

Parent's Meeting 1/25/09

Summer Camp

You need to sign up and pay the deposit for Camp Hale in Oklahoma. It is an old Indian Reservation. New Scouts are encouraged to go their first year. In their first year, they will stay at the base camp and work on Scout skills and rank advancements we call T21. In their Second year, they will do more merit badges. In the third year they will do more high adventure. The fourth year is more high adventure like Seabase, Philmont, and Northern Tier. In 2010, we have won the lottery for two trips to Philmont. We also have one group going to Seabase.

Troop Leaders -

John Landry is our Scoutmaster.

Mike Zarella is our Committee Chair

Daree Stracke is our outdoor coordinator.

Wendy Valley is our treasurer.

Tamela DeMaranville is our Membership Coordinator

Dan DeMaranville is our Chaplain.

Michelle Roddy is our Secretary.

David Gibson is our Training Representative.

Sandy Y'Barbo is our Life to Eagle leader.

James Y'Barbo is our Advancement Chair.

Don Sanford and Jay Renfro are the Equipment Coordinators

We have several parents that serve on the Board of Review committee and we need more!

If you become involved with the Troop, your son will have a much better time in Scouts and it has been proven that it keeps them participating longer than if you don't.

Dan DeMaranville led our group in prayer.

Daree Stracke informed the group about summer camp.

The camp will cost \$180- for each Scout. The transportation cost is still being worked out and she will let everyone know as soon as she has a definite cost. We will each make 4 payments over the next few months including \$60 today. It has to all be paid by May. There will be some additional cost for food on the way there. The boys will also want to have money for souvenirs, t-shirts, and camp store items. There may be a need for merit badge supply cost depending on the classes your son chooses to take.

The medical forms this year are new so everyone needs to complete a new one and turn it in to Daree. The boys are required to have a physical so make sure they get in to see the Doctor before May. You will also need to provide a copy of the health insurance card for your son and a "consent to treat" form. There is also a medication form if your son takes any kind of medicine. People over 40 need a Class III form signed by the Physician. All forms are online at the SHAC website. The troop website does not

have them yet. Summer camp will be from July 5th – July 11th. We will be sending out emails with more info as we get it.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Conor Landry presented the troop calendar to the parents. He let everyone know that there is a service patrol for each month in charge of set up, flags, and clean up. Each month there is also a Scout Law covered. He explained the next few month's plans.

February is the Computer Merit badge. The boys will use the lab at Trinity Lutheran and camp out at the Pier. There will be games and stuff to play. The Cobras will be the service patrol. "Kind" is the Scout law that is covered.

March is Fishing and Wildlife Mgmt. Merit Badge and the boys will be camping at Brazos Bend. The new Scouts will do a 5 mile hike and orienteering which are requirements for their Tenderfoot to 1st Class Scout. They will also work on the 1st Aid Merit Badge. The Scorpions will be the service patrol and the Scout law covered will be "obedient".

April is canoeing and rifle shooting. The boys will camp at Brazos Bend at Los Pines. The Scout law covered this month will be "cheerful". The Aqua Dragons will be the service patrol.

May will be the Swimming Merit Badge. The boys will camp at Spring Creek Park. This will also be the Court of Honor family picnic. The parents will challenge the boys to a kickball game. The service patrol will be one of the new patrols. The Scout law covered is "thrifty".

June will be backpacking. The boys will be in Bastrop at Los Pines. They will be preparing for summer camp. The older ones will be backpacking to work on the Backpacking Merit Badge. The Scout law covered this month will be "brave". One of the new patrols will be assigned as service patrol.

July will be summer camp. The Green Moose will be service patrol. The Scout law covered will be "clean".

August will be in Lake Somerville working on the Athletic Merit Badge. The "Scout law covered is "reverent". The service patrol is the Cobras. We will also do the Court of Honor in August that gives out all of the merit badges earned at summer camp.

Tenderfoot to 1st Class (T21) is a program designed to get the new boys to 1st Class Scout rank. These three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) can all be worked on at the same time. The next ranks are worked on one at a time. There is a Life to Eagle program run by Sandy Y'Barbo that is designed to get the boys from Life Scout rank to Eagle Scout rank. This program helps the boys pick and write up their Eagle projects for approval by Scout Council.

The Scouts are responsible for requesting a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review to achieve each rank. For the first few ranks, any Assistant Scoutmaster can do the Scoutmaster conference. The Life and Star ranks must be with Scoutmaster John Landry.

For a Board of Review, the Scout must request this on the troop website and he must have completed his Scoutmaster conference for that rank. For the First 3 ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd, and 1st), they can have the Board of Review scheduled on the same day. For the very first rank – Scout – the parents **MUST** go over the pamphlet in the Boy Scout book about youth protection.

There are three Court of Honors per year where ranks and merit badges are awarded. The next one is February 22nd. Scouts and their parents are invited to attend these events. The ones in February and August are held at Trinity Lutheran and the one in May is going to be at a family picnic in Spring Creek Park in Tomball. More information will be available as we get closer to these dates.

We encourage Scouts and their parents to keep up with the Scout handbook for accurate records. As each rank is achieved, make a copy and keep a log of all blue cards for earned merit badges. This information is critical as the boys work on their Eagle Scout rank. Baseball card collection sheets are excellent for keeping track of Blue cards. These cards are signed and issued by the Scoutmasters as the boys start work on the badge. When it is complete, the Scout keeps one portion and turns in the rest to get that achievement recorded so the badge can be awarded. Make sure your handbook is labeled with the Scout's name and Troop number so it gets back to them if they leave it somewhere. It is also a good idea to invest in a cover from the Scout shop. The closest Scout shop is on 1960 by Party City close to Champion Forest.

Troop structure – The Troop Committee interfaces with the Scoutmaster Corp. to support the boy lead Troop. All emails will come from John Landry, Mike Zarella, or Rick Dunn. There will be at least one per week that will cover what is going on that weekend. There may be others for merit badge earning opportunities that come up.

The Troop calendar is updated every 6 months as Troop leadership changes. Check the calendar often. Make sure you are getting a weekly email. If you are not – please let someone know so we can get you on the list. Check to make sure they are not going into your SPAM folder. Feel free to email back if you have any questions on what you get.

Fundraisers - In the Spring we have the Northhampton **garage sale** at Klein Oak High School. The Scouts will organize the people renting space as well as run concessions. We also encourage parents to clean out their extra stuff and bring it to sale for the Troop. The boys get the money split into their accounts so they can earn money to help pay for summer camp. **Scout Fair tickets** are sold starting in February and a portion of those sales is deposited into the Scout's account to earn money for summer camp. In the Fall – we have a **chicken fundraiser** where the boys cook chickens for sale to the church members, friends, and family. This money is for the Troop. We host a family dinner that night as well for our entire Troop family. This was the first year we provided **food for the Trinity Lutheran Fall Festival** and it

was a great success. The money from that event stays in the troop for operating expenses. The other opportunity for the boys to earn money to cover their camping expenses is the annual **Scout popcorn sale**. This money also goes directly into the Scout's account.

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) is the "governing" group of a boy led troop. They make the decisions on where the boys go for camp, what activities they want to do, and what merit badges they would like to earn in the troop. It consists of each Patrol leader, Assistant Senior Patrol leaders (ASPL), the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the Troop Scribe, and the Scoutmaster Corp. The success of a boy led troop is tied to each parent's involvement. Some of the parents can be Asst. Scoutmasters and are needed. Some parents might want to be on the Troop committee which only requires one meeting per month while the boys are at the troop meeting.

The PLC meetings are monthly and run by the SPL. New patrols will elect Patrol leaders in February and will have a Troop Guide. The boys will decide what they would like to accomplish. The first camp out for the new boys will be in March at Brazos Bend. There will be a 5 mile hike and orienteering which are T21 requirements.

In February and August, the boys will do troop level training and plan the calendar. Summer camp was picked in August. The SPL puts out a vision statement. Two years ago the vision statement was to do more high adventure, so we have been working to help them accomplish that goal.

Our philosophy is that if a boy can do it – an adult let's them try. We live by the Scout Law and Oath. They go over a tenet of the Scout Law every month. The Chaplain's Aide will try to relate this tenet to a Bible script.

When conflicts arise – the boys get together and decide how to handle it. They go over the problem at the next meeting to ensure it is taken care of.

Leaders are there for safety and guidance to help the boys run things and solve problems. Boy Scouts and Leaders camp separately at the same location.

The SPL assigns ASPLs. He also makes sure that the other boy leaders are getting trained.

Camping fees are decided by the number of meals provided + the cost of the camp fee. Kaiserhof doesn't cost us anything so then it is just the number of meals. Sometimes there will be a dollar amount added to that if we are doing an activity that costs extra such as canoeing or if we are going further away and we will add a transportation fee.

There is a Patrol cook for each patrol at each cookout. He is responsible for planning the menu and shopping list. Parents will take the boy shopping and he will have a budget to stay in. Receipts for this are turned in using the form under "resources" on the troop website. They are turned in to the treasurer and will be reimbursed after the Scoutmaster signs off on them. Planning, shopping, and

cooking for the patrol is a 1st Class rank requirement so each Scout needs to make sure he volunteers to do this for a camp out to advance in rank.

Daree Stracke schedules the camps and supplies the permit and forms before each campout. She also arranges transportation. **A medication form** is needed if your son is required to take ANY medication. This form and the medication will be turned in before the camp out to the Scoutmaster in charge of that camp out.

We usually meet at the Scout Hut before camp outs to make sure we have everything loaded. We prefer not to let the boys leave early from camp outs. If you find that it is necessary to pull your son early due to a scheduling conflict, please arrange this in advance with the Scoutmasters. We would prefer that you not take other Scouts home with you early. Permission for this also needs to be arranged in advance. In most cases, you will pick up your Scout from the Scout Hut after camp outs when they have put away troop supplies and are dismissed by the Scoutmaster. We encourage you not to pick up your son early from a camp out if it is just homesickness. Let them work it out. There are sometimes conflicts between boys but the boys try to work those out and if they can't – they get the Adult Leaders involved.

We supply the tents, tarps, and cooking equipment for camp outs.

High Adventure Treks are arranged to Seabase, Philmont, and the Northern Tier for the older Scouts.

We now have a Venture Crew which includes boys up to age 20. They will go on a 21 day backpacking adventure this summer.

Equipment needed – Scout Handbook with cover. Keep track of Troop activities because that is needed for one of the rank advancements. They need to do 10 before 1st Call rank is achieved. John Landry will create a sheet for them to keep track of this.

Rick Dunn will be taking over a lot of the day to day Scoutmaster stuff working with the PLC.

An Asst. Scoutmaster handles the meal planning with the boys. Another Asst. Scoutmaster handles the equipment. As a parent, you can start out as a patrol coach. You need to do the **IOLS training, Scoutmaster Specific, and New Leader Essentials.** Youth Protection Training is encouraged for all adult leaders. **The T21 coordinator helps the boys stay on track.** Former Den Leaders are excellent candidates for Patrol Coaches. They work with the SPL's and PL's to run the camps. Parents are only there for safety and supervision. We want the boys to run the activities.

Rick Dunn is in charge of Camp Hale this summer.

We will be putting together a shopping order through Coleman because they give discounts to Boy Scouts and have an excellent warranty program. We encourage you to purchase a rain suit instead of a poncho.

All inquiries can be directed through the troop website to our **Committee Chair – Mike Zarella** or our **Scoutmaster – John Landry**. Questions on money owed, reimbursements, or camp payments due should be directed to our **Treasurer – Wendy Valley**.