

Troop 652 Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 23, 2025

Meeting Location: St. Basil Family Life Center

Present: Denise Weisfelder, Irene Christian, Cristie Snyder, Kevin Snyder, Jerry Blayne, Robb Metyk, Janet Sommers, Sal Caruso

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Denise called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652 Parent Committee at 6:36 PM.

II. Scoutmaster Open Discussion (Irene, Kevin, Robb)

- The girls' troop has July off. They will meet August 6 and August 20 then resume weekly meetings on August 27.
- The girls' troop will participate in the Horsemanship MB on August 23 at Angel Haven Horse Rescue in Grafton.
- Pack 652 will host their annual recruitment night at St. Basil on August 27. It's a 6:00 PM start time. The troops and crew will have tables of join info for older youth at the event. Tell your friends! Troop scouts will be asked to assist.
- Last weekend, Grady completed his Eagle Project at Stearns Homestead. There was a good mix of kids, leaders, and adults for all three days. Kudos to all who provided help.
- The boys' troop newsletter has been redesigned. Everyone should read it – there's lots of good info!
- Discussion: Engaging the different age ranges within the troop to keep them involved. Consideration of troop as three groups: first years, mid-level, and senior patrol. We're in a unique spot in that we have many scouts and we need to determine the best way to maintain interest and engagement for each group. Older scouts want more challenges and activities to keep improving skills they've already learned. Younger scouts are just learning the basics. At last week's troop meeting, troop members generated over 25 ideas of things to do. Program leaders will hold a planning meeting to figure out next steps forward for activities, program vision, and operations.
- Discussion: Pilot program for combined troops is wrapping up. What is the status of the pilot? Denise to contact council to inquire.
- Robb to contact parish rectory about St. Basil hosting a VIRTUS training on parish campus.
- Reminder about the naturalization ceremony scheduled for 10:00 AM on September 9 at BBHS.

Outdoor/Activities Chair, Boys (Craig)

- Boys have made no decisions on upcoming activities. Craig is still waiting for directions on what to research and book for the troop. He needs a few weeks of lead time for some of the campouts and activities!
- Craig did some preliminary research for the August activity. CVNP offers the Ride & Rail program 4 times per day on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$5 per person, paid on the train. Troop leaders have not chosen a date for this activity yet.
- Discussion: Decisions for the boys' troop need to be pushed along a little bit quicker.

Secretary (Cristie)

- Additions or changes to contact information can happen at any time. Parents should send an email to information@troop652bsa.org to make any updates.
- Cristie and Irene to do some list clean-up for GroupMe phone lists, emails lists, and the Facebook Group.

Treasurer (Sal)

- Monthly financial reports for both troops were provided for inclusion with committee notes. Available to all troop members on request.
- Forward all receipts and finance questions to the treasurer so he can log purchases and answer questions. Please indicate what troop it's for. Send to treasurer@troop652bsa.org

Fundraising (Janet, Robby)

- Discussion: How soon can we reserve a date for the next spaghetti dinner? Brainstorm of new options for additional troop fundraisers. Can a fundraiser take place during a large parish event like Fall Fest or Trunk-or-Treat? The group came up with a dunk tank, Kiss a Pig, and Cow Plop.

Advancement (Pennilane)

- All summer camp merit badges have been ordered.
- The Eagle Rank packet for Noah B. has arrived at Lake Erie Council. Grady is wrapping up his Eagle Project. Troy and Justin have begun the planning process for their Eagle Projects.
- To request a board of review or ask questions about advancement, send an email to advancement@troop652bsa.org

Membership & Training (no report)

- Pack 652's annual Open House & Recruitment Event is August 27.
- Youth Protection Training (YPT) has been updated to Safeguarding Youth Training. Safeguarding Youth training is required for all Scouting America registered volunteers and is a joining requirement. Safeguarding Youth training must be taken every year. Pack 652 requires all parents to complete this training.
- Discussion: Parent Lounge during troop meetings. The goal is to create a separate space during troop meetings for scout parents to gather and socialize with each other. Parents will be asked to pick one week to "host" and be responsible for the lounge. Parents can make their week as special as they choose! Snacks, card games, social hour, crafts, whatever. Jerry to coordinate.

Equipment Coordinator (Jim)

- New equipment was purchased by Jim.
- The committee approved the purchase of a new pop-up tent for the girls' troop.

Service Projects (no report)

- Discussion: Service should be four-pronged. Service to the troop, community, country, and world.
- Independence United Methodist Church holds a free community meal on the 3rd Sunday of every month. They are always looking for help with preparing food, serving and cleaning up. You can earn up to 4 hours of service during one meal. See Mrs. Melnykowski for more details.
- Once a month, St. Basil holds Sandwich Saturdays. The next one is August 16 at the Parish Center.
- Stearns Homestead Farm in Parma receives a hay delivery every 8-10 weeks, usually on a Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck and stack the bales in the barn. Stearns also seeks volunteer groups willing to assist with seasonal clean-ups of the homestead property (yard charge).
- Discussion: Brainstorm for ideas of potential service projects including
 - sorting donated goods at the West Side Catholic Center
 - assisting the St. Basil Food Pantry
 - volunteering at Kids Book Bank
 - helping at Sandwich Saturdays

- a helpful craft or makerspace activity
- participating in conservation projects at the Metroparks or Richfield Heritage Preserve
- making improvements to the Dan Beard campsite at Manatoc
- **We need parents to choose a service project and coordinate the project for the troop. Please contact Mrs. Weisfelder committee.chair@troop652bsa.org to discuss.**

III. Old business

- The troop committee seeks adult volunteers that will find and coordinate service projects for troop members.

IV. Announcements

- There will not be a committee meeting in August due to Pack 652's Open House on August 27.

V. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM. The next committee meeting will be held on September 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

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

Draft notes submitted by Cristie on July 24, 2025. Reviewed and approved by Denise on July 25, 2025.