

Troop Committee**Agenda – April 15, 2010****Opening Comments**

- You won't remember most of what we tell you tonight
- You aren't expected to know or remember everything
- Everything we can think of is on our Website: Troop 81.org
- Don't be afraid to ask us questions. Feel free to stop by the back tables, call or email

Troop Committee Organization and Responsibilities

The troop committee is the troop's board of directors and supports the troop program. Details are on the following pages.

Introduce Troop Committee Members present:

Troop Committee Chairman – Dan Cronin
Treasurer – Jim Simnick
Secretary – Alec Sandy
Outdoor Program Coordinator – Marge Dunning & Beth Schwartz
Advancement Coordinator – Chris Dubbins
Pancake Breakfast Coordinator – Charlie Lupsha
Newsletter Coordinator – Lisa Schweitzer & Sandy Alfaya
Summer Camp Coordinator – Lisa Fosler
Chaplain - Bill O'Brien
Training Coordinator – Chris Dubbins
Equipment Coordinator - Paul Bainbridge
Boards of Review – Marcia Huston
Troop Recharter – Dave Rypka
Merit Badge Coordinator – Tony Wycklendt
Chartered Organization Representative – Terry Moore

Monthly Committee Meetings**Boards of Review****Pancake Breakfast****Friends of Scouting****Troop81.org is the Troop's Website****Troop Newsletter and Email Distribution List****Open Positions****Questions?**

Troop Committee Organization and Responsibilities

The troop committee is the troop's board of directors and supports the troop program. The troop committee does the following:

- a. Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained. In case the Scoutmaster is absent, a qualified Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned. If the Scoutmaster is unable to serve, a replacement is recruited.
 - b. Provides adequate meeting facilities.
 - c. Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization.
 - d. Supports leaders in carrying out the program.
 - e. Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
 - f. Obtains, maintains, and properly cares for troop property.
 - g. Ensures the troop has an outdoor program (minimum 10 days and nights per year).
 - h. Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.
 - i. Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.
 - j. Provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require.
 - k. Helps with the Friends of Scouting campaign.
 - l. Assists the Scoutmaster with handling boy behavioral problems.
2. **Troop Committee Positions:** Committee Positions include the following:
- a. Troop Committee Chairman – Dan Cronin
 - b. Treasurer – Jim Simnick
 - c. Secretary – Alec Sandy
 - d. Outdoor Program Coordinator – Marge Dunning & Beth Schwartz
 - e. Advancement Coordinator – Chris Dubbins
 - f. Pancake Breakfast Coordinator – Charlie Lupsha
 - g. Newsletter Coordinator – Lisa Schweitzer & Sandy Alfaya
 - h. Summer Camp Coordinator – Lisa Fosler
 - i. Chaplain - Bill O'Brien
 - j. Training Coordinator – Chris Dubbins
 - k. Equipment Coordinator - Paul Bainbridge
 - l. Boards of Review – Marcia Huston
 - m. Troop Recharter – Dave Rypka
 - n. Merit Badge coordinator – Tony Wycklendt
 - o. Chartered Organization Representative – Terry Moore
3. **Other Committee Positions and Subcommittees.** In addition to the Key Committee Positions, the Troop Committee Chairman will seek persons to carry out numerous other tasks.
4. **Committee Meetings.** The Key Committee Officers meet regularly to discuss Troop Business. Meetings are scheduled by the Troop Committee Chairman for the first Sunday of the month at the church. All Troop parents and other adults registered in Troop 81 are encouraged to attend, have a say on troop matters and eat the FREE FOOD! We try to finish the meeting within one hour.
5. **Boards of Review.** It is the responsibility of the Troop Committee and the Advancement Coordinator to arrange timely Boards of Review for Scouts who have completed all of the requirements and Scoutmaster's Conference for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle and Eagle Palms. It is the Scout's responsibility to contact the Advancement Coordinator to arrange for a Board of Review. We need all parents to try to participate in the Board of Review process when needed. Marcia Huston is our Coordinator.

6. Pancake Breakfast

The troop holds one fund raiser each year – our annual Pancake Breakfast. It is a tremendously successful event. The money raised at pancake breakfast is used to purchase scout awards, camping equipment, to re-register scouts and offset a portion of a scout's camping costs (Summer Camp, High Adventure, Camping Equipment). This event is held on a Saturday in November at Naperville North High School.

Scout Expectations

Each Scout is expected to participate in four (4) three-hour selling sessions and work the day of the pancake breakfast. If a scout meets these expectations they will have their registration fee paid for by the troop, receive a percentage of what they sell placed in their scout account, and a flat amount determined by the Troop committee will be placed in their scout account for use toward their summer camp fees, high adventure fees or camping equipment. The amount of ten (10) percent and flat fee is determined by the troop committee and influenced by the financial success of the fundraiser. If a scout does not meet the above expectations they will need to pay their next year's registration fee, which is \$150 and will not receive the flat fee benefit into their scout account.

Parent Expectations

The Pancake Breakfast is Troop 81's only fundraiser. We do require that parents or guardians as well as scouts get involved in this fundraiser. The troop expectation is that a family member participates in one of the planning committees, work the day of the event, as well as transport the scouts in their vehicle during two selling sessions.

We will hold a parent meeting with more details at the late summer Court of Honor.

7. Friends of Scouting

The local council provides many services to make the scouting program possible for our troop. These services include programs, support materials, training, advancement programs, activities, camping facilities, high-adventure opportunities, and personnel readily available to assist in making possible a better program for our troop.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) is a primary source of operating income for the council. Friends are those individuals with an interest in the Boy Scouts of America and a desire to support the program financially. The troop encourages 100% participation in the FOS program.

8. Troop Website

We are covering a lot of information tonight. Most of this information can be found on our troop website. Take a look at it at your leisure: www.troop81.org

9. Troop Newsletter and Email

The troop's primary form of communication is through announcements at the weekly troop meeting. It is your son's responsibility to pay attention during announcements and bring information home to you. Knowing this is not always the way things happen, we have a troop newsletter and email distribution list. We try to provide the information you need in advance of when you need it in the newsletter. For instance, we'll remind you what you need to do for summer camp leading up to summer camp. We use the email distribution list to send urgent information. For instance, we have inclement weather and need to cancel a meeting. We suggest you sign up for the troop email list to keep you informed.

10. Open Positions

Troop 81 is blessed with many volunteers. It is one of the many reasons our troop is successful. As scouts graduate out of the troop, their parents usually take a reduced role in the troop and give up their committee positions. For that reason, we like to have volunteers training as an assistant with the current committee members so they can be ready to take

over at some point in the future. There are many roles available to you. We ask that you consider an assistant position on the committee.

11. Questions?

If you have questions after tonight I am available during most meetings at the round table in the back of the room. Otherwise, you can reach me at home at 630-820-9088.

12. Useful Stuff

Check out these useful links:

WWW.Meritbadge.org – Usually the most current link to Scouting advancement requirements for rank and merit badges. When your scout is ready to work on a merit badge, buy the merit badge book at the scout shop or Chalkboard and then go to this website to print off the Merit Badge Worksheet.

<http://www.threefirescouncil.org/> - We belong to the Three Fires Council of BSA. This site provides information about scouting, location of scout shops and other useful information.

<http://www.indianprairie.org/> - We belong to the Indian Prairie District within the Three fires council of BSA. This site provides information about our District events.

<http://www.chicagobsa.org/> - This is the Chicago Area Council's website. We attend Summer Camp at the Chicago Area Council's Owasippe Scout Reservation. You can find all kinds of useful information about Owasippe on this website.

Gear shopping and web sites:

There is no need to buy everything you think your son will need for his first camp out. It is best to talk to other parents and observe the gear that other scouts and parents are using before making an investment in camping gear. The best gear for your son's scouting needs is not always the newest, lightest or most expensive. There are many troop families who have made significant investments in camping gear who will be happy to loan or sell you what you need.

When purchasing gear, the local sporting goods stores usually have an acceptable assortment of camping gear. Dick's and SportsAuthority have a wide variety of gear and are both local. Department stores such as WalMart, Kmart and Target also carry some camping gear. For specific gear, you should consider Bass Pro Shop – Bollingbrook Commons, Cabela's – Hammond or Hoffman Estates and REI - Oakbrook. All have websites or you can visit their local stores.

For Web shopping check out these sites:

<http://www.campmor.com/> - Typically they have everything. If you join their email list, you might be able to find deals on end of season merchandise, overstocked items, etc.

<http://www.sierratradingpost.com/> - Another good site for gear.