

SCOUTS CANADA – NICOMEKL AREA
SCOUTERS' CLUB AGENDA: March 17, 2016
AGENDA - MINUTES

PLENARY

1. Welcome
2. Scouters' Silence
3. Training Announcements
 - a. Scouting Skills (April 1-3): registration closes March 18
 - b. WBI: May 13 – 15: includes Group Commissioner & Group Youth Commissioner training
4. WBII: July 2 – 9. Great opportunity to gain valuable skills. It goes into greater depth about the programs and shares new ideas for working with the youth in your section
5. Safety Moment: Why should we do these?
 - a. Easy to become complacent and assume nothing will happen – whether out on a hike/camp, or simply at your regular meeting place
 - b. Keeping safety consideration in the forefront helps prepare for the unexpected
 - c. Terry's example of 'the unexpected' showed how we need to 'think like a Beaver' when considering safety procedures. For example: As an adult we tend to be concerned with how to get out of a building in the event of an emergency, but if a Beaver (or any youth) happens to get outside, they may not know how to get back in – especially in the middle of the night!
6. 5 Minute Training: **Tips & Benefits of the Scouts Tracker program**
 - a. **Sections need to accept the Area invitation that was sent out in order to help us improve communications and make better use of this program.**
 - b. Phil Hayes (10th White Rock) demonstrated some tips & benefits for getting more out of Scouts Tracker.

Some of the key points:

 - i. It simplifies the sharing of information on upcoming activities. Once an event has been 'pushed' out to calendars, any changes are automatically updated. Eg. Change of time or venue
 - ii. It can be used for signing up for events, keeping track of payments, and printing off sign-in sheets
 - iii. Information can be sent directly to Scouters and youth. Note: it automatically asks for 2nd Scouter in the case of sending email to youth (as per 2 deep rule)
 - iv. Automatically keeps track of program progress for individuals. Currently has both old program & Canadian Path
 - v. Helps Group Committee know what is happening in each section
 - vi. Helps coordinate planning and linking with other sections
 - vii. Helps the Quartermaster see what events are coming up with each section so can prepare
 - viii. Helps avoid equipment conflicts because can see if other sections are likely to be needing items at a given time
 - ix. Helps GC's see if Quality Program Standards are being met.
 - x. Makes transferring youth and all their records from one section to the next a simple click of the mouse. This is especially valuable with the carrying over of skills from one section to another.

- xi. Can be used offline (e.g. at camp) so makes keeping track of program work easy. Automatically attaches the activity to the relevant program areas.
- xii. Can be viewed by the youth and their parents so they can see where they are at with program and badge work, as well as get up to date info on upcoming events.

7. Honours & Awards

- a. Diane B. passed out packages of Commendations for some Groups to present to individuals
- b. Ed Brierly is leaving the area to move to Kelowna. He was presented with a commemorative mug thanking him for his 25 years as a Service Scouter in Langley District/Nicomekl Area

8. Announcements

- a. AYC Melissa Vincent is stepping down due to a heavy course load and other commitments. She will continue to help where possible until a new person is found to take over the role. If anyone knows of a Venturer or Rover who might be interested, please contact Melissa (missymoovin@gmail.com), Pam (nicomeklpam@shaw.ca) or Kenya Mendoza (Council Youth Commissioner: kenya.mendoza@scouts.ca)
- b. Beaveree still needs another station (each Area has to supply 3). Contact James Van B. with ideas and offers to help. byooks@hotmail.com
- c. Cuboree still need 3 stations (Area has to supply 3). Contact Barb Taylor with ideas and offers to help. barbtaylor63@shaw.ca
- d. Ponder Park Work Weekend (March 18-20) will be running at the same time as the Troop Pioneering Camp. Be aware that the lower trail is closed until it is repaired.

9. Door Prizes

SHORT BREAK AND MOVE INTO SECTION MEETINGS

GROUP COMMISSIONERS' MEETING AGENDA

1. AC/AYC Reports

- a. Help Desk Tickets: Please respond promptly. If you are unable to attend to this on a regular basis, assign someone else in your group (e.g. Registrar or Administrator) to do it.
- b. Returning Scouters:
 - i. C of C still needed for many people
 - ii. If person is no longer active in your group, go into *myscouts* and change status to 'inactive' – remove the role.
 - iii. Inactive Scouter that is returning: C of C won't 'pop up' so will need to sign a hard copy. GC can then enter their acceptance info in the Scouter's screening profile
- c. PQS Presentation: Alamin Pirani (Council Executive Director for BCY) is willing to come out to Groups to do a presentation on the Program Quality Standards. Maybe get together with 2 or 3 groups who would be interested in this??

- d. Lots of videos for various parts of the Canadian Path are online now – try showing one at your Group Committee meeting
 - e. Summer Program (formerly ‘Cub Camp’): There will no longer be registration/application forms mailed out to cubs. Emails will be used instead. Jim Bryce (+ Venturers) is willing to come out and share information with your Pack Scouters and parents. New volunteers and parents may not be aware of all that is available for the youth to do at these camps so the information needs to be shared!
 - f. April 17 is deadline for Chief Scout Award Applications to be in.
 - g. Posters are available for recruiting volunteers
2. ASM Report/Membership (Terry Campbell)
- a. Fraser Valley Council is down 115 members from their goal. Nicomekl is just 10 below where they need to be to reach the Area goal.
 - b. The Recruitment Tool Kit and New Scouter Welcome Kit are not going to automatically be sent out this year. GC’s need to order them.
 - c. Still some outstanding registration fees. Group should be sending in a cheque with each Batch report.
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Program
- a. **PQA Tab** on your Group Home Page
 - This is where GC’s enter the information for each section to show their progress towards the Program Quality Award. When you click on the tab, you will find a link providing information about how to fill out the form
 - At the end of each ‘cycle’ or ‘season’, enter the information from your review discussion with the section
 - Be accurate and realistic about how the section is doing with meeting program standards
 - Program Quality Awards will be based on the information entered – there is no longer the paper form for each section to fill out.
 - b. PQS Presentation available (see above note re: Alamin)
5. Scouts Tracker for Commissioners (moved to first item on the agenda so Phil could leave when he was finished)
- a. Why?

Continuing from benefits listed above during the plenary...

 - i. Improves communication by having information readily available for individuals to access.
 - ii. Can see at a glance what is happening in your various sections
 - iii. Can help build agendas for meetings
 - iv. Allows you to put important Group events and related information directly on the calendars of the people in your sections (eg Bottle Drive, GC meeting, Group Picnic, Remembrance Day parade)
 - v. Allows youth, parents to access information which cuts down on emails asking ‘where/when/how much/when’s the money due?’ etc for a specific event
 - vi. Allows Area event information to be shared directly with the sections involved

vii. Questions about the program can be directed to the Scouts Tracker helpline. Edward Martens (Area Registrar) can also answer inquiries about the licenses and some general questions: nicomeklregistrar@outlook.ca. Phil Hayes is also willing to help answer questions: phil-hayes@telus.net.

6. Training for new volunteers

- a. Pam has created an info package covering the initial training requirements for new volunteers, and is looking for feedback. The hope is that it will clarify which courses new volunteers need to complete – especially when they first enter the training platform.
- b. Would this be useful?? Response was “Yes!” Tom W (1st Cloverdale) requested the file so he can give it a trial run with his newly recruited volunteer. Feedback to come later.

7. Canadian Path:

- Starter Kits
 - o Point of interest re Free Delivery (50 miles radius). According to Google Maps: Aldergrove = 59km, downtown Langley = 43.5 km, Camp McLean = 52.2km via BC99, Star of the Sea Hall in White, Rock = 47.5 km)
- GC's please make sure your section Scouters are aware that the *Scouter Manual* (Parts 1 & 2) is online – they don't have to wait for the hard copy books. Point out that Scouters can start by reading, or printing off to read, the 20 or so pages that are section specific in Part 2. Links to both parts of the manual can be found at www.nicomeklscouting.ca.
- Laminated maps for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts plus Progression Charts have been ordered for each group and should be ready for distribution at the April Scouters' Club

8. Group Time – What's New? Questions? Concerns? Challenges?

- a. None voiced.

Next Scouters' Club: Thursday, April 21, 2016