

September 12th, 2009

Philmont 2010 scouts,

A few coordination items and additional information for planning purposes. I've received a couple of questions about items on the draft schedule I gave out at the kick off cookout, please recognize that some of the dates on it were notional, as we coordinate events, we'll be shifting items around. I'll strive to communicate items as completely as possible, verifying and highlighting events as they firm up.

1. Bi-weekly Thursday evening PS Venture meetings: We will plan on most of these meetings occurring at my home, 21666 Stillbrook Farm, Ashburn, but may shift locations as necessary. I'd expect most meetings to last 45 min – 1 hour. For coordination purposes, I know that we have two scouts participating in fall sports that end at 7:30 PM, so initially, a 7:45-8:30PM schedule might be appropriate, but I need to understand if there are other school or sports conflicts we need to work around. We will have our first Thursday evening meeting on Sept 24, and will meet on a two-week schedule.

2. Hiking opportunities: As noted at the kick-off, our initial focus is on conditioning and hiking legs, with each PS Venture required to complete five 10 mile hikes and one 20 mile hike this fall. We have two near-term opportunities for completing 10 mile hikes.
 - a. Sunday, 20 September – At the completion of the Troop campout at Lake Fairfax, scouts will have the opportunity to hike from Lake Fairfax to the church along the W&OD trail. We have very few Venture PS scouts signed up for this campout, but are considering, if there is enough interest, having interested scouts meeting at Lake Fairfax on Sunday and completing the hike. At the present time, we only have one adult leader available for this hike, so unless there is significant interest, we will not offer this hike. Please advise me of interest by Monday evening so we can determine if we have enough interest to proceed.
 - b. Saturday, 26 September - Lovettsville VA Oktoberfest Volksmarch – there are 5km and 11 km courses, by completing both the 10 mile requirement is met. Mr Palmer is coordinating this event and welcomes participation.
 - c. Nov 2/3 – Due to the LCPS Holiday, I will work with the PS Ventures to identify a hike plan for Monday or Tuesday.

3. Camping/Hiking opportunities:
 - a. Oct 10-12 – Mr. Lay and I are coordinating the campout for this weekend. We are finalizing plans, but are looking at providing opportunities for two hikes, on the 10th and the 12th. We are planning a battlefield hike at the Antietam Battlefield on the 10th, with an Appalachian Trail hike on the 12th.
 - b. Nov 6-8 – V3 Hike-O-Ree – This is a PS Venture-only event in the Front Royal area. This campout includes event sponsored hikes in the GW National Forest.

We'll continue to work with the PS scouts to identify other hiking opportunities though the fall. If the 20 September hike is cancelled, we will add an additional date to the schedule. I've attached a PDF copy of our current schedule.

Thanks,

Dan Crisp
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Philmont 2010 Co-Leader