

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

Meeting this week (Monday, January 23) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St) in Longmont.

THIS WEEK, we have another very exciting and packed meeting planned. Once again we are pleased to welcome some visitors to our troop who Arrow of Light Cub Scouts, and their parents, from Pack 673.

Once again, during the meeting we will break up into TWO teams for these Activity Stations: 1) First Aid/10 Essentials, and 2) Knots and Leatherwork. Each of these two stations will last 20 minutes and will include building a personal First Aid/Survival Kit for all Scouts (we have enough materials for Troop 66 Boy Scouts who haven't already made one and our visitors), and making a leather neckerchief slide (we have enough materials for Troop 66 Boy Scouts who haven't already made one and our visitors.) Scouts can choose to either help with these stations or meet with adult leaders for completing rank or Merit Badge requirements.

During these 40 minutes, Mrs. Martinez and other adult leaders will be hosting a Parent Orientation meeting and slideshow for our adult visitors and parents of new Troop 66 Scouts. This meeting will be held in the Chapel.

Also, since this is the last meeting before our Court of Honor, leaders and Merit Badge Counselors will be on hand to help Scouts finish up last minute requirements so Scouts can earn the next rank or finish up a Merit Badge. Scouts should check in with Mr. Larsen to make sure they both agree on what the Scout will be earning. Be patient, there is only one Mr. Larsen and LOTS of Scouts!

Photography Merit Badge Completion: Mrs. Ehlert has graciously offered to be on hand to help Scouts complete requirements #7 and #8 for the photography merit badge. Here are instructions from Mrs. Ehlert: "I will be available at that meeting to go over their photography project and talk with them about it. I'd ask that everyone please give me 10 minutes per scout to go over their projects and talk and I will do my best to get through everyone at the meeting. The boys are supposed to take a series of 10 to 12 photographs of an event or something that interests them and share with their MB counselor. I will accept photos on computer, tablet, phone, or in print so if you get lots of questions about how to get the images to me, that's what you can tell parents. The boy needs to be present at the meeting to walk me through his photographs, so an email with the pictures isn't enough to get the requirements signed off."

Astronomy Merit Badge Completion: Several Scouts took the Astronomy Merit Badge during Summer Camp last summer and need to finish Requirement #6b in order to earn this Merit Badge. Mrs. Martinez will be available at 8 pm (after the New Parent Meeting in the Chapel) to go over requirement #6b with a group of Scouts. However, Scouts need to print out the workbook and do some work prior to the meeting in order to get this signed off: Requirement 6b states: Sketch the phase and the daily position of the

Moon, at the same hour and place, for four days in a row. *(Must be done prior to getting this signed off)* Include landmarks on the horizon such as hills, trees, and buildings. Explain the changes you observe.

Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 **Service Patrol (Stealth)** setup for flag ceremony, PLC check-in
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony. Announcements.
- 7:10 Welcome to Visitors. Explanation of Boy Scouting –Mr. Martinez
- 7:20 Visitor and New Parent Orientation Meeting in Chapel
- 7:20 Session 1, Group A First Aid, Group B Leathercraft
- 7:40 Session 2, Group B First Aid, Group A Leathercraft
- 8:00 Merit Badge Completion, Rank Advancements
- 8:15 Indoor Games
- 8:30 Closing Announcements. Cleanup by Service Patrol

Upcoming Troop Activities:

THIS Saturday, January 28 Mountain View District Merit Badge College (MBC). Registration is closed. For those who are signed up, please see information below:

Location:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
2200 West 11th Avenue
Longmont, CO 80501

General Schedule:

- 07:30am-08:30 am Check-in and Registration
- 08:30am-12:30pm Morning Merit Badge classes (2hr sessions)
- 12:30pm-01:00pm Lunch
- 01:00pm-03:00 pm Afternoon Merit Badge class
- 03:00pm Cleanup

Also, please pay attention to the Perquisites information described in the website: <http://longspeakbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/MV-Jan-2017-MBU-Pre-Reqs-20161216.pdf>

If you would like to look at the pamphlets (we also call them Merit Badge Books) we have an extensive library in our Quartermaster Closet. You can take them home and bring them back.

You will need to print out,

from http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets

for your specific Merit Badges and bring the workbooks to MBC. This meeting is the last meeting before MBC. Please come see me if you need a blue card or to sign off on a prerequisites. You need to do this due diligence before MBC if you want to complete the Merit Badge at MBC and get credit. I will also arrive at 7:30 am at MBC to sign off Prerequisites and Blue Cards.

NEXT WEEK January 30 Winter Court of Honor. Our next Court of Honor is Monday, January 30. It will be a dessert potluck so please bring your favorite treat to share. This Court of Honor will serve as our parent meeting for this month.

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 3rd place finish from last year with our new sled, The Orange Crush. **Sign-up now for this campout on TroopWebHost. We need adults to sign up, too!**

March 11 Snowcaving Day Mark your calendars now for this fun day in the snow. We will start registering for this in the beginning of February.

Upcoming Activities: Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events(We could use adult "Champions" AKA lead coordinator for most of these campouts. Please email me if you can help with any of these upcoming campouts. I will give you instructions for the specific campout)

April 7-9 Spring Camporee (Location TBA)

May 5-6 New Scout Campout (Local Campground like Carter Lake in Loveland)

June 2-3 High Adventure (Scouts Age 14+) Rafting Overnight on the Arkansas River

June 16-18 Sand Dunes Family Campout

July 9-15 Summer Camp (See details below)

July 28-30 Watersports Campout at Shadow Mountain Reservoir

August 19-20 Backpacking

September 8-10 Shooting Sports Campout at Camp Ben Delatour (Date TBD)

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** (sent in a previous email from Mrs. Martinez and also available at our Troop meetings), **and submit a \$50 non-refundable deposit** to "Troop 66," to Mr. Foss or Mr. Francis, Troop 66 Treasurer, or Mrs. Martinez, Troop 66 Summer Camp Coordinator. If you have not already done so, please submit these ASAP so we can get you registered. We already have 23 Scouts and 6 adults registered to go!

General Announcements:

Troop Web Host is Live and we need ALL families on it, ASAP. Last year we subscribed to a 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. **We have now phased out paper sign-up sheets at Troop meetings so all activity sign-ups need to be done in TroopWebHost.** 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: 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,

Tony Martinez
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