

20240610 – Placer District Connections Meeting (BZ)

Michael Jacques: Welcome! With the completion of Twilight Camp this week, we have hosted over 750 participants between all Placer District events this year (Camporee, Twilight, family camp)!

This is the last meeting of the 11 month cycle, we will not be meeting in July. Annual kickoff meeting with pizza dinner will be August 13th.

We have some funds from Camporee, maybe a little from Twilight (or break even). The District will spring for Old Town Pizza. Likely at Methodist Church in Loomis.

We hear from leaders in Placer that there is a lack of transparency at Council level. One of Michael's Woodbadge tickets deals with transparency and focuses on the NorCal Adventure Area. He wants to have open discussions on the old vision for NorCal, where we are now, and where we are going with the property. Every registered scouter will have access to the upcoming report on NorCal. Every leader will have a voice in NorCal. There will be a portal for reading the report, asking questions, etc.

There will likely be an open meeting at NorCal, likely with remote option, early in August. The report will be available 2-3 weeks in advance. The Council wants to engage leaders, and they want to be transparent.

Placer is the best district in the council. Michael and the Council want input on the re-envisioning of NorCal.

New District Calendar on back of agenda tonight (Thanks Mike Thabault!)
In August the Council will finalize the Council Calendar. TBD.

Cub Family Camp – Sep 27-29. Mike Thabault. Location: Camp Far West Lake, South Shore. BBs and Archery will be allowed if we can coordinate Rangemasters. Michelle (Placer Troop ?) is working on getting us a fire crew to present to the Scouts or bring some trucks.

Placer County Fair in late June – we were offered a booth – but we need to staff a station with an activity for kids. Let Michael know if your unit is interested in participating.

University of Scouting – November 16th. Location TBD.

Michael Jacques: 70% retention rate in GEC is above average. There will be a class at UoS on retention, improving it, etc. We want to avoid a revolving door- it isn't great if you have as many scouts leaving that are joining. We need to be growing!

Drawing – 7:25. Anthony! Greg! Mike T! Michelle! Amy S!

Cub Breakout – Family Camp: Mike T.

Camporee had 300. We had 57 last year at family camp. Would like to double – be over 100 participants.

Michelle - playing phone tag with the Fire district. Calfire. CFW is just barely in Placer Co.

Robert from Pack 160: Theme idea: Carnival games – have each pack host a game. Ask packs to bring prizes for the carnival. Robert loves slides. Has 3d Printer, interest in laser.

Activities:

Hike + Nature Bingo.

District Cub Carnival - Carnival theme?

Tickets for prizes?

BBs and wrist rockets

Fishing (but the lake will be low)

Saturday night potluck. Everyone brought a dish. Community dinner.

Want to build in plenty of free time. Less structure. Let the cubs play and have pack time.

\$10 a head for CFW camp fees. Any additional program fees will be added onto that cost.

Mike T: BBs and Archery are possible – wrist rockets? How do we get Rangemasters? List from Dennis? Coordinate from within? Get more people trained?

Elysia – Pack 507 has Rangemasters. Need to coordinate. (Josh from 507 helped at Twilight)

Peter – need something different with rangemasters (based on his wife's experience at Twilight). Establish a schedule and have them take a shift. (BZ: we tried that with Twilight but didn't have enough Rangemasters to do this. The burden falls on the couple of people who stick their neck out and volunteer). This is a pain point. We don't want to burden the few rangemasters with being stuck on the range all day and away from their own scouts. Ideally we would have multiple rangemasters from each pack, and enough help so each rangemaster only has to take 1 or 2 shifts during a big event. Can we require packs to provide a rangemaster for events with shooting sports?

Twilight mini discussion – need to change the week next year. Need a different venue. Camp Rodda was mentioned. Out past Lincoln. Highway 193, left on Fowler. (not the Fowler property)

Placer County Land Trust. They love scouts. Ask Janna or?

September – recruiting fair at Connections. Bring your Webelos and AOL scouts!

Recruitment is a year round process. Peter put his commissioner hat on – telling his troop 1 they need to embed den chiefs in packs, and need to be recruiting year round. Not just thinking about it in February. Recruiting cubs to a troop should not be an afterthought. Broad agreement that we need more crossover between troops and packs to ease the transition between Cubs and BSA.

BZ: Transition from AOL/Cubs to Troop happens at the Den Leader level. They are the access point to all of the AOL families (but unfortunately the AOL den leaders are usually burned out and tired from years of running a den. They see the light at the end of the tunnel and are ready to be done).

Robert 160 – Always asks, “what is in it for the kids”. Win them in the first 2 meetings. They need to go home with something. You have to win the kids, or you’ll lose the parents. 37 had a good transition with a leader over to Troop (John at T11), continued collaboration. How do you try to emulate that?