BSA Troop 84 Newsletter

Next Parent Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 7:20pm at COV

Upcoming Events

January
24 Biannual Planning meeting (earlier meeting time, includes pizza dinner)
28 L.E.A.D. Adult Training
31 Board of Review

February
7 PLC/POR/ASM mtg
10-12 Camp Herms
14 Trailhead Tuesday
21 Board of Review
24 Pack 814 Crossover
25 Ski Trip
28 Troop Meeting

Summer Camps

Committee Chair Report – Jeannie Ornowski

MEMBERSHIP: We re-chartered 82 scouts and 16 ASM, and estimate 25 incoming Webelos. Five scouts will age out this year. For 2017, our Troop will welcome new scouts only during two pre-defined times: Spring and Fall, when school year begins.

CALENDAR: Biannual planning meeting is next week. (A)SM and lead Scouts decided that this meeting will extend planning session to cover 9 months out, instead of 3 to 6 months. This allows for more advance planning, more lead time to review cost considerations, identify lead ASM and lead Scout for each planned event, add event dates to Troop calendar, secure reservations, etc. Note that there may be a delay of at least one month following the biannual planning meeting, before lead ASM and lead Scouts are assigned.

Treasurer’s Report (Julie Reith)

Dues for 2017 brought in $6,138.08 leaving us with a Checking Balance of $24,030.14. We continue closing out activities for 2016.

General goal is to break even for outings. We use mistletoe revenue for bigger equipment purchases (e.g., 2016 purchases included equipment needed for bigger outings such as 50-milers).

Youth Protection Training (Nina)

Each Scout should have at least one parent with updated Youth Protection Training (YPT). Currently, only 50% of Scouts have at least one parent with current YPT on file. If you haven’t already, please take 20 minutes to do YPT training and notify Nina upon completion. When ASM and Lead Scouts are planning drivers, they have to verify that parent volunteers are up to date on their YPT. It’s good training, quick to complete, and is valid for 2 years.

Lead Scout / Lead Parent Guide (David Barnes)

We have a new Lead Scout-Lead Parent Guide! To help our Scouts succeed in planning and event execution, we are excited to introduce the new Parent Lead role. The new guide is a chronological planner and checklist that includes everything the Lead Scout needs to do, 3 to 6 months prior to event date. Reminder that events are boy-led! Lead ASM helps the Lead Scout with how to plan a successful activity. Lead ASM also performs behind the scenes tasks such as collecting money and verifying YPT. The Lead Parent will help their Lead Scout with actual follow through on all event planning tasks, without doing the actual work. For example, event coordination tasks include need for the Lead Scout to check their email for troop...
responses to event invitations, collect permission slips, request drivers and chaperones, etc. The Lead Parent’s role is to help ensure that their Lead Scout is following through on all these tasks.

The intent of the new guide is to help our Scouts strengthen and grow their event planning and coordination skills. How cool is that!

**Parent Information Night: Grub Master Training**

Calling all parents! Learn how to be a good Grub Master! Parent training will be provided on **Tuesday, January 24, 7:30-8:30pm**. At every rank, Scouts need to do some type of meal planning or cooking requirements for advancement, and this involves being a Grub Master 4 to 6 times. Be sure to talk to your Scout about what they are signing up for!

**Special Needs Questionnaire and Plan**

One goal for 2017 is to better support our Scouts with special needs such as dyslexia, ADD, autism. To help us do this, next step of our plan is to invite new and existing parents to complete a questionnaire. We will retain individual confidentiality by collating all responses. ASMs then can review the collective data to better understand and support all of our Scouts. Completed questionnaires can be submitted to Jeannie, Tom, ASM, or anyone you prefer.

**Backpacking Trips** (Scott Perkins)

Two **50-Miler trips** are planned to accommodate beginner and advanced levels.

1. **Intro Level: Mt. Lassen July 16-22** is perfect for the first or second time backpacker to explore wilderness of Lassen Volcanic National Park. The entire trip is designed in a figure-8 that begins, resupplies and ends at the Summit ranger station so you only have to carry half of the trek food and fuel and half of the trek garbage for each half of trek. Except for the Cinder Cone hike, each daily trek never climbs more than 600 feet or drops more than 700 feet in one day. We stay in a narrow elevation band between 6000 feet and 7200 feet. Daily mileage is 4 to 8 miles so daily hikes are very doable. **Minimum Requirements:** a 2nd Class Scout by Jun 30, 2017, Scoutmaster Conference complete. Complete at least one 10-mile hike with troop in April, May or June. Complete one “Intro to Backpacking” trek and pack out. Complete at least 50% of the Monday-Thursday evening hikes that start in April 6:45pm. **Cost:** is approximately $180 per Scout and free for Adults. $100 deposit is due by May 9, balance by Jun 13.

2. **Advanced Level: Kaweah Gap Jul 29-August 5** is the high adventure trek for experienced backpackers. Not for beginners or faint of heart. Days are longer than the Lassen trek, covering up to 7-10 miles and 2500 ft elevation climbs per day. Climb two passes, Kaweah Gap and Black Rock Pass at elevations 10700 ft and 11600 ft, respectively. Guaranteed to excite and thrill even the most experienced backpacker. **Minimum Requirements:** Must be 1st class by June 30, 2017, SM Conference complete. Completed at least one 50-miler, and one 10-mile hike with troop. Attend mandatory pack out night, one week before trip. Complete at least 50% of the Monday-Thursday evening hikes. Must have Trek leader’s concurrence that he is qualified for such a large trip. Exception for 50-Miler requirement: Must be Star Scout, completed Intro to Backpacking plus TWO 10-mile hikes with troop, and secured leader’s concurrence. This high adventure trek is more mental than physical. **Cost:** approximately $180 for Scouts and free for adults. $100 deposit is due by May 9, balance by June 13.

**Do you need help with backpacking equipment?** Mr. Perkins is retired and would love to talk with or even accompany anyone needing help to select or purchase equipment. REI is best outfitter in region for backpacking equipment. **Four critical purchases are good boots, backpack, sleeping bag, rain gear.** Watch the Big 5 ads for sales. For affordable boots, HiTek brand works well but may not last two 50-milers. Balance weight versus warmth when selecting sleeping bag. A good poncho will cost at least $25. **Equipment Training** will be offered in an upcoming Parent Information Night, so stay tuned.

**Camp Herms, Merit Badge Weekend**

Camp Herms takes place in El Cerrito, February 10-12. Thanks to David Barnes for lining up merit badge offerings and counselors for this event! Webelos and parents stay for dinner Saturday night. Hospitality includes our Scout parents who prepare meals for Saturday night, Sunday morning using kitchen in lodge. It’s a fun camp weekend with a cracker barrel, skits, ASM skits, Sunday morning breakfast, hanging out. Some parents choose to spend the night and sleep in their cars. **Contact Jeannie by Tue., Jan. 31** if you want to have fun with Camp
Herms Hospitality Volunteers. They would love your help and company!

**Summer Camps**

Signups are early, by Feb/Mar. Cost is approximately $400/camp. More info to come.

**Camp Lassen** (June 17-24), in Forest Ranch, CA: Drive up Saturday, camp at Lassen that night. Travel Sunday up to Lassen Volcanic park, depending on snow level. Lots of unique elements such as metalworking, welding, ATV training, and COPE ropes course to build confidence in team building. Camp is relatively compact (0.75 by 1.25 mile wide). Good meal service! Great time! Note that some elements have minimum age requirements, such as age 14 for COPE, metalworking, welding.

**Camp Mensinger** (July 2-8), in Strawberry, CA: If your Scout loves anything aquatic, they will love this camp! It is unique, has 3 pools. Merit badges include Swimming, Lifesaving, and typical ones for Camping, Cooking. There is canoeing, rowing, motor boating, and sailing.

**Camp Sea Base** (June 19-26) is a true high adventure camp. Must be age 14, 1st class. Includes sailing, scuba diving. Limited to two groups of 8, half are adults. More to come.

**Advance Chair Committee** – T. Medlin, A. Calderon, A.Rettig

Next Board of Review (BOR) for rank advancement is Jan. 24 and Feb. 21. **Scout** must schedule appointment with Terry at tamedlin@aol.com.

Thanks for reading!