



TROOP 209 CATALINA COUNCIL, TUCSON, ARIZONA



Committee Meeting Notes April 20, 2009

The following are highlights from the Committee Meeting held for Troop 209 on April 20, 2009 at SEAS:

Event Debriefs

- 4/4 Picacho Peak Hike. The Picacho Peak hike had great participation from the troop. There were 20-22 scouts on the hike and a couple of Webelos were also there. A faster group of scout sped ahead of a slower group but all who wanted to reach the summit were able to!
- 4/13 Merit Badge Orientation. We had 6 people go through the orientation and 4 new merit badges were added to our list of those with councilors. Troop 209 now has a short list of a few merit badges without councilors.

A special call now is going out to anyone interested in taking over the position of Councilor Management. Blake Kelly would like to transition out from his role in the near future (within the next year). Now is a great time to jump on board, learn the ropes from Blake and make a great contribution to the troop. One of the challenges is to get the troop's records to match Council's.

- 4/18 Knights of Columbus Rummage Sale. This past Saturday the Knights of Columbus had an opportunity for the troop assist in one of their activities. Unfortunately, schedules didn't work out and we didn't have any scout participate. The committee discussed that we should make a more concerted effort in the near future to help out our Charter Organization.
- 4/17 – 4/19 Rucker Canyon, This campout was a great success! Mike sent out an e-mail to the troop detailing the highlights. Greg Ogden said that some tasty dishes were prepared by the scouts for the fish fry. There were, however, some issues that need to be address:
 - Scouts need to be prepared with the proper equipment. Some scouts didn't have coats and there were freezing temperatures overnight.
 - Class A uniforms are required leaving and returning to SEAS
 - Permission slips need to be turned in if the parent isn't accompanying their scout.
 - We need to have a greater support of adults willing to drive the scouts to our destination. With a large troop, we are in greater need of more adults to get the scouts to camp. Thanks goes out to a couple of people who made the trip, out and back, to help out!! (2.5 hours drive one-way)

- Please come to SEAS or make arrangements to have your scout picked up after the campout! No scout will be left at the church but there was, and has been, instances when over an hour has gone by.
- Dan Malone mentioned that during one hike up a hill, scouts should pay attention to safety. There was an instance where some rocks came loose and fell towards some scouts hiking below.

Near Term Events

- 4/21 & 4/28 Scoutmaster Indoor Training Parts 1 and 2. This training will be held at SEAS beginning at 6:30. Attendance at both sessions is needed to complete both Parts 1 and 2
- 4/27 Court of Honor. Several items were planned for next Monday:
 - The theme is “Campfire”.
 - John Longhofer will be sending out post card announcements
 - John Longhofer requested that preparation begin at 4:30. He can use a hand from some of the scouts to set up.
 - Joe Vaskovic to see if we can get the hall this early.
 - John Longhofer requested photos from anyone from activities that troop held since the last crossover.
 - Shannon Marty will be providing spaghetti for the dinner. Other adults are being asked to bring either a main dish or dessert. See the post card for instruction.
 - Shannon asked if we could use the troops Igloo coolers for punch. Dave Ammons said he would bring them for that evening.
 - Shannon will get paper plates for the dinner and will use the troop’s forks and spoons
 - Lewis Pieper passed around the latest advancement list for review.
 - Mike Knutson mentioned new scouts receiving their scout badge.
 - Lewis Pieper will bring two microphones for use that evening
 - Special awards have been selected.
 - Max Jimenez inquired if troop leadership was consulted regarding the Trailblazer Award. This award does need input from the scouts. Blake Kelly said that this was done.
 - Adam Contrades will be the MC, JW Thomson will be preparing the program, John Longhofer will be overseeing the preparations.
 - Mike Knutson will not be able to attend the event and will return back to the troop in a couple of weeks, in time for the Lake Apache campout.
- 4/30 Last day for \$171 for Summer Camp at Camp Lawton. Dan Malone gave an update of preparations. Here are some of the update points:
 - Mike Gay prepared a list of available merit badges that will be offered at camp. This form will be made available on the website. Scouts are asked to fill out their preferred merit badges.
 - Scouts will need all three medical forms: A, B, and C. These are good for one year. All three forms are required for events over 72 hours long.
 - New health forms have BMI guidelines, which relates to obesity. This may be an issue in some high adventure camps.
 - Photocopies of health insurance cards (both sides) are needed.
 - So far, 33 scouts have signed up for Camp Lawton Summer Camp. This covers the fee for 5 adults to attend. There are 7 adults that have expressed interest in attending.

- Dan mentioned that he would like to see the scouts leave for summer camp on Sunday, June 21st (Father's Day) at 12:30.
- The Council has a maximum limit of scouts for a given session of summer camp at Camp Lawton so there is a possibility of getting closed out if you are not yet signed up.
 - Consider May 1 as the last date to sign up. After that, there may not be available spots.
- The troop will have to bring tents since the number, 33, exceed the available tents in our reserved camp.
- 5/2 Double V swim test. The tentative time will likely be from 1-3 PM. Details will be available at next Monday's scout meeting. Scouts interested in canoeing at the Lake Apache campout will need to pass the swim test. Adults wishing to canoe are required to pass the test too.
- 5/2 Pack 261 Crossover Greg and Kim Ogden said that their son, Mathew, will be crossing over from Webelos on this day. The Crossover will be held at Madera Canyon, at the ramada, and it is scheduled to begin at 11:00 AM.
- 5/4 & 5/11 SEAS Youth Protection Training. SEAS will be meeting with the troop on these two night to present the SEAS Youth Protection Training. Adults active within the troop will be asked to attend one of these sessions. There is a nominal one-time charge (\$13 for Arizona residents for the past 5 years, \$24.99 for those from other states) for background check and fingerprinting will be done.
- 5/15 – 5/17 Lake Apache. Several adults will be going up a day early to stake out a campsite for the troop since reservations are not taken for campsites. The troop was asked to begin a sign-up list so that we can determine how many drivers are needed and can get some advanced notice. A sign up list for the canoeing merit badge was also requested to be circulated. Among other items that need to be addressed:
 - Three drivers are needed to haul the troop trailer and two canoe trailers. The troop reserved the canoes from the Council.

Future Events

- 6/21 – 6/27 Summer Camp at Camp Lawton. Barbara Pieper mentioned that in addition to attending the one summer camp, the Council will offer a discount for scouts to attend a second summer camp with the cost only being \$100.
- 6/26 – 7/4 Calvalcade – Barbara Pieper mentioned that there are no issues for the Committee regarding the planning of this high-adventure camp.
- 7/13 -7/18 Polaris. Max Jimenez mentioned that this leadership camp is open to those scouts 13 years of age or older and being at least a First Class scout. Medical forms are also needed for this camp.
- 7/19 – 7/25 Pimaree at Camp Lawton. A letter was sent to scout families from William Mills regarding information about Pimaree. Please see this letter for days and times for informational meetings.

Scoutmaster Update

- Mike Knutson gave the following update at the meeting:
 - He won't be at the next two scout meetings and back for Lake Apache.
 - Mike will use the dibs list and the roster of those scouts with a Canoeing merit badge to pick 10 scouts to form a group to canoe and camp by themselves at the Lake Apache campout.
 - A special cache of food supplies will be made available to them.

- Other scouts will work on their Canoeing merit badge.
- Scouts are encouraged to attend the May 2nd swim test at Double V.
- Northern Tier Update: 12 scouts have shown an interest and 6 adults as well. This is good news because we are now over the number of available slots, which is better than being under. Deposits are being taken (\$50) and the troop will need to cut a deposit check to secure their spots.
 - Mike heard of one troop that made the trip by bus, roundtrip costs of \$99.
 - Need the Canoeing merit badge in order to go on the trip.
- Jamboree information will be coming out shortly from Council. Next year is the 100 year anniversary of scouting.
- The Labor Day campout in New Mexico has been reserved. It is near Springerville.
 - Scout leadership will need to decide if this camp will be their planning camp.

Subcommittees

- Handbook Update – Joe Vaskovic requested that the edited version of the handbook be placed on the troop's website so that anyone can review the comments. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Court of Honor for those interested in meeting separately to review the comments and report back to the Committee on what to approve or discuss. May 11th is the tentative date for those interested in discussing the handbook updates to meet.
- Adult Training: In addition to the SEAS Youth Protection Training, any new adult committee member is asked to take the on-line BSA Youth Protection Training. This is required to be completed within 90 days of registering with the troop.
- Merit badge opportunities
 - Currently there are a number of merit badges being overseen by councilors: Personal Fitness, Family Life, Environmental Science, Fly Fishing, Cycling, Astronomy, Automotive, and Dog Care.
 - Most of these merit badges have had their sessions completed and it is up to the scouts to complete their requirement.
 - Dog Care is currently being overseen on Mondays before the regular scout meeting.
 - First Aid will be beginning soon. Chris Pena will be arranging the meetings and keep an eye on any e-mail updates.

Other

- Steve Bersack brought up the topic of reimbursement for gas mileage for those driving to the campsites. Given that some of the campsites are quite far, over 2.5 hours one way in the case of Rucker Canyon, this could be a sum of money. After considerable discussion, no consensus was reached and a motion was made to table the discussion till another committee meeting.