

Philmont 2008 Contingent Committee

Minutes for the December 20,2007 meeting
Lawrence Lodge, Quail Hill

Attendance

The following were in attendance:

John Banyacski, Rich Bascue, Karen Bentivenga, Jim Brown, R. Jay Edgar, Kenneth Eng, John Erickson, Frank Fishedick, Brian Foley, Nathaniel Frissell, Joanne Herman, Allen Jones, Bruce Kaplan, John Kilduff, Thomas Magg, Timothy Makin, Lee Marconi, Al Mayro, John Motley, Allison Mitsching, Tim Neher, John Ostovich, James Passaro, Andrew Pinto, Mike Rouchwerk, Don Schaffner, Robert Smith, Steve Spano, Rich Standt, Gary Uhl, Louis Vitone, Brian Wilson, Maurice Zagha

Opening

Maurice welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Handout of meeting agenda was distributed. Minutes from previous meeting were approved without any changes.

Old Business

There was no old business outstanding.

New Business

Maurice tabled the Crew Advisors for a monthly report/update.

- Crew #1 Crew has been having a good experience so far. They held a second meeting in which they held crew elections, reviewed treks and made 1st choice. Crew practiced orienteering skills at local park. They have had 100% attendance at meetings.
- Crew #2 Not in attendance
- Crew #3 Crew is meeting 2 times per month. They have had hiking trips cancelled due to weather. They plan a variety of activities for January, including rock climbing. All are participating and they are a full crew at 11 people.
- Crew #4 Crew had an outing last month at Holmdel Park which was a good experience. They have been doing training as well. Crew meetings have been held during scout meetings by pulling out scouts to go over details. Due to scheduling conflicts this seems to be the only time they can get together.

- Crew #5 Crew held meeting in December and they went over the 10 essentials. They reviewed trek selections. Next outing is planned for the 18th at Allamuchy. So far they have hiked twice and worked on set up and breakdown skills.
- Crew #6 Crew hiked Stokes. They did the 2nd contingent hike backwards. They experienced cold weather and had to learn winter camping skills. They had some treacherous hiking conditions due to the snow and they also had food issues. They did not bring enough food for the adults. All in all, they made it through weekend and learned much from the experience. Crew elections had not yet been set.
- Crew #7 Crew had an outing in December at Quail Hill. They discussed the 10 essentials. They plan on holding crew elections in January although the crew seems to be naturally falling into positions. Trek selections are also set for January. A check of the gear showed it to be in good condition.
- Crew#8 Crew has not had any outing since last meeting. They plan to have 2 per month for the next two months. They will also schedule everything out until departure. They plan on day hikes as well as overnites. Venturers need bronze so they are gearing activities towards this. Trek selections will be done by mid January. They have a day hike at Cheesequake planned for next week. The mix of girls and guys is working out ok.
- Crew #9 Crew is getting along well. The trek selections and crew selections are still up in the air. They also had an outing that was snowed out. Meetings have been scheduled to finalize trek selections. The crew's equipment is good and the crew is meshing well.
- Crew #10 Crew held elections at the fall shakedown. They reviewed trek selections at last meeting by using Philmont map and discussing distances and climates. The crew has also reviewed each member's personal fitness goals. They have an outing planned for the 12th, which is an all day hike at Hartshorne. They will practice setup and breakdown. They are fortunate to have a former Philmont ranger to accompany them on this hike.

The subject of Youth Protection Training was discussed. Maurice reminded all that he needs to get certificates turned in upon completion of course.

A review of cold weather preparations occurred. Maurice explained the clothing essentials such as hats, gloves, light weight items and the use of layering. He reminded all that clothing can be a smellable and needs to be hung in a bear bag. He also explained how day and night clothes need to be kept separate. He suggested taking extra thermal clothing into the sleeping bag and keeping it there at all times as extra clothing.

Crew development was discussed with emphasis placed on team building activities. A Games Book handout was distributed for this purpose. The committee was reminded that team building games is an event at Philmont. Working as a team helps the crew to advance their skills. Maurice mentioned that in addition to the handout, team building games can be found online.

The importance of adult training was stressed. All crew advisors should make personal conditioning a priority.

Trek selections were discussed. Several committee members mentioned that in the past there was an online program to help in selecting treks. When items of interest were noted, the corresponding treks would be located. The availability of the program was not known. It was suggested that crews use the 07 treks to compare and to get a rough idea of preferences. Maurice stated that he expected to get the 08 treks sometime in January.

Jim Brown reviewed the Spring Shakedown. He distributed a handout detailing the schedule, goals and roles of adult advisors during this weekend of April 11-13, 2008. Jim explained that being 'prepared' is the only way to succeed at Philmont. He reviewed the details for transportation and arrival at Forestburg. Anyone not traveling with the bus needs to notify Jim ahead of time so that an orderly check in can occur. Jim explained the quartermaster's duties with regard to rations. He also briefly reviewed the 10 towns that the crews will be visiting on Saturday. Jim stressed that crew advisors play an important role during this shakedown in letting crews be self sufficient. Crews will be placed with different adult leaders in an effort to objectively determine their readiness for Philmont. Advisors should only step in when there is a safety issue. Advisors will be filling out an evaluation form to critique the crew on their performance.

Required Medical Forms were reviewed. Crew Advisors need to have medicals for each crew member during day and overnight hikes within the crew. In addition, Class III medical forms are required for the Spring Shakedown. Finally, Philmont medical forms are due to arrive in January.

Ken Eng reviewed the SOLO-Wilderness First Aid training course. There are still balances due and Ken asked that the payments be made asap. The total charge for the course is \$135.00, less deposit of \$50 leaving \$85 balance due. There is a \$50 additional charge for anyone taking the CPR component of the course. All checks should be made payable to Monmouth Council BSA. Ken also noted that there will be an additional food charge that will be determined once accommodations have been finalized.

The Philmont payment schedule was updated by John Erickson. John stated that he has been receiving payments on time. This has allowed him time to prepare his reports and keep funds up to date at council. He mentioned that many items need to be prepaid and timely payments are required. John also announced that two \$500 camperships have been awarded and confirmed.

Patch, Shirt and Hat design was discussed. The patches have been ordered and should be

in before January 23rd. A quantity of 500 are on order thru council shop. T-Shirt design is still unresolved. Committee is still struggling with a design concept and is looking for suggestions. Several suggestions were made at the meeting:

- Expand patch design
- Put a map of Philmont on back
- Footprints artwork

The T-Shirt design issues also focused on type of T-Shirt to be used. The idea of using a better T-Shirt and having no design on back was considered. A T-Shirt supplier is currently being sought for this task. It was suggested that a standout color be used so that the contingent could be easily identified. It was stated that email would be sent to the crews asking for their input and help with a T-Shirt design.

Hats design ideas centered on using the Philmont patch design. The patch could either be sewn onto cap or directly embroidered.

The Philmont itinerary was reviewed with a focus on airline arrangements. Tom reported that Continental Airlines flies from Newark to Denver and is the only direct flight from Newark Airport. There are two departure times available, either 6:55 or 8:55. The return flights via Continental depart at 12:15 or 5:50. The 5:50 flight has availability problems with only 106 seats available. To book via Continental, a deposit of \$40 per seat is due. The price per seat is approx \$395 and this may become lower. Tom mentioned that to secure the price and availability, the flights need to be booked in January.

Allison will look into the possibility of flying via JetBlue Airways. They fly direct to Denver from JFK. The possibility of a charter flight from Newark would also be examined.

Tom also mentioned that there will be bus transportation to the airport. He is also looking into having the contingent do an emergency exercise at the airport. He will advise his findings at the next meeting.

Maurice reviewed the scrounge list and stated that the committee was still looking for supplies. He announced that a scout speaker will attend the January 23rd meeting to give insight on what to expect at Philmont.

There was no other new business and Maurice adjourned the meeting. The next Contingent Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the Morganville Service Center.

Minutes prepared by Allison Mitsching