Scout Collective 56 Committee Meeting 1/29/19

Present: Andres Ballesteros, Kate Scherlis, Sue Kriegsman, Jeni Pereira, Gerry Katz, Kathy Kelts, Larry Parnell, Edward Bartholomew, Richard Klibaner, Jim Wheaton, Sally Watermulder, Lizbeth Green, Neil McCullagh, Gail McCullagh, Maren Chiu, Melaku Zewde, Hitesh Trivedi, Isabella Ehrlich, Robin Bonner, Mike Ravicz, Britt Rideout, Shannon Taylor, Julie Corso, Andrew Hartness, Stefan Economou

Trips/Events

1. January 4-6 Winter Skills Trip to Eden VT – Gerry: Met troops from CT and VT; Scouts cycled through a variety of activities – in two patrols; taste of summer camp experience. Slept in bunkhouse. Snow conditions great, BUT long drive (4+ hours.) To think about for next year: carbon footprint of trip/ length of drive.
2. Feb 1-3 –Cross-country skiing in NH - Susan and Colin (not present – working with Scouts to fit boots): Scouts were selected by lottery for the winter trips BUT everyone was able to come off waitlist and go on trips in Jan & Feb; not sure yet about March trip.
3. March 22-24 Wilderness Survival in NH– Michelle & Andrew (not present) Scouts will build their own shelter to sleep in for one night. Some foraging for food, with Lou Falank, guide. *Check Scouts for TICKS upon return!*
4. April 26-28 Backpacking Trip, Mt. Greylock, MA – Gail, Jeni, Jim & David: Scouts will map a short and long route; common campground halfway up; reserve a group site; also AT shelters are a possibility; state campgrounds around the mountain for Fri night; hike the next morning; some map-reading & compass work for advancement and for Philmont preparation; Scouts will carry in food, tents, all gear; packs can be borrowed from AMC with enough notice. Britt and Shannon will attend as well with Philmont Crew.
5. May 17-19 Backpacking Trip, Mt. Cardigan, NH – Sally: would like info on Mt. Cardigan – Mike can share his knowledge; Philmont participants will get priority for this trip; Quartermasters (adult and youth) need to check our tents; suggest TWO pack checks to be absolutely sure Scouts have what they need to be safe. Be sure not to pull anything out of the pack between Tuesday pack check and Friday departure. Britt and Shannon will attend as well with Philmont Crew.
6. June22-23 Biking Trip, Cape Cod – Neil & Sue: Will need drivers – Jeni volunteered, Mike has bike rack. We could rent bike racks from U-Haul; Cape Cod Rail Trail 26 miles to Dennis; will plan shorter and longer rides – split into two groups.
7. June 28-July 12-Philmont, New Mexico – Britt: registered as Venturer Crew = 5 youth from 56, 4 youth from Troop 3 in Somerville; 2 leaders from each troop. Troop 3 youth need backpacking experience – will be invited to join our April & May backpacking trips; Shannon and Britt will go on the backpacking trips as well. The current roster for Philmont is one person over the limit. This will allow for someone to drop out OR the crew will request permission to bring an additional leader to support Bennett due to his disability. Crew must have female leader – if two-deep leadership or gender leadership is gone, crew pulls off trail. The crew already selected itineraries and got its first choice. Day 1 at camp headquarters with opening camp fire; ranger accompanies for 2 1/2 days & teaches skills; Santa Claus camp – staffed: shotgun shooting; New Dean trail camp; Ponil – conservation project, horse rides, cantina show with professional musicians; chuck wagon dinner. Need one or two more drivers who can fly to Denver with troop, camp two nights, drive to Philmont then back to Denver to return the car – Richard K will consider; all participants must do Wilderness First Aid course planned by Somerville Troop leader for 3/30-3/31 at Camp Nobscott, Sudbury MA; will be open to rest of troop, can hold enroll 24 people.

Logistics

1. Cub update – Sen not present. Andres reminded about Webelo crossover at June Court of Honor; Webelos will come to our meetings occasionally as requirement for Arrow of Light award.
2. Troop Room/Gear – Gail: order in room has been maintained! Need to identify Youth Quartermaster! Ask Jeffrey or Kavita – position has been filled. In next 6 weeks, will plan another clean-out of old/broken equipment; need to make list of replacement/updated items needed; also inventory of what we have.
3. Advancement – Scott (not present, with Scouts now logging advancement) Andres reports Court of Honor 2/5 starts at 7pm, following Personal Fitness at 6:30pm. Scoutbook is working. Girls troop is ALMOST set-up for logging advancement.
4. Inclusion – Marietta not present. Andres reminds adults to gather for conversation at front of church during meetings so that Scouts in back of church can focus better. For Scouts with attention/learning/auditory processing issues, this is very important.
5. Order of the Arrow – Jim: OA is a camping honor society; was part of Boy Scouts, not Venturers/Explorers, therefore our troop/crew has not participated in the past since girls could not join. Now with creation of Scouts BSA, boys and girls can join. OA creates leadership opportunities, outside of troop; is a service organization. There is an OA lodge for council. OA offers training programs taught by youth. Each troop elects youth - need approval of unit leader, must be 1st class; have 15 camping nights in last 2 yrs, including one long-term 5 nights or more (such as ME high adventure or summer camp.) Election: chosen by youth, by ballot (written.) Scouts can vote for as many Scouts as they would like; good explanation needed that votes for one do not hurt another; a Scout must get 50% of the Troop’s vote to join. One election per year; separate elections for boy and girl troops. Troop 56 will plan late April election because girls can officially join as of 2/1 and need a 4-week fitness process to advance to 1st class. After election, OA candidates undergo Ordeal= one night of camping in open air, limited food, silence – opportunity for reflection. NOT hazing. Adult leaders can also be nominated – one for every 3 youth. Maren’s son has done Ordeal and can share info if needed.
6. Fundraising/Treasurers – Hitesh: Trash bag sale for spring; can get compost bags from same distributor which might work since Cambridge does citywide composting now. Edward and Julie volunteered to lead this year – check with Melaku for details from past year’s sales. Troop accounting is switching from QuickBooks to Google Docs because of expense and limited functionality of QuickBooks. We need some adult volunteers to review books every year. Dues are due NOW – Scouts won’t be able to go on trips if their dues are not paid; if they raised money during past trash bag/tree sales, Scout or parent must talk with Hitesh about how to allocate the money (towards spring or fall dues.)
7. Registrar - Shannon: For new girls troop, need 5 committee members; new Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster. Shannon passed out registration forms to volunteers: Andrew Hartness, Mike Ravicz, Isabella Ehrlich, Sue Kriegsman, Sally Watermulder, Richard Klibaner, Andres Ballesteros –committee chair. History of Scout Collective 56: Learning for Life charter and Explorer post; Venturers by age 14 but different rank advancement. Now Scouts BSA – same ranks, merit badges, etc. but separate units of boys and girls.
8. Boards of Review - Andres: all registered adults can be a part of a Scout’s Board of Review; which is the last step before rank advancement. Boards of Reviews consist of 3 adults; Scout identifies rank; Reviewers ask about favorite trips, what they learned through completing requirements, etc. For Life & Star ranks: more reflective and challenging questions to prepare for Eagle board of review, which is with outsiders who don’t know the progress each Scout has made. Later rank Boards of Review can be early taste of college/job interviews.
9. Fitness Merit Badge booklets – see Mike if you ordered.

Other Dates to Know

February 26 – next Troop Committee Meeting