

## Troop 957 Committee Meeting Minutes—9/24/02 Meeting

**Attendees:** Rick Lisk                      Mike Berno                      Dave Wisniewski      Mark Mangieri  
                 Barbara Counts                      Jerry Graham                      Joel Anderson

The meeting began with a brief discussion of the popcorn sale status. Sales packages have been passed out to all boys. Recapping what is in the package and the e-mails, currently 70% of the money collected goes to scouting (30% to the troop and the remaining 40% to the council), while the final 30% goes to pay for the cost of the popcorn. Of the troop's 30%, the boys get half or 15% total pro-rated into their scout accounts. They can then use these accounts to pay for summer camp or to buy themselves equipment. As an example, the top seller (\$2089 representing some 20 to 25 hours of selling) from the spring sale earned over \$300 which was enough to pay for two summer camps. Rick noted that if all the boys chose to forego their popcorn prizes the troop would then receive 35%. Also, since the troop is just starting out and is short of funds, the boys have been offered the chance to "sponsor" items of camping equipment out of what they earn from this sale. The sponsored items will be labeled appropriately. Most seem excited to do this.

The Texas Justice TV audience idea was also discussed. Council has given their approval. Mark passed out flyers at the meeting. Rick has since followed up with an e-mail explaining it in detail. Commitment would be 12 hours on 10/26 or 11/9 with transportation, meals and breaks provided. The show can use up to 30 people, but will provide transportation for as few as 10. Payment is \$50 per head. Remember 10/26 is during the next campout, which as a program event will have priority over fundraising.

The treasurer's report was less depressing this month than last, due in large part to a generous donation from one of the committee members (thanks, Mike!). Current bank account balance is \$1841.04. The scoutmaster liability account is around \$1600, which includes the tents. Please give the treasurer any receipts for camp food and expenses so she can reimburse them. This will give us a better idea of the true cost of the campouts. The \$15 (\$8 food, \$7 fee) was an educated guess.

Dave then talked about merit badges and the need for merit badge councilors. He has the forms and can explain how to fill them out for anyone who wasn't there. The position code is 42. Also, as the boys earn their badges, please remember that they (not their parents or the merit badge coordinator) are responsible for holding onto the blue card. That is the proof they earned the badge. The cards passed out with the rank badges have the same rules. So if your boy wants to go for eagle he had better hold onto his paperwork. Also the boy (not the parents or scoutmaster) will be ultimately be responsible for contacting the merit badge councilor and making all arrangements to earn individual badges he is interested in, just as he will be responsible for calling the advancements coordinator to arrange a board of review for an increase in rank.

The next topic discussed was equipment, which then segued into preparations needed for the October campout. Mike as equipment coordinator is in charge of getting together a complete inventory of what we have and what condition it is in vs. what we need. The boys

did not finish cleaning the pack gear, so there will be another cleanup party 10/8. That puts the campout preparation meeting sometime later. As Dave can attest, a pre-campout checklist (do I have everything?) would be a good idea. It isn't fair to continue to rely on tag-teaming parents to bring forgotten items. Finally everyone is reminded that the boys need to bring their own eating utensils. The scoutmaster is no longer going to provide backups. This is similar to the paperwork discussion above. The boys (not the parents) should be the ones getting themselves ready for the campout now that most of them have more than 1 campout under their belt. The relationship between cause and effect becomes crystal clear when you are having to spend a weekend eating with your hands because you forgot your fork.

Barbara Counts  
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Coordinator  
September 25, 2002