

# Boy Scout Roundtable Breakout Session

Meeting Notes

October 7, 2010

Topic: **Community Service**

Roundtable Discussion

1. **Opening Comment:** Service is an important element in Scouting. This meeting will be an exchange of ideas and approaches for planning, supporting, and carrying out community service activities.

## 2. **Project Ideas**

- Road Cleanup
  - a. Formality
    - i. Some units have formally adopted sections of road to clean up.
    - ii. Some units clean up sections that are adopted by other organizations (e.g. American Legion)
    - iii. Some units do this informally
  - b. Safety
    - i. MNDOT has provided a safety video that is required viewing before working on some roadways.
  
- Church-Related
  - a. Scout Sunday
    - i. This also doubles as an opportunity to partner with local Packs
  - b. Leaf-raking weekend in the fall
  - c. "Make a Difference" service days
  - d. Transporting donations from food drives, clothes drives, holiday gift dropoff
  - e. Assembling / distributing Easter baskets
  - f. Assist with Parish Festivals
  - g. Church cleanup after "theme" holidays
    - i. Removing Christmas trees
    - ii. Pumpkin chucking
  
- Dept. of Natural Resources
  - a. Stream Cleanup
    - i. Mike Stanton suggested doing shoreline cleanup along streams. Would involve partnering with the DNR fisheries manager.
  - b. Service at State Parks
    - i. Troop 89 does a significant amount of camping at State Parks. By contacting the park office before the trip, they've been able to make arrangements for some fun service projects that the boys enjoy and the park rangers love.
      - Projects have involved cutting & removing brush along trails, removing logs and slash cut earlier by camp staff, and seed collections.

- Lake Cleanup
  - a. A 2004 Eagle Scout Project was adopted as an annual event by the White Bear Lake Conservation District. In March 2010, three Mahtomedi Troops collaborated to make this a community-wide Troop event. 90 volunteers showed up to clean the lake and then celebrate Scouting fellowship with a pizza party. This event is being repeated in 2011, with an expanded focus to either include the WBL Troops or perhaps be expanded to include all of the Many Waters District.
- School-Related
  - a. Help PTA with waffle breakfast (Bus tables)
- Community Events
  - a. Parades
  - b. 9/11 memorial service
- (Not Discussed) Service Projects at BSA Camps
  - a. Some units plan and carry out service projects while at Tomahawk and other resident camps. Last year one unit budgeted over \$500 for materials for their service project to replace the stairs between Chippewa and Sioux camps at Tomahawk and then spent over 200 service hours to install the stairway.

### 3. Administration

- Keeping Track of Opportunities
  - a. Some units have the youth Scribe keep track of opportunities and keep track of service hours.
  - b. Some units have an adult keep track of opportunities and keep track of service hours.
    - The adult also reports service to the “Service to America” initiative.
- Publicizing Opportunities
  - a. Announce at Troop Meetings.
  - b. Publish in Troop Newsletter
  - c. Announce on Troop website

### 4. Service Expectations

- Based on a T433 program, another Many Waters Unit has created a service initiative in which each Patrol Leader is expected to plan and carry out a service project with his Patrol at least once during his 6-month term in office. In return for doing this, the boys are able to qualify for reimbursement for a Patrol-level activity following the completion of their service project. Adult advisors are made available to the Patrol Leaders so they can get the help / guidance they need. This program has been successful in 1) providing service to community and 2) helping Patrol Leaders develop expanded leadership skills.