

Notes from Northern Lights District Meeting, October 3, 2006

OPENING -

Operating Principles and Expectations - Scout Oath and Law

We must live by the ideals we are trying to teach the youth we serve.

Thanks to all who helped make Camporee a success!

Amended Dist Committee Member list approved.

List of tasks/discussion points for Committees were distributed and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACTIVITIES

Camporee was successful thanks to numerous volunteers. Many many thanks!

Pre-registering troops helped the planning process. 160 of 230 boys pre-registered.

Want to flatten the process to make it easier for chairs to recruit and delegate. Want to involve youth more in planning.

Dist Dinner Chair is Callista Abide.

Klondike Chair is Joe Sears.

We need to empower our committees just as the Scoutmasters empower the youth to run their programs.

ADVANCEMENT -

New Merit Badge Counselor List requires new applications - both Merit Badge Counselor and Adult Leader. Any Scout who earns a merit badge signed by a "Counselor" not registered with the Council may not have that badge awarded, and he would need to repeat the activities with a registered counselor.

Advancement Seminar in Sept had 15 participants.

Eagle Preview - Oct 17, LDS Stake on Douglas Drive

District Award of Merit - Nominate using old forms for now. Council has not distributed a new form that is in the works.

MB Madness is working on securing a location before date can be announced.

First Class Adventure is also in the works.

Want names, addresses of all Unit Advancement Chair persons so that the Committee can keep them better informed.

CAMPING -

Want to promote winter camping opportunities both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

This past year 252 Day Campers from 21 different packs. Rave reviews. People already wanting to plan next year's vacation around Day Camp 2007.

Council may consider more District level Day Camps, to be more local to participants.

From our experience that is highly recommended.

FINANCE -

District is putting into place a Finance Chair position.

Chris Gunn will be Family FOS chair once again.

Popcorn sale is off and running. Information should be received by scouts this week.

“Million Dollar Day” for Scouting - Wed, Dec 6. Either.....

Breakfast at Crown Plaza Riverfront St. Paul at 7:30 AM. Larry Sessions, former person in Reagan Administration, will be the guest speaker, and will speak on his son’s Scouting experiences. It should prove to be entertaining!

...or

Dinner at City Center Marriott, 5:30 PM Dinner

MEMBERSHIP -

Overall the numbers are down even though some surpassed last year’s recruitment.

As you conduct your programs and activities, BE PREPARED by having information and applications with you at all times so we can immediately accommodate potential new members.

TRAINING -

Working on getting qualified Pack Trainers.

Need to identify why people DO or DO NOT attend training.

Iterate an expectation of training for new leaders and leaders changing positions.

New Leader Essentials - Oct 5 RoundTable

Trainer Development Conference - Oct 7th - West Council Office

Cub Leader Specific - Oct 10 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Boy Scout Leader Specific Outdoor Weekend will be Oct. 21-22

Webelos Leader Outdoor Training - Oct 21

Pow Wow - University of Scouting - Oct 28 - Park Center High School

College of Commissioner Science - Dec 2

Woodbadge

Winter Course = Feb 16-18 and March 9-11

Spring Course = April 20-22 and May 18-20

Round Table - First Thursday of every month. The staff will attempt better control of “announcements”. Each person will have a maximum of three minutes, with a maximum time allowance of 15 minutes for announcements as a whole.

To be on the schedule or to have someone else make your announcement, contact Bob B at: 763-535-3655.

Social time is 7:00 to 7:30. We respectfully request members moving to the Boy Scout Breakout to do it quickly.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS -

To earn Quality District Award the Commissioners must be interactive with their units.

They must visit each Pack, Troop or Crew meeting at least once.

DISTRICT CHAIR COMMENTS -

Previously suggested idea of changing District name has met with little interest. In addition, The Council frowns on it primarily due to the myriad of paperwork both locally and nationally that would be involved.

Another previously suggested idea of changing the location of the District Meetings is still under investigation.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE WORKSHOP = Saturday, Jan 20

Review responsibilities, long range planning. Be trained in the position we are currently in.

Check out this mapping project with respect to unit meeting locations and times:
www.frappier.com/northernlightsdistrict. George would like feedback.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

2007 will see the start of a transition from the Quality Unit Award to the Centennial Award. Each unit will set their own goals, which will be rolled into our District goal. Units will work with their Unit Commissioner on setting these goals.

Fall Recruitment saw 275 new Cubs recruited. That is more than the two previous years combined...AWESOME!! At the same time, we have identified areas for improvement for next year.

Overall, however, we have roughly 400 fewer Cub Scouts than last year. That is an alarming 25%.

We are down 5 packs, 5 troops and 2 crews fewer than last year.

We only transitioned 50% of our Webelos into Boy Scouts.

If you know who to contact at any school regarding recruitment, please get that information to George.

Calendar planning for 2007-2008 will be in November so that calendar is complete and to the Council by December.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE is a place where Scouts and Scout Leaders can get experienced Scout uniforms for a nominal cost. It is held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:30 at the West Council office.

The Uniform Exchange is desperately in need of uniforms! If you know anyone – youth or adult - that has outgrown their uniform or has left the program and would be willing to donate their no longer needed uniform, please contact the Uniform Exchange Coordinator Ellen Legler at 612-203-4971.

NEXT MEETING – October 31. NOTE TIME CHANGE: 8:00 PM start. We will keep the meeting to one hour and end at 9:00.