

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

THIS Monday, February 27. Parent Meeting. We will hold our monthly parent meeting in the Chapel during the regular troop meeting this week. All parents are encouraged to attend to be updated on our activities and troop business. We have a lot of important Troop news to discuss this month.

The Troop Committee and PLC agree that we need to put some concentrated emphasis on rank advancement requirements to help Scouts get to their next rank. For example, there are 15 Scouts who are working towards their Tenderfoot rank and have been somewhat stalled for the past few months. To that end, we are going to spend at least 30 minutes in each meeting for the next several meetings focused on helping Scouts advance to their next rank. In order to accomplish this **WE NEED EVERY SCOUT TO BRING THEIR SCOUT HANDBOOK TO EVERY SCOUT MEETING** so an assessment can be made about where they are and what they need to do to earn their next rank.

Quartermaster Closet and Merit Badge Book Library: Our Quartermaster, Josh Oehlkers, and his mom did a great job cleaning and organizing the Quartermaster Closet. We ask everyone to do their part in putting equipment away and keeping the closet tidy. Also, our Librarian, Gabriel Martinez, and his mom have organized all of the Merit Badge books in alphabetical order in small labeled boxes. The library is located on the shelves in the Quartermaster closet. They took an inventory and will be buying more books for popular merit badges that have no books. The Merit Badge books are like small text books about the subject and are a great resource to a Scout who is trying to learn about and finish merit badge requirements. The Merit Badge books are also a great resource for Merit Badge Counselors, or anyone considering being a Merit Badge Counselor, as it helps them with understanding the material and even conducting a class for the Merit Badge. Any Scout or Adult associated with Troop 66 is welcome to borrow the books but we ask that you bring them back as soon as you are done so others can use the books, too. Most Merit Badges have only one book so keeping it deprives another Scout from using it. Please return the book to its alphabetical box. If you would like the Troop to purchase a specific Merit Badge book for the library, please let Mrs. Martinez know.

Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

6:45 **Service Patrol (Spartans)** 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. Meet new members of your patrol. Beasts get their new Patrol patches and elect your Assistant Patrol Leader.

7:30 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

8:30 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.

THIS 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 this Wednesday, March 1 so we can order enough food for lunch and accommodate everyone.**

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. We would like to try and do an overnight. However, if this is you scouts first snowcaving overnight a parent MUST stay with him.

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. We need a Champion for this campout particularly someone who is willing to call the campgrounds to make reservations)

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

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)

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 a \$50 non-refundable deposit** 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 23 Scouts and 6 adults registered to go!

General Announcements:

Friends of Scouting Campaign: Please Donate For those who haven't done so already, 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 (average is \$100 per Scout set by the Council), 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 and see Mr. Mathers ASAP. One great option is to make a pledge, say \$10/month and the amount is automatically deducted from your credit card each month.

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 now 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 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.

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 if you would like to do this as we need to submit the numbers to the Bolder Boulder fairly soon.

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,

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