

Boy Scout Troop 66 Weekly Newsletter from the Scoutmaster

Date: 3-13-16

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

Meeting This Week (Monday, March 14) is at the Church (9th Ave. & Francis St): Mrs. Martinez will start the Family Life Merit Badge Class (Eagle Required). She will bring workbooks and briefly go over the long term requirements for this badge. We will also work on rank advancements requirements for all Scouts.

Schedule for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 Service Patrol (Dragons) set up for flag ceremony, PLC check-in
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony and Announcements
- 7:10 Rank Advancement work / Family Life Merit Badge (finished at 8 pm)/
- 8:15 Games
- 8:30 Cleanup by Service Patrol

Upcoming Troop Activities:

This Tuesday, March 15 Patrol Leader's Council at the Church. Scout Leaders are expected to attend PLC. At this meeting we will be planning the rest of our Summer campouts and activities.

Saturday, March 19, 6:45 pm, Pack 673 Crossover: Please sign up to attend the Crossover for the new Scouts who are joining our Troop from Pack 673. The Crossover will be held at Long's Peak United Methodist Church 1421 Elmhurst Dr, Longmont, CO 80503 just west of Hover St. There is **no dinner** but cake will be served at the end of the ceremony.

This Sunday, March 20 – 7-8:30 pm Troop Committee Meeting at the Church. Adult Leaders please join us to learn about news from Roundtable, our PLC, and help us prepare for the Parents Meeting the next day.

Monday, March 21 Parent's Meeting. All parents of Troop 66 are encouraged to attend. Also, help us welcome our new Scouts and Parents from Pack 673!

March 28- PLC Elections. The Boy Scouts will elect new leaders on this night.

Saturday, April 2: Merit Badge University (MBU) at CU Boulder. Registration is CLOSED. I will send out class information as soon as it is available.

April 15-17, 2016 Spring Camporee at Historic Ft. Lupton. This is a fun district wide event that includes many Boy Scout Troops from the area. Activities will include camping, archery, muzzle loading, .22 Rifle Shooting, Tomahawk Throwing, boiled egg race, Pancake Flipping Derby, tours of the historic Fort, Dutch Oven Cooking, and Blacksmith and Carpentry demonstrations. The deadline to signup for Camporee is April 4, 2016.

April 18- Spring Court of Honor

Saturday, April 23 Mandatory Rifle and Shotgun Merit Badge Class. If your Scout has not already earned these Merit Badges or taken the classroom portion of the class, please have him attend this class on April 23. This class is mandatory if your new Scout would like to shoot the following weekend at the Shooting Sports Campout. Times and location will be announced soon.

April 29 - May 1: Annual New Scouts and Shooting Sports Campout: Once again we will head up to Camp Ben Delatour Scout Ranch near Red Feather Lakes for a fun campout and rifle and shotgun shooting. This campout is focused on new Scouts in our troop to help them get acquainted with camping as a Boy Scout.

July 24-30, 2016 – Summer Camp at Peaceful Valley – You can still sign up! Troop 66 will be attending camp at an excellent local camp run by the Denver Area Council: Peaceful Valley-Cris Dobbins located near Elbert, CO (just southeast of Colorado Springs) during their last session of the summer: July 24-30, 2016. The cost for the week is \$375/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. In order for Troop 66 to secure your spot for Summer Camp, you must complete the registration form (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. 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.

General Announcements:

Camp Card Fundraiser has started: This is an optional fundraiser for Scouts who want to earn money for their Scout accounts. The Camp Card is a discount card for local businesses including Safeway, Old Chicago, JAX, Big 5 Sporting Goods, etc. The card sells for \$5 each and \$2.50 of that goes to individual Scout account. The money does not have to be used only for camp but for any Scouting related activities or equipment. Mrs. Martinez will check out sales kits of 10 Camp Cards if you would like to participate after 8 pm at the meeting this week.

New Boy Scout Handbooks and Rank Requirements Are Here: This was discussed with the Scouts and at our Parent’s Meeting last week. There are a few changes at the lower ranks, in particular the Scout Spirit question concerning “Duty to God.” I have attached here an FAQ

document that will hopefully answer questions you might have. If not, please come ask me about this. This year is a transition year between the old and new requirements. Starting tomorrow, Mrs. Martinez will have paper inserts to glue into the requirements pages of a Scout's current handbook (you are not required to buy a new handbook, just have the rank pages in the back updated) if that is what he would like. Have you Scout bring his handbook to get the new pages and Mrs. Martinez will discuss what his changes will be in the future, based on his current rank.

Here is a summary of what our Scouts need to do during this transition year:

For 2016:

- Boys joining on or after Jan. 1, 2016 **MUST** use the new requirements.
- Boys who have joined prior to Jan. 1, 2016:
 - Who are working on the Scout badge **MAY** continue to work on the existing requirements, but **MUST** convert to the new requirements upon completion of the Scout badge.
 - Who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class **MAY** continue to work on the existing requirements, but **MUST** convert to the new requirements upon attaining First Class.
 - Who have completed First Class **MAY** complete the rank they are currently working on in the existing requirements, but then **MUST** convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks.

For 2017: All Scouts **MUST** use the new requirements regardless of rank.

Troop Web Host is Live. Please log in and update your information and check out all of the features! 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 and financials. There are also many other features that we will bring online in the upcoming months. We will have a class for parents on a Monday night devoted entirely to Troop Web Host and all of the features. Many parents have received their own login information already. Your login credentials were sent on February 7, 2016. If you did not receive this, please email Mr. Foss at foss@airmail.net.

Uniforms: Please remember that Scouts are expected to wear their Class A uniforms at all meetings, unless otherwise indicated in our newsletter. Also, please remind your Scouts to take off their jackets and sweatshirts during the flag ceremony so we can present the colors and honor them correctly in uniform. Class B uniforms (orange Troop T-shirts) are only worn in the summer, when school is out, or during designated activities or service projects.

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. If you have any questions please email Kristy Martinez at tonyandkristy@yahoo.com.

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.