13 Feb Combined Roundtable, Unit Commissioner, and District Committee meeting notes

This was our first combined meeting and we ask for everyone’s patience as we “find our footing”.

Our goal, going forward, is to send out the Zoom link and agenda for each meeting a week in advance. Our hope is that more leaders will attend as they see agenda items that are of interest.

We also solicit all of your input regarding potential Roundtable topics as we want to make these meetings as relevant as we can for Ft Brooke’s leaders.

A final note from me: there is now a Commissioners’ Corner on the Ft Brooke webpage (<https://tampabayscouting.org/districts/fort-brooke-district>) which I will use to post information, meeting notes, items of interest, etc. Please check this page routinely for updates. (Note: as of today (2/14) the Commissioners’ Corner is blank. I hope to commence posting soon).

Ok…on to the meeting notes….

**Roundtable**:

**DE comments**:

* Year round recruiting is going well
* 2/27 is the South Tampa social
  + Invites have been sent
* Dave Loxton is coming aboard as FT Brooke’s new District Committee chair

**District Commissioner’s comments**:

* 3/15 is the Commissioners’ conference
  + All GTBAC leaders are invited
  + 9-noon
  + At Council office

**Roundtable focus**:

**“Trained”**

* To be officially “Trained”, leaders must complete:
  + Online or in person position training
  + And, complete/have current Hazardous Weather Training
    - Hazardous Wx training will be monitored like YPT

**Scoutbook**: discussed challenges & frustrations with new Scoutbook/Scoutbook plus

* Sorry, no solutions
* One suggestion: use a spreadsheet in conjunction with or in lieu of Scoutbook to ensure you have an accurate record

**JTE:**

* Discussed the demise of JTE & the patch
  + Encouraged units to use the JTE to model/help establish unit goals
* This led to other discussions about using ideas from programs that Scouting has terminated
  + Totems:
    - Units can create their own
    - Use beads as rewards for coming to meeting; being in uniform; camping when below 40; “caught” doing a good deed. Etc
  + Pack Summertime award & National Den Award
    - Use old guidelines
    - Create a Pack streamer for Summertime & National Den awards for Den flags
    - Award streamers to dens that earn them
    - Class B will make these streamers for you

**Scout Shop backorders**:

* A slight frustration that there are not always enough belt loops
  + Ideas to solve this were discussed:
    - Contact other units to see if they have extras
    - Have Den Leaders keep Awards person informed of upcoming adventures and approximate numbers in order to preorder via the scout shop online

**Scout garden**:

* The idea of a scout garden, using a GTBAC camp, containing fruit tress and/or vegetables was discussed.
  + This idea has been previously discussed, but did not gain traction as no one is sure who would approve/champion this project
  + One recommendation was to take this idea to the Executive Committee

**Unit Commissioners’ Meeting**:

* **New Commissioner Tools** coming soon
* New tools will have objective measurements to assess unit health. Specifically:
  + Adult Training
    - Are the key 3 trained?
    - Of course, we want ALL leaders trained, but the Key 3 are critical
  + Advancement
    - Are scouts advancing?
    - Not as critical with Cubs as most advance via the den/as a den
    - More important for Troops, Shops, Crews where advancement is individual based
    - Discussed the importance of having a good program which presents the scouts with the opportunities necessary for advancement
  + Outdoor Activities
    - Again, more critical for Troops, Ships, Crews
    - Units will have to add this info into the tools
    - Info can be as simple as a date
  + Membership Growth
    - Are units growing
  + Unit Size
    - A caution here: you can have a strong small unit as well as a not very well-run large unit
    - IMO, unit size goes hand-in-hand with recruiting/membership growth and retention
  + Retention
    - Are scouts remaining in the program
    - IMO, if scouts are having FUN (and we’re also “tricking” them into learning), they stay
* Note: this is **NOT** a “report card”, the new tools are designed to assist Counsels, Districts, and Commissioners ensure quality programs are being delivered to the scouts and to help identify any units which may need some additional support.
* **New Units**:
* The District’s goal is to grow additional units this year
* District Commissioner’s caution:
  + New units require extra “care and feeding”
  + This usually comes via the Commissioner Corps
  + We don’t have enough Commissioners to serve the units we have: ergo; we have to ensure that we these new units have the support they need to flourish.
* (Reminder) **Commissioners’ Conference** on 3/15 at the Council Offices
  + ALL leaders are invited
* **Challenge to Commissioners**:
  + How do the 10 active commissioners ensure we are serving FT Brooke’s 64+ units?
* **District Committee**
  + Year-round recruiting is in full swing
    - District is scheduled to visit 15 schools before the Fall
* **Post meeting parking lot meeting**
  + Lee Pruitt, Pack 339’s Committee Chair said, he’d like to help the Commissioner Corps, but at this time he isn’t able to be a commissioner. Lee then asked if it would be possible to help once a year and support a unit that needs assistance.
  + So…this “got me thinking”…could we?
    - Establish an “ad hoc Commissioner Corps” or a “Commissioner Emeritus Corps”
      * This would be a group of experienced scouters who can’t be “full time” commissioners, but who are willing to assist the commissioner corps on an ad hoc basis once a year.
      * Yes, this would have its challenges, but I’d like to know if anyone has any thoughts on this concept?
  + Of course, we’re looking for commissioner candidates.
    - If you know a good candidate, please LMK. Thanks.