TROOP84
NEWSLETTER
October 2007

Committee Chair Update – Kim Lonie (for John Hager)

Eagle projects – There are several Eagle projects (Cody and others) coming up in the next few months. These are great opportunities for your Scout to help a fellow Scout and also earn service hours. Keep an eye out for emails.

Webelos Recruitment – This time of year Troop 84 organizes recruitment activities for the Webelos. Mark Slauson, Ed Bueché, and Mark Drisko are heading up the effort.

Friends of Scouting Contribution – Mark Drisko reported that in 2007, families from Troop 84 contributed 21% more to Friends of Scouting than in 2006. 2006 contributions were 20% more than in 2005. 2005 contributions were 19% more than in 2004. Thanks to everyone who made a donation to this worthwhile cause!

Scout Dues – Troop 84 will begin collecting the annual dues next month. There is no change in the fees from last year. The cost is $100 per Scout, with a $5 discount for a second Scout in the same family. Dues for Eagle Scouts are $15. A subscription to Boys Life magazine is an additional $11. Checks should be made out to Troop 84 and given to Kim Lonie.

Securing of Troop Data – At the parent meeting on October 9th, Ken Tatum presented his recommendations on steps to take to secure Troop 84’s personal and financial data on the internet and ways to maintain an up-to-date email list. His recommendations included:

- Password protecting Troop 84’s roster and any financial reports when emailed on the internet. Parents will receive the password when they pay their dues each year.
- Setting up a hidden link on Troop 84’s website that allows access to the roster.
- Providing an “opt-out” option for parents who still choose not to have their contact information on the troop roster. Hard copies will be made available from time to time.
- Using Yahoo Groups for Troop 84’s email list. Parents will be responsible for joining the group and keeping their email information current. One adult will serve as the Group moderator and approve all new group members. The parents present at the meeting unanimously approved proceeding with the first three security measures above, pending Mark Vicars’ concurrence. Ken agreed to come back to the group at the November parent meeting with a final presentation on the use of Yahoo groups for Troop 84’s email distribution list. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Ken Tatum directly.

Treasurer’s Report (as of Sept. 30th 2007) – Rick Martin

Past Events

Overnight and White-water Rafting Trip (Sept 23) – Dave Dawson led a group of 12 on a one-day rafting trip on the American River. Everyone had a great time.

Semi-Annual Planning Meeting (Oct 6) – Troop 84 held its 6-month planning meeting on Sat. Oct 6th. Visit Troop 84’s website for a complete list of the troop’s upcoming activities.

Troop 84/Family Bike Ride (Oct. 21) – Three Scouts and four adults had fun riding to Alamo and back, covering 16 miles.

Upcoming Activities

Webelos Night & Mad Science Fair (Oct. 30) – Troop 84 will host local Webelos II dens on Tues. Oct. 30th and will be entertained by the Mad Science Professional Group performing experiments. Thanks to Mark Slauson for organizing the effort. Scouts must wear their Scout shirt, neckerchief and slider.

Scouting for Food (Nov. 10 & 17) – For two Saturday mornings in November, Troop 84 assists with collection of food for two food banks in the area. Scouts are needed for several hours on both Sat. mornings. It’s a great opportunity to help those in need and earn service hours. Please mark your calendars.

Mistletoe Sales (Dec 8-9 & 15-16) – Once again, Troop 84 will be selling mistletoe in December at the neighborhood grocery stores. All Scouts and their parents are expected to help with bagging of the mistletoe on Sat. Dec. 8th morning. All Scouts need to sign up to sell mistletoe for two sessions during the two weekend selling period. This is Troop 84’s only fundraiser and with nearly everyone’s help last year the troop made over $2,500. Thank you Mark Slanec and Ed Bueché for agreeing to take on the leadership of this important activity.

Merit Badges

Personal Fitness (Martin/Dawson) – Open to all Scouts. Eagle-required badge. Starts in Nov. See recent emails. NEW!

Citizenship in the Nation (Drisko) – Open to all 8th grade Scouts. Eagle-required badge. Starts in Dec. More details soon. NEW!

Reading (Houston) – Scouts are still encouraged to sign up.

Scholarship (Houston) – Still open to all Scouts.

Environmental Science (Dani) – Underway.

Woodworking (Dawson) – Open to Scouts in 9th grade & above.

Key Dates for Upcoming Events (www.troop84bsa.org)

Oct
27-28 Cody’s Eagle Scout project
30 Webelos Night – Mad Science Fair (COV)

Nov
3 10-mile Hike (Mt. Diablo) (Tentative)
10&17 Scouting for Food

Dec
8-9 Mistletoe Sales
5-16 Mistletoe Sales

Jan
25-27 Merit Badge Weekend (Camp Herms)

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