

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

NO Meeting this week (Monday, October 31). We hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween!!!!!!!!!!!!

Upcoming Troop Activities:

THIS Saturday November 5, 7:30 pm Star Party at Little Thompson Observatory in Berthoud. Please sign up in Troop Web Host by this Tuesday, if you plan on attending so we can let the Observatory folks know how many to expect. Parents and siblings are welcome to attend. There is no cost for this event. The volunteers at the observatory will be leading us in an astronomy fun night including looking through their large telescopes. For those who need to complete their Astronomy Merit Badge observation requirement, this is your chance! If you have not started your Astronomy Merit Badge, this is a great time to start. We will try to cover as many requirements as possible. Mrs. Martinez is an Astronomy Merit Badge Counselor and can sign off on blue cards.

Troop Elections at our next Meeting, November 7. We hope every Scout can attend this meeting so they can elect their own Scout leaders for the next six months. We will be electing Assistant Patrol Leaders and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders and any other positions that are open. Troop leaders must have an active attendance record at 75% or more of normal troop meetings and be at First Class Rank or higher. I am looking forward to working with a fresh group of troop leaders who are committed to learning, serving, and leading at our Troop Meetings and Monthly Patrol Leaders Council Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month.

Friday, November 11, 6:30 pm until Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 am Annual Lock-In at the Church. Please sign up for the Lock-in on Troop Web Host. I will also need a lot of adult volunteers to attend and help with driving and supervision of the kids. The more the merrier (plus, we can sleep in shifts).

November 21 NO Meeting (Thanksgiving Holiday)

December 19 & 26 NO Meetings (Winter Break Holiday)

We WILL Meet on Monday, January 2, 2017

January 9 & 23 Webelos Nights On these nights we will invite Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts to visit our Troop Meetings

January 30 Winter Court of Honor

Fundraising Opportunities:

Butterbraids Fundraiser started last week. Our annual Butterbraids fundraiser is back. This year we cannot sell Butterbraids and Cookie Dough at the same time due to a new Cookie Dough Brand (Otis Spunkmeyer) that does not allow their product to be sold alongside other products. So, we will do Butterbraids before Thanksgiving and Cookie Dough before Christmas.

Butterbraids order forms and money are due at our next meeting, on November 7, and will be delivered November 14. If you would like to get an order form, you can pick one up at our house anytime. They are in the white metal mailbox on the porch above the white bench. Our address is 9120 N. 75th St. Longmont, CO 80503.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser starts November 14. Our annual frozen Cookie Dough fundraiser is back. Order forms and money are due December 5 and Cookie Dough will be delivered December 12. Mrs. Martinez will provide more information and order forms.

General Announcements:

Re-registration for the upcoming Scouting year has started. Now is the time of year to re-register Scouts and Adult Leaders and recharter our Troop for the upcoming year. We put together a quick survey to gather inputs from all Scouts and Adult Leaders, even if you don't haven't been coming to meetings recently. We don't want to miss including anyone on our roster and recharter for the upcoming Scouting year. We ask that everyone complete this quick survey for every person in your family registered with Troop 66. For example, the Martinez family has two registered adult leaders and three Boy Scouts we would like to register for the upcoming year so we completed this survey five times (5x) for our family.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXX6F27>

Also, re-registration fees are due. The fees are: \$24 BSA Dues, \$20 Troop Dues, and \$12 Boys Life Annual Subscription (optional) for a total of \$56. Registered adults are asked to pay the \$24 BSA Dues but the Troop will not assess adults the Troop Dues. Adult Leaders have the option of subscribing to Scouting Magazine for Adult Leaders for \$12/year for a total of \$36 for adults. Please submit your dues to Mr. Foss, or make sure there is enough money in your Scout Account to cover the dues and remain in the black. All of those who are in arrears with their Scout accounts (with negative balances before October 1, 2016) need to bring their accounts into the positive, and include re-registration dues to be included in our recharter. It is too hard on the troop to carry large negative balances.

Deadline for submitting re-registration fees and re-registration is Monday, November 14.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to request a scholarship.

Troop Web Host is Live and we need all families on it, ASAP. 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, **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. **The next phase in our rollout is to get all activity sign-ups done through Troop Web Host starting NOW. This means that we have now phased out sign-up sheets at Troop meetings.** 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

Scoutmaster, Troop 66

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