fire is in Southern area. Philmont uses portions of ranch that are not affected by fire.
- **2022 Summer Camp** – 7 Scouts; too small to break into patrols, and this group is gelling on other trips; 12-14 year olds.
- **Recruitment** – a prospective Scout will be joining meeting next week.
- **Special Needs & Scouting:** For Scout with a disability/neurodiversity, BSA eliminates age requirement for rank advancement; Bennett is adult, must tent separately because 2 yrs+ older than other Scouts, but has been granted permission by council to continue in Scouting.
  - If questions arise, please help younger Scouts understand that age extension for Scouts with special needs is part of the Scouting program.
  - Kathy is available to help if anyone else wants to go through the application process for a special needs age extension.
- **Training:**
  - Woodbadge: for adults, excellent leadership training AND fun!

- YLT, parent training, etc. Jim & Syd will work on.
- **Order of Arrow** – no discussion in this meeting.
- **Patrol System** – is it happening? Patrol is basic unit of leadership. Issues like trip planning should be done at patrol level then brought to PLC.
- **Communication within Troop** – Scouts & Adults. Committee members see need for improvement around communication.
  - Clearer planning for Merit badge offerings by adults within troop;
  - Erik will be happy to set up parent email list so that cutting and pasting from contact sheet is not required.
  - Can use Google Workspace for the Troop. See Hitesh.
  - Diane's Woodbadge ticket involves surveying Scouts and caregivers to determine what type of communication system will work for Troop.

**Next Committee Meeting:** MAY have an early June meeting if needed. Otherwise, next Committee Meeting will be Parent Meeting on 6/28.