

# Boy Scout Troop 66 Weekly Newsletter from the Scoutmaster

**Date: 3-26-16**

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

**Welcome to New Scouts who Crossed-Over from Pack 673:** We are glad you have decided to continue the Scouting journey with Troop 66! New Scouts; remember to bring your new Scout handbooks to every Troop meeting.

**Note to all Parents of newly Crossed-Over Scouts:** Please complete a new BSA Youth Application for your Scout to indicate you are transferring to our unit. We need this to get your Scout officially in our system and in the BSA system. See Mrs. Martinez or Mr. Mathers for a BSA Youth App. Also, all registered adults who want to transfer into our unit (you can remain a leader in a Cub Scout unit) need to fill out an adult App. We would appreciate as many registered adult leaders as possible to help us with minimum two deep coverage of all our activities.

**Meeting This Week (Monday, March 28) is at the Church (9th Ave. & Francis St): We have our bi-annual Scout leader elections this week. All Scouts and Parents, please see attached documents that describe our Troop By-Laws (especially the elections section) and Code of Conduct.** After the elections, 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.

**7:45-8:15pm Life Scouts and Parents Eagle Project Intro. Meeting.** There are several Life Scouts who have finished, or are almost finished with their Eagle required Merit Badges, have been a Life Scout for at least 6 months, and have completed their position of leadership requirement. You are ready to start work on your Eagle Project! Summer and Fall are great times to get Eagle Projects done but you need to start planning at least two months in advance. Mrs. Martinez will meet with Life Scouts and a Parent to discuss the process of this next step in your journey to Eagle and answer any questions you might have.

**Summer Camp Payment Due this Week!** Wow, the next payment snuck up on us. If your Scout is signed up for Summer Camp, we need everyone to make sure there is at least \$100 in your account to cover the next payment which is due this week. Please see Mr. Foss if you need to give him a check for the next payment. Thanks for your help in keeping your Scout's account in the black.

## Agenda for this Monday Night's Troop meeting:

- 6:45 **Service Patrol (Stealth) set up** for flag ceremony and meeting tables, PLC check-in
- 7:00 Flag Ceremony and Announcements
- 7:10 PLC Elections
- 7:45 Rank Advancement work /Work with new Scouts /Merit Badge work

- 7:45 Life Scouts and Parents Eagle Project Intro. Meeting
- 8:15 Games
- 8:25 Announce Election Results and Closing Announcements
- 8:30 Cleanup by Service Patrol

### Upcoming Troop Activities:

**Saturday, April 2: Merit Badge University (MBU) at CU Boulder.** Registration is CLOSED. Those who have signed up for classes, the charges will be added to your Scout account. I will send out class information as soon as it is available.

**Monday, April 4: NO Troop Meeting. Have a great Spring Break!**

**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. Cost is \$20 for Scouts or Adults attending. Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night is \$6 and Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning is \$6. These meals are fundraisers for Order of the Arrow.

**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.

**April 18- Spring Court of Honor.** All rank advancements and Merit Badge requirements need to be complete by April 11 to receive awards at this Court of Honor. Scouts need to check in with Mr. Larsen early and often to make sure you have completed all of your requirements and he has updated your records in Troop Web Host.

**Saturday, April 23 10am-4pm 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. Location: Elks Lodge on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Coffman in Longmont.

**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.

**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 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, 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 as described in the 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, plus the current payment installment, 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.

**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 and financials. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.