

Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

Meeting this week (Monday, August 15) is at the Valmont Bike Park in Boulder at 6:30 pm

As our last hurrah before school starts, we wanted to try to make up our Bike Park meeting from earlier this summer. The weather looks good for tonight so we are going to meet at the Valmont Bike Park in Boulder. This is a really cool bike terrain park that the boys can practice their mountain biking skills. **We will start at 6:30 pm and finish up by 7:45 pm** shortly before the sun sets. The Valmont Bike Park is located on the corner of Airport Road and Valmont Road. Here is a GoogleMaps link to the park:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Valmont+Bike+Park/@40.0300063,-105.2315133,362m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x876bee089f285ebd:0xfc6069c46c7e261d!8m2!3d40.0298832!4d-105.2299123>

We will meet in the large parking lot on Valmont Road which is just west of the metal building structure and dog park. If you are coming from the Diagonal, go east on Valmont Road, past Airport Road, and take a left into the parking lot. **Please make sure your Scout wears his orange Class B T-Shirt and a bike helmet and brings a bottle of water.** Some adult leaders and parents will be hanging out in the pavilion at the end of the parking lot. We need adults to bring their bikes and be present out on the bike course.

Upcoming Troop Activities:

Troop meeting next week, August 22, will be our last before the Fall Court of Honor – We will have Merit Badge Counselors on hand to help finish up requirements on Merit Badges and we will also be finishing up loose requirements for Scouts who want to advance in rank before the Court of Honor. If you think you are earning Merit Badges or Rank Advancement, please check in with Mr. Larsen, Troop 66 Advancement Chairman, to make sure he has the same records as you do. It is the Scout's responsibility to verify this! Also, now is a good time to check on camping days, volunteer hours, etc. Bring your Scout Handbook!

Friendly Reminder: We are Back to Wearing Class A Uniforms to Regular Meetings Next Week Since school will be back in session this week, we are now back to wearing the Class A uniforms at our regular Scout Meetings and events unless otherwise instructed in my weekly emails. It might be a good idea to get those shirts cleaned up, find your neckerchief, find a slide, etc.

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 Boy Scouts** to join us this weekend and help us show the Cub Scouts and parents how awesome Boy Scouts and Troop 66 are. **Please sign up at our Troop meeting!**

August 29 Fall Court of Honor 7 pm at that Church. In addition to handing out awards, we will also be discussing possibilities for Summer Camp next year.

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. Thank you Mr. Foss and Mr. Ratliff for being our Shooting Sports Coordinators and for planning this awesome campout for us!

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 and regular service hours (see new Boy Scout Handbook service requirements for all ranks above Scout).

Who Wants to Go Spelunking? Many Scouts have requested a caving campout adventure. We are in the planning stages of a Caving Campout to Cave of the Winds in Manitou Springs, Colorado this October. The Committee has identified October 21 as a good weekend for this campout. Is there an adult in the Troop who would like to be our Champion (aka Coordinator) of this campout?

November 11-12 Annual Lock-In at the Church

General Announcements:

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. **The next phase in our rollout is to get all activity sign-ups done through Troop Web Host starting now. 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.

--

Yours in Scouting,

Tony Martinez
Scoutmaster, Troop 66
303-931-1743
preparedscouts@gmail.com