BSA Troop 84 Newsletter

Next Parent Meeting is
Tue Nov 14, 7:15pm CoV

Upcoming Events

October
2 PLC / POR / ASM mtg
6 Camping/Conservatn
10 Troop meeting
14 Swim Day
17 Troop meeting
21 20-Mile Hike
24 Troop meeting
27-29 Pinnacles Camping
28 Church Cleanup
31 No troop meeting

November
4 Scouting for Food flyer distribution
4 Alcatraz (Leadership Corps)
11 Scouting for Food collection
13 Flag Retirement Ceremony

Scoutmaster Corner – Tom Azzopardi

The 2018 Troop Calendar draft is ready! Start penciling dates into your family calendar.

Strong Communication is a key skill to grow our Scouts’ leadership ability and confidence. Scouts, please take responsibility for reading and responding to emails. Parents can support their Scout by following the general guidance: “Don’t do anything that your Scout can do for themselves.” To that end, Scouts, you are in the driver’s seat for the upcoming Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review. You can contact Mr. Azzopardi and Mrs. Medlin directly for these; do not rely on your parents to do this for you. Gmail is a good option for creating a new email account if you don’t already have one.

Committee Chair Report – Jeannie Ornowski

Merit Badge (MB) process improvements: we experienced issues during summer camp, where merit badges (MB) were prematurely signed off without verifying each skill or knowledge requirement. The Scouts lose out when this happens, since some MBs are directly related to a Scout’s ability to complete their Eagle award. To prevent recurrence of these issues, we will implement changes. 1) For Eagle-required MBs that were signed off prematurely, Tom/Jeannie/Chris will work directly with impacted Scouts and their parents; 2) Going forward, for Eagle Scout-required MBs, Scouts must submit both the blue card and respective MB worksheet. 3) For upcoming MB events, Scott Perkins will proactively identify MB skills that cannot be completed so Scouts can plan accordingly; 4) we will revise the MB rotation for in-house MB offerings. For the latter, we need your help! Please consider volunteering as a Merit Badge Counselor. It’s easy to volunteer if you have a passion or interest or career that you can share with our Scout community.

New Troop Software: We will soon roll out new web-based software to manage our Troop information (e.g., calendar, roster, communications, etc.) Stay tuned!

Re-chartering: It’s time to renew our charter. Dues for 2018 are $120 for 1st Scout, $110 for 2nd Scout. More details will come in early November.

Budget: Our troop remains financially sound with a solid reserve. We have two primary sources of revenue: 1) Troop annual dues and 2) Mistletoe fundraiser. Our goal remains the same for 2018: keep a minimum reserve to cover troop equipment/supplies, subsidies for troop activities, emergencies and miscellaneous needs. Anyone is welcome to review troop finances/budget; contact Julie Rieth for details.

Miscellaneous purchases: 1) Our troop is large! We need a better way to learn who is who, so we will purchase nametags for our ASMs and Leadership Corp Scouts. 2) We are exploring troop fleece jackets for our adults, ASM, and Scouts. Contact Jeannie ASAP if you can help.
13 Webelos Recruiting
19-21 Backpacking Trek
23 Feed the Homeless

December
1 Mistletoe harvest
1 Mistletoe bagging
2-3 Mistletoe Sales
9-10 Mistletoe Sales

...and more in Calendar

research jacket options and prices. 3) We’d like to facilitate purchase of optional Parent BSA Ribbons to display parent pins (that come with merit badges) and wear to Courts of Honor, etc. Stay tuned for more details.

Hold the Date! Mistletoe Fundraiser – December 1

Mark your calendars for our annual fundraising event. We cut mistletoe, assemble bags, and accept donations beginning in December. As our only fundraiser, it’s mandatory.

Dec 1: Mistletoe Harvest and Family Bagging Night

- Parents cut mistletoe Friday morning
- Scouts and families assemble bags that Friday evening
- Will there be food? Absolutely. Is family invited? Yup!

Dec 2-3, Dec 9-10: Mistletoe Booth Sales #1, 2 (and #3 on Dec. 16-17, if needed).

- Mandatory Shifts: 2 shifts per Scout + 1 Parent shift (adult supervision required)
- We’ll send more details and booth signup sheets later

Equipment Information – next Tuesday, Oct 17

Welcome to our 4 new Scouts! Anyone is welcome to join us next week at the Parent Information meeting to learn about equipment. Discussion will focus on car camping but will also touch on backpacking equipment.

That’s it for October. Thanks for reading!