

20230313 Placer District Connections Notes

District Annual Dinner Recap:

The District Pinewood Derby Championship went well. Hats off to Trevor for bringing the track and AV equipment- it impressed everyone in attendance! We had 11 Packs send their winners and there was good attendance by families. Feedback from families was positive. The event was much smoother this year, so the racing only took 25-30 minutes. It was awkward because we finished at 5:30pm and could not tell the families the results, and most of the families did not stay for the dinner.

Suggestion: Start the race later so the results can be announced right at the start of dinner while the racers are still there.

We received the last car only 15 minutes before the race began, so our race roster wasn't ready until then. We need the cars, racer's name, and a photo as early as possible to set up the race software. Suggested idea: get a district rep at each derby to impound the winner's car.

District derby organizers need a good Pack roster to communicate with the leaders. Volunteers had to assemble contact info for District Packs through placerscouting.org map and beascout.org. Does the District have a solid list of Units and active Key 3 or contact info that can be shared with the race organizers?

Kids movie in the side room – next time pick a more engaging movie. Down and Derby fit the theme, but did not keep their attention. We can discuss this at the planning session in September. Pack 1533 brought their bin of legos which was a hit. Maybe some more crafts or other self-guided activities next year?

Placer Bucks Auction – we had 8 items, time budgeted was 20 minutes. About right. Suggestion to auction the higher-value items first, because everyone was saving their Placer Bucks in the hopes of getting the dutch oven.

The Spoon of Destiny – dessert competition was fun, but a little awkward for the judges/organizers. There were ~10 entries (and 4 were Janna's!). We can re-visit this at the planning meeting.

Suggestion: In addition to the district awards, recognize the top popcorn seller, camp card seller, unit leader tenure celebrations, etc. Have units submit awards prior to the annual dinner.

Camporee Planning:

Dates: April 21-23

Location: Auburn Fairgrounds, Auburn CA

Theme: To the moon!

Only 5 troops have signed up to run an event. Need many more! (multiple troops signed up tonight to help- not sure the final commitments).

We need a troop to run the Webelos camp activities. Troop 11's chartering org has their 100th birthday that day, so they can't commit to helping.

Question on parking and dropoff of camp gear. Will address this with the site.

No open fires- only propane stoves will be allowed in the camping areas.

Comment on PA system for main campfire. Difficult to hear at the back of the crowd.

Contact Michael Thabault for more info or to sign up your troop for an event/station:
mthabault@gmail.com

Twilight Camp Planning:

Dates: June 12-15 (Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu from ~4:30pm to 7:30pm)

Location: Lincoln Fishery, Lincoln CA

Elisa Taylor is the camp director. ebtaylor05@gmail.com

#1 need is program director. This role will help coordinate events, make sure there is not too much sitting or too much running for kids in one day. Balance out the events. This person will also work with district to come up with events. This person will need to go to camp school, which will be offered in April in Modesto or somewhere South of us. The expense of Camp School is covered in the budget for Twilight. The core responsibility of the Program Director is to coordinate the schedule- make sure kids have a balanced schedule.

Kathy has the list from brainstorming session. Site visit coming up.

Twilight rotations include:

- Race Cars
- Push cart races
- Filling water buckets
- Air rockets
- Relay races.
- Floor is lava...

BB's and archery are allowed at this site! Concern was brought up over having enough rangemasters without Pioneer Express contributing, and with having air rockets added this year. Last year there was 1 archery range and 2 BB ranges, so 3 total ranges.

We need rangemasters!!! Next training session is April 16th at NorCal. (district will announce this training with their Roundtable email approx. April 6th).

Fishing is an option at this location. If we can come up with a way to structure it. Will talk with the property owner about possibilities for this.

Any packs want to organize and help set up a certain station? Work with Elisa and Kathy, pick an event/activity, determine what you need, make a purchase list and a budget, and work with the organizers to make it happen.

22 stations last year. Both archery and BB's were 2x time slots (1 hour, not 30'). There was also a free game area in case stations ran short.

We also need someone to volunteer for First Aid each day. (medical professional like a nurse or doctor that can attend and cover the shift)

Each day has an arrival activity 15' long. 4:30pm Scouts and parents arrive and eat their sack dinner. Need some sort of program for them to watch. Also a closing 10-15' activity each day.

Next connections meeting we need a dedicated planning session after the meeting. There will also need to be Twilight committee meetings focused on bringing this together.

Last Topic: Improving Attendance at Connections:

District will move the Life-to-Eagle program to the Roundtables, so 4x/year this will bring in 12-18 additional youth (and their parents).

Suggestion: Special award for first time attendees. Thanks for coming for the first time! (more than just Placer Bucks)

Discussion on the value proposition of district meetings. Announcements are supposed to be restricted to 20 minutes. Then 20 minutes of a special topic, then 20 minutes of breakout.