

Minutes of Troop/Crew 56 Adult Committee Meeting 2/7/23

Present: Sen Blankenship Andrew Hartness, Neil McCullagh, Hitesh Trivedi, Diane Johnson, Kathy Kelts, Gerry Katz, Marietta Sbraccia, Michelle Holmes, Beth Boyle, Penny Haney, Paul Lyons, Ann Kao, Erik Blankinship, MaryEllen Galante, Ed Henley, Robin Bonner, David English, Edward Bartholemew

1. **Welcome** – new families joining next month with Crossover Webelos.
2. **Advancement**
 - a. **Camping Merit Badge** – 2/28/23 6:30pm for 4 weeks – classroom learning requirements
 - b. **Crossover & Court of Honor 2/28/23**; Gerry will let Scouts know final deadline for submission of advancement; Scouts need to be up to date with dues and service hours to church. Webelos will get their cub awards then come over at 7pm to crossover. COVID restrictions and time constraints with merit badge & Cub events mean a long night. A treat to go home?? Snacks & drinks? Decision: Cupcakes funded by Troop. Scouts & families can remain to share or take home. We'll return to potluck at next Court of Honor.
3. **Training**
 - a. **ILST/ILSC (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troop/Crew)** – needs to be rescheduled/discussed with Scoutmasters on weekend for everyone in Troop/Crew
 - b. **Patrol Leaders Council** - Patrol leaders expressing concern that they haven't been trained, but not committing time to do the training. PLC planning meetings 1x/mo to plan 6 wks in advance. Scouts expressed feeling that they weren't being heard. The group is not yet in a place to find solutions. David will do training but needs youth cooperation & time commitment. Some ideas:
 - i. At end of troop meeting, discuss what worked/what didn't.
 - ii. Scouts report availability Mon or Fri after 5pm. – schedule PLC then?
 - iii. Could be done during regular Scout meeting but then need someone to cover David and youth leaders in the regular meeting – or just have PLC meet and other Scouts do not meet.
 - iv. Meet on Zoom? Did not work as Scouts turned cameras off.
 - v. First week of month Adult Committee & PLC only? Or PLC on a different week of month?
 - vi. Engage parents in discussion of leadership roles youth have taken on. Eli=Senior Patrol Leader; Neelu=Assistant Senior Patrol Leader; some Scouts communicate their roles with family, some do not.
 - vii. Survey of Scouts/families – Erik will create PLC email list.
 - viii. Or meet half hour before every meeting to plan 2-3 weeks. Would mean members of PLC could not participate in 6:30pm merit badge classes.

- ix. Scouts need to communicate outside of the meetings but question is what is most effective communication method? Youth do not read emails.
- c. **New Parent Training for Crossover Scouts** – many are IOLS trained and went to Robin’s orientation; need logistics information – invite to next committee meeting, The more quickly we orient and onboard new parents, the quicker they will jump in to help Troop.
 - i. treasurer/Hitesh will send fees info,
 - ii. Polina will register & add families to email list;
 - iii. Diane will follow up on medical forms from list of names – should be same form used in Cubs;
 - iv. Gaelle will create Welcome package for each family
 - v. Link on webpage to the info? .

4. Activities

- a. **Cooking Merit Badge – 2/24 or 25 for final practicum** MaryEllen sent survey – one of those two dates
- b. **February activity** – day trip? Scouts picked skiing, others researched cross country skiing; some thought we would do ILST/C No Senior Patrol Leader right now, so no PLC. Who makes decision? Committee holds that last minute planning doesn’t work. Committee decides no February trip.
- c. **Wilderness Survival March 17-19-** Andrew, Jim, Diane, Sen, Sarah Two adults with trainer all day. Saturday night while youth sleep outside, adults need to be available, keep hot water going. In past, adults have slept! 10 Scouts signed up; 2 spaces for Crossovers, Possibility of increasing numbers?
- d. **Adult Advisor status rest of the year**
 - i. **April 28-30– canoeing** Neil; need female
 - ii. **May-white water rafting 5/19-21** have two female leaders.
 - iii. **June-** have minimum adults needed
- e. **Maine High Adventure 2023 status** – Sid talking with Somerville troop, will provide a female leader. Important to include Somerville Scouts in all prep activities.
- f. **Philmont 2024 Reservation 7/7-7/21??** – Scout must be 14 or 13 entering 9th grade. No one present to confirm registration.
- g. **Summer camp 8/6-8/12;** Diane will send sign-up soon; to Daniel Webster council camp; Yawgoog has opportunities for staff training and working as staff for older Scouts (individual, not with troop.)
- h. **Planning for 2023-2024:** Penny will email parents with survey soon; send Penny info for trip ideas; join monthly district roundtable to explore options other troops use; seek leaders at same time as ideas

5. Financial -

- a. **Treasurer – status of dues** – most Scouts up-to-date; a few have not paid; Crossover Scouts?
- b. **Spring fundraiser** – Council selling first aid kits. 40% margin; price point

\$16-\$120; timeline: promote in March, sales begin April and end May 30; pick up June 10 for distribution. Scouts who have already paid their portion of this year's dues can earn for next year. Kathy will communicate with council & pick up kits, etc., Gaelle for computer support with Google order forms, QR code, etc. Sen can help with Cubs - could help with flyers,.

- c. **Equipment Needs (considering Crossovers)**- need an adult Quartermaster: Noah is Scout quartermaster- follows lead of the adult. Quartermaster will get key. Could parent/child combination work? Typically we avoid but Andrew volunteers and Committee agrees this makes sense.
 - d. **Need trust requests** for Maine High Adventure, summer camp, leadership trainings
- 6. Service Projects/Church relationship:** 100% of Scouts have committed to community service to church! Church annual meeting – need rent but getting only 1/3 of what is needed. We are not paying customer. Church needs to use every space. Church concerned about messes, doors open, lights on, etc. Troop adults need to be very vigilant about cleaning up, etc. Ideas:
- a. Formalize an exit process/checklist – assigned to someone?
 - b. Or assigned to patrol?
 - c. Who will create checklist: Michelle
 - d. Take a photo when we leave to document state of room!
- 7. Inclusion:**
- a. **New Scout from Ukraine**, Max, troop funding for equipment
 - b. **Troop Allergy policy** – draft from Sen; send comments on Google doc;
 - i. baseline: eliminate nuts from weekend trips after crossover of 3 Scouts with nut allergies;
 - ii. cooking groups for those with allergies;
 - iii. high risk purchased foods: chocolate, cookies, etc. Alternatives: seed butter chocolate spread
 - iv. Identify who will do each task: Quartermaster, Training Chair.
 - v. Training for everyone – Scouts and adults.
 - vi. Concern about increased burden on adults leading to fewer adults volunteering.
 - vii. Youth responsibility? Youth need scaffolding and who will train?
 - viii. Next month move this to first on agenda. Sen will send out food survey to gather info.
 - c. **Changing mask guidelines?** Discuss in next meeting; consider balance of health risk vs loss of social engagement/community building.

Next Adult Committee Meeting: Tues March 7, 7:30pm