

Notes from mandatory Troop 270 meeting August 12, 2013

The meeting was called due to a strong need by the Troop for additional participation by parents to keep the Troop running smoothly.

Michael McVeigh, Scoutmaster, conducted the meeting, with additional input provided by Robin Woolsey, ASM, Linda Jenkins, Committee Chair, and others in attendance.

Summary of meeting topics:

The Troop needs trained adult leaders.

Especially needed are Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee members that are registered and BSA trained:

1. Youth Protection
2. Training specific to the position for which he/she volunteers.
3. Safe Swim
4. Safety Afloat
5. Hazardous Weather
6. CPR / First Aid (Red Cross or American Heart Association, or by another recognized training organization.)

BSA requires one adult, minimum, at each camping trip, who is CPR and First Aid trained, at all camping trips.

All adults should, ideally be certified in Youth Protection. (Especially those that go on camping trips.

It is desired that most or all parents be BSA registered.

The Troop currently needs a Training Chairperson.

This is an important position.

The Scoutmaster currently performs this function, and this task should be taken-on by another parent in order to reduce the Scoutmaster's duties.

Meritbadge.org defines this position as follows:

“The **unit training chair** is appointed by the committee chairman to ensure training opportunities are available, maintain training records and materials, and is responsible for BSA Youth Protection training.”

The positions duties for T-270 may vary a bit, but this is essentially the function of the position.

**The Troop needs Merit Badge Counselors. **

This is not a hard task, and each adult in the Troop should be comfortable with at least one or two of the merit badge topics sufficient to be a Merit Badge Counselor.

Merit Badge Counselors do not need to be experts in the respective subject – an interest in the subject, a related hobby or profession, or basic knowledge are all that is needed.

In order to become a Merit Badge Counselor, the adult must register as a Merit Badge Counselor (Counsel will conduct the normal background checks), choose the Merit Badges to counsel, take the short Merit Badge Counselor training, and become certified in Youth Protection. Please see Linda for the application.

The Troop needs a Fundraising Chair.

Meritbadge.org defines this position as follows:

The **Unit Fundraising Chair**, also called the "Popcorn Kernel" in some [councils](#), is appointed by the committee chairman to supervise [Fundraising](#) and ensure that every youth member has the opportunity to participate in [Popcorn](#) sales or other council [Fundraising](#) events.

The T-270 Chairperson's duties will likely differ a bit.

The Troop's fundraisers have generally been limited to popcorn sales, 4th of July sales, and the wreath sales (which is planned again for this year.) Additional fundraising is desired.

The Troop uses general funds raised for Boy Scout leadership training scholarships, especially NYLT (Buckskin) and Foxfire.
(Adults should encourage their Scouts to apply for Troop scholarships!)
The wreath sales and popcorn sales proceeds go directly to the Scout's accounts.

The Troop needs to choose a summer camp for 2014. This will be a topic of discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

Another High Adventure Camping Trip for 2016 will also be discussed.

Parents: Encourage your Scouts to wear complete Boy Scout uniforms to the meetings, and bring their Boy Scout Handbook to each meeting.

Scouts and parents should make a strong effort to be on-time to each meeting.

Scouts and parents are encouraged to sign-up for upcoming camping trips. Information is provided on the website and at Troop meetings.

Adults are especially encouraged to step-up and take the lead on Scouting campouts and day trips. Don't be intimidated by the Boy Scout required procedures – there will be plenty of assistance and guidance provided by the leaders that have been leading camping trips over the years. Currently, we have one or two Scout leaders doing the bulk of the work – additional assistance is needed!

The Scoutmaster has started a practice of listing upcoming activities on a handout. This information is intended to be posted on the website as well, and supplements the Troop calendar.

Scouts and parents are encouraged to participate in the quarterly Adams Street cleanup. This is the only official service project that the Troop currently performs on a regular basis. (other service projects have been performed in the past, and additional service projects will be considered for the future.)

Scouts and parents are encouraged to assist Eagle Scout candidates. Eagle candidates always need funding assistance for their Eagle Scout Service Projects, and they need help in implementing the projects.

Parents are requested to complete and submit the attached questionnaire to Linda or Michael.

Linda brought up a quote by Ashton Kutcher
(Teen Choice Awards, August 11, 2013)

"I believe that opportunity looks a lot like hard work. When I was 13 I had my first job with my dad carrying shingles up to the roof, and then I got a job washing dishes at a restaurant, and then I got a job in a grocery store deli, and then I got a job in a factory sweeping Cheerios dust off the ground. And I've never had a job in my life that I was better than. I was always just lucky to have a job. And every job I had was just a stepping stone to my next job. And I never quit my job until I had my next job, and so opportunities look a lot like work."

Robin asked each and every parent at the meeting to step up and do "something" to benefit the Troop, big or small. The Troop needs your assistance, and this is an opportunity for you to do something for your Scout, and for your Scout's Troop.