

Parent Meeting Notes (09/05/2024)

Summer Recap

Boys discussed AT 40 mile Maryland Hike.
Girls discussed Summer Camp.

Scoutmaster Transition

Mr. James, who lead the troop out of covid and is very close to setting a record for most eagle scouts raised under his tenure, has agreed to begin transitioning the troop to Mr. Phil Baker. Mr. James introduced Mr. Phil and greeted the troop.

ASM

ASM's were recognized and thanked for their continuing support.

Electronics Policy

Troop committee has instituted a 'No Cell Phones' policy. Leaders don't want to see them at meetings or events. We will ask for them to be stored in a lock box during meetings. The Troop is not responsible if they are lost/damaged. It is recommended that they not be brought. See [troop handbook](#) for additional details.

Combined Troop Pilot Program

729 and 1729 are officially merged under a national pilot program allowing us to function as 1 unit. What does that mean?

- The Troop has already been operating in this fashion.
- We're now using 1 troop number; 729, during the pilot. That can be changed after the pilot program.
- Eagles earned under 1729 will not change. Will continue to show as 1729.
- New eagles can use whatever troop number is on their application.
- 1729 still exists but is hidden during the pilot
- Officially 1 scout master, 1 Chair, 1 Chartered rep
- Only allowed 1 SPL. Scouts will be asked to vote next week.
- New patrols were established tonight.
- The new pilot program runs through Oct. 25. National will decide if the program continues after. We can leave the pilot at any time.

All details shared with the troop will be posted under [resources on troopawesome.com](#)

Overnight requirements changes

Due to updated national requirements you must be at least a Scout Reserve (position code 91) or higher to camp overnight with the troop. Being a Merit Badge counselor is no longer a valid position that permits adult camping with the troop. New parents wanting to camp can submit an application with the above position code. The process for upgrading existing MB counselors is being explored and will be posted on the [resources](#) page when verified.

Parent Involvement.

Cleared female adults are required for all trips. If a female lead is not available, events for the whole troop are canceled. A calendar was shared requesting additional Female Adults to sign up at each event. This request remains open.

Troop Handbook Updates

Financial Hardship and Scholarship Info

Costs should never be a barrier to scouting. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of any resource assistance opportunities.

- You can email Treasurer@troopawesome.com for local / troop fee waiver or reduction.
- The treasurer can approve requests independently and does not have to report names. 100% anonymous.
- National/District request process to request scholarships is posted on the [resources](#) page.
- The Troop can only assist with Troop fees, not national but will assist with filing requests as needed.

New Dues

Starting January 2025

- National Dues will increase to \$85 per scout.
- Gunpowder Falls district will institute a \$75 fee per scout.
- National dues will be paid directly by the scout's family at my.scouting.org
- You are eligible to pay your National/District renewal 90 days prior to your scout's initial registration dates.
- Emails will be sent by scouting.org with directions on how to renew.

- Instructions and district provided details on the changes are available on troopawesome.com/resources

Summary: national/district dues are now \$160 per scout.

Troop fees

- \$50 per SCOUT (to cover programming, in small part)
- \$120 per FAMILY, which can be reimbursable as a Family Involvement Fee.
- See [handbook](#) for reimbursement details/criteria.
- Scout and Family fees will be collected annually in September – at the start of the ‘Scouting year’ that runs from late August to through summer camp.
- These are payable via the troop venmo or a check.

Where To Find Info

Scoutbook shows calendar info and is where you RSVP for all events. Any outstanding bills will be posted in your scout’s account. All advancements are recorded there.

TroopAwesome.com has Important Info on all major trip/event information. All national/district pertinent info will be posted in the resources tab. Attempts will be made to keep important info updated bi-weekly.

Thank You

The committee is always available to answer questions/concerns.

Committee@troopawesome.com is regularly monitored, reach out any time. We look forward to your assistance as we navigate these exciting changes.

Thank you and let’s have a great year!