

**Boy Scout Troop 33
Takoma Park Maryland
Monthly Committee Meeting
Minutes**

May 21, 2018, TP Church Parlor Room, 8-9:30pm

Present: Howie Schaffer, Nicole Phillips, Dave Lanar, Matthew Rees, Lee Howard, Johan Hammerstrom (Scoutmaster), Kevin Balfe, Sonja Kueppers, Maria Wiseman, Victoria Eisenberg.

Introductions & Chair's Report - Howie Schaffer

Howie called meeting to order at 8:08.

Howie gave the floor to Kevin to discuss the Adirondack Canoe Trek. There are 8-10 people signed up for the trek, and an insufficient number of adults to run the base camp for the younger Scouts. Howie asked for consensus on whether the committee would be OK with not having the base camp experience this year, as Kevin is not sure there will be adequate supervision and activities. Dave Lanar and Kevin agreed to speak later about it. Matt suggested perhaps adults could be recruited. We agreed to send out an e-mail to the adults associated with the troop letting them know that without additional adult volunteers, we won't be able to accept unsupervised kids for the base camp. The final decision will be left to the Adirondacks committee.

Review/Approval of Minutes of April 16 Meeting - Sonja Kueppers

Johan moved to approve the minutes, Kevin seconded, approval was unanimous

Committee Reports

- Treasurer

Budget is on track. Howie reported on a conversation with Jake Segal of Chester County Council about the fact that we are bringing at least 40 people to Camp Horseshoe, in which he requested that additional people be allowed to register at the early bird rate. This was granted. He also asked for a price break on adult registrations, and while that was not granted for this year, Jake told him that next year, for every 10 Scouts, 2 adults will be free. Currently our troop doesn't ask adults to pay to go to Horseshoe, so that's an expense we may have less of next year.

Dave Lanar reported that we have already sold 170 of the 200 bags of mulch that are used in the soapbox derby.

- Eagle Scout Committee

Dave Lanar reported that Giovanni Cimmino has been working hard and has a good project. He thinks a lot of the other guys won't make it. Dave plans to make an announcement at the Court of Honor that Scouts should start their longer Eagle-required merit badges now, so they can get them completed by Horseshoe.

Howie remarked that we don't gain the benefit of Eagle Scouts in the troop because the boys age out right after they earn Eagle. He'd like to see more boys earn Eagle rank younger and have them give back to the troop.

- Advancement Report

Matt reported that at Court of Honor Thursday, 23 Scouts will be advancing in rank, and 63 merit badges will be awarded, all achieved since January 13.

Journey to Excellence - troop has been recertified, new patches would be \$80. Should we buy them? Johan was the advancement chair in the pack, suggested doing an opt in. Agreement: Matt will buy 20 patches and sell them for \$2 to leadership and those who express an interest.

Matt reported feedback from boards of review: Scouts are liking the greater scout-led approach and are respectful of Scouts who are taking on leadership roles. Most Scouts are identifying that they want to take on leadership in the future. Scouts express some trepidation about becoming patrol leaders because of chaos, and would like things to be calmer. There were also some complaints about bad language. One scout suggested that someone who curses should walk the block and pick up trash. Howie hopes that the bubble of second class Scouts will become patrol leaders. Maria remarked that she'd heard of inappropriate jokes being told at Camp Schmitt; Johan said this had been discussed with the Patrol Leaders' Council, and that the young people recognized that these jokes were not appropriate.

- Training Report

Everyone must have the new Youth Protection Training by October 1. It takes 90-120 minutes. It was pointed out that YPT principles need to be practiced in the virtual world -- be sure to copy someone else in e-mail and text communications so there is on one-on-one communication between adults and youth.

Lee believes that the troop is not required to keep copies of the YPT training certificates on file, because the electronic records are on my.scouting.org.

Adult applications require YPT training certificates to be submitted with the adult volunteer application.

All adults at Horseshoe must be registered adult leaders.

- Equipment Coordinator

Patrols have new stoves.

Maria is having trouble finding someone to work on the equipment storage room project. Howie may be able to help find someone.

Maria was asked if we need more tents. She will assess the state of the tents and report back.

Report from Scoutmaster - Johan Hammerstrom

Johan reported that he was sad to have to cancel the campout, but the Patrol Leaders' Council made lemonade out of lemons by having a new scout day, which went well. All but 4 of the new Scouts were there.

Court of Honor is on Thursday, come and wear your finest. Bring a dessert.

New Business

- Family Scouting Update

Lee Howard reported that the pack committee met to discuss family scouting. They currently have a capacity problem, with too many boys per den, insufficient adult volunteers, and not enough space at the church. They talked with the Girl Scouts and learned more about Girl Scout programs. There is a belief that some people may not be sufficiently familiar with what is possible in Girl Scouts. Mark Verschell was at the meeting, and offered to connect interested families with

other packs. The conclusion was that the pack is not prepared to implement Family Scouting.

Sonja gave an overview of the currently available information, including the following:

- On February 1, 2019, "Boy Scouts" will be renamed "Scouts BSA".
- On that date, girls will be allowed to register as members of Scouts BSA.
- It will not be possible to have one troop that contains both boys and girls.
- Each troop must have a separate Scoutmaster.
- However, it is possible for a troop for boys and a troop for girls to share the same Troop Committee. This is the "Linked Troop" model.
- Linked Troops will be allowed to share the same number.
- Linked Troops will be allowed to meet at the same time and place, and having opening/closing activities together.
- Troops are allowed to plan activities together.
- A female registered leader over the age of 21 with current YPT must be present for all overnight activities at which girls are present. As always, two-deep leadership is required.
- The minimum number of youth to start a new troop is five.
- Advancement will stay the same, language will be changed to be gender-neutral.

Jeff Berger, the Council Deputy Scout Executive, told Howie that things are still very fluid. He asked Troop 33 to consider making its own path toward family scouting, and pointed out that troops for girls could have a different committee.

Maria asked why the BSA did not go for a total co-ed program. Sonja reported that the BSA believes that single-sex programming is valuable, and that they are concerned that a fully co-ed program would disadvantage middle school boys. Apparently in other countries, co-ed scouting has led to a reduction in the number of boys participating.

Howie recommends that he and Johan meet with Liz Hoge, our Chartered Organization Representative, as the next step.

Dave asked about the policy on transgender kids -- the official policy is that whatever the parents put on the application form is the child's gender for the purposes of Boy Scouting. This can lead to challenges in some situations, such

as at camp. However, the troop is committed to inclusion of all scouts and currently does not question how they report their gender identity.

Victoria commented that if there is a girl troop, that will cause pressure to have girls in the pack. Sonja remarked that referring girls to Tim Miller's pack could be the way of dealing with it.

- Troop Meeting Night Potential Shift - Johan Hammerstrom

Johan explained that the troop is exploring changing the meeting night to Wednesdays, in part because there are many Montgomery County Public School activities in September and October on Thursday nights, which hurts the troop's ability to prepare for early fall events.

It was asked if the meetings could be moved when such conflicts exist, but Johan responded that this would be very confusing for families.

An additional reason for moving the meeting night is that when we go on a campout, we leave on Friday, so there's no time to get things done between a Thursday meeting and leaving for camp. Wednesday might work better.

Other nights were discussed, but the church doesn't have available space on Monday or Tuesday.

Howie suggested we use Doodle to find out what the boys and families think about moving to Wednesday.

General Discussion

Howie remarked that this is last meeting before the Soapbox Derby. Next time the Scouts meet to work on this will be May 30 for the test run.

Lee Howard reported that he had finished going through the troop archives, and distributed information about it. He showed off some of the highlights. There was some discussion of where to store these items, which will need to be discussed with the church.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41. (Next Meeting June 18, 2018, 8pm)

Ongoing Items/Parking Lot

- Endowment Coordinator
- Troop Parent Notification Policy (Text Blast system?)
- Re-energizing Scoutscapes (Separate checking account?)
- Order of the Arrow Participation
- Ad Hoc Technology & Website Committee
- Standard Operating Procedures Document Revisions
- Engaging T33 in more district & council activities
- NRA affiliation with BSA

Troop 33 Committee Officers

CHAIR – Howie Schaffer

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE – Liz Hoge

TREASURER – Jim Vorhies & Dave Lanar

SECRETARY – Sonja Kueppers

- Communications — Kristen Dill
- Webmaster – Charlie Hairston & Eric Smith

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR – ** Maria Wiseman & Gary Cardillo, Co-Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – Bruce Andersen

- September Renewal & Webelos Crossover – Bert Brandenburg
- Recharter Coordinator – Dirck Byler
- Clothing Coordinator – Howie Schaffer
- Training Coordinator – Lee Howard

ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR – Matthew Rees

- Merit Badge Co-Coordinator/Merit Badge Day -- Marian MacDorman & David Goldberg
- Eagle Coordinator --Dave Lanar

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – David Droddy

- Summer Trip Coordinators – Kevin Balfe & John Mark Nieman
- Ski Trip Coordinator – Kristen Dill
- Soap Box Derby Coordinator – Rick Swan
- Health Form Coordinator – Rebecca Woodings
- Camp Horseshoe Coordinator – Brian Frey

FUNDRAISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR – **Vacant

- Pancake Supper – Anna Golovko, Shellie Williams, Minya Zeru
- Mulch Coordinator – Dave Lanar & Eric Smith
- Scouting for Food Coordinator – Wagner Family
- Service Projects (Church/Community) – Kristen Dill
- Centennial Coordinator – vacant