

October 11, 2017
Neighborhood Meeting

7:00 - 7:20 Introductions/New Business

- Introduction of Service Unit volunteers and our guest from council
 - The current Service Unit volunteers include:
 - Dawn Brooks (camporee, overall management, jack-of-all-trades)
 - Kim Cassie (community service opportunities)
 - Marci Burns (holiday tree lighting coordinator)
 - Lynn Jordan (registrar, troop support)
 - Lynne McEwan (interim treasurer, program support)
 - Katrina Munichiello (neighborhood meeting facilitator)
 - Camporee coordinators: Dawn Brooks, Kim Cassie, Megan Michael, Lynne McEwan, Jen Smagula, and Rachel Salvato
 - Council guest: Heather DeProfio, Volunteer Support Specialist,
hdeprofio@gsema.org
- Fall Sale - Kim Cassie
 - Deadline for orders is October 27. This year's sale includes the usual nuts, candy and magazines. They have also added water bottles, birthday gift boxes, and people can choose to donate magazines to the troops or nuts to food pantries.
- Community Service opportunities - Kim Cassie
 - Kim is developing a list of opportunities for community service.
 - **Action Item:** *The Service Unit reps will revisit the concept of "Westford Girl Scout" hours versus regular community service hours and will provide a list of WGS opportunities that are non-religions/holiday-connected.*
- Holiday Tree Lighting - Marci Burns
 - Sunday, November 26th on the Common
 - Details including volunteer opportunities to follow. Marci will give a heads up before the volunteer signup goes live so everyone has equal chance to take opportunities.

7:20 - 7:45 Age level breakout discussions

Daisy/Brownie Leaders

- Essentials classes: Try to enroll. Interactive.
- Daisy badge ideas that worked:
 - They LOVE to go off-site. Keep it doable.
 - *Courageous and Strong*: Trails. Healthy Westford (Alicia Mallon).
 - *Respect Authority*: Visit to police station or fire station.
 - *Make the World a Better Place*: Use milk cartons and recyclables and hot glue guns to make “gingerbread” display for Holiday Tree/Wreath Festival
- Brownie badge ideas that worked:
 - *Financial literacy*: 2nd grade, 10 girls in pairs with parent chaperones. Go to Drum Hill shopping plaza with a \$15 budget and a shopping list. The girls were excited to coupon and share bulk items. Bring calculators. Debrief at Panera.
 - *Pet badge*: Make toys and dog treats. Visit Lowell Humane Society.
 - *Painting badge*: Emily Piper - 1 meeting or multiple meeting, paint on your own.
 - *Snack badge*: Very popular badge.
 - *Computer Expert badge*: Apple Store in Nashua can do the badge in 1 hour. Follow it up with ice cream after. You can also do it as a movie making activity. (Kate Small would like to do this after January.)
 - *Hiking badge*: Find the yellow diamond on the map. Trails at East Boston Camp.
 - Other activities: Make soda at Incredibrew. Subzero Ice Cream.
- Collaborative ideas:
 - Garden spruce up efforts at the school gardens
- Fun patches:
 - Library visit
 - GSEM programs like the “My Little Pony” movie

Juniors Leaders

- Much of the conversation centered on community service - How do we raise visibility of Westford Girl Scouts and what kind of activities could we add that are signature Girl Scout events and also offer WGS Community Service hours?
 - **Action Item: Kim began compiling a list of activities and will distribute that when it is ready.**

- *A couple leaders are going to do some research with local organizations about what kinds of things they need that could become projects we adopt. One thing that came up is that Cameron Senior Center was interested in a birthday card program where people could make cards to send to seniors on their birthday. Katrina will talk to Jen Claro about logistics. (Wouldn't be WGS hours though.)*
- Leaders were particularly interested in activities where the girls could have a “high profile” and the volunteer work was a set task (versus one where leaders needed to create a craft project or something in advance.) One idea was to do a water station for the Westford Road Race or do event support at things like WestFest. *Leaders will follow up and report back.*
- Another idea was raised to have Westford Girl Scouts host some community events — speaker series or other — that highlight women who are leaders or who are doing interesting work. Maybe Scouts could also support the event by making posters/displays (like Thinking Day) about women they admire.

Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors Leaders

- Badge/Journey ideas and resources:
 - *Movie Making badge:* Apple Store and Microsoft Store will do badge programs
 - *Take Action projects:* Westford CAT will help them do a commercial using the green screen
 - *Woodworking badge:* Lowe's will do one. They also donated wood for Silver Award projects.
 - Other: Nashoba Tech could be a resource for woodworking, car care and cooking projects
- Needs:
 - We need a place to keep resources so we can share them more easily. **Action item: The Service Unit will create some Google Drive folders to maintain project and program ideas and for easier information sharing.**
 - We need to understand insurance requirements for activities on non-GSEM properties.
 - Mentor database for Gold Award
 - There needs to be help removing barriers, such as funding.
- Supporting younger troops:
 - Older girl troops could offer badge/patch sessions — They could teach new skills and have girls bring them back to their troops

- They can help get younger girls more excited about participating
- Sports/activity schedules make it harder as the girls get older

7:45 - 8:15 Leader Discussion: How can the service unit support you?

- Document what happens at meetings so the same information doesn't need to be repeated every time.
- Keep in mind that many troops, especially younger troops, only meet once a month. Leaders don't want to spend more time in Neighborhood Meetings than with their girls.
 - Goals - Meet less frequently (maybe bimonthly). Have specific topics announced ahead for meetings so leaders can decide if it is useful to them. Keep in mind that different age groups need different support.
- There is a need/interest in more collaborative events, especially for younger girls and combining multiple age groups. Alicia Mallon will be looking at creating some townwide STEM events for GS troops. The older troops will be looking for ways to work more with younger girls — maybe some Friday night community events.
- Troops should think about how to catalog what parents in their troops have special skills to share.
- Remember that GSEM offers discounts and many activities. Reach out to other troops through the Facebook page if you're going to a council event to invite others to join you.
Action item: Katrina will post a link of how to find the discounts/special programs like BSO and theater and sports discounts.
- Meeting topic idea:
 - Bring an example of something you did for a badge activity that worked.
- Systems support (**Action items for Service Unit**):
 - Create a place where people can easily share information for who to contact for particular field trips/activities. Google Docs/Sites may be best.
 - Create contact lists so we know how to contact leaders for our age groups easily.
 - Update information on the website as we go and on Facebook — multiple places that people can access information. (Many badge requirements are on the website now.)
 - Provide leaders a list of who is certified for particular things — camping, boating, archery, etc. This would allow troops who don't have a certified person to do some joint activities.

8:15 - 8:30 Camporee

- Megan M. and Jen S. will coordinate the outdoor programming. Kim and Lynne are looking at craft and other activities. Dawn and Rachel are managing the food side.
 - On the food side, breakfast will be provided as well as ONE other meal. Troops can decide if they want it to be lunch or dinner. One Neighborhood Meeting might be meal planning/“camp cooking.” We will keep in mind that different age groups will have different needs on this. There may be one for Daisies/Brownies focused on low-cook, no-cook, fun meal prep while leaders for older troops may want to explore more creative cooking and meals.
- Crafts and activities were a challenge last time — not enough supplies/volunteers.
 - Part of camporee will include older girls helping to run activities during a single block. The details of that will be developed over time.
- Troops may want to identify a parent who will be the contact for the camporee planning group. Start talking to parents now about volunteering at camporee. ALL parent volunteers will need to be registered and CORI’d.
- On November 15 we enter the lottery for a location/time. Our hope is to get space at Camp Runels (Pelham, NH) either the last weekend in April or the first weekend in May. We will know by late November if we have gotten a space.