

Troop Crew 56 Adult Committee Meeting 6.6.23

Present: Jim Wheaton, Michelle Holmes, Richard Klibaner, Sen Blankinship, Ed Henley, MaryEllen Galante, Gaelle Llambi, Derrick Jackson, Diane Johnson, Gerry Katz, Sue Kriegsman, Hitesh Trivedi, Paul Lyons, Kathy Kelts, Erik Blankinship, Neil McCullough, Robin Bonner, Andrew Hartness, Courtney Hite

Primary agenda: trip list for 23-24 season.

Penny brainstormed with Scouts in patrols then followed up with Scouts about choices, then presented choices to PLC for each month – ranked 1-3. Penny has checked in with facilities at most sites for expenses. Food expenses have also increased due to inflation.

In surveys, interest from Scouts in day trips in addition to weekend. Also, some parents could do day but not weekend.

Planned for hiking and wilderness first aid to prepare for Philmont in summer 2024. If wilderness first aid is full weekend, Scouts under 14 will need to have separate activity.

Have typically budgeted for 12+ Scouts. Currently 25 Scouts – some graduating, some incoming. Cambridge camping Trust: Likely will cover registration fees but perhaps not Philmont. Need new equipment: 2-person tents, also need single tents for gender/age splits. If 17-20 Scouts on trips, need more tents.

Plan to have all adult advisor slots filled by end of year 6/20 adult meeting. Plan to have 3 adults for each trip given higher headcount of Scouts – need 4 drivers. Two are advisors and two additional/drivers. Sign up more experienced parents first; less experienced parents fill in as 3rd or 4th adult on trip. Training requirements for primary leaders: IOLS & Scoutmaster training (online.) AND every adult who attends trip must be REGISTERED with BSA, including Youth Protection Training.

Proposal for mandating parent participation: Careful consideration of this idea required so that youth can participate even if caregivers do not have capacity. Capacity to advise trips may also be affected by caregivers' health or other issues. Key 3 could make friendly approach to adults who would seem capable. Entice parents to step up in due time. Talk with someone at June 20th parent event to learn more.

Worthy experiment to try day trips to increase participation. Conservation trips not high on Scout wishlists but needed for Philmont.

Tubing, skydiving, fishing, etc. were very popular.

Overnight trips:

Sept Block Island – Penny Haney, Diane, & Gaelle as 3rd; Philmont Qualifier

Oct Mass Jam – Diane & Richard

Nov Turkey Roast – David for cooking, Gerry, Sen, Erik

Dec Skydiving

Jan Snowshoeing – Philmont Qualifier

Feb IceFishing at TL Storer – Ed Henley assist

March Wilderness First Aid – Michelle, Diane, Erik, Syd (Philmont advisors)

April – Mt. Greylock backpacking – Philmont qualifier Hitesh (non-Philmont) Diane, Erik, Syd (Philmont_

May – fishing, riflery & archery at TL Storer – Penny; Philmont shakedown: Diane, Erik, Syd

June – Horsemanship at TL Storer or biking if horsemanship not possible – Diane, Gaelle (but not if it's biking)

July 7-21: Philmont; Scout needs to do shakedown, wilderness first aid and 2/3 qualifiers and service project (for the extra 7 hours needed for 50 miler badge – 10 hrs required, only do 3 hrs at Philmont)

Day Trips: Penny will solicit volunteers by email

When to get youth leaders? Ideal is 4 months ahead. Scoutmasters start now for Sept, Oct, Nov trips

Report on June trip to Lake Umbagog: Need for communication clarification and better pack checking. Derek – rough weather conditions and Scouts really pulled together: woke up 4:30am to make breakfast in order to leave by 6am but gale force winds forced them to turn around - might have stranded Scouts for extra day – ferry not available. A period of calm – Scouts got ready in 15 min! Amazing teamwork.

- Communication: Adults at home have to trust the adults leading trips rather than trying to call/contact. Cell service in wilderness is spotty. Mom at home received pictures/texts from adult trip advisors which actually increased anxiety. Some parents were not on text list. In past, one contact person in city for pick-up time and other essential info. All contact info on trip roster. Create mailing list for each family – includes Scout, parents? And list for families on each trip. Reinforce no electronics rules on trips for adults as well. Another alternative: blog each day. Can send message on trip home 30 min outside of Cambridge to communicate pick-up time. Commendation for newsletter! Add this info to newsletter.
- Pack check: Had to stop at local hunting/camping store to purchase essential items Scouts did not bring. Parents will receive bill. Pack checks need to be a little more careful: dumping packs to physically check each item. Parents follow up with youth to

make sure items are still packed at time of trip. Need more education for youth AND parents about appropriate fabrics, etc. Check Troop 56 welcome packet. Scout skill corner in newsletter: board of review vs Scoutmaster conference; why pack check, why cotton kills/need for wool/fleece: Derek & Erik will create searchable guide for registered parents. Idea: swap of outdoor gear; purchase items in same color: red long sleeves, blue short sleeves, etc. Swap beginning of year and March.

Advancement CoH 6/13/23 6:30 potluck, 7pm CoH; Advancement closes Thurs 6/8

Protocol for Scouts with Eagle projects \$\$: to be discussed in future.

Adult event 6/20 Potluck food, bring any type of beverage. Diane will do write-up for newsletter.