

Boy Scout Troop 66 Weekly Newsletter from the Scoutmaster

Date: 4-10-16

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

I hope everyone had a great Spring Break!

Newly Elected Boy Scout Leaders: I would like to take a moment to congratulate our new Patrol Leader Council for the next six months.

Meeting this week (Monday, April 11) is at the Church (9th Ave. & Francis St): This is the last meeting, before our Court of Honor next week, to finish up any rank advancement or merit badges that you would like to earn at the Court of Honor. All Scouts with a rank of First Class or above are asked to help with our new Scouts who are working on the rank of Scout. Also, Merit Badge Counselors will be available to help with any Merit Badges you need to work on. We will also work on rank advancements requirements for all Scouts. Scouts should check in with our Advancement Chair, Mr. Thomas Larsen, to verify that he has all the records you expect him to have including rank advancement and merit badges. Please also verify the number of camping nights and service hours. I am hoping to get all records from last week's MBU by this Wednesday so Mr. Larsen does not have those records yet.

Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 **Service Patrol (Dragons) set up** for flag ceremony and meeting tables, PLC check-in
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony and Announcements
- 7:10 Rank Advancement work /Work with new Scouts /Merit Badge work /Check-in with Mr. Larsen
- 8:15 Games
- 8:30 Cleanup by Service Patrol

Upcoming Troop Activities:

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. **Sign-up for Camporee NOW! The deadline to sign-up for Camporee is April 11, 2016 (this meeting).** Cost is \$20 for Scouts or Adults attending. Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night is \$6 and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning is \$6. We will be joining OA for these meals and preparing Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast as a Troop. We will be meeting at the church this Friday at 5 pm, leaving promptly at 5:30 pm, and returning to the church at about 12 noon on Sunday.

Saturday, April 16 8 am-12 noon Rummage Sale Help Needed at our Charter Organization Church. We need Scouts and Adults to help with this event at First Congregational Church. Scouts who are not attending Camporee can get service hours credit for this. Adults are welcome and don't need Scouts to participate. **Please sign up at this meeting.** Scouts may wear Class B shirts for this event.

Sunday, April 17 6:30 PM- Troop Committee Meeting at the Church. Adult leaders please attend so we can discuss Troop business and help plan upcoming activities including the Court of Honor the next day.

Monday, April 18- Spring Court of Honor 7 pm. Please join us while we take a moment to honor all of the achievements our Scouts have earned since December. This will be a Dessert Potluck and we ask every family to bring a dessert to share. The Court of Honor should be complete by 8 pm this evening. First Aid Kits for Sale: We are trying to clear out some leftovers from our First Aid Kits fundraiser from last summer. Please come by the First Aid Kits table at the Court of Honor to purchase some handy small or large kits for individual or family use.

Tuesday, April 19- Patrol Leaders Council Meeting 7 pm at the Church. Welcome newly elected leaders to the PLC. All Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders, Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are expected to attend this meeting. All other Troop leaders are encouraged to attend.

Saturday, April 23 10 am-4 pm 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. Lunch will be provided (pizza). Parents are welcome to attend this class and learn with their Scout but are not required. Location: Elks Lodge on the corner of 3rd and Coffman in Longmont. Please sign up for this so we have accurate numbers for pizza lunch and class materials. There is no cost for this class.

Saturday, April 23 Adults and Den Chiefs: University of Scouting, 8 am – 5pm in Greeley—This is a great Council sponsored training event for current adult leaders or those who are interested in learning more about serving the Troop in one of our adult leadership positions. Cost is covered by the Troop for this all day training with multiple classes to choose from. Please let me know if you are interested in attending so I can sign you up. For more information see this website:

<http://longspeakbsa.org/volunteers/training/university-of-scouting/>

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 in Troop 66. We will work on many of the Camping requirements in the lower ranks and Camping Merit Badge. Please sign up your Scout so we can start planning. Parents (sorry, no younger siblings this time) are welcome to attend, too!

June 4-5: Backpacking Campout. Mr. Groff will be leading our Troop on an adventurous campout in the backcountry in the local front range area. As the time gets closer, he will let us know the location and logistics. Scouts who want to go backpacking need some specific equipment to make it successful. It is

OK to start thinking about acquiring some of this now. Check out the summer backpacking list on our website for more information: <http://bsa66.weebly.com/backpacking.html>.

June 24-26 High Adventure Campout for Scouts Age 14+: Older Scouts, mark your calendars for this fun and challenging get-away. The details need to be worked out by the PLC but on the top of the list is White Water Rafting on the Arkansas River!

July 8-10 Watersports Campout: Once again we will bring out the canoes, kayaks, fishing rods, swimsuits, etc. and head to the water. Details for this campout need to be finalized but we will likely have this campout at Union Reservoir in Longmont or Horsetooth Reservoir in Ft. Collins. Families are encouraged to attend this campout and we will be inviting local Webelos Scouts to join us.

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. 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 from Mrs. Martinez), and submit a \$50 non-refundable deposit, plus the current payment installment, to “Troop 66.” Give checks and registration form 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.

Troop Web Host is Live. 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 and check out all of the features:

<https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop66Longmont/Index.htm>! We will have a class for parents and Scouts 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 all Scouts are expected to wear their Class A uniforms at all meetings, unless otherwise indicated in our newsletter. If your Scout does not have a complete uniform, please speak to Mr. Martinez and we can work on getting him one. 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/](http://bsa66.weebly.com/) for a full listing of activities and details including our current troop calendar.