

# Boy Scout Troop 66 Weekly Newsletter from the Scoutmaster

**Date: 4-1-16**

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

**NO Troop Meeting This Week.** This is a reminder that we will not meet on Monday due to the Spring Break Holiday. We will see you again on Monday, April 11. Have a great week!

## Upcoming Troop Activities:

**Tomorrow, Saturday, April 2: Merit Badge University (MBU) at CU Boulder.** We will meet at 8 am in Chem 140 on the CU campus. Please reference my email sent out last Sunday concerning MBU classes, locations, costs, etc. Bring all of your forms early so I can sign off on them prior to class starting.

**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 (our next meeting).** 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.

**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 our next 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.

**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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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/](http://bsa66.weebly.com/) for a full listing of activities and details including our current troop calendar.