

20230814 – Placer District Connections – August – Loomis, CA

Announcements:

(Michael Jacques)- Council was worried that National fee could be \$120 or more. GEC board voted to decouple from National policy. National fee for youth will go up by \$5 this year and next. Adults are now \$60, up by \$15.

New member joining fee will no longer be prorated. Unit charter fee is \$100. Scout Life magazine \$15 for the year.

John Eilers- concern about 503(C)3 status with the new payment structure.

Michael Jacques- Camperships are available. Council fee can be waived if needed. Hardly anyone took advantage of it last year. If there are families that need help, GEC can help with council fees (but not National).

Question on where the \$25 new scout fee goes. Answer: the new scout fee is only for youth. Don't know what it goes to exactly because it goes to National.

Kathy Neuberger– Camporee patches are still available for units that have not received them.

Spook-o-ree, Oct. 20-21 at the GEC NorCal Adventure Area in Dobbins CA. This is a Cub and family event. Activities for cubs with a fall theme. Families can camp on Friday night so they don't have to get up early for the 8:30am activities start on Saturday. GEC provides the place to camp but no food (other than Saturday lunch). Potential activities for the youth include: pumpkin painting, cookies, archery, BB's, sometimes wrist rockets. Closing is around 4/4:30pm. Fun fall event from Council!

University of Scouting (UoS). Saturday November 4th. Everything from crafts or activities to recruiting, venturing, budgeting, etc. The event will be held at Buljan middle school in Roseville. This is a Council event. Register early- price goes up October 1st.

Registration is still open for the fall courses of NYLT and Woodbadge.

Janna Polik– starting next month, prior to connections at 6:30pm - Janna will be holding "office hours". Janna can answer questions on BlackPug, Scoutbook, signing up for stuff... As a former camp-desk employee and Camp Program Director, Janna knows things! She will commit through December.

Main program tonight – recap of major events of this year:

Michael Jacques- Camp Lassen! Special note. There was a fire on July 15th. Janna and 7 of her staff were the only ones there and it is quite likely that they saved the camp. There are scorch marks on trees 35' high. Without Janna and her staff we could have lost camp. The food service contract group College Fresh left for a couple of days... They apparently did not roll with the punches when the power went out and left for Chico until the power was restored. Following the fire there were 2 more power outages. Mike Thabault also helped post-fire and was there for a week.

Kathy Neuberger– Twilight Camp this year was a success. The theme was “Off to the Races” – 100 cubs in attendance. Far short of the budget and projections, but those who attended had fun. This was a District level event. Twilight Camp is one of the few places where cubs can do archery, BB guns, etc. We will be planning for the next Twilight and talking more about that during breakouts at the upcoming Placer Connections meetings.

Mike Thabault- Camporee was held at Auburn Fairgrounds. About 345 adults and youth were in attendance from 22 units. Camporee had a great program and we have received feedback from 10 out of 22 units. We do use the survey! One item that made Camporee difficult: Almost half of the registration happened within 2 weeks of the event. It is hard to plan when so many units register so late. The same late registration was seen with Twilight, and 30% of registrations happened within weeks of the event. We received good feedback on the location. Next year the Nevada County Fairgrounds are also an option. We are going to lock down the venue earlier and push for earlier registration. Overall the feedback was good – especially one special item.... The IRON TROOP competition. Back when it was the Iron Horse District there was a special trophy awarded for troop decoration and embracing of the theme. (They won for a propane working cannon! - probably can't do that anymore!). Coming back in 2024: Iron troop recognition – “The Danish Butter Cup” (the trophy has multiple metal tins of Danish butter cookies incorporated into the actual trophy).

Michael Jacques- 2023 District Dinner was a success! We crowned the 2023 Placer District Pinewood Derby Champion and had 90 people attend the dinner and awards ceremony. 2024 we are looking at March 2 or March 9th. For the 3rd year in a row, we will do the Placer District Pinewood Derby Championship where the winners from each pack will compete for the coveted Cub Cup.

Mike Thabault- Family Camp at Camp Far West! Our District has reserved about 10 or 12 campsites on the North shore of Camp Far West for September 29th to October 1st (2 nights). Registration will be \$15 per person for the whole weekend. Reg will be on BlackPug soon. Next year this event won't be possible, because GEC asked us to not hold fall campouts that might compete with GEC's Scout Expo.

Cub Leader Breakout – for activities at District Cub Family Camp 9/30-10/1.

- Knights with helmets? Crafts.
- Hike.
- Nature bingo.
- First Aid? Fire? Cooking?
- Foil pack in the fire.
- Tie dye pillow cases?
- Knot station?
- Leftover toolboxes. Maybe.
- Leather stuff?

We want this to be loosely organized- not like Twilight. District will bring the materials, but let people set their schedule and do the activities as time permits. We will organize a group hike, but let the other activities be self-guided.

Cub leaders have requested an advancement list to know what requirements are satisfied by the different activities and campout. Michael wants to have advancement layer, but not sure how to do it. Have a passport that cubs can check off?

Note on astronomy. Saturn will be visible that weekend. 1592 is willing to donate a telescope, can't commit, but they are interested in an astronomy component at the camp.

Fishing station.

Can we mount a Cell phone on the telescope? Or provide an easier way for multiple scouts to see Saturn or the moon or?

Family camp is for cubs and family. Food is on your own, but District may do crackerbarrel.