

Troop Committee Meeting—August 16, 2005

Attendees: Dave Wisniewski, Countses, Jody Williford, Halls, Lori Johnson, Lori Jacob, Duncans, Melinda McNicoll, Dale Taggart, Danny Wright, John McLain, Mike Berno, Joe Laden, Diane Brady, Melinda McNicoll

As Dave was stuck in traffic, Jody started talking the outdoor activities without him. The first topic was the August campout (8/20-8/21) at Pine Gully park in Seabrook. It was planned as a badge catch-up campout. At the time of the meeting there were 10 to 12 scouts planning on attending. Next up was BTSR over Thanksgiving, and the need for enough parents for YPT, what with the HA leaders splitting off for the HA multi-day hike.

Fundraising for the ski trip was the next topic. Jane Hall brought information for air conditioner filter sales. These are like the mail order wreath sales in that no distribution of the product is required. The vendor mails it directly. At \$40 per box of 4, \$10 per box sold would go to the troop. This is a smaller profit margin than that provided by the wreath sales. Jane was to get more detailed information related to recurring sales before we committed to selling these, either now or in the spring. If we do decide to do wreath sales as part of the ski trip fundraising, we need a parent to fully coordinate this, as the timing is right on top of popcorn sales.

The mass popcorn sale to earn the troop operating expenses for the next year is the first weekend of popcorn sales, September 17th. There will be a parents meeting September 13th where the forms will be released. Most of you have seen the e-mail from Lori asking for your preferred position—monitoring two boys during the six hours of neighborhood sales, handling the snack and lunch breaks, or handling the after sale party that evening. Remember the boys gave up the Astros game day to do this, so we need to support them in their decision.

The calendar was the next topic. The next COH is September 6th. This will be followed by the trailer work day the 10th, and the popcorn activities talked above on the 13th and 17th. Chris and I checked out the Fort Travis park cabanas (Bolivar) as a site for JLT sometime soon. October will bring the 10/15 Pushmobile and, later on, the CLCoC Harvest Festival. Both of those events need a parent to fully coordinate troop participation, as for that matter, does Webelos Woods, which seems to have moved off of popcorn distribution weekend onto 11/19 on top of BTSR.

Chris then took over with topics of interest. The boys earned 47 merit badges at Rainey. Four tents are missing, plus the small trailer (loaned to the pack). The big trailer is overweight with the boys' gear in it, so we need the little one back. No commitments were received for the troop to participate in the 9/12 flag ceremony. Dale Taggart has moved to the committee side. As he is not coaching any sports teams, Tom Manning has committed to handling troop equipment logistics during campouts. In addition to the opportunities above, the troop needs a parent willing to track adult training requirements. Jody requested orienteering flags be purchased.

As part of his Scoutmaster report, Chris also told the real story behind the National Jamboree fiasco. The 300 number quoted was likely from only one of the 26 medical facilities. Temps in the high 90s led to a heat index at the 110 level and heat loading from being in full sun of 125 or so. Add a zero to the reports to get a heat casualty number closer to reality. The army general did the right thing when he took the decision to cancel the arena event away from BSA and made it himself. Predicted heat casualties, had it gone on, were estimated at 10%.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary and Treasurer