

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

## Happy New Year!

### Meeting this week (Monday, January 2) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St) in Longmont.

At the meeting this week we will work on preparations for our upcoming AoL Webelos/Open House nights on January 9 and 23. We will break up into teams for these Activity Stations: 1) First Aid, 2) Knots/Lashing/Pioneering, 3) Leathercraft and 4) 10 Essentials and Tent/Campsite Setup.

Our next Court of Honor is Monday, January 30. Several Adult Leaders and Merit Badge Counselors will be on hand to help finish up rank requirements and Merit Badges during the next two meetings. Be sure to check in with Mr. Larsen to update his records and make sure you are in agreement on rank advancements.

#### Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 **Service Patrol (Spartans) set up** for flag ceremony, PLC check-in
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony. Announcements.
- 7:10 Patrol Meetings.
- 7:30 Break up into teams and plan AoL night activity stations. Rank Requirements and Merit Badges needed by individual Scouts
- 8:00 Indoor Games
- 8:20 Closing Announcements. Cleanup by Service Patrol

#### Upcoming Troop Activities:

**January 9 & 23 AoL Cub Scout/ Open House Nights** On these nights we will invite Arrow of Light Cub Scouts and other boys to visit our Troop Meetings.

**January 9- Winter Camping Parent and Scout Meeting.** If you have never been on a winter campout with Troop 66, or would like more information or think you Scout needs to be refreshed, we will have a meeting to go over equipment, clothing, and processes of successful (aka staying warm) winter camping. Our first winter campout is on January 21. We plan on having winter campouts in February and March as well. Here is the link on our site with some helpful information. [Winter Camping Link](#)

**Monday January 16 NO Meeting (Martin Luther King Day and day off school)**

**Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm PLC Meeting at the Church.** All elected Scouts are expected to attend the Patrol Leaders Council meeting for planning meetings and campout in February.

**January 21-22 Pre- Klondike Winter Campout at Camp Tahosa near Nederland.** We will head up to Tahosa on Saturday morning and enjoy a day of sledding and practicing our Klondike skills with our sled. We will return by noon on Sunday. Sign-up now for this campout on TroopWebHost.

**Sunday, January 22 Adult Committee Meeting at the church starting at 6:30 pm**

**January 28 Mountain View District Merit Badge College.** This is a nice local Merit Badge class (up to 3 classes can be taken that day) opportunity for our Scouts in Longmont and there is no cost. Registration has opened. There are very limited class sizes so I recommend you sign up ASAP. Go to this link to see the list of Merit Badge classes offered and you can register yourself:

<http://longspeakbsa.org/mountain-view/mountain-view-events/mountain-view-merit-badge-college/>

**January 30 Winter Court of Honor**

**February 10-12 MV-IP Klondike at Golden Gate Canyon State Park** Troop 66 will return to Golden Gate State Park to see if we can improve on our impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish from last year with our new sled, The Orange Crush. Mark your calendars now. We will start registering for Klondike in January.

**Summer Camp 2017- Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch South Dakota July 9-15, 2017. It is time to get started on our registration for Summer Camp 2017!** This year Troop 66 will be attending camp at Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, just west of Mount Rushmore. The cost for the week is \$270/Scout which is payable in installments as described in the attached registration form. There is also some need based scholarship money from the Troop available for Summer Camp. If you would like to request a scholarship please contact our Scoutmaster or Troop Treasurer.

In order for Troop 66 to secure your spot for Summer Camp, **you must complete the registration form** (attached here and also available at our Troop meetings), **and submit a \$50 non-refundable deposit** to "Troop 66," to Mr. Foss, Troop 66 Treasurer, or Mrs. Martinez, Troop 66 Summer Camp Coordinator.

In order to guarantee your spot at camp, and for the troop, **registration forms need to be returned with \$50 deposit no later than Monday, January 9, 2017.** Scouts are permitted to register after that but there is a chance the camp will fill up if you wait. This is a very popular camp, locally and nationally, and typically fills up. Please read the registration form carefully for the payment schedule and financial obligations you agree to when you register. This form is required so the Scout, his Parents or Guardians, and the Troop are clear about the Scout's intentions and obligations.

Troop 66 attended this camp in 2010 and it received high marks from our Scouts and adult leaders who attended back then. Here is a description of the camp: "Mountain Scout Ranch (MMSR) and the Medicine Mountain Adventure Base (MMAB) is 160 acres of Scouting paradise surrounded by 1.3 million acres of National Forest Service land. Our camp rests like a jewel in

the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. We boast a private fresh water lake stocked with trout, countless miles of local trails for mountain biking and hiking, breathtaking views, rustic serenity, access to local natural-face rock for climbing, and access to both public and non-public caves for spelunking and exploring. Scouts bring and pitch their own tents in forested campsites and dine in the comfort of their troop's own campsite "patrol style." The combination of our mild climate and 6,100 foot elevation renders us virtually mosquito free!" On Wednesday of our camp week, all troops leave the camp for expeditions to local attractions of their choosing including Mount Rushmore, the cities of Custer and Deadwood, Crazy Horse, and Custer State Park with herds of buffalo.

If you are interested in attending as an Adult Leader, please email me to let me know. We especially need adults who have large vehicles that can carry a number of Scouts.

### **General Announcements:**

**Scout Meetings with Merit Badge Counselors or other Adult Leaders:** Many of our Scouts are actively working on completing Merit Badges or want to speak to particular Adult Leaders for rank advancement or consulting for Eagle Scout progress. If a Scout needs or wants to speak to a particular leader, and you have a time crunch or expectation to meet, please have the Scout email or call the leader to make sure he or she is attending the meeting that week. All phone numbers and email addresses for registered adult leaders are listed in TroopWeb Host. We do not have a requirement or expectation that all of our adult leaders attend every meeting.

**Troop Web Host is Live and we need all families on it, ASAP.** We have subscribed to a new web-based Troop management software that will help our Troop Leaders, parents and Scouts access and manage our advancement records, financials and communications. **Please log in and update your information, especially your email address, and check out all of the features**

<https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop66Longmont/Index.htm>

If you did not receive your login credentials from TroopWebHost, please email Mr. Foss at [foss@airmail.net](mailto:foss@airmail.net). **The next phase in our rollout is to get all activity sign-ups done through Troop Web Host starting NOW. This means that we have now phased out sign-up sheets at Troop meetings.** We will have a laptop setup at our meetings for those who like to sign up at meetings and might be uncomfortable with computers. However, you need to bring your own login username and password. Please help us get you up-to-speed on this web based management software so we can streamline the activity management and workload on our adult leaders.

**Reloadable King Soopers Cards:** **Mrs. Martinez has a new batch of cards in!** This is a friendly reminder to keep using those reloadable King Soopers gift cards for your grocery and gas purchases at any Kroger store in the country. The proceeds from this "passive" troop fundraiser are really making a difference in our troop's operating account. If you don't have the special reloadable gift cards, Mrs. Martinez will be available during every meeting to sell you a card for \$5 each (already loaded with \$5) so you can help our troop. Consider asking friends, family,

neighbors, coworkers, church members, etc. if they can use the cards. With just a little bit of work, our troop reaps huge rewards!

As always, you can check out the troop's website <http://bsa66.weebly.com/> for a full listing of activities and details including our current troop calendar.--

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Yours in Scouting,

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