

Hello Scouts, Scouters, and Parents,

Happy New Year! 2020 is now hindsight!

THIS WEEK:

As a reminder, we will NOT have a meeting tomorrow, Monday, January 4, 2021 because St. Vrain School District is still on Winter Break.

However, we **WILL have an outdoor meeting this Saturday, January 9, at Faith Community Church from 1-3 pm.** We had a great time at our last outdoor meeting and the weather is expected to be mild this week so we think it will be another great time. This week we will split our groups by patrols and stay in that group the whole time.

1 pm Starting Meeting Locations:

Stealth Patrol = Fire Ring

Spartan Patrol = Church West Deck

Dragon Patrol = Gaga Ball Pit

It is important that our PLC leadership try to make this meeting on Saturday as we will have a WebEx PLC meeting next Monday and we need to have Patrol reports presented at that meeting. We want to get ideas for planning our activities this Spring and into next Summer. All Scouts; this is a chance to make your thoughts known about how you would like our Troop to meet and do activities.

COVID INFORMATION FOR OUR IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

Boulder County will be moving down to level Orange on Monday, which we think will give us flexibility for having small in-person, indoor meetings in the future. Since we are not sure about all of that, we will maintain our current plan for outdoor or virtual meetings. Please

continue to read the newsletter every week for updates. Some future meetings will be adjusted with changes in COVID restrictions.

We want to give the boys some opportunities to interact with each other while being COVID safe and abiding by all Boulder County restrictions and guidance. Like early this summer, we will follow the outdoor camp/ athletic team guidance provided since it most aligns with our activities. The current restrictions require:

1. everyone to wear a facemask at all times
2. everyone practices social distancing with at least 6 feet distance from others
3. No groups can exceed 10 people

In addition to that we are doing the following:

1. We will remain outside at all times
2. No one is allowed in the building including the bathroom (please let us know if there is an emergency; we have a key)
3. No food or drinks will be served (Scouts can bring their own labeled water bottle)
4. We will remain in "cohorts" of 10 or less and Scouts will not-intermingle during the meeting
5. We need all Scouts to RSVP in TroopWebHost (deadline Thursday night) so we can make sure the cohorts do not exceed 10 people and to have record lists of our cohorts
6. There will be one adult leading each cohort but all Scouts and adults will be within eyesight and earshot of each other (fire pit, gaga ball pit, the west patio of the church) in case they are needed and maintain two-deep leadership.
7. No large gathering for flags or announcements. Scouts must report to their first cohort station listed above and they will rotate every 35 minutes

We think these will be fun and well planned out meetings.

Attire: Class B uniforms and appropriate outdoor clothing (there will be a campfire and a propane heater at the two sit-down stations).

Parents: Due to the strict number of restrictions, we need to ask parents to drop off and pick up or wait in their cars until the meeting is over. We could also use a few flexible parents who can help us with our stations.

An email with final instructions email will go out on Friday night to let folks know what the activities will be (could be influenced by weather) and the cohort assignments.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

COMING SOON: COMMUNICATION MERIT BADGE CLASS

Mrs. Martinez has planned out the spring so Scouts can earn their Communication Merit Badge (Eagle required) during regular meetings either virtual or in-person. Our records show that over 20 Scouts in our Troop need this merit badge.

For those Scouts who have already earned Communication, Mr. Martinez can use your leadership and help with our new AoL Crossover Scouts who will be joining us in February or March.

Parents and Scouts; mark your calendars for these dates when the Communication Merit Badge will have 30-40 minute classes (either by WebEx or in-person at First Congregational Church depending on COVID restrictions): 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/26 and 5/10 (Spring CoH)

\$400 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS ARE DUE JANUARY 18

In November all members of the Troop were informed of a substantial donation made to Troop 66 by an extremely generous anonymous donor. This donor wanted the funds to benefit, as soon as possible, all of the boys in our Troop and encourage them to continue on their Scouting journey by attending Summer Camp or High Adventure Camp, participating in Troop 66 activities, and/or purchasing needed equipment for those activities. The troop committee met, knowing the donor's emphasis, and decided to offer a \$400 scholarship that Scouts can earn in order to advance their Scouting journeys.

Please read the attachment carefully which describes the requirements for earning the scholarship (a written introduction and essay) and other important details.

A few important requirements to note:

1) Only Scouts who have been registered or rechartered in Troop 66 for the 2021 year are eligible.

2) Written Introduction and Essay is due to Mr. Scott Francis (Troop 66 Treasured and Scholarship Committee Chairman) by **NO LATER than January 18, 2021.**

3) The Scholarship funds will be deposited into a Scout's account and can only be used for qualified Scouting activities or for the reimbursed purchase (receipts required) of equipment or clothing used for Scouting activities. If a Scout moves on from Troop 66 and these funds are not used, they can not be withdrawn from the Scout account but are transferred back to the Troop 66 general fund.

If you have any other questions about the Scholarship, please direct them to Mr. Scott Francis (07consultingcolo@gmail.com). We are very grateful that Scott has taken on this task and will help to make these funds accessible to our Scouts.

UPCOMING TROOP ACTIVITIES:

Jan 4 NO Meeting, Holiday Break

**Sat. Jan 9 In-person outdoor meeting at Faith Community Church on Ute Hwy
1-3 pm.**

**Mon. Jan 11 7:00 pm Virtual PLC Meeting (WebEx)
8:00 pm Virtual Troop Committee Meeting (WebEx). There will not be a regular Troop
meeting on this night**

**Mon. Jan 18 7:00 pm AoL Crossover Cub Scouts Virtual Open House on WebEx
(We need PLC
members to join us again. Thank you for your service to the Troop!) This is MLK day.
There is not a regular Meeting planned on this night.**

**Sat. Jan. 23 In-person outdoor meeting with AoL crossover Cub Scout visitors
(PLC will be planning**

this Meeting. Not sure what this will look like with COVID restrictions. Stay tuned....)

Sat. Jan. 30 1:00 pm Rabbit Mountain Hike. We are excited to commence our hiking program thanks to our new hiking committee. PLC will be planning this hike on Jan. 11. For Scouts going on our high adventure backpacking trip in Yellowstone NP this summer; please make every effort to attend these weekend hikes so you can be prepared for the summer trek. All Scouts and families are welcome to attend our weekend hikes.

Mon. Feb 1 Winter Court of Honor (not sure yet what this is going to look like with COVID restrictions. Stay tuned...)

Feb 19-20 Klondike Derby at Golden Gate State Park

June 12-13 Summer Backpacking Trip

July 4-10 Traditional Summer Camp at Buffalo Bill Scout Camp near Yellowstone National Park

July 25-31 High Adventure (Age 14+) Backpacking Trek in Yellowstone National Park

Aug. 14-15 TBA Campout to be planned by PLC

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PayPal is Now Available to make Troop 66 Account Payments! *From Troop 66 Treasurer Scott Francis:* Cash and check are still welcome. If you have a Paypal account

and transfer money from a bank account, you can transfer money to the scout account for no fee. If you use a credit card, you will be charged a fee of \$0.30 plus 2.9% of the value of the transaction. This fee is from Paypal, not the troop. After you submit money via Paypal, I will get an email notification and can send you this notification as a receipt. After I receive the notification, I will credit the scout account in Troop Web Host.. This may not happen for several days after the transfer of money. The account is set up as Boy Scout Troop Sixty Six, but you may need to use my email address to find the account:

07consultingcolo@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

King Soopers Loyalty Card fundraiser is ongoing..... Please keep scanning your Sooper Card when you buy groceries and gas. We earn 5% of these purchases if you link your King Sooper Card to our troop.

As a reminder, please share this with your friends and family, this is how you link your card to Troop 66:

- Go to this link: <http://www.kingsoopers.com/communityrewards>
- Sign in to your existing King Soopers loyalty account (if you've never set one up before you'll need to create one.. We can help you do this at a Troop 66 meeting. Just bring in your King Sooper Card)
- In the upper left corner, there is a drop-down menu titled "**Save**" then select "**King Soopers Community Rewards**" from the Save drop-down menu
- Click on the words "**Enroll Now**" in the middle of the page
- In the "**Find an Organization**" field search for "**Boy Scout Troop 66 –Longmont, Colorado**" or Organization "**XR517**" (which is our organization's code in the system)
- Click on the **Enroll button** within the box for our organization
- You will get confirmation that you successfully enrolled in the Community Rewards Program. **That's it!**

· Sign out of your account... (Troop 66 does NOT have access to this account or any personal information).

· **Questions? Contact: Scott Francis, Troop 66 Treasurer, (720) 936-1128 or 07consultingcolo@gmail.com**

TROOP CALENDAR:

For the current status of all upcoming meetings and troop activities, please go to our Troop Calendar on the bottom of the homepage of our Troop Website: <https://bsa66.weebly.com/>

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Yours in Scouting,

Tony Martinez
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