

SC 56 Committee Meeting – 12.3.2020

Present: Jim Wheaton, Michelle Holmes, Kathy Kelts, Susan Stewart, Hitesh Trivedi, Robin Bonner, Jeni Pereira, Mike Ravicz, Britt Rideout, Colin Zick, Gerry Katz, Shannon Taylor, David English, Sue Kriegsman, Kate Scherlis

1. December Activity: David – geocaching around Boston area; Kavita is youth leader, mentoring Noah (Elias' brother); Sunday 12/13 11am, will work on map and compass skills. *Needs adult leader.* Finalize list of interested Scouts at next troop meeting 12/8.
2. Winter Activities: Trying to stick to every other week. Some trips planned need snow. Sled building challenge; hopefully snowshoeing in Blue Hills.
 - a. Derrick leading birdwatching merit badge. Hike in Fellsway in November– too populated, no birds. Worked on binocular skills/care. Has only heard from two Scouts. Needs a more formal headcount – David will solicit interest in next meeting. Classes beginning January. Derrick could meet Scouts for outdoor birdwatch late December or January. Plum Island for inland, ocean, pond birds. Challenge is that every family has to drive their own youth – 45 minute drive, at NH border. David could get bus – every other seat; max=25; windows $\frac{3}{4}$ way down. Boston Harbor suggested, but not a wide variety of birds. Could be disappointing.
3. 2021 Philmont: Britt- next payment due in March then will be paid in full unless we take Scouts above number we registered. Gerry concerned about Philmont due to COVID – air transport, multiple stops, contacts, etc. Will Philmont refund? No, but may roll over to another year. Last year Philmont cancelled in June. Final decision: go/no go date =March.
 - a. How will we do work-up hikes? Loop hikes of 10-15 miles near Boston possible. Could do in full packs. But no altitude. Prep March-June.
 - b. Switch to Maine High Adventure? Very isolated, but need to determine if they have availability. David will reach out Monday to find out the plans and availability.
 - c. Discuss with Scouts and families to assess COVID concerns. Currently: can't legally go to ME or AZ due to MA state restrictions. For ME: self-quarantine for 14 days, or negative COVID test.
 - d. Will bankruptcy affect Philmont? Scouts have mortgaged Philmont to make it unattractive to take. Probably no resolution by this summer.
 - e. Another option: Canoeing in western VA, 50 mile paddle. Somewhat shorter drive (10 hours.) Low cost: few hundred per Scout.
4. Service Projects:
 - a. Food pantry: David – dropping food off beginning next week for 12/12. For 1/9: Mike Ravicz, John Green with Scouts Bennett, Emily, Jeffrey, Dante & Bianca. For list of items needed and volunteers for 2/13, see google doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1faoUZr6li3cQjDZ78S2ezV1hjZs5LY9/edit> Not sure where to bring all food so cars can pick up and deliver? Food pantry is

- collecting food Friday evening as well as early Saturday morning. Is there a youth leader for each food pantry drop-off? Emily??
- b. Additional service project: Michelle – plan at St. James to give gift baskets to neighbors – Scouts to deliver them? Just drop off on porches.
 - c. At church, David noticed lots of trash in stairwell. Will alert church staff.
5. Recruitment: Susan- held on any further recruitment due to bad press about Boy Scouts. Is there press/statistics etc. regarding the efficacy of Youth Protection? Michelle encourages continued recruitment because she is hearing continued interest from families. Families contacting her to join Cubs. Susan will try in January – will do public middle schools & as many private as possible.
6. Advancement
- a. Next Court of Honor: Gerry – 1/12; Do we have to register merit badge counselors with council and national? Two adults must be present during an online merit badge class as a YPT barrier. Michelle is the NE region advancement chair. 2nd adult must be parent of a youth OR another registered adult. Okay if of same household. Merit badge counselor must also be a registered adult.
 - b. Eagle Courts of Honor: Kavita submitting application after 1/17 in order to complete 6 months as Life Scout. Planning mock Board of Review for Kavita – familiar and unfamiliar adults. Done for all Scouts of Troop 56. Provides preparation re how to talk about own history/career with Scouts. Harrison also in line.
7. Treasurer: Hitesh – received \$7500 from Trust for Philmont and wilderness first aid needed for Philmont; those who want to go need to make contract for payment. Quite a bit of money in account, expenses not high right now.
8. Fundraising – Wreath Sales Update: Wreaths at Hitesh’s house. Sold \$5,000 total. Cubs did well - one Cub sold 60 wreaths, 11 garlands! Bring cash/checks to Hitesh when picking up. Kate – vendor is not specific in what he can provide; no garlands that matched what we ordered in summer; but were able to get 3 different kinds, somewhat shorter. Had to buy some extra red bows. Offered \$10 refund because of shorter garlands. Most customers opt to give the \$10 as a donation that goes to individual Scout’s account. Could we look for another vendor? Research a few years ago – no other wholesalers. Woburn wholesaler will only do 400+ trees – we are smaller operation.
9. Registrar/Rechartering: Shannon – rechartering by 12/18. Just sent email to those who still need YPT. Needs to be done this weekend. Will have to drop the adults who don’t do it. Signed up some youth for Venturing Crew. Need new adults for Venturing but will do via application, after re-chartering process.
10. Other reports Ideas for virtual meetings: Susan - Gather.town Scouts select an avatar then can walk around and interact with other individual Scouts.

Upcoming Dates to know:

- Jan. 7 -- Next committee meeting. Plan to discuss planning spring activities accessible to Webelos.
- Jan. 12 – Court of Honor

