

To: All involved in Scouting

From: Committee Chair Bill Alsnauer

January 20, 2014

Re: Communication, updates, calendar, etc.

The committee has been talking about the issue of informing Scouts, Scouters & parents in a timely manner about Scout activities, changes, weather and so on. Before I delve into the beginning of our solution, let me speak about **Scouting and the historical reasons for the way we do things.**

Each Troop is divided into patrols & communication is designed to flow from the Patrol Leadership Council to the Patrol Leaders, to the boys in that patrol. It is designed that way to help the boys with their communication skills, learn how to make a phone call and reinforce the relationships within their patrol. This system **will** fail from time to time and it is from that that we hope that the boys will learn. In addition, all related announcements are made during Troop meetings, both during announcements and during patrol corners. Obviously attendance is a prerequisite to this being effective. The final piece here is, it is the role of each patrol's assistant Scout Master & Scout Master to check in with the boys to make sure that each has done his job.

We strongly encourage this type of communication and in fact the boys have supplemented the phone call with directly texting other Scouts. Texting from adult to boy must always CC another adult.

We understand the reality of communication, attendance, multiple activities and mostly boys, being boys. The beginning of our solution lies in www.bsa365.org. **If you have not subscribed**, please do so, all updates will occur from this site. We are doing this to support the parents as a SUPPLEMENT to the communication. The most simple rule is **use the website!**

1. **Outings**, if you receive and update or look on line and read about an outing, use it as the opportunity to ask your son questions. Each boy should pack his own pack, tent, etc. Questions like "what do you think you'll need to pack for this campout?" or "Have you checked the weather?" are in line with Scouting. It's OK to have the boys forget things on overnight or weekend campout. (My son is a 24 year old Eagle and the best, most efficient suitcase packer in our family and he credits BSA 365.)
2. **Weather** reports in our city seem bent on raising anxiety and cancelling activities. We are Scouts and though SAFETY comes first ADVENTURE is close behind. We've hiked Clifton Gorge in snow, rain, 0 degrees and had a great day. Boys and adults learn about themselves and what the great outdoors offer in all seasons. If we cancel, the website will be updated and an alert sent. (we don't like to cancel)

3. **Advancement** (your boys rank) and other items are accessed through the website as well in our Troop Webmaster tab. Our committee chair can set you up with the password for your son's specific information.
4. **Calendar**, looking forward for family planning matters. We are working to more consistently get information on the calendar, even if it is just the dates, and then fill in more as known.

HELP!

We are going to have Bus School. Currently the troop has (4) active bus drivers and the summer is fast approaching. We would like at least 3 drivers added to our corp. We most especially would like drivers who have boys in the troop. We will pay for the training, and you'll come away with a CDL, after each ride you'll be cheered by the boys & the opportunity to see the world.

Sincerely,

Bill Alsnauer

Bill Alsnauer, Committee Chair

Some other things going on include;

- Updating camping equipment, storage, etc.
- Getting ready for summer camps
- Reaching out to Webelos