

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

**NO Meeting this week (Monday, July 4).** Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend!

### Upcoming Troop Activities:

**July 8-10 Watersports Campout at Union Reservoir in Longmont:** Once again we will bring out the canoes, kayaks, fishing rods, swimsuits, etc. and head to the water. We will meet at the church at 5 pm on Friday (the Troop will not cook dinner on Friday night, you are on your own), load the trailer and carpool over to the Reservoir. We will pack up and head home after breakfast on Sunday morning. You are welcome to come and go during the campout but you **MUST** let me know your plans so we have all Scouts accounted for at all times. Families are encouraged to attend this campout. BSA rules require a parent to be with any child who is not a registered Boy Scout at all times near or in the water. We need Parent Volunteers to help us with covering short shifts as monitors at the swimming beach (Lifeguard on duty), boating area, and fishing area. The troop will be bringing some canoes, kayaks and fishing gear. You are welcome to bring your own watercraft. The Scout ring is limited to tent camping. Parking is very limited there. If you would like to camp in your own RV, you need to make arrangements with the City of Longmont Parks Department. **Deadline to signup is this Tuesday, July 5 (email or call me) if you have not already RSVPed.** Please list all members of your family who are attending as we need to include this information on our Tour Plan.

**Monday, July 11 Troop Meeting.** We will be helping Stephen M. finish his Eagle project during the meeting.

**Sunday, July 17, 6:30 pm Adult Committee Meeting at the church.**

**Monday, July 18 Parent Meeting and Summer Camp Shakedown**

**Tuesday, July 19, 7 pm PLC Meeting at the church.**

**Saturday, July 23, 2016- Luke M. Eagle Scout Project 9 am – 1 pm.** Luke is continuing a Troop 66 commitment to the St. Vrain Historical Society by conducting a service project at Old Mill Park. We will be doing several small restoration and maintenance projects. Luke needs lots of Scouts and Adults (needed to operate power tools) to help him with his project and finish his journey to Eagle. Luke will be providing light breakfast and hardy lunch. Please sign up at a meeting or email Luke at [303lukem@gmail.com](mailto:303lukem@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

**July 25 NO MEETING.** Many Scouts and Adults are at Summer Camp and everyone else gets a break.

**July 24-30, 2016 – Summer Camp at Peaceful Valley** – All Medical forms, including Part C that is signed by your physician, are due to Mrs. Martinez by Monday, July 18.

There will be a Parent Meeting on July 18 and a packing shakedown given by Patrol Leaders. This means all Scouts going to Summer Camp need to bring their complete bag/ foot locker/tote to the meeting that night for a friendly inspection.

**August 26-28 Webelos Adventure Weekend at Camp Tahosa-** Once again we will head up to Camp Tahosa for a fun weekend with local Cub Scouts in Webelos and Arrow of Light dens. Our Boy Scouts will head up to Tahosa on Friday night, have a full day of activities with the Cub Scouts (arriving Saturday morning) and some free time for the Boy Scouts, and head home on Sunday morning. Activities will include canoeing and kayaking, fishing, Frisbee Golf, dutch oven cooking, a flag retirement ceremony and other fun stuff that our PLC plans. We need lots of Scouts to join us this weekend and help us show the Cub Scouts and parents how awesome Boy Scouts and Troop 66 are.

### **August 29 Fall Court of Honor**

**September 9-11 Shooting Sports Campout at Camp Ben Delatour.** As the date gets closer, we will send out more information concerning this campout. This is our rescheduled campout from early May.

**September 23-25 Mountain Biking Campout at Curt Gowdy State Park in Wyoming** Once again Mr. Groff will be leading us on a great weekend of camping and mountain biking. We also get a chance to do a small conservation project in the park. This will help many Scouts who need conservation service hours.

**Who Wants to Go Spelunking?** Many Scouts have requesting a caving campout adventure. The PLC and Committee are in the planning stages of a Caving Campout to Cave of the Winds in Manitou Springs, Colorado in October. We will keep you updated on the developments.

### **November 11-12 Annual Lock-In at the Church**

### **General Announcements:**

**Many Scout Accounts are in Arrears:** The Troop Committee met last week and there is concern over the number of Scout accounts that have negative balances. This is not healthy for our Troop and limits us to committing to doing activities. With the new TroopWebHost System (<https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop66Longmont/Index.htm>), all families have the ability to check their account balances at any time. Our Treasurer and Assistant Scout Master, Fritz Foss, has many other duties with the troop so we need to help him by being proactive about checking and making payments to accounts. It is very nice for the troop if you keep some money in your account and not always hover around or under zero. The Troop Committee voted in a new financial policy that we will require Scout accounts be at least at zero before a Scout can commit to another activity, particularly high priced activities like Summer Camp. Please come speak to me or our Treasurer, Fritz Foss, if you need scholarship assistance BEFORE you commit to an activity. Scholarship money is not available to pay off negative balance accounts. Thanks so much for taking this seriously and staying on top of your financials.

**Bring Your Scout Handbook to EVERY Meeting!** It has come to our attention that several Scouts, first class rank or below, are not bringing their Scout Handbooks to the meetings. If you do not bring your book, then there is a good chance that the Scout will miss out on the sign-off of advancement requirements that were worked on that night. Remember any First Class or higher ranked Scout, or registered adult leader, can sign off on rank advancement requirements in the book if they witnessed the Scout doing those requirements. It is the Scouts responsibility to bring his own book, and make sure the requirements are signed off.

### **Rules for Use of Church Facilities:**

If you have been in the church lately, you have seen that all of the renovations are complete. The fellowship hall looks amazing. There are a few new rules that we have implemented to help take care of the facilities and minimize our disruptions on others using the building.

- 1) Please enter our meetings through the Southwest door of the fellowship hall.
  - 2) The bathrooms adjacent to the fellowship hall are now finished and usable. This means there should be no reason any Scouts or adults need to walk down the hallway past the Chapel. There are classes in the Chapel so please do not use the hallway adjacent to the Chapel.
  - 3) There is a circle of soft chairs and a table on the northside of the fellowship hall. In order to protect this furniture, these chairs will be used ONLY for Scoutmaster Conferences or Board of Reviews. Scouts are not allowed to sit in these chairs in any other circumstances and we ask parents and adults to sit in other chairs in the room so we can reserve this area for official Scout meetings and keep a sound buffer between us and the meeting rooms on the north end of the fellowship hall.
  - 4) Thanks to all Scouts and adults who set up chairs and tables for the meetings. The new flooring is susceptible to scratches and scuffs so we ask everyone to be careful when setting up and putting away tables and try not to drag them across the floor. This is also true for pulling things out of the Quartermaster Closet and in particular the large black flag stands. If you drag the flag stands, they will scratch the floor.
  - 5) Outdoor spaces: With the warm weather, we can now have Scout activities and games outside in the grassy courtyard. The Scouts have been reminded many times of the rules in the Courtyard: no climbing on the bell tower, walls or tables and please do not go near the flower gardens on all sides of the grassy area.
- Thanks everyone for helping us to continue to be grateful and respectful users of the church facilities!

**Class B T-shirts can be worn to Troop Meetings during the Summer!** While school is out for the Summer, Scouts may wear Class-B shirts, instead of the full Class A uniform, to our regular troop meetings. However, if a Scout will be doing a Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review, he is required to wear his full Class-A uniform on these occasions. Also, Scouts must be in the Class-B shirt, which is our summer uniform, to be part of the Color Guard at our meetings. A new batch of Class B T-shirts are now available for sale at our troop meetings. Also, a few Class B shirts are great to have at Summer Camp.

**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 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](mailto:foss@airmail.net). **The next phase in our rollout is to get all activity sign-ups done through Troop Web Host starting right after Summer Camp. This means we will be phasing out the paper sign-up sheets at Troop meetings.** We are working on getting a laptop setup at our meetings for those who like to sign up at meetings and might be uncomfortable with computers. Please help us get you up to speed on this web based management software so we can streamline the 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,

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