

Troop 286 Committee Meeting

Monday, Dec. 3, 2012, 7:30 PM

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ken-Ton Sleep Out is Friday, February 1st- Saturday Feb. 2. This is a Community project to help raise funds, clothes and awareness for homelessness and those in need.

Keith Roseboro has agreed to be the Service Chair. He will help to coordinate the Sleep-Out and other Troop service projects, such as a clothing drive (tentatively planned for late winter/early spring).

There are some extra wicking shirts available- (approximately 8). These shirts will be made available for Scouts to purchase at cost if they sold at least \$400 in popcorn sales; Scouts who didn't sell this amount can purchase a shirt for \$20.

Youth Protection Training was completed.

Wood Badge Training will be held at both Scouthaven (5/31, 6/1& 6/2) and Stonehaven (6/28-30). Cost is \$250. John Kerwin will be one of the instructors. Looking to have at least 1-2 more people from our Troop trained. Need to be current in your training (youth training and challenge) to be eligible.

Scoutmaster's Report

Treasurer's Report

Mil-Sher out meeting was cancelled, budgeted \$ was moved to February's column. Initial popcorn earnings have been placed in Scout accounts.

Maureen needs a current roster of everyone she should be collecting dues from. Jason will give this to her.

No one has turned in receipts for ILST- Youth Leader Training at Stonehaven in October. There was a credit for a cabin, perhaps this was used? Maureen will look into this.

Budget question- where to track Boy's Life subscription money-listed under registration and dues.

Quartermaster's Report – no report on other patrol boxes

Program Report

- Lasertron Lockin, 12/8 (evening of 12/7) Scouts should be there at 1:00, with pick up Saturday morning no later than 7:30. Play time is 1:30-7:30, cost is \$40. Approximately 69-74 participants. Scouts are allowed to bring desserts to share.
- Klondike Derby , 1/18-20
- No Sledding Campout , 2/8-10
- Deep Fried, 3/8-10
- Gettysburg, 4/4-7 , cost is \$160. Trip brochure is available.
- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's on Sunday, December 16th. Applebee's requires a minimum of \$75 to participate. Polly brought up the issue of leaving a tip for the Applebee's staff? Committee members that

have participated in these in the past will check with other groups. Where would the tip \$ come from? It was suggested that \$20 / staff- money can be taken from the Troop treasury.

Training

Other Committee Member Reports

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Clothing Drive for Brighton Church – more information to follow
- Publicity- Linda Sternin will take over. Any suggestions for news contacts, or items to be put into the media, can be passed to her.

NEW BUSINESS

Chartering Dinner on February 25th. Phil Yarnes will continue to be the “head caterer”. Final head count needs to be in by February 4th. We will continue to have a Roast Beef dinner. 2 patrols will be in charge of set up and 2 patrols will be in charge of clean- up. Parents of these scouts need to be alerted with specific duties listed and that all of these scouts are expected to help. January - start to push publicity and encourage sign up.

Continue to work on By-Laws-

“Active Scout”- is defined by participating in 50% of meetings and 50% of other Troop activities.

-service projects, campouts, hikes, showing scout spirit,

Discussion will continue next month-

John made a suggestion to look at attendance records- get some data for times when attendance is low or there is a lack of activity.

John- concerns with Boards of Review, boys are not prepared. The “bar is too low”, need to get some kind of quality check for their requirements, that they have completed the requirements to a satisfactory level before the BOR. This has happened often with tenderfoot, especially with boys coming from summer camp. We need to have some checks and balances to make sure they know these requirements. We have a responsibility to make sure that they have mastered these skills. The older boys can help the younger boys, adults can help the older boys to monitor.

At ILST- boys were given a survey. Results are in. They also completed a “Start-Stop-Continue”. John will look at info and share with us at the next meeting after he reviews it with the PLC next week.

Candy Bars- Eric B sold 4 cases. If any scout wants to sell candy bars- there are 4 cases available.

BY-LAWS - Adult Leader active participation standards DRAFT – By-laws

Adult Leaders-

Committee Members should have the opportunity to fill different positions. Committee Members will be limited to 3 years in any position. A Committee Member may remain in a position longer than 3 years if no qualified Committee Member is available to fill the position.

Assistant Scoutmasters taking a committee position will have a vote on the committee.

The Scoutmaster, being in charge of the program, will have a vote on the committee.

In order for adult leaders to have their BSA Membership Dues paid by Troop 286 they must meet the following:

- Committee Members must attend two committee meetings per year and participate in two boards of review or help with one activity per year;
- Scoutmasters must attend two troop meetings and help with two activities per year.
- Adult leaders have 2 years from being registered with the troop to become fully trained per BSA standards for their position.
- Adult leaders not meeting these requirements will be expected to pay the BSA dues themselves.
- Exceptions can be made by committee approval

Since we are preparing young people to make a positive difference in society, we judge that a member is “active” when his level of activity in Scouting has had a sufficiently positive influence toward this end.

4.2.3.1 Active Participation

The purpose of Star, Life, and Eagle Scout requirements calling for Scouts to be active for a period of months involves *impact*. Since we prepare young people to go forth, and essentially, make a positive difference in our American society, we judge that a member is “active” when his level of activity in Scouting, whether high or minimal, has had a sufficiently positive influence toward this end.

Use the following three sequential tests to determine whether the requirement has been met. The first and second are required, along with either the third or *its alternative*.

- 1. The Scout is registered.** The youth is registered in his unit for at least the time period indicated in the requirement, and he has indicated in some way, through word or action, that he considers himself a member. If a boy was supposed to have been registered, but for whatever reason was not, discuss with the local council registrar the possibility of back-registering him.
- 2. The Scout is in good standing.** A Scout is considered in “good standing” with his unit as long as he has not been dismissed for disciplinary reasons. He must also be in good standing with the local council and the Boy Scouts of America. (In the rare case he is not, communications will have been delivered.)
- 3. The Scout meets the unit’s reasonable expectations; or, if not, a lesser level of activity is explained.** If, for the time period required, a Scout or qualifying Venturer or Sea Scout meets those aspects of his unit’s pre-established expectations that refer to a level of activity, then he is considered active and the requirement is met. Time counted as “active” need not be consecutive. A boy may piece together any times he *has* been active and still qualify.

Units are free to establish additional expectations on uniforming, supplies for outings, payment of dues, parental involvement, etc., but these and any other standards extraneous to a level of activity shall not be considered in evaluating this requirement.

Alternative to the third test if expectations are not met:

If a young man has fallen below his unit’s activity-oriented expectations, then it must be due to other positive endeavors— in or out of Scouting—or to noteworthy circumstances that have prevented a higher level of participation (see below). In this case a Scout is considered “active” if a board of review can agree that Scouting values have already taken hold and been exhibited. This might be evidenced, for example, in how he lives his life and relates to others in his community, at school, in his religious life, or in Scouting. It is also acceptable to consider and “count” positive activities outside Scouting when they, too, contribute to his growth in character, citizenship, or personal fitness. Remember; it is not so much about what a Scout has done. It is about what he is *able* to do and how he has grown.

There may be, of course, registered youth who appear to have zero level of activity. Maybe they are out of the country on an exchange program, or away at school. Or maybe we just haven’t seen them and wonder if they’ve quit. To pass the first test above, a Scout must be registered. But he must also have made it clear through outright participation or by communicating in some way that he still considers himself a member, even though—for now—he may not meet full expectations. A conscientious leader might make a call and discover the boy’s intentions.

If however, a Scout has been asked to leave his unit due to behavioral issues or the like, or if the council or the Boy Scouts of America has directed—for whatever reason—that he may not participate, then according to the second test he is not considered “active.”

In considering the third test, it is appropriate for units to set reasonable expectations for attendance and participation. Then it is simple: Those who meet them are “active.” But those who do not must be given the opportunity to qualify under the third-test alternative above. To do so, they must first offer an acceptable explanation. Certainly, there are medical, educational, family, and other issues that for practical purposes prevent higher levels of participation. These *must* be considered. Would the Scout have been more active if he *could* have been? If so, for purposes of advancement, he is deemed “active.”

We must also recognize the many worthwhile opportunities beyond Scouting. Taking advantage of these opportunities and participating in them may be used to explain why *unit* participation falls short. Examples might include involvement in religious activities, school, sports, or clubs that also develop character, citizenship, or personal fitness. The additional learning and growth experiences these provide can reinforce the lessons of Scouting and also give young men the opportunity to put them into practice in a different setting.

It is reasonable to accept that competition for a Scout's time will become intense, especially as he grows older and wants to take advantage of positive "outside" opportunities. This can make full-time dedication to his unit difficult to balance. A fair leader therefore, will seek ways to empower a young man to plan his growth opportunities both within and outside Scouting, and consider them part of the overall positive life experience for which the Boy Scouts of America is a driving force.

A board of review can accept an explanation if it can be reasonably sure there have been sufficient influences in the Scout's life that he is meeting our aims and can be awarded the rank regardless of his current or most recent level of activity *in Scouting*. The board members must satisfy themselves that he presents himself, and behaves, according to the expectations of the rank for which he is a candidate. Simply put: Is he the sort of person who, based on present behavior, will contribute to the Boy Scouts of America's mission? Note that it may be more difficult, though not impossible, for a younger member to pass through the third-test alternative than for one more experienced in our lessons.

4.2.3.2 Demonstrate Scout Spirit

The ideals of the Boy Scouts of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. Members incorporating these ideals into their daily lives at home, at school, in their religious life, and in their neighborhoods, for example, are said to have *Scout spirit*. In evaluating whether a member has fulfilled this requirement, it may be best to begin by asking him to explain what Scout spirit and living the Scout Oath and Scout Law mean to him. Young people know when they are being kind or helpful, or a good friend to others. They know when they are cheerful, or trustworthy, or reverent. All of us, young and old, know how we act when no one else is around.

A leader typically asks for examples of how a Scout has lived the Oath and Law. It might also be useful to invite examples of when he did not. This is not something to push, but it can help with the realization that sometimes we fail to live by our ideals, and that we *all* can do

better. This also sends a message that a Scout can admit he has done wrong, yet still advance. Or in a serious situation—such as alcohol or illegal drug use—understand why advancement might not be appropriate just now. This is a sensitive issue, and must be treated carefully. Most Scout leaders do their best to live by the Oath and Law, but any one of them may look back on years past and wish that, at times, they had acted differently. We learn from these experiences and improve and grow. We can look for the same in our youth.

Evaluating Scout spirit will always be a judgment call, but through getting to know a young man and by asking probing questions, we can get a feel for it. We can say however, that we do not measure Scout spirit by counting meetings and outings attended. It is indicated, instead, by the way he lives his life.

4.2.3.3 Service Projects

Basic to the lessons in Scouting, especially regarding citizenship, service projects are a key element in the Journey to Excellence recognition program for councils, districts, and units. They should be a regular and critical part of the program in every pack, troop, team, crew, and ship.

Service projects required for Second Class, Star, and Life ranks may be conducted individually or through participation in patrol or troop efforts. They also may be approved for those assisting on Eagle Scout projects. Second Class requires a minimum of one hour on an approved project. An approval is important because it calls on a boy to think about what might be accepted, and to be prepared to discuss it. It is up to the unit to determine how this is done. In many troops, it is the Scoutmaster's prerogative.

Star and Life ranks require at least six hours of service on a Scoutmaster preapproved project. Time spent on Eagle Scout service projects should be allowed in meeting these requirements. Note that Eagle projects do not have a minimum time requirement, but call for planning and development, and leadership of others, and must be preapproved by the council or district. (See "The Eagle Scout Service Project," 9.0.2.0.)

4.2.3.4 Positions of Responsibility

"Serve actively for a period of ... months in one or more ... positions of responsibility" is an accomplishment every candidate for Star, Life, or Eagle must achieve. The following will help to determine whether a Scout has fulfilled the requirement.