

Troop 652 Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: October 2, 2024

*** Committee meeting for September. ***

Meeting Location: St. Basil Parish Center, Classroom 9

Present: Denise Weisfelder, Gail Hallis, Irene Christian, Brian Christian, Craig Moore, Jerry Blayne, Renee Buszta, Kevin Snyder, Cristie Snyder, Jim Yoxtheimer, Jane Mahoney, Sal Caruso

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Denise called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652 Parent Committee at 6:33 PM.

II. Reports

Scoutmaster, Boys (Kevin)

- The boys had a good campout at Geneva State Pak. Six hours of conservation service hours were earned by all campers on Saturday. From Jerry: The boys picked up 5,000 pieces of trash (yes, we counted!). We had one minor issue when a scout popped out a baby tooth on a tent guidewire.
- The 'Tough as Nails' fall camporee is coming up this weekend. The campout will feature construction trades and heavy equipment. Ten scouts and three leaders will attend.
- Troy and Justin set up new patrols for the boys' troop last week. Five new patrols were created. The scouts will name their patrols and choose patrol leaders in the next few weeks.
- Arrow dens from three scout packs (Packs 28, 297, and 652) will visit the troop meeting on October 16.
- We are planning for the November campout. All local Arrow dens and scouts are invited to join us for the weekend.
- Have been doing a lot of scoutmaster conferences and boards of review. Many scouts are taking care of their requirements and advancing. Just a reminder that scouts should be approaching leaders in person or by email with advancement or merit badge requests.

Scoutmaster, Girls (Shawna/Irene)

- The Geneva State Park Campout was great. Four scouts and 3.5 adults attended from the girls' troop.
- The girls held their SPL election. Sheyenne is the new SPL and Greta is ASPL.
- Currently have eleven active scouts in the troop. Scouts have left or moved and others are aging out. The troop needs to do some recruitment to increase membership. There is the potential to have some female Arrow scouts crossover and join 652G.
- We'll hold a troop court of honor on October 16 to celebrate all the girls' achievements. The COH will be held at Independence Elmwood Park Safety Town.
- For an October activity, the troop is scheduled to do Great Trail Council's haunted hayride on October 19. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate.
- December's holiday activity will be Laser Tag at Area 51.
- We will attend the Klondike at Beaumont on January 24-26.

Outdoor/Activities Chair, Boys (Craig)

- For the September campout, the troop paid the council event registration fee for all attendees and campers paid for their food. For the October campout, campers paid their registration fee and the troop covered the food costs.
- The boys troop is tentatively scheduled to do the Klondike at Beaumont on January 24-26.
- We are looking at updating the troop permission slip one more time for parents to approve of any registered leader driving their child to or from a campout or activity. Cristie, Denise, and Craig to review.

Secretary (Cristie)

- There were no new youth or adult memberships for the boys this month.

Treasurer, Boys (Sal)

- Monthly financial report provided to the committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- There is one scout with outstanding dues.
- We were under budget on the last campout and are still working through budget details for upcoming campouts. November will need more money allocated due to the number of attendees for the weekend.
- 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 – no report)

- The girls' troop renewed their trailer tags for one year.
- Girl's dues are paid in full.

Advancement (Brian)

- Transfer of the advancement role to a new person is still pending.
- The girls' next troop COH is October 16 in Independence.
- There have been many advancements for the boys. The committee confirmed that the next troop court of honor will happen on November 6 in the Parish Center at 7:00 PM. The last troop COH was held on November 23, 2023 so we have lots to celebrate! Troop leaders will look into a script and assign roles for the COH.

Membership & Training (Robby – no report)

Equipment Coordinator (Jim – no report)

Fundraising, Boys (Janet – no report)

Fundraising, Girls (no 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.

- A joint planning meeting will be held with all troop leaders (SMs, ASMs) to align both troop calendars.

IV. New business

- Brainstorm: Middle school recruitment ideas, attending open houses and meet the teacher nights
- Discussion: Blending the boys' and girls' troops. The troops have been sharing meeting space for over a year. Can we do more combined activities, campouts, or programs and better sync the two troop calendars? Have the SPLs and ASPLs get together and discuss sharing meeting activities and rank advancements instead of just meeting space. Maybe SPLs and ASPLs can attend each other's PLC meetings.
- Discussion: Creating more awareness about merit badge counselors (MBCs) that are registered with our unit. A parent expressed frustration about not knowing we had MBCs in the troop and could have saved money instead of attending so many MB classes with a fee. Leaders have a list of MBCs they can reference. The list is not a public document. Scouts must speak with a leader about taking a merit badge or finding an MBC. Recommendation to dedicate a troop meeting to introducing all the MBCs and what they are approved to teach. Also, make an announcement and answer questions at an upcoming COH so parents are aware of the MB process too.

V. Announcements

- November 3 – Lake Erie Council has scheduled a Scouting recruitment event for our geographical area (Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Independence, Parma, Seven Hills). The event location is possibly Independence. Details TBA.
- Committee meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Denise will secure a classroom so we don't have to hide in the kitchen or interfere with pack meetings.

VI. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM. The next committee meeting is October 23, 2024.

Due to the holiday calendar, the November/December committee meeting will be held on December 4, 2024.

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

Draft notes submitted by Cristie on October 8, 2024. Reviewed and approved by Denise on October 9, 2024.