

Eagle River District Fire Side Chat Notes 12/3/09

Council Representatives attending:

Brian Bullock, VP of District Operations

Jeff Sulzbach, Director of Development

John Overland, Asst. Director of Field Service

Field/Program:

1. Eagle River potentially has more Lion Cubs than the current 38 listed for the district. Volunteers from Somerset & New Richmond indicated they probably have 30 of the 38 Lions currently listed on the Lion Pilot report. District should follow-up with Lion applications not turned into office. There are 4 packs in ER District that signed up to do the program, yet have not turned in any Lion applications.
2. Tiger Cub Handbook needs to include information about uniform insignia placement (inside of book covers) like the other Cub handbooks
3. National BSA should not have such tough swimming requirements for 1st Class, it drives some kids away.

Camping:

1. Parents of Scouts that are new camp staff need more communication about what their child should expect and prepare for at camp. Youth often at this age do not share much with their parents. Could a parent handbook be created? Especially for CIT parents.
 - a. Sleeping accommodations
 - b. Access to refrigeration
2. Concerns about too much food waste at our camps... we should create a skit or song (jingle) in order to help youth understand about food waste

Cub Camping

1. Kiwanis Camp Fall Festival Concern from one pack leader
 - a. Too large of groups set-up to be able to complete each activity in the scheduled time of activities
 - b. Need more staffing so groups can be smaller
 - c. No archery equipment/equipment available was broken/not serviceable
 - d. Not enough BB Guns for group
 - e. Event left a 'sour taste' for the new parents/Scouts of this pack
2. Could a few weekends of Polar Cubs be scheduled at FCA in the future?
 - a. Swanson Lodge is now built and it would seem to be able to support dining operations/warming shelter
 - b. Distance from Western WI to PSR or Camp Greenwood was indicated as a barrier to packs attending Polar Cubs

3. A few pack leaders were interested in NSC having some Day Camp options. Their reasoning was that some boys/parents are not ready for overnight camping.
4. Pack leaders and parents should be made aware (better camp communication) that they can bring their own family tents to Akela.

Boy Scout Camping

1. Overnight astronomy course at TSR is 6 hours long; Scouts should get a patch segment for this activity. This was a comment from a youth attending the fire side chat. He also said "Tomahawk was an amazing time".
2. Trading Post at TSR. The quality of knife selections needs to be better at the trading post. Every Scout wants a knife, choices are poor quality... don't stay sharp long, cannot easily use a sharpening stone with them.

Training:

1. Can Grey Wolf be more readily available to youth who are camp staff?
 - a. Can this course be offered on a couple of weekends to meet the need of camp staff that are unable to attend week long course?
 - b. Could there be a course during the school year... the week between Christmas and New Year's?

Scout Shop:

1. When the Scout Shop comes to our roundtable they are only able to operate with exact cash or check. We would like the ability to use credit cards. It seems simple to bring a manual credit card imprint machine. Should have change available too.
2. Can they create an online ordering system? Seems "old school" to only do phone orders.
3. There seems to be inconsistent customer service at the St. Paul Scout Shop. Some staff follow you around to ensure you find what you need, others just point in a general direction for an item shoppers are looking for and don't realize that new parents/leaders are baffled by the 'wall of insignia & advancements'.

Development:

1. \$100 level popcorn prize item (Master Jack Knife) is poor quality; kids cannot close the knife because it is so stiff. It's dangerous for younger Scouts

Administration/Communications:

1. Keep a McKenzie statue on the trailer for parade needs in the future beyond the centennial year. It's a great eye catcher and high promotional value.
2. The National BSA audio cast scheduled for 12/11/09 at 8:30 p.m. should be listed on our council web with instructions on how to RSVP and do our own email blast of this information. **This was actually posted on our web at 4:45 p.m. on 12/3.**
3. We should follow-up with leaders regarding the email blast about the Scoutmaster in Burnsville youth protection situation. Providing more information on how we keep youth safe will help new parents feel comfortable with their son in Scouting.