

Denver Area Council, BSA Jewish Committee on Scouting

Meeting Minutes
5/30/2011

In attendance:
Mike Shapiro
Shawn Connelly
Stuart Zipper
Hyiam Reiffman
Dave Reynolds
Mendel Popack

Opening: Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of last meeting reviewed and accepted

Latest Jamboree details

Hyiam reported that there will be a Shomer Shabbat OA ordeal at the Jamboree, and noted that his son had been elected to the OA and hopes to do that ordeal. However there now has been some disagreement with at least one person involved with the OA lodge running the ordeal indicating this would be impossible because of some sort of deadline technicalities.

Shawn said that he will address the issue with our local OA advisor, and take whatever actions he can.

Stuart also noted that, with the demise of Ordeal during summer camp, it now appears that the only OA option in the Denver Area Council is on Shabbat, which in the future could cause problems for Jewish scouts.

Hyiam also reported on major problem in dealing with the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, particularly involving the planned Friday night dinner and services during the Jamboree, whose plans appear to heavily discriminate against observant Scouts. He also reported that the kosher menu sent to him, apparently put together by the NJCoS, is highly substandard compared to the menus for all other scouts at the Jamboree. As of the last meeting it was unclear what the resolution of that problem might be.

Chaplain Aide Training

The Chaplain's Aide Training, for Scouts of all religions, that had been planned to take place before the Jamboree was cancelled due to lack of response to queries about desired dates from most adults and Scouts who had shown an interest in the training.

A Chaplain's Aide course is now scheduled for Aug. 11-12.

Spring Splash

The Frontier District Spring Splash, at Camp Tahosa, was a major success from the JCOS perspective, with attendance by several JCOS members and Scouts from other troops in support of Troop 1613, which hopefully increased the visibility of our program throughout the Scouting community.

In addition, Troop 1613 won several awards at the Camporee.

Magness

Pack 1613 will be going to Magness at the end of June. Hyiam reported problems in getting the camp menu in order to coordinate kosher food with the food other campers will be getting.

Shawn said he will talk to the camp director and straighten out the issue.

Recognition of Jewish Scouts

Tabled until the next meeting

Fall Kinus

Our plan remains to hold a Kinus in October at Ekar Farms.

Greg was handling communications with Ekar farms, and hopefully will be able to report on them at the next meeting so we can plan far enough in advance for the event to be a success.

Jewish Girl Scouts

Discussion of the question of whether the Denver JCoS should investigate the possibility of including Girl Scouts within our purview was deferred to our next meeting.

However, Mike Shapiro noted that, because JCoS is sanctioned by the BSA, it may not be appropriate to include the Girl Scouts in our domain.

Jewish Girl's Venture Crew

Hyiam raised the possibility of forming a Jewish all-Girl Venture Crew.

He also asked about the issue of having a leader for that crew who was also the leader of another Scout program, and Shawn clarified the issue of what multiple positions a Scouter can and can not hold.

The question was also raised of the legality of all-girls and/or all-boys only Venture crews, which apparently is not a problem.

Growing JCOS

The issue of growing JCOS was again raised.

Our newest member, Rabbi Mendel Popack (a former Boy Scout in Stuart's Troop 700, and as an adult who has completed BSA Commissioner training) has joined the JCoS.

Mendel, who is opening a Chabad house in the Stapleton area, told the committee that his focus is on Jewish teenagers, and his goal is to establish a Jewish boys-only Venture crew.

Troop 1613 News

Another troop has offered Troop 1613 a 4x5x6 trailer, at no cost.

The next meeting was set for June 27, at 7 P.M., at the Denver Academy of Torah.