

Troop Crew 56 Adult Committee Meeting

Present: Gerry Katz, Ed Bartholomew, Robin Bonner, Derek Jackson, Colin Zick, Neil McCullough, Paul Lyons, Penny Haney, Kathy Kelts, Andrew Hartness, Gail McCullough, Sen Blankinship, Erik Blankinship, Syd Cash, Ed Henley, Brit Rideout, Julie Corso, Laurie Wheaton, Jim Wheaton, Paul Johnson, Diane Johnson, Gaelle Llambi, Michelle Holmes, Danny Park, Marc Leuchner

Adult volunteers for trips: Penny: Sept set; through Nov have main leaders, need additional adults; Robin – if there is capacity and interest, Robin will lead parallel adult patrol on September trip to learn how trips work; for September trip, adults and youth need to pass BSA swim test

Training for new adults at Turkey roast again – Michelle will offer IOLS training

OA – youth elected need to do ordeal, parents please support youth to do so; Diane would like to do Order of Arrow – agreed to by committee; OA allowed female youth members starting 2 years ago; soon will rise to national leadership positions; OA allows Scout to see what is going on with rest of council and Scouts national & international; focus on community service, particularly to Scout camps; tradition of appropriating native American culture (and stereotypes); some OA groups reaching out to local native groups, some moving away from this tradition; OA provides opportunity to network with other older youth leaders and take leadership positions with larger groups; OA continues up to 21 years old

Church service opportunity – Michelle: Rev Matt requested to use church hall Shrove Tuesday 2/13/24 (Mardi Gras) before lent; Pancake supper with sausages. Expressed concern about displacing Scouts for that night; willing to include Scouts but challenge of some Scouts not being Christian. Michelle's proposal: make Shrove Tuesday supper a volunteer/optional service opportunity; Cubs will skip that night. No regular Scout meeting 2/13/24. Possible to have full Scout meeting 1st Tues of February (rather than just PLC) to have pack check before Feb trip.; Jan=double PLC meeting; Gaelle will inform David and plan for this February meeting schedule.

Eagle Project Funding: Scouts need to have transparency around plans for money donated to their Eagle project and where any leftover money will go; Eagle Project workbook has accounting sections that requires additional money go to non-profit; emails soliciting donations should contain the budget; Scouts must make financial accounting to Eagle Board of Review.

Advancement: Boards of Reviews– current ad hoc process leads to lower quality boards late at night; Other proposals: designate certain weeks for boards? Scoutmaster office hours? Important that Scouts initiate and approach to request Scout requests via email in advance of meeting and Gerry could set up the board?

Gerry does not track incremental advancement in ranks; track incremental advancement via Scout's own paper Scoutbook. Camp asking for that info this summer; spreadsheet? Scouts send Gerry photo of

paper book; can youth scribe help record advancement? Young Scouts at summer camp will get help to get close to 1st class.

Organize schedule for offering Eagle required merit badges over next few years? Be more planful? Offer 2+ per year. Eagle cycle of merit badges. Erik will be merit badge Tzar – find a buddy, send email to merit badge interest group and Erik will solicit adult within Troop or then go to Council; reminder about 2-deep leadership; get copy of merit badge book & read, need to “Be Prepared.”

Erik running council sanctioned merit badge university – Navy ROTC commander; MIT naval midshipmen offered as volunteers; 200 Scouts – 10/29 Sunday morning ceremony, workshop, lunch, workshop. Needs merit badge counselors with expertise, will be offering non-Eagle badges. Ideas for finding needed expertise: Museum of Science, Lincoln Labs, Urban Land Institute – for architecture & planning, MIT club network: radio, rocket, etc. Hope would be to do entire merit badge in same day; may be some pre-requisites; some merit badge universities use format of planned day=practical with submission of other requirements over next few months (with deadline.)

Girls in Scouting– council proposal to change how Cub Scouts are co-ed – family dens which do not separate boys and girls, may eventually lead to changes in how Scout troops are co-ed. We currently register two separate troops and continue to dual register as Venturer Crew which can be co-ed, needed for going to Philmont.

Jim has women’s Scout uniform supplies, size 4 & 8. Will leave with Quartermaster/Andrew. Committee expressed thanks for Jim’s leadership and best wishes in his move.

Gail – Troop apparel – Class B here tonight.

Paul & MaryEllen – retiring from Scout volunteering next Spring; encouraging all parents to go on trips to build community and relationships with youth and other adults

Gaëlle – working on website to update; found very useful guides for adult and youth leaders; register to access some content.

Erik – next e-communication update: assign account to all youth, mailing list for each Scout which includes family members

Next committee meeting – Tues 9/5 or earlier? Late August to check in and be sure we are set to get going in September? To be determined by new committee chair: Syd.