

Summary of Scoutmaster's Meeting

Thursday October 23, 2003

Present - Counts, Graham, Wright, Rehak, Rayne

Fire Hazards - Four Scouts were placed on a probationary status (will lose opportunity to camp if occurs again) on this past campout for repeatedly ignoring fire safety rules by spraying "Off" or other aerosols into the fire. SM's agreed that these cases will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with the Patrol Liaison being the primary POC and acting as coordinator to ensure evenhandedness in decisions. (Chris Note: Parents can help by not sending any aerosol to camp)

§ **Action:** Place note regarding aerosols in Troop Guide Book - Chris

Woods Tools Hazards - One Scout had his Totin' Chip revoked for inappropriate use of a knife. Scout will have to requalify for Totin' Chip and assist in teaching topic in order to regain privilege of using Woods Tools.

Uniforms - Long discussion about uniform alternatives including neckerchiefs (yes/no), Class A/B uniform (Polo Shirt or similar with Logo), uniform inspections and wearing of uniforms when appropriate, and carrot vs. stick ideas on getting uniforms worn. In the end decision made to maintain status quo but to try and do a better job of rewarding Scouts for uniform wear. Also, SM's will set a better example for Scouts by wearing complete Class A when appropriate.

§ **Action:** Get Earl Hughes to do a uniform inspection training session at meeting - Chris

§ **Action:** Begin process for 2004 Class B Uniform Shirt design - Troop Committee

Campout Planning Meeting activities for Scouts not attending campout - there was a long discussion of how to handle Scouts who were present at a Troop Meeting where campout planning was occurring but that were not going on the campout. Various ideas were discussed and the following was decided.

§ Patrols will retire to one of the three kindergarten rooms or the kitchen to do their plan.

§ Patrol Liaison will be in room with Patrols for guidance.

§ If only 1-2 Scouts are present that are not going, they can work on advancement with Chris or Jerry, or can participate in Patrol planning for practice. Disruption of planning will not be allowed.

§ If a larger number of Scouts are not in the planning meeting, then they can go outside for a game or other activity that is somewhat organized.

Vandalism at CLCC – Chris got a note from CLCC letting him know that the upstairs men's restroom had been vandalized sometime between Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon. The Troop had the PLC and BOR on Tuesday. CLCC was not accusing Scouts of any action but was asking that we remind our Scouts of their obligation to respect the property. The SM's felt that it was unlikely to have been any Scouts because of the nature of the meeting. It still is not a bad idea to mention this event.

§ **Action:** Scoutmaster's Minute on respect of property – Chris

§ Continue to keep Scouts out of unused parts of the building.

First Class Emphasis and Record Keeping – Jerry brought up the FCE program and where we are currently. This evolved into a discussion of record keeping and tracking of requirements so the two are mingled. FCE has progressed well with the Liaisons working with the Patrols. The

confusion centers around Jerry working to plan FCE events and not being certain who has what requirements completed.

The new TroopMasterME DotNet (TMME) program should help with that. TMME data is now stored on our web server in California (WestHost). DotNet allows any authorized user to download the data to their computer, modify it, and upload it for others. We worked out the following plan for data update and handling.

- § Patrol Liaisons are responsible for updating any items that they sign off individually and for periodic checks to make sure TMME matches the handbooks. The handbooks remain the “official” record for the Troop.
- § When a group activity generates requirement completion, then the group leader will update TMME (hikes, campouts, service hours, etc.)
- § Merit Badge (MB) requirements completed as a result of Troop activity will be updated by the MBC if they have access to TMME or by Chris.
- § MB activity for an individual Scout working on a MB that is not a Troop activity will generally NOT be maintained in TMME. A Scout can provide the data to Chris for inclusion in his permanent record if desired.

Once the updates are completed, Jerry can pull the requirements report and look at remaining FCE activities. Map, compass, and orienteering will be coming up in December/January in prep for the big Orienteering Meet at Bastrop.

The following folks have modify capability in TMME:

- § Scoutmasters
- § Membership Chairman
- § Adult Training Chairman
- § Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator

All others have read access.

Merit Badges - There was some discussion that indicated a slight confusion existed about process for Merit Badges. As Scouts get older they will be branching out to other MB and will need Counselors. Several have already requested Counselor assignments and this has been done based on list Dave Wisniewski has developed. Requirements tracking will vary depending on whether or not the MB is done as a Troop activity or done individually.

- § **Action:** Schedule a MBC Orientation to make certain MBCs understand sign off process – Troop Committee (could be done November 4 at YPT)

Pioneering Timbers – a number of pioneering timbers have been cut for Webelos Woods. In order to preserve the timbers they need to be debarked or they will rot. Storage will be at CLCC in the fenced area. They are on the boat trailer right now.

- § **Action:** Need a get together to debark timbers to preserve them – Troop Committee?

Scouts with no Prior Scout Experience – Based on some experiences, we have come up with a plan to help brand new Scouts who might not have ever had any camping experience succeed quickly. The items listed below are things that a Scout should practice at home to improve the chance for a good camping experience.

- § Practice cooking bacon, eggs, and pancakes and preparing oatmeal.
- § Practice cooking hamburgers and spaghetti and preparing beanie-weanies.
- § Practice washing dishes in the sink (not in dishwasher), scrape, rinse, wash, rinse, dry
- § Be able to set up, use, and stow in original package all personal belongings.
- § Be able to make own bed and care for clothes.

§ Before summer camp, be able to wash clothes by hand.

§ **Action:** Place notes in new parent orientation packet for new Webelos – Chris + Mary Payne

Citizenship in the Community – Theme for November to January. Darlene Stokes to lead, Rick Lisk and Keith Jacob also counselors. CCISD School Board Meeting on November 18 instead of PLC. Will meet Cit Comm requirement.

Worship Services on Campouts – Worship Services on campouts need to be improved. CLCC will be providing us a Chaplain and we need to work with Scouts to find someone who wants to be a Chaplain's Aide.

§ **Action:** Get decision from CLCC on Chaplain (Michael Mercer?) – Chris or Danny

§ **Action:** Scoutmasters to do sample worship service at January campout – SMs

§ **Action:** Troop Worship Book completed, printed, and bound – Chris

Campfire Planning on Campouts – Campfire planning has also been a problem with little organization.

§ **Action:** Scoutmasters do a sample campfire program at January Campout – SMs

Cooking Skills – there is a desire to push the cooking skills of the Troop up a notch from hot dogs. Various ideas discussed. Plan is to have set meals for Webelos Woods with adults buying the food, developing the recipes and providing entire info to Scouts. Several weeks before the January campout, Scouts will be given a list of ingredients they will have available on the campout. Each Patrol will be expected to come up with recipes using those ingredients to make meals (trail lunch, cooked breakfast and dinner, quick serve lunch). A true "Iron Chef" competition may be worked in a few months.

§ **Action:** Scoutmasters develop menu plan – volunteer?

Wacky Tuesday / Holiday Party – discussed options for Wacky Tuesday and came up with a new proposal. Instead of a Wacky Tuesday, stay at Moody gardens following the Merit Badge day and do some of their events. Then, on Tuesday December 16, no TM, but instead a short PLC to get ready for January. Pros and Cons were discussed and the Moody Gardens idea was recommended.

§ **Action:** Get commitment forms out at October 28 meeting – Chris work with Jody

§ **Action:** Get a group of parents to make calls at 9:00am on November 11 to make sure we get everyone scheduled (think concert tickets here) in the classes they want. – Troop Committee

Trailer and Storage – Jerry brought up that he is ready to proceed with the trailer enclosure. He will work to schedule project day. Should require 2-days to complete so concrete can have time to cure. Danny said we can store the trailer at CLCC even before the enclosure is finished. Enclosure will be larger than just trailer, but not big enough for canoes also. Will use extra area for things like pioneering timbers. Inside storage shelving needs to be assembled so we can get food boxes and other material into church and out of homes. Also need this to see if we have enough room where we are.

§ **Action:** Work schedule for tear out and rebuild of trailer area – Jerry

§ **Action:** Assemble shelving and get organized – Troop Committee (Warren?)

Future Meetings – decided that we need to do this more often to work through topics. Will plan for about monthly.