

May 30, 2020 - Blueberry Field Meeting

In attendance: Representing Troop 150: Chris, Ted
Representing Troop 142: Ben, Tom
Representing Troop 151: Tim
County Appointee: Dale
Farm Manager: Will

The meeting consisted of questions and answers information on managing blueberries from past to present. Much good information was contributed by Will, who had been managing the blueberries until 2017 +-.

Other discussions were about how we are to manage sales and work load between the three troops, and perhaps others.

Dale offered to see what he could do to obtain quart containers, wood chips, housing for equipment, porta pottie, and maybe netting.

We discussed the possibility to log in our involvement via the internet, on a spread sheet, consisting of hours spent by each troop, cash gained by each troop, work schedule, picking schedule, and pick your own schedule.

Other subjects discussed were witches broom, mummy berry, fly infestation, compost pile, pick your own program, advertising, (cards, newspapers, etc.), fertilizing program thus far, continuing the program with the County, basic plan request from the county, photo opps scheduled for June 6, 2020 at 11am, also lunch and work session, Will's past sales outlets and costs, making request for more chips or other services. Mowing and clipping was done on Sunday May 30th,

Work schedule is as follows:

Troop 151	May 17th	Mow and clip bushes
Troop 151, 150, 142	May 31st	Mow and clip bushes
Troop 151, 150, 142	June 6th	Mow, clip, mulch bushes, photo opp, lunch
Troop 142	June 13th	Mow, mulch, and work day
Troop 150	June 20th	Mow, mulch, and work day
Troop 151	June 27th	Mow, mulch, and work day
Troop 142	July 4th & 5th	Mow, mulch, and work day
Troop 150	July 11th	Maybe pick or/and mow, work day
Troop 151	July 16th & 18th	Pick & pick your own, work day
Troop 142	July 25th	Pick & pick your own, work day
Troop 150	August 1st	Pick & pick your own, work day
Troop 151	August 8th	Pick & pick your own, work day
Troop 142	August 15th	Pick & pick your own, work day
	August 22nd	May not need mowing

Troop 150	August 29th	Mow, work day
	September 5th	May not need mowing
Troop 151	September 12th	Mow, work day
	September 19th	May not need mowing
Troop 142	September 26th	Last mowing, work day

Picking Schedule - Important - if you pick clean please post it ASAP so another troop does not make the trip to find nothing left.

Mid July starts the picking season and we plan to pick 2 to 3 times a week. A Thursday pick will give time to prepare the berries for Saturdays farmers market. We (151) have always sold out before 2 hours. Saturday or Sunday will be a good time to pick while mowing and mulching is going on. Tuesday will round out the week. Pick Thursday, Saturday, Tuesday. There may be enough berries this year for each troop to pick 3 times a week, if not other arrangement can be made.

Troop Level - How the cash is distributed. Each troop has a similar program. 50% of fundraising goes to the troop as operating expenses. 50% goes to the scouts in a proportionate manner of how much they have contributed to the to the fund raiser. The boys can use the funds for scout camp, equipment such as sleeping bags, tents, and packs, program events, or eagle projects, as long as it is scout related. Typically any money not used by the time the scout ages out (age 18) or (21 for venture) the cash reverts to the troop.

The first year with the blueberry program we made around \$300.00. The second year we made \$982.25. This year's projection is \$2,700.00 or more.

Time spent on a community service project is paramount to earning an award to the troop entitled "Journey to Excellence". There are about 14 other requirements such as retaining membership, gaining members, percentage of scouts to camp, percentage of advancement, etc.. Service project hours plays an important role in obtaining this goal.

Total hours credited this year to date at the blueberry fields:

Troop 151 24 hours Troop 150 10 hours Troop 142 15 hours

The scouting community would like to thank all the county members involved in allowing us to continue the use of the blueberry fields. Most of our fund raising programs have been cancelled this year, such as July 4th. We are unable to operate as a group because of the covid 19 pandemic. We are very lucky to have this opportunity to share among ourselves. Troop 150 and Troop 151 have always had a close relationship because of our proximity and now we have Troop 142 to join us. I hope this is a start of a new relationship between the three troops, all from a common goal - blueberries.

Thanks again.

Tim Brown
Assistant Scout Master, Troop 151