

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

Meeting this week (Monday, April 3) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St) in Longmont.

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: Uniform inspection. Flag ceremony-how-to. Skits for Camporee.

7:30 Meal Planning for Camporee: If Scouts are attending Camporee, they are asked to meet with the SPL to work out a meal plan for the weekend. Rank Advancement Meetings. We will break up in rank specific groups so you can meet others who also need to advance to the next rank that you need. The Life or Eagle Scout leaders assigned to your group will get an assessment of what requirements everyone needs and then work on them. **WE NEED EVERY SCOUT TO BRING THEIR SCOUT HANDBOOK**

8:00 Games

8:25 Closing Announcements. Clean-up. Service patrol. Please stay until ALL work is completed.

We want to welcome four new Scouts to Troop 66! Alec J., Drew G., Henry H., and Erik Y., just crossed over to Troop 66 from Pack 673 on March 19. These four Scouts are assigned to the Spartans Patrol. Please make sure you give these Boy Scouts and their parents a big Troop 66 welcome!

THIS WEEK, We will have a Parent Meeting during our regular Troop Meeting. All parents are invited to attend, especially those new to the Troop, to get the latest Troop news, and have your questions answered. After the flag ceremony we will hold the parent meeting in the Chapel. This parent meeting will be dedicated to new families who have just joined the troop "Troop 66 101" (7:15-7:45 pm) and then Q&A for all parents including covering Spring Camping, Summer Camp preparations, and Summer Camp Merit Badge Class registration (7:45-8:15 pm). At the end of the meeting we will sell our **ORANGE** Class B t-shirts.

Scout Sign-Ups are Back at the Meetings: We have recognized the need to bring back the convenience of allowing Scouts to sign themselves up for campouts and activities during Troop meetings. If a Scout wants to attend an upcoming activity, he needs to go see Mrs. Bolon or Mrs. Martinez who have a computer and can sign-up Scouts on the spot. Our general policy for campouts (this weekend's Camporee does not apply as it has a special District registration requirement): If your Scout has signed up for an activity, then Parents will see an email from me on the Wednesday before a campout that includes a list of all Scouts that have signed up. Parents have

until Thursday evening to add or delete their Scouts from the list. After Thursday evening the registration will be closed and food will be purchased Friday morning.

Summer Camp Merit Badge Registration is Now Open! Mrs. Martinez sent out a separate email earlier tonight about how to sign up for Merit Badges. Please reference that email for registration instructions and to print or edit the registration form. You need to get your Merit Badge registration requests to Mrs. Martinez ASAP in order to get your first choices for Merit Badges at camp.

Upcoming Troop Activities:

(We could use adult "Champions," aka lead coordinators, 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).

THIS Weekend, April 7-9 Spring Camporee (Historic Fort Lupton). Besides the many activities offered by the Mountain View and Indian Peaks District organizers, our own troop will focus on completing outdoor activity and cooking requirements for rank advancements and for Camping and Cooking Merit Badges. This is a great chance to help get to the next rank by the May Court of Honor! Please sign up in TroopWebHost or have your Scout sign up at the meeting. Please see the attached program guide for information about the Spring Camporee. The early bird price for Spring Camporee has passed **so anyone who wants to still sign up (Deadline Tuesday night 4/4) is \$20 plus \$7 for the Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night after we arrive.** So the price for this campout, who have not already registered, will be \$27 with a bit more to cover gas for the cars transporting Scouts and Troop food for 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner.

May 5-7 Carter Lake New Scout Campout (Carter Lake in Loveland. Campsites are Reserved for two nights of camping really close by!) We will have many fun activities including biking, hiking, canoeing, and camping skills over the course of the weekend. Families are welcome to join us but we ask that you make your own campsite reservations with Carter Lake. Please sign up in TroopWebHost or have your Scout sign up at the meeting.

Monday, May 8 Spring Court of Honor. Deadline for Rank Advancements, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review and Merit Badge Completion is Monday, May 1.

Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) Volunteer Group at Bolder Boulder (see description below in Fundraising Activities).

June 12, 19, and 26 Citizen in the Nation Merit Badge Class. In June, Mrs. Martinez will be offering the Citizen in the Nation Merit Badge (Eagle required) Class during a portion of the regular Troop meetings. She plans on covering all requirements in these three classes (with homework completed by Scouts) and will culminate during Summer Camp when the Troop visits a very important National Monument: Mount Rushmore!

June 23-25 Sand Dunes Family Campout. This very popular campout is back. We will leave early on Friday to drive to a private campground (with heated swimming pool!)

and then spend all day Saturday on the dunes and hiking to the famous waterfalls nearby. We will head home on Sunday with a stop at the Gatorland attraction nearby.

July 9-15 Summer Camp (See details below)

July 28-30 Watersports Campout at Shadow Mountain Reservoir. Campsites are reserved!

August 19-20 Backpacking Campout

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

October Mountain Biking Campout

Summer Camp 2017- Medicine Mountain Scout Ranch South Dakota July 9-15, 2017. It is still possible to register for Summer Camp! 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 the full camp fee** to "Troop 66," 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 25 Scouts and 6 adults registered to go!

General Announcements:

Note from our Treasurer: Please bring your account into the black Our Troop Treasurer, Scott Francis, has reported that many Scout accounts are currently in arrears. Several payments have recently come out of accounts such as recharter fees and summer camp payments. Please check the balance of your account and bring Scott a check (or Mrs. Martinez if Scott is not at a meeting) to regular troop meetings. It is really helpful to maintain a positive balance in your account, like \$100, so your account can stay in the black even when a small payment is deducted.

Got Questions? Janine's Got Answers! Janine Bolon is serving 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 a variety 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.

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 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.

Fundraising Activities:

Rotary Duck Race Tickets: Starting in mid-May we will be able to start selling this raffle tickets. More details will be coming.

May 29 Memorial Day Bolder Boulder Race Volunteer Scouts of our Troop, and any adult parents or friends who want to help their Scout, will earn \$40 per volunteer for the Scout's account and also receive a T-shirt and snack bag. The job we will do requires approximately 4 hours of work (5:30 am – 9:30 am) and it involves checking in bags of racers personal items into trucks that will take the personal items to the finish line for the racers to pick up. This is an easy and fun job. For more information see Mrs. Martinez. Please sign up ASAP in TroopWebHost if you would like to do this as we need to submit the numbers to the Bolder Boulder fairly soon. Please include the names of the adults attending with the Scout in the comments line of the sign up.

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 big 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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