

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

We would like to welcome three new Boy Scouts who are Crossover Arrow of Light Scouts from Pack 59. Welcome Cyrus R., Joshua L., and Max R. to Troop 66! These three new Scouts are assigned to the Spartans Patrol.

Due to the recent growth of our troop we are in the process of resurrecting the Beast Patrol so we will once again have four active patrols. Some Scouts in the other patrols will be moved over to the Beast Patrol to make our numbers more even and allow all Patrols to operate more meaningfully. I will make the final decisions but I am open to Scouts who express interest in moving from their current patrol to the Beast Patrol.

Thank you to Janine Bolon for agreeing to serve as our Troop Host at our regular Troop Meetings. Please look for Janine near the door, at most meetings, if you or your Scout are looking for answers: which adults do I talk to for finances, merit badge or rank advancements, Summer Camp registration, camping equipment, upcoming events, medical forms, signing up for activities or checking your Scout Account balance on TroopWebHost (Janine will have access to a laptop, you just need to bring your login credentials), etc. Janine will answer your questions (she is a great source of Scouting information) or direct you to another adult in the room who can. We are trying to free me up a bit more during the meetings so I can focus on interacting with the boys and not get distracted away from a Scoutmaster's duties. We would like to also get several of the Assistant Scoutmasters more engaged with the boys as well.

Meeting this week (Monday, February 6) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St) in Longmont.

THIS WEEK, We will welcome our three new Scouts and will be mostly in our Patrols on rank advancement requirements. **We ask ALL Scouts to bring their Boy Scout Handbooks to this meeting** so your Patrol Leaders and Adult Patrol Mentors can help assess what you need to do to work towards your next rank.

Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 **Service Patrol (Stealth)** setup for flag ceremony, and tables for adult meetings and Patrol meetings. **PLC please arrive 15 minutes early** for check-in.
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony. Announcements
- 7:15 Patrol Meetings. Work on rank advancement requirements. **Bring your Scout handbook to the meeting.**
- 8:00 Games
- 8:30 Closing Announcements. Clean-up.

Upcoming Troop Activities: (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). Unfortunately we haven't camped since October primarily because we don't have enough adults participating. We really need help from Adults to make the fun and

adventure of Scouting happen. You don't have to be an expert camper, just an adult who is willing to take the 30 minute online Youth Protection training and attend with your Scout.

CANCELLED- February 10-12 MV-IP Klondike at Golden Gate Canyon State Park. Unfortunately we will be unable to participate in Klondike this year because we did not have the minimum number of adults volunteer to join us on this activity.

NEXT WEEK, February 13, Summer Camp Payments are due. Please pay our Treasurer, Scott Francis, at least \$110 for the next installment of Summer Camp payments. Please check your Scout Account balance often to make sure you have enough money to cover summer camp payments. All final Summer Camp payments are due on March 13. If possible, it helps a lot if you can pay for camp in full earlier than March 13.

Monday, February 20 NO MEETING. This is a day off from school and the Presidents Day holiday.

Tuesday, February 21, 7 pm. Patrol Leaders Council. All Patrol Leadership and Senior Patrol Leadership are expected to attend. We need to plan upcoming meetings and activities.

Sunday, February 26, 6:30 pm. Troop Committee Meeting. All parents and adults are welcome to attend especially those who hold leadership positions or are members of the Committee.

Monday, February 27. Parent Meeting. We will hold our monthly parent meeting in the Chapel during the regular troop meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend to be updated on our activities and troop business.

Saturday, March 4 11 am – 1 pm Luke M. Eagle Court of Honor. Our family would like to extend an invitation to all Scouts, Leaders and families to Luke's Eagle Court of Honor Celebration. It will be held at our church Faith Community Church located at 9775 Ute Hwy Longmont, CO 80504. Lunch and cake will be served after the ceremony. If you can attend, please RSVP to tonyandkristy@yahoo.com by March 1.

March 11 Snowcaving Day Sign Up NOW on Troop WebHost! Our plan for this event is to leave early on Saturday morning for the Rollins Pass area, hike to the area with good drifts, eat lunch, dig the snowcaves, eat dinner and then head home. Right now we do not have plans to spend the night for this activity.

Monday, March 13 Stephen M. Eagle Court of Honor. Stephen will be home from college so we will get the chance to celebrate his accomplishment during our regular Troop Meeting on this night.

April 7-9 Spring Camporee (Historic Fort Lupton)

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. Signup needed by the end of February to receive a 40% discount with the rafting company.

June 23-25 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 Campout

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:

Friends of Scouting Campaign: For those who weren't at the Court of Honor last Monday and saw the FOS presentation by our District Executive John Eastman, please see Mr. Mathers for information about FOS and your pledge/commitment card. This is a Council Level fundraising effort that makes big impact for all programming offered by the Council like Summer Camps, staffing Service Centers, training, events, etc. It costs more than \$280 to pay to support a single Scout in our Council. If we meet our Troop goal, this makes a significant impact on our Troop finances as we receive free advancement and merit badges from the District Office. This is worth approximately \$800 to our Troop each year. Please consider giving what you can to the FOS campaign.

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 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
Scoutmaster, Troop 66
[303-931-1743](tel:303-931-1743)
preparedscouts@gmail.com