

Troop 652 Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

*** Committee did not meet in June. ***

Meeting Location: St. Basil Parish Rectory

Present: Cristie Snyder, Kevin Snyder, Denise Weisfelder, Craig Moore, Irene Christian, Shawna Melnykowski, Brian Christian, Gail Hallis, Scott Schoeffler, Robb Metyk, Robby Maher, Jerry Blayne, Sal Caruso

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Denise called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652 Parent Committee at 6:35 PM.

II. Reports

Scoutmaster, Boys (Kevin)

- Summer camp review
 - Robb: Twenty-nine boys and several leaders attended Manatoc in June. Scouts earned 78 merit badges during an extremely hot week of camp. Having 11 new scouts that needed a lot of guidance was challenging. While Manatoc is conveniently close to home, with the size of our unit and the number of campers, it was incredibly difficult to manage and track all the troop members leaving camp for alternate activities (i.e., sports) and returning to camp. Better planning is needed for kids who must leave camp. The troops should consider a policy that families and scouts commit to being at camp for the week. Making scout camp a priority for one week should not be an issue when other activities come first for the rest of the year. There was an accident at camp at our campsite which required an ER trip for one of our scouts. Our unit's first responders (two scouts and two leaders) were commendable and did an excellent job with the proper steps for giving First Aid!!
 - Kevin: Camp Merz was in July. Merz is a small, beautiful camp located on Lake Chautauqua in New York and is well-executed. Merz is ideal for watersports. Eleven scouts and four leaders attended Merz. Thanks to Craig, Jerry, and Jane for joining Kevin for the week. Scouts earned 49 merit badges, 3 certificates, 3 polar bear awards, 35 rank achievements, and one partial. Our unit received great reviews from camp staff. It would be a good camp to return to as our scouts get older and can participate in water sports merit badges.
- Thank you to all who helped and participated in the pop & water sale at Brecksville Home Days. We had good volunteer coverage at our troop's primary annual fundraiser.
- In mid-July, 5 scouts and 2 leaders did an overnight backpacking trek through CVNP and the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation. They completed 8 miles along the towpath and Buckeye Trail, staying overnight at a campsite in Brecksville. Thank you to Robby Maher for coordinating.
- We have many, many scouts in the troop (45 boys currently) and need extra adults to help run meetings within a [large troop structure](#). Kevin and Robb to discuss restructuring the unit for ideal operations. There will be an upcoming adult leader planning meeting held jointly for both units in August, date TBD.
- Craig to cover all upcoming campout plans for the boys (see farther down in notes).

Scoutmaster, Girls (Shawna)

- The girls' troop is not holding regular meetings this summer. Scouts have had plenty of opportunities to participate in camping, projects, and activities to stay busy and active in Scouting. The troop will relaunch in the fall with their SPL election.
- Sarah completed her Eagle Project at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Samantha is currently working on her Eagle Project.
- Joanna passed her Eagle Board of Review and is our troop's newest Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Joanna!
- Ten girls attended Manatoc summer camp in June. Two girls attended Beaumont summer camp in July. Two girls and one leader went on the backpacking overnight trip at CVNP/Metroparks.

- The girls' troop had a fundraiser booth with games at Home Days. The booth was more successful than last year's product sales booth.
- Upcoming campouts include Lake Erie Captain Overnight August 17-18 (adult leaders needed to attend) and there is interest in attending the Service at the Beach Campout at Geneva in September.
- Discussion: Holding a possible joint troop Court of Honor with the boys to celebrate achievements at summer camp.

Outdoor/Activities Chair, Boys (Craig)

- There will be a Canoeing Overnight in August, coordinated by Jerry Blayne. Date and details TBA.
- The boys will attend Service at the Beach Campout in Geneva from September 20-22. Registration and cost TBA. The girls' troop has been invited to make it a joint campout.
- In October, the boys will attend the Fall Camporee at Firelands from October 4-6. This is a council event that will feature the Ohio Contractor's Association. Registration and details TBA.
- We'll host the annual Webelos/Arrows Campout at Manatoc or Butler on November 1-3. Note: Pack 652 has a LEGO event on the second weekend of November. As in the past, all area Cub Scout packs will be invited to attend and fulfill their rank requirements.
- Craig has all the medical forms for the boys' troop. Managing forms for 45 scouts plus a dozen leaders is a lot of work.
 - Discussion: how and where to store the forms, a troop lockbox, HIPAA requirements, how to keep track of form expiration dates for each scout, the potential to transition forms to an e-version like CYO uses, do scout leaders need or want physical forms at easy reach in the event of an emergency (i.e., Manatoc summer camp), does BSA require hard copies to be carried by leaders

Secretary (Cristie)

- There were no new youth or adult memberships for the boys in the last month.
- The troop permission form will be updated with a new section for names and phone numbers of individuals allowed to transport scouts to and from the activity. There will also be a section for individuals not allowed to transport. The update is important, especially with troop leaders keeping the medical forms (with the front-page transportation section) for storage.
 - Discussion: the potential to transition the permission form to an e-version, do scout leaders need or want physical forms at easy reach in the event of an emergency (i.e., Manatoc summer camp), investigate www.campdoc.com

Treasurer, Boys (Sal)

- Monthly financial report provided to the committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- The troop trailer's registration tags were recently renewed for three years. Thank you to Kevin and Craig for hustling to get that taken care of.
- The troop scholarship fund has received another corporate match donation for an increased balance.
- Funds raised at the annual pop & water sale were down 20% this year. This is attributed to a much lower number of people attending Home Days due to extreme heat.
- Sal and Craig will discuss campout costs and fees.
- Forward all receipts and finance questions to the treasurer so he can log purchases and answer questions. Send to treasurer@troop652bsa.org

Treasurer, Girls (Gail)

- Monthly financial report provided to the committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- The Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in June was not as profitable this year for the girls' troop. It was helpful to have the Home Days booth to offset the lack of funds raised at the spaghetti dinner.
 - Discussion: pre-sale tickets were much lower this year, attendee feedback about the event, necessary timing of bulletin announcements, more PR needed in the lead-up to the dinner, a separate meeting is needed to discuss the fundraiser in-depth and plans for future spaghetti dinners

Advancement (Brian)

- Joanna made Eagle!
- We had a successful summer camp season
- TJ Manion is a potential successor for Brian in the Advancement Chair role.

Membership & Training (vacant)

- All YPT is up to date for both troops. Many registered leaders retrained in July.
- The Parish Office has requested a list of all Virtus-trained adults in the pack, troops, and crew. Denise compiled and sent a list of Virtus-trained adults with the boys' and girls' troops to Michelle in the office.
- The next Virtus training at St. Basil is scheduled for August 26. Parents are encouraged to attend Virtus training since it's required for any adult who volunteers to work with youth. A registration link is available on the troop website calendar.

Equipment Coordinator (vacant)

- Jim Yoxthemer has expressed interest in being the Equipment Coordinator. This would be for both units.

Fundraising, Boys (Sally and Scott)

- THANK YOU to Sally and Scott for doing an outstanding job coordinating the pop and water sale for many years.
- Janet Sommers will coordinate future pop & water sales.

Fundraising, Girls (no report)

- Discussion during Gail's treasure report.

Service Projects (Jane – no report)

III. Old business

- 652B Campership Program: The boys' troop will institute a scholarship program for troop scouts. Annually, there will be two camperships available for scouts to apply for. One campership will be awarded by the program leaders and one campership will be awarded by the committee. Camperships are intended to award outstanding scouts for their participation in Scouting and to help defray the cost of attending summer camps or high adventure activities. Applications will be created and made available to all troop members. The committee will recruit outside reviewers to read applications and recommend awards. Potential to announce campership awardees at a spring troop Court of Honor before summer camp season. Details will be announced to the troop as they are available.
- 652G Campership Program (The Ella Fund): 652G will adopt an application process for girls' troop members interested in attending high adventure camps.

IV. New business

- BSA announced that, on February 8, 2025, the Boy Scouts of America will rebrand to Scouting America.
- Discussion: Lake Erie Council Heroism Awards
- Lake Erie Council has announced a pilot program beginning this fall to run a combined troop (males and females together instead of separate troops). Since the member numbers of our troop are currently lopsided – 45 boys and 16 girls – we are choosing not to participate in the pilot program. We anticipate that combined troops are the future for BSA/Scouting America.
- Due to the increased size of Pack 652 and their need for all available space, pack leaders have requested that the boys' troop find an alternate location for the monthly PLC meetings. The annex is an option. Robb to investigate options.

V. Announcements

- Pack 652 requests Den Chiefs to assist with the den meetings for Wolves, Bears, Webelos, and Arrows. Troop scouts must be consistently available on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:45 PM.
- Pack 652 intends to invite troop leaders to their Cub Scout parent orientation. The pack leaders' goal is to do the crossover ceremony for Arrows in March.

VI. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM. The next committee meeting is August 21, 2024.

See a full calendar of meetings and activities at www.troop652bsa.org/events

Draft notes submitted by Cristie on July 29, 2024. Reviewed and approved by Denise on July 30, 2024.