Hello Troop 66 Scouts, Scouters and Parents;

 **Meeting this week (Monday, August  22) is at the First Congregational Church (9th Ave. & Francis St)**

**Troop meeting this week 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** Since school is back in session, we are now back to wearing the Class A uniforms at our regular Scout Meetings and events unless otherwise instructed in my weekly emails.

**Agenda for this Monday Night’s Troop meeting:**

6:45       **Service Patrol (Dragons) set up** for flag ceremony, PLC check-in

7:00        Flag Ceremony. Announcements.

7:10        Patrol Meetings

7:25        Work on Rank Requirements and Merit Badges needed by individual Scouts.

8:10        Games

8:30        Closing Announcements. Cleanup by Service Patrol

**Upcoming Troop Activities:**

**August 26-28 Webelos Adventure Weekend at Camp Tahosa-** **CANCELLED**

Unfortunately we did not have a good response from area Cub Scout dens to attend our campout. Due to the expenses related to this campout and the many hours of planning required, we have decided to cancel this weekend and focus on our upcoming campouts in September and October.

**August 29 Fall Court of Honor** 7 pm at that Church. The PLC decided we will again have a dessert potluck. **Please bring your favorite dessert to share.** Those who are gluten free and lactose intolerant, could you bring your special dessert to share? In addition to handing out awards, we will also be discussing possibilities for Summer Camp next year and the Scouts will vote on where they would like to go. Mr. Ratliff will be sharing a special deal we have for Scout families to purchase .22 rifles and shotguns at drastically reduced prices. There will be other important information shared at the Court of Honor.

**September 9-11 Shooting Sports Campout at Camp Ben Delatour. Sign Up Now!** 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 19, 26 and October 3 Citizenship in the World Merit Badge Class** Mrs. Martinez will be leading Scouts in this class for 30 minutes during each of these regular meetings.

**September 23-25 Mountain Biking Campout at Curt Gowdy State Park in Wyoming Sign Up Now!** 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).

**October 21-23 Spelunking (aka Caving) Campout** Mr. Engle and Mr. Rishel are working out the details of this great campout.

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

**January 9 & 23 Webelos Nights** On these nights we will invite Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts to visit our Troop Meetings

**January 30 Winter Court of Honor**

**General Announcements:**

**September is Youth Protection Training Month!** The District is now requiring all adults who participate in Scouting activities, not just registered leaders, to take Youth Protection Training (an approximately 30 minute online training), to take this training on an annual basis. We have decided, to make it easier on everyone, to get all adults to take the Youth Protection Training during the month of September so all we are all synced up and can remind everyone to do it once a year, at the same time. So, please, all adults please take or renew your Youth Protection Training sometime between September 1 and October 1 this year. We will discuss this at the upcoming Court of Honor.

**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](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.

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Yours in Scouting,

Tony Martinez

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