

New Clear Lake Area Troop
Organizational Meeting
February 10, 2002

Introductions

Opening Words

Review of Proposal

Proposed Schedule

District Executive's Comments

Chartering Organization

Procedures and Timeline

Summer Camp

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

More than 90 years ago, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was founded on the premise of teaching boys moral and ethical values by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law through an outdoor program that challenges them and teaches them respect for nature, one another, and themselves. Scouting has always represented the best in community, leadership, and service.

That the purpose of this corporation shall be to promote, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are now in common use by Boy Scouts.

Sec. 3, federal charter, Boy Scouts of America
June 15, 1916, by the United States Congre

SCOUTING IS A GAME for boys, under the leadership of boys, in which elder brothers can give their younger brothers healthy environment and encourage them to healthy activities such as will help them to develop CITIZENSHIP.

Its strongest appeal is through Nature Study and Woodcraft. It deals with the individual, not with the Company. It raises intellectual as well as purely physical or purely moral qualities.

At first it used to aim for these ends-now by experience we know that, where properly handled, it gains them.

Dean James E. Russell, of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York writes thus: "The program of the Boy Scouts is the man's job cut down to boy's size. It appeals to the boy not merely because he is a boy, but because he is a man in the making ... The Scouting program does not ask of the boy anything that the man does not do; but step by step it takes him from the place where he is until he reaches the place where he would be ...

Lord Baden-Powell
Aids to Scoutmastership

Goals of the troop – **BACK TO THE BASICS** (from Lord Baden-Powell's writings)

- Character - which we teach through: the Patrol System, the Scout Law, Scout lore, woodcraft, responsibility of the Patrol Leader, team games and the resourcefulness involved in camp work. This includes the realisation of God the Creator through His works; the appreciation of beauty in Nature; and through the love of plants or animals with which outdoor life has made one familiar.
- Health and Strength - Through games, exercises, and knowledge of personal hygiene and diet.
- Handcraft and Skill - occasionally through indoor activities, but more specially through pioneering, bridge-building, camp expedients, self-expression through the arts, which all tend to make efficient workmen.
- Service to Others - The carrying into daily life of the practice of religion by "good turns," dealing with quite small good actions as well as with community service, accidents, life-saving.

Overall Plan...

Active outdoor program, shared leadership, challenges

We often underestimate the abilities of our children. Leo Richard (Troop 95 SM) said "we give them a safe place to fail". What a great way to look at this. Provide the challenges and opportunities and see what happens. Constantly reevaluate, constantly tweak, adapt for every boy, but follow BSA rules.

Leadership/Membership

Require 5 boys to start troop

Require SM, CC, and two MC from adults plus IH and COR hopefully from CO.

Chartering Org – proposed Abundant Life Methodist Church (across from Randalls), worst case we form a "Friends of Troop XXX" org to act as sponsor.

Reality – will probably lose boys in first year, prefer 7-10 to start.

All parents participate (mom and dad where possible!)

SM – I'm go for job (Chris Counts)

SA – should have at least one or two (Asst Scoutmaster – Jerry Graham)

CC

MC – treasurer, BOR reps (Barbara Counts has volunteered as an MC/treasurer/advancements chair)
Dave Wisniewski, Rick Lisk, Mike Berno. Still need a Committee Chair

IH

COR

MBC – everyone register for those areas that they are proficient in.

Will work with other troops to share resources where possible

Typically Committee doesn't camp but parents welcome always

Important that SM and SA interface with PL and youth and parents have fun at campouts.

Only SM and SA can sign off rank advancements, no parent can sign for own child (unless it's a group activity)

Parents need to let boy leaders work with adult leaders to solve problem.

Use patrol method "chain of command"

Have group PLC's early so all see what they are, then move to SM, SA, PL, APL meetings for planning.

Adults answer questions with questions.

All adults are trained (includes committee challenge)

Anyone can and MUST step in if safety is involved.

Get Bayshore to help with adult training to jump start program.

Random assignment of PL, APL, Scribe, QM, CA for first 6 months (rotate every 2-3 months)

Hold elections after that

No SPL until > one patrol (~12 boys)

LOGISTICS (proposal)

Budget

Starting Balance - \$0 (any questions)

Plan - \$25 joining fee per boy

\$1 per week dues (whether you are there or not) (teaches responsibility and some mgmt skills)

\$15 per campout per person (for Fri-Sun, less for Sat-Sun)

Sell popcorn in spring and fall

½ money to troop, ½ money to scout's account for use in paying fees or buying equipment.

If boy leaves troop, scout account reverts to troop general acct.

Leaders pay own registration (may change later)

Expenses

Summer camp (\$140/boy + personal spending and craft fees) + \$5 cot fee if desired.

"Super Troop" (\$165/boy + personal spending and craft fees) – second week of summer camp

Leaders (\$85/adult – first two per troop free)

Fall and Winter camps – similar costs

Equipment

Tents – 1/two boys or adults (TentsOnSale \$40+shipping ea)

Cook Gear – 1 trail chef or equivalent / 8 boys (\$71)

Miscellaneous other supplies + stoves (TBD)

Borrow stoves early on

Patrol Flys – 1/4 boys (min 2) (cost depends on size about \$100 with poles)

US and Troop Flag (\$130 + poles)

Awards/Uniforms

Rank (\$6 / boy first year)

Merit Badges (\$6 / boy first year)

Leadership Positions (\$4 / boy first year)

Troop Neckerchief ("Charter Member" embroidered ?? \$12 / boy)

Summary

Per Boy - ~\$101 not counting flags+camping fees (registration, equipment, and awards) (first year)

Income - \$25 + ~\$46 = \$61

Implies each boy would need to sell about \$300 popcorn minimum

That provides \$45 to troop and \$45 to boys acct

May need to work "payback" to leaders for expenses (I'll buy all tents, flys, and neckerchiefs!)

Probably more cost but this gives folks an idea.

May try and "make" some equipment (lightweight sleeping bags, high adventure stoves, ovens, grills, etc.)

No boy left behind due to finances!!!!

Program

Build a full program, if boys can come they will. Let boys and family decide priorities
Tenderfoot to First Class emphasis (see more later)
Camping, camping, camping...outdoors, outdoors, outdoors
Use district and council events as available, provide several service project opportunities
Provide varied programs for boys to explore, backpacking, car camping, hot, cold, etc.

Plan

Troop Meeting Weekly (Tuesdays)

Campout monthly

April – shake down (parents cook – Sat-Sun)

May – shake down (boys cook)

June – Summer Camp (Strake, 3rd session)

July – Super Troop (River Camp or Horseshoe Bend)

August – Hotter than a Jalapeno camp (hot weather camping – nighttime ops?)

September - scoutcraft

October – Fall Rendezvous (district)

November – Webelos Woods (service troop)

November – Fall Camp (Bay Area Council)

December – Winter Camp (SHAC – Strake)

January – non-traditional (Lexington, Space Center Houston, Moody Gardens???)

February – foul weather camping (backpacking)

March – scoutcraft + prep for new scouts (consider Sam Houston Trail (backpacking))

April – new scout shakedown (or District Camporee)

May – District Cub Scout Camp at Bovay (service troop?) or additional shakedown

Other Activities

September – Bayshore Fall Festival (combined BS and CS event – maybe do CS station)

September – recruiting at local schools?

January – First Aid Meet (may be moved to Fall Rendezvous)

February – District Merit badge Day

February – Scout Sunday and Scout Week

April – Scout Fair (we need to show our stuff!)

Consider weekend events to merit badge providers like HMNS, Moody, etc.

Rivers, Bays, and Bayous Trash Bash (service project)

Bicycling Weekends instead of a campout

Work with boys after about 6 months and see where they want to go

Boy Run Operations

Full implementation impractical at outset since no older boys

Frank Davis suggested talking to other troops (have talked to 595 now, they are evaluating)

Increase leadership opportunities over time, random PL/APL selection at first

Emphasis on established plan (consider use of T95 checklist (thanks to Mike Potts))

Examples – let 1-2 boys become experts and teach others, adults help on as absolutely required
each boy learn a knot and teach to others.

2-3 boys learn about tents and demonstrate to others

each boy learn about one first aid action and teach to others

each boy learn about cooking one item and teach to others

Adults help the boy responsible, but HE teaches task. He can ask for other help though.

Adults only step in where safety issues exist or for higher risk tasks (knife/ax/stoves/etc)

Patrols

Patrol flag, yell, personal doodles.

Shared equipment (one boy carry tent, one carry food and cook gear, etc.)