

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

Meeting this week (Monday, April 17) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St) in Longmont.

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 Outdoor Flag Ceremony. Announcements

7:15 Physical Fitness requirements for rank advancements and Personal Fitness Merit Badge. We will take a group over to the Longmont High Track to help them sign off on fitness requirements. Bring your handbooks. (I need a couple of adult leaders to help with this)

7:15 Organized outdoor games in the courtyard for those who are not heading over to the High School for fitness requirements work. (I need some adults to help supervise this while I am with the boys at the high school.)

7:50 Patrol Meetings Inside: We will all make recycled materials pocket notebooks during Patrol meetings. *Remember: Never go to a meeting without something to write on and something to write with. :-)*

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

Class B shirt orders-We are getting ready to restock our supply of Class B shirts. This is the uniform shirt we wear during our summer meetings, service projects, camping and at summer camp. If you have a unique size request please email me with your request so I can include it in our next order.

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: 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.

Upcoming Troop Activities:

(We could use adult “Champions,” aka lead coordinators, for most of our upcoming campouts. Please email me if you can help with any of these upcoming campouts. I will give you instructions for the specific campout).

THIS Tuesday, April 18 Patrol Leader’s Council at the Church. 7-8 pm. We need all elected Scout Leaders (Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders are mandatory and other leaders are encouraged to attend) to attend PLC this week so we can plan our upcoming meetings and activities.

NEXT, Sunday, April 30 Adult Committee Meeting at the Church. 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet in Classroom #10. Please enter from the doors on the Northeast corner of the church.

Monday, May 1 Parent Meeting during regular Troop Meeting. We will be holding our monthly parent meeting in the chapel after the flag ceremony. The focus of this meeting will be sharing ideas about camping equipment for our summer campouts and Summer Camp. Come and learn and share your thoughts about equipment. We could use our sage camping parents to participate in this meeting and invite all of those who want to make sure their Scout is prepared for upcoming outdoor activities.

Monday, May 1 Troop Meeting. This is the last meeting before our Court of Honor on May 8. All rank advancements and completed Merit Badge blue cards need to be to Mr. Larsen at this meeting. We will also work on our menu for the Carter Lake New Scout Campout.

May 5-7 Carter Lake New Scout (and old Scouts too!) 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.** Thank you to Erik Holmberg for Championing this event.

Monday, May 8 Spring Court of Honor. Deadline for Rank Advancements, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review and Merit Badge Completion is Monday, May 1 at the latest. Mr. Larsen has requested that Scouts bring their books to him fairly frequently to get books signed off and check to make sure their records match.

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. Merit Badge class selections are past due. The last day to submit merit badge requests or to request a refund (except the \$50 deposit) is next Monday, April 24. Mrs. Martinez sent out a separate email about medical forms. Make those doctor appointments now so you can submit your completed medical form by July 3.

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

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, Mr. Francis will 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
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