

# Welcome to Scouting with Troop 125



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

*Troop 125 is committed to providing a boy led troop, under the guidance of trained adult leadership, in a Christ centered environment.*

Your son is standing at the doorway to the most exciting adventures you can imagine. The world of Scouting includes activities such as hiking through woods and over mountains, canoeing across lakes and down rivers, and lots of opportunities to camp under the stars. He will have the privilege of smelling fresh rain in the forest and preparing his own meals over a campfire or on a camp stove. As he progresses in the Scouting experience, he will travel back-country settings without leaving a trace, while living well with only what he carries in his pack. Scouting will be an adventure he will remember the rest of his life.

The door is open to a path teaching him new skills. Your son will learn how to find his way with a map and compass, how to remain warm and dry in stormy weather, and how to give proper first aid or use other skills in an

emergency. He will learn by observing wildlife and nature. He will master these new skills and then pass his knowledge on to others as a youth leader in the Troop.

The door is open to a path of new friendships and fun. He may already know some other boys who are already part of Troop 125, and he will certainly meet lots of other Scouts along the Trail to Eagle. Scouting is a worldwide brotherhood with many millions participating. Almost everywhere he travels, he will find other Scouts excited about the same things he is.

## **Troop 125 History**

Troop 125 was chartered in 1990 to provide a Christian Boy Scout Troop for the members and friends of Northwest Bible Church. We desire that a boy be able to experience all of Scouting's activities within the context of his Christian faith. Northwest Bible Church is our chartering organization. From a charter membership of eight young men, the Troop has grown to over 122 scouts and 99 registered Adult Leaders. In ten years, Troop 125 has been the home of 43 boys who completed the Trail to Eagle. Just in the past year, 15 Scouts completed all the requirements and were awarded the Eagle rank.

Troop 125 emphasizes the traditional scouting goals of training youth in character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Already the Troop has a legacy of making a positive difference. Your son is the beneficiary of this legacy.

Will Skeeters, Dean Driskill, Carl Christy, Ben Christy, Dustin Roberts, Scott Patillo (8/94), Chris Newsome (6/95), Matt Dillard (7/96), Chip Gilliam (1/97), Michael Riemer, Nate Dettmer (7/97), Tim West (7/97), Dell Miller (8/97), Jeff Patillo (9/97), Taylor Millard (3/98), Mike Edgar (8/98), Daniel Riemer (9/98), Sterling Worth (10/98), David Sadley (4/99), Luke Ledbetter (3/99), Philip Koerner (8/99), David Moyer (1/00), Mark Webb (3/00), Nathan Cozart (1/01), Brian Patillo (3/03), Eric Florence (6/03), Matt Ashbaugh (8/01), Robert Reagan (8/01)

## **First year Scout Program**

Troop 125's First Year Scout program is geared towards helping new Scouts achieved First Class rank by the end of their first year in the Troop. National BSA studies indicate that when a Scout earns his First Class Rank within the first year in Scouting, the odds of his continuing to advance and participate in the Troop go up dramatically.

### ***Goals of First Year Scout Program***

The overall goals of the First Year Scout Program are to insure that your son:

- has fun
- participates in Troop and Patrol activities
- learns teamwork and Scouting skills
- advances in rank

### ***Integration into the Troop***

The primary difference between First Year Scouts and other Scouts in Troop 125 is that weekly meetings and campout experiences are more structured for the new Scout than for the experienced Scout so that more time is available to work on rank advancement. New Scouts will break-out for portions of the Troop Meeting, and some activities on campouts will be exclusively for the First Year Scouts. However, First Year Scouts are not separated from the rest of the Troop.

Much of what your son learns during the first year will come from interaction with older Scouts. Scouts are assigned to Patrols by the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster welcomes your input.

## ***Patrol Meetings***

Patrol meetings are an integral part of your son's growth through Scouting. Patrol Meetings help to form a bond between Patrol members that will serve them well. The individual Patrols will meet for a few minutes during each Troop Meeting in a time referred to as "Patrol Corners," with time to complete planning for the upcoming campout or other function. Meeting apart from the Troop Meeting setting is also encouraged.

## ***Advancement After First Class***

Generally after a scout achieves First Class Rank he is responsible for advancing in rank at a pace he chooses. However, younger Scouts often need direction and encouragement to work on further rank advancement. *If you take an active part in your son's progress, his chance of success increases greatly.* In fact, a boy's Scouting experience is always enhanced by positive parental involvement. For this reason, Troop 125 encourages and welcomes parents at all Troop activities. Since the First Year Scout program will involve a large group of boys, there will be numerous opportunities for New Scout parents to join in and help.

The Advancement Committee includes Scouters whose responsibility is to be a resource for Scouts working on rank advancement after First Class. Ask for the Advancement Chairman to introduce you to these adults.

## ***The Ideals of Scouting***

Many of our New Scouts were formerly members of a Webelos den in Cub Scouts. Typically New Scouts who were in Webelos already know most of the Boy Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan. If your son is a New Scout and was not in a Webelos den, it is important that he learn these as soon as possible. Your encouragement will be helpful to him. One of the requirements for earning the Tenderfoot Rank is to repeat all four of these from memory. Boards of Review for all ranks begin with your son repeating the Boy Scout Oath and Law from memory.

# **Troop Organization**

## ***Patrols***

Every Boy Scout Troop is made up of Patrols, usually groups of six to ten boys who work together as a team. Each Patrol elects its own leader. The Patrol Leaders, with an elected Senior Patrol Leader at its head, make up the Troop Leaders Council. It is this Council's job to plan and run the Troop program. Patrols may have their own meetings and carry out their own Patrol Activities.

## ***Venture Scouting***

Venture Scouting is for Scouts who have completed the ninth grade and who are interested in more challenging outdoor experiences. Our Venture Scouting Patrol participates fully in all Troop Activities. In addition to coming on all Troop campouts, Venture also may go on several other outdoor activities each year. Some of these activities may include: kayaking, canoeing, indoor rock climbing, rappelling, camping, hiking, and paintball outings.

## ***Troop Meetings***

Troop meetings are held Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the CE Auditorium of Northwest Bible Church. The calendar runs from August to August and will indicate meeting dates for the entire year for both Scouts and Adults. Scouts are to wear full "Class A" uniforms to all Troop Meetings.

Troop Meetings always begin with the presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. The SPL and Scoutmaster make announcements concerning upcoming events and advancement. There may be a demonstration of a Scouting skill by one of the Patrols, an adult leader, or an outside authority. The Trail to First Class Scouts may break

out for a portion of the meeting to work on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Rank advancement and camping skills. Some meetings will also include Merit Badge classes taught over several consecutive weeks. The Troop comes back together for a game or a skit, and the Meeting is closed with the Scoutmaster's Minute and Retrieval of the Colors. Be sure to pick up your son at 9:00 p.m.

### ***Troop Leaders' Council Meetings***

TLC Meetings are held monthly prior to the Troop Meeting. TLC Meetings review the execution of campout planning, refine planning for the next month's Troop Activities and provide a forum to discuss the Scouts ideas for improving their Troop. The Meeting is chaired by the SPL and includes every Scout in a leadership position. The Scoutmaster is present as a guide.

### ***Troop Elections and Leadership***

Elections for the Boy Leadership of the Troop are held twice per year. The elections are usually held in February and September. The term of serving in a leadership position is six months. Leadership position descriptions have been developed for scouts in Troop 125 to serve as their guide for what is expected of them in their leadership position. Each scout in a leadership position is given a copy of the description to sign. Each scout in a leadership position will develop three goals of leadership for their six month term.

### ***Troop Committee Meetings***

The Troop Committee meets once per month on announced dates from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Every dad of a 125 Scout is asked to attend. Every registered Scouter is a member of the Troop Committee and should plan on attending regularly. At Troop Committee Meetings, the business of the Troop is conducted, reports are heard from sub-committee chairs.

### ***Courts of Honor***

Courts of Honor are held approximately five times per year. At a Court of Honor, your son will be recognized for any rank advancement he has earned since the last Court. He will be awarded Merit Badge patches. There may be other special awards. Plan on attending every Court of Honor with your son to support and encourage him in Scouting. Parents are always on stage with their son when he is awarded a rank advancement. Mothers will get a miniature "Mother's Pin" signifying your son's rank, and may be worn on the "Mother's Pin Ribbon." It is a special time for your son, and he wants you to be a part of it.

### ***Eagle Courts of Honor***

Eagle Courts of Honor are held for each Eagle candidate when he has completed his Trail to Eagle. Eagle Courts may be separate from the regular Troop Courts of Honor or may follow immediately after a Troop Court. Eagle Courts involve an impressive ceremony that emphasizes the lessons learned on the Trail to Eagle. Support the Scouts of Troop 125 who have achieved this highest rank in Scouting by being present at their Eagle Courts.

## **Troop Policies**

### ***Participation***

Your son will get out of Scouting just what he puts into it. Very few things are true of all Boy Scouts, but this is true without exception. A boy who does not come to Troop Meetings regularly, who misses campouts, and who is not active in his Patrol will never discover the fun of Scouting. He needs your help. Accompany your son to Troop Meetings. Be aware of campout weekends when you are planning family activities. Become active as an adult Scouter in Troop 125. Let your son know that Scouting is important to you and it will be more important to him.

## ***Participation at Troop Meetings***

Your son should attend every Troop Meeting. If he cannot attend a meeting, please get him to call his Patrol Leader. Troop Meetings are valuable for advancement opportunities, Merit Badge classes, program information, and Patrol planning for campouts. To keep up to date on Troop information and training, please help your son make it to the meetings each Monday.

## ***Participation at campouts***

Your son should attend Troop campouts. If he cannot attend, please make sure his Patrol Leader knows this by the Patrol or Troop Meeting before the campout. This Patrol Meeting is primarily for campout planning; i.e. which Scout will buy the food, who will cook, etc. Good planning requires that the Patrol Leader be aware of who will attend.

## ***Pride in the Scout uniform***

Complete Boy Scout "Class A" uniform, including neckerchief, is worn to all Troop Meetings. Complete Boy Scout "Class A" uniform, but not including neckerchief, is worn in the cars to and from every campout. Complete Boy Scout "Class A" uniform, including neckerchief, is worn for all Scoutmaster's Conferences and Boards of Review. Adults are encouraged to wear a Scout uniform to Troop functions. Only adults in full "Class A" uniform should sit Boards of Review.

## ***Campouts***



Troop Campouts are held every month except June (Summer Camp) and July. Campouts are held at different locations, usually a Scout Camp facility, a State Park, or on private land. The Troop departs from the church parking lot at either 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening or 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, and returns around 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Bring a sack lunch to eat in the car for either Friday dinner or Saturday lunch as appropriate. Bring money to eat lunch on the return home on Sunday. Scouts will camp as Patrols. Each Patrol buys its own food. The usual cost is about \$8 for Scouts and \$10 for Scouters. Adult Scouters camp as the "Rocking Chair" Patrol, separated slightly from the boys. Each Patrol works as a unit - tenting together, cooking together, eating together, and cleaning-up together.

Your son will need a pack to carry his personal gear. Scouts cannot bring cots on regular Troop Campouts. Tents, Patrol Boxes, and other heavy gear will be transported to the campsite in the Troop trailer. Each campout will have a special theme or emphasis. These may include aquatics, backpacking, canoeing, rock climbing, pioneering and advancement. Your son must have earned the Canoeing Merit Badge, including the BSA swimming test, to go on the canoeing campout (exception may be made if Dad attends and is in the same canoe as his son). On Saturday night there is usually a Troop Campfire complete with skits, songs, and other silliness presented by the Patrols. On Sunday mornings there is a non-denominational worship service and a Final Assembly prior to departing camp. Uniforms must be worn to the worship service and the Final Assembly.

Scouts cook and tent with their Patrol. Adults, likewise, cook and tent as a patrol...separate from the Scouts, but close enough to monitor. **Dads are strongly encouraged to not tent with their sons on campouts. Having the boys work and bond as a patrol unit is an essential element in the program.**

The "Totin' Chip" is required to carry a pocket knife or use a bow saw. The "Fireman's Chip" is required to operate Coleman stoves.

All adults in Troop 125 must attend the BSA Youth Protection Seminar. This one-hour video seminar is offered on several occasions during the year by the Council.

## Campout Contraband

The following items cannot be brought to any Troop 125 Campout. They will be confiscated by the Scoutmaster and returned to the Scout's parents, not to the Scout, after the Troop return to NBC:

- Fireworks
- Firearms, ammunition, or archery equipment
- Sheath knives (pocket knives are permitted if your son has earned his "Totin' Chip)
- Axes, long bladed pocket knives
- Lighters, lighter fluid, or other flammable liquids
- Tobacco or illegal drugs (prescription drugs must be registered with the Scoutmaster)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Inappropriate literature or magazines
- Radios, tape players, CD players, electronic games or other electronic equipment
- Aerosol cans of any kind (including insect repellent)

Campouts require the cooperation and positive participation of every Scout and Scouter. Disruptive behavior is incompatible with the Scout Law. The Scoutmaster may withdraw the privilege of camping with the Troop from any Scout that disrupts a campout. Should the behavior warrant, the Scoutmaster will call the parents to come and get their Scout during the campout.

Hazing is not permitted during any BSA activity.

Profanity is not permitted by Scouts or Scouters

Drinking alcoholic beverages and using tobacco products is absolutely forbidden for both Scouts and adults at 125 events.

## Campout Worship Service

"A Scout is Reverent." Every Troop 125 campout has a brief Sunday morning worship service planned and conducted by the Scouts. These services of worship emphasize the beauty of God's creation and our responsibility to our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Boards of Review**

Full Scout uniform should be worn by the Scout and the adults who conduct a Board of Review. This long-standing Troop tradition lets your son see that parents are proud to wear the uniform and increases his own pride in being part of Scouting.

## **Service Projects**

Service hours are required for rank advancement. Service projects must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster. Be sure to be involved with as many of the Service Projects as possible. Remember, the next Service Project may be your own.

## Scout Leadership Training

### ***Oak Leaf Junior Leadership Training***

Oak Leaf is the first level of Junior Leadership training offered by the North Trail District, Circle Ten Council for your son. It is a weekend seminar, usually held at Camp Wisdom, that introduces the basics of leadership in the Troop and Patrol. Your son must be at least First Class rank to attend Oak Leaf. Oak Leaf Junior Leadership Training is a prerequisite for Golden Acorn Junior Leadership Training. Oak Leaf is generally offered twice each year, typically October and April.

| ["He will turn the hearts of the Fathers to their Sons..." Malachi 4:6](#)

## ***Golden Acorn Junior Leadership Training***

Golden Acorn is a week long summer camping experience that builds upon the lessons learned in Oak Leaf Junior Leadership Training. Your son must have attended Oak Leaf in order to attend Golden Acorn. Because it occurs over a week period, leadership skills can be taught in much greater depth at Golden Acorn than at Oak Leaf. It is a worthwhile experience for every Scout. Location, schedule and cost information are posted on the Circle Ten Website: [circle10.org](http://circle10.org).

## ***Den Chief Training***

Twice each year North Trails District offers a one-day training session for Den Chiefs. Being a Den Chief is a great way to meet leadership requirements for rank advancement and to get to know Webelos who may join the Troop. Although we do not yet have a Cub program at NBC, First Class 125 scouts are encouraged to be Den Chiefs if they are aware of the need. The training usually is on a Saturday (8:30 to 3:30) and covers the basics of Cub Scouting.

## ***Junior Leadership Training is for your son***

Troop 125 is proud of the comprehensive involvement of our Scouts in BSA leadership training. Boy leadership is the basis of Scouting. BSA Junior Leadership training programs are an important part of boy leadership for your son. When he reaches First Class rank, encourage him to go to Oak Leaf. Remember that both Oak Leaf and Golden Acorn are required to be eligible for election as Patrol Leader and SPL respectively in the Troop.

## **Adult Leadership Training**

### ***BSA Youth Protection Seminar***

The BSA Youth Protection Seminar is a one and one-half hour video seminar led by a member of the Council Staff or a Council officer. Every registered adult leader must plan on attending this informative seminar. Do not bring your children to the seminar.

### ***Fast Start***

Fast Start is a video seminar that explains the basics of adult leadership in Scouting. Ask for the Troop Committee Chairman to arrange for it to be shown to adults during the time of a Troop meeting if you are interested in attending.

### ***Basic Leader Training***

Basic Leader Training is a four session training seminar. The first four sessions are held on consecutive Thursday nights in September and February. Adults form a new Scout Troop, break up into Patrols and get a boy's perspective on Scouting. Valuable scouting skills are learned, the philosophy of adult leadership in Scouting is discussed, and you get to make your own Patrol flag. The fifth session is a weekend campout. Your new Scout Troop goes camping as Patrols just like in a real Troop. You get to use many of the Scouting skills you have learned, share information with adults from other troops, and generally have lots of fun.

Basic Leader Training is required to be an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 125.

### ***Wood Badge***

Wood Badge is an advanced adult leadership experience that builds upon what you have learned at Basic Leader Training and your other Scouting experiences. On alternating years it is held over one week at Philmont Scout Ranch. The years when it is not available at Philmont, it is held over three weekends at one of the Council camps in Northeast Texas. Troop 125 has a proud tradition of Wood Badge involvement.

## ***Adult Leadership Training is for you***

Troop 125 has a strong tradition of BSA trained leadership. As the parent of a 125 Scout, you can be a part of continuing this tradition by attending Basic Leader Training and bringing those skills back to the Troop. You should attend the BSA Youth Protection Seminar when it is offered during your son's first year of Scouting. And of course Wood Badge will help make a difference for you and your son. Be part of this tradition and be proud of it.

## **Summer Camp**

Summer Camp is an essential part of your son's first year in Scouting and runs from Sunday to Saturday. He will get to know the other boys in the Troop, get to know the adult leaders, and begin to learn how to work as a Patrol. Above all, Summer Camp is FUN!! Troop 125 usually attends Camp Constantin at Possum Kingdom Lake, just west of Weatherford, Tx.

## **First Year Camper Program**

First Year Scouts, almost without exception, experience some degree of apprehension toward their first summer camp experience (the same can be said for their parents). A positive means of easing this fear is enrolling your son in a camp program designed to accommodate the specific needs of First Year Scouts. Through proper staff selection, effective teaching practices, adequate structure and use of the Patrol method, First Year Scouts join the mainstream of Scouting.

Scouts enrolled in the First Year Camper program work on many of the requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks, as well as several Merit Badges. Your son should nearly complete the requirements for Tenderfoot at Summer Camp, earn many of the requirements for Second Class, and some of the First Class requirements. The First Year Camper program is run by Camp Constantin staff.

The troop is looking forward to your son participating in the First Year Camper program. Our goal is for all Scouts to earn the First Class Rank in their first year of Scouting. This program at Summer Camp will give your son an excellent start toward that goal.

## ***Summer Camp Scoutmaster***

One lucky Dad is usually asked to be the "Point Man" for each Summer Camp. He takes the lead role in planning and making sure the details are covered to help the camp be as smooth and problem free as possible.

## ***Assembly for Summer Camp***

We will assemble at a time and place to be announced. Departure plans for the troop will include insuring troop supplies needed at camp are in the trailer, and providing space to carry some personal gear for the Scouts.

## ***Transportation***

Transportation to camp is the responsibility of each family for your own Scout. You will need to make your own arrangements if you want to carpool. Drivers, please adhere to the speed limit and wear your safety belt. Safety is our primary concern. There is nothing to be gained by hurrying.

## ***Food***

Scouts should eat a good breakfast at home and bring a sack lunch to eat at camp after arrival.

## ***Arriving at Camp***

You must proceed to the main parking area upon arrival at Camp Constantine. After the Troop assembles together, we can check in for our medical check at 12:00 noon. No one is allowed to enter the campsite by car before that time. Your son's camp gear may be moved to the Troop's camping area by private care, although the number of vehicles allowed at one time is very limited. We ask that no more than two personal vehicles at a time be taken past the parking lot for unloading. Scouts will leave the campsite to go on a camp orientation tour and to take their swim test. You are invited to walk to the campsite to see where your son will be for the next week.

## ***Arriving at the Campsites***

No Scout may put his gear into a tent until allowed to do so by the SPL and the Scoutmaster. It will do no good to try to be the first to select a tent. The Troop 125 campsite is large, and there are tents for all Scouts. The SPL and the Scoutmaster will lay out the campsite by patrols.

## ***What to wear to Camp***

Wear your swimsuit under your Scout uniform. Soon after we get to camp and unload our gear, we will go to the waterfront to take the BSA Swim Test. By doing this, we can get the necessary swimming safety requirement out of the way quickly. Adults who intend to swim or participate in waterfront activities should also take the swim test at this time.

## ***Phone***

There is a no phone at the camp for scouts. A phone is available in the adult meeting area, but use is subject to Scoutmaster approval and is discouraged by the Camp Constantin staff. Dads attending camp often have cell phones that work fairly well. It is not possible for you to call your son at camp. In an emergency, call 817-779-2131. Scouts may not bring their own cell phone to camp.

## ***Mailing Address***

(Scout's Name), Troop 125, Camp Constantin, HC-51, Box 154, Graford, TX 76449. Mail is slow, so write early in the week. Anything mailed in Dallas after Wednesday will probably not make it to camp before it is over. Some parents mail letters in Graford or Weatherford on the way home from taking their son to camp. This is a good idea. Scouts love getting mail and look forward to mail-call each day.

## ***Family Night***

We discourage Scouts leaving camp before Saturday morning. Families are welcome to join the Troop after 6:00 p.m. on Friday for dinner, the camp Water Carnival, and the Order of the Arrow Ceremony. We then have refreshments at our campsite, all of which is usually over around 10:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight. You can eat supper with your son at camp on Friday. Dinner is provided by Constantin (for a cost of about \$5.00) and starts at 6:30 p.m.. You may wish to bring a picnic with your son's favorite food. The supper is held at the dining hall and you can meet your son there after 6:00 pm. The Water Carnival is great fun. There is competition in all kinds of water sports and a campwide volleyball tournament. First Year Campers are part of the fun, so plan on being there to cheer on your son and his fellow Scouts in Troop 125.

## ***Friday Campers***

Registered adult dads are welcome and encouraged to come and stay one or more nights with the Troop during the week. There are motels in Graham, Mineral Wells and Weatherford for families.

## ***OA Ceremony***

The Order of the Arrow Tap-out Ceremony held Friday night after supper is an important milestone for those Scouts selected to be a part of OA. But the ceremony can last a long time; in fact a VERY long time. Over three hundred scouts form a circle (your son will be one of them), and the OA Indians travel around the circle multiple times tapping-out the Scouts elected by their Troops. Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight.

## ***Camp Departure***

Camp is over on Saturday, at 9 a.m with pick up by 10:00 am. Meet your son at the campsite. Every Scout should remain for Saturday clean-up, packing of Troop equipment, awards and presentations. If your son must leave early, you must let the Scoutmaster know that you are taking him from camp. Again we ask that personal vehicles be limited to two at a time at the Troop campsite for loading.

## ***Physical Exam***

As soon as possible, turn in the summer camp medical information form. No one can attend camp without every line on the form completely filled out. Each form must be signed by a parent.

## ***Spending Money***

The average amount needed is \$25. Possible expenses include snacks at the Tradin' Post, craft items, rifle and shotgun ammunition, merit badge books, camp T-shirts or other logo items, or meals going to or from camp. Each Scout is responsible for his own valuables and money.

## ***Insurance***

The camp makes every effort to be certain that all possible safety precautions are rigidly followed, whether on the waterfront, rifle range, food service area, or during any other camp activity. In the event of an accident, however, each boy is covered by camp insurance.

## ***Label your Stuff***

Please put your son's name on EVERYTHING, from toothpaste to his neckerchief. Label his Sierra Cup. Label his Socks. Label his underwear. Label EVERYTHING.

## ***Uniforms***

Your son will need his Boy Scout uniform for summer camp. Two uniforms are recommended (if possible). Remember, he will be eating spaghetti and other messy goodies. The boys usually try to make one paper napkin last all week. This usually doesn't work.

## ***Shoes***

Shoes must be worn to the waterfront area and at all times around camp. Most boys find a pair of canvas slip-on useful. Open-toed shoes and sandals are **not permitted**.

## ***Snacks***

Troop 125 tradition allows your son to bring a variety of goodies with him. We require that he show responsibility for the environment and clean up after himself. Moderation is also suggested.

## ***The Weather***

IT WILL BE HOT! But "Be Prepared" for rain or shine.

## ***Packing***

Some Scouts have found it more practical to bring their belongings in a footlocker . Another fine alternative is a Rubbermaid Rough Neck box. Both items are available at discount stores, The Container Store, etc. A sports bag or small duffel bag will also work.

## ***What to Bring to Camp***

Scout uniform(s)

At least two or more Scout shirts

1 or more Scout shorts

Scout belt

Neckerchief and slide

Extra pair of shoes

Scout socks  
Cap  
T-shirts or other shirts  
Underwear  
Shorts  
Light jacket  
Rain poncho  
Handkerchiefs  
Swimsuit  
Towels  
Sun screen  
Toothbrush and toothpaste  
Comb or brush  
Soap with plastic case  
Dirty clothes bag  
Merit badge books  
Small length of rope or cord  
Boy Scout Handbook  
Pen, pencil  
Small notebook  
Flashlight and batteries  
Clothes hangar and dry cleaner bag  
Sheets and blanket or sleeping bag  
Pillow  
Cot (not a chaise lounge)  
Sierra cup  
Any required medication (advise Scoutmaster)  
Corrective lenses if needed  
Spending money  
Patrol flag  
Special equipment and money for merit badges  
Long sleeve shirt and pants for Swimming MB  
Canteen or water bottle  
OA sash (members only)  
Insect repellent (non aerosol)

### ***Optional items***

Fishing gear  
Boy Scout Fieldbook  
Camera and film  
Chapstick  
Metal mirror  
Ball glove, baseball  
Sunglasses  
Musical instrument  
Camp chair

### ***Do Not Bring***

Anything not allowed on a regular Troop campout (except for the cot). See the contraband list.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Visitors to summer camp must register at the camp office before leaving the front parking lot area. If you must take your son home due to an emergency, the Scoutmaster **must** know that he is leaving. Otherwise, he and the camp staff will be searching for your son.





## Fundraising

The Troop has an annual activity fee of \$150.00 per scout. The Troop has an annual fundraiser so your scout can earn the entire activity fee. In addition he can earn a handsome cash commission for himself. If he does not sell the minimum number of units to generate \$150.00 in profit for the Troop *the parents are responsible for paying the difference*. The Troop uses the activity fee for all of its operations including the purchase of camping equipment for the troop, the Courts of Honor with rank advancement awards and merit badges, the annual Awards Banquet and the Christmas party for the scouts.

The fundraiser varies from year to year. We have sold fertilizer and trash bags, first aid kits, and long-life light bulbs. The Troop Committee organizes the fundraiser and it is essential that your son participate. Scouting emphasizes Boy Leadership. Leadership always involves responsibility, and the annual fundraiser allows the primary financial responsibility for running the Troop to rest on the Boy Scouts, not on Mom and Dad. It is a valuable lesson for every boy when he learns that his hard work makes possible something that he enjoys. This does not mean that significant adult volunteer involvement is not needed, but we are here as a resource for our Scouts.

## Leadership Prerequisites

Patrol Leader	First Class rank Attended Oak Leaf
Troop Guide	Served as a Patrol Leader Appointed by the ASM for First Year Scouts
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)	Served as a Patrol Leader Appointed by the SPL
Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)	Attended Golden Acorn Served as a Patrol Leader Elected by the Scouts of the Troop
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM)	16 ½ years old Appointed by the Scoutmaster
Venture Program	Life Scout, 16 years of age

The Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) is appointed by the Patrol Leader. This office does not count as a leadership role for rank advancement. There are no prerequisites for the position of APL.

The following leadership positions are elected by the Troop: Troop Medic, Chaplain Aide, Troop Bugler, Troop Historian, Troop Librarian, OA Representative, Troop Quartermasters, Troop Scribe.

Special projects may be appointed by the Scoutmaster for leadership requirements for rank advancement.

Only the Scoutmaster may sign-off the leadership requirements for a Scout's rank advancement. This is to develop a consistency in the various leadership positions in the Troop. Simply being elected or appointed to a leadership position does not automatically mean that credit will be allowed by the Scoutmaster. The Scout must perform the duties of the office during his term. Refer to the Position Descriptions for each leadership position.

To be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow, the Scout must be First Class, must have camped 16 nights (including 6 contiguous nights, i.e. summer camp) and be approved by the Scoutmaster.

## FAQ's

### MAY I GO CAMPING WITH THE TROOP?

Yes – especially if your son is a new scout. The boys consistently comment that the campouts are one of their favorite parts of scouting. Your presence on the campouts makes a world of difference when a new scout is joining the troop. So, dads are strongly encouraged to attend as many campouts as possible. Camping is fun for dads too. We have our own patrol, the “Rocking Chair” patrol that camps and eats together. This is the best way to meet other dads in the troop and get your questions answered. Dads only, please.

### HOW MUCH DO CAMPOUTS COST?

The current fees for campouts are \$10.00 for scouts and \$15.00 for dads. Each Patrol buys its own food for each campout. There are usually no other charges by the troop for routine campouts. However, the scouts usually need money for lunch on the return trip on Sunday. The troop has an annual fund raiser and can scholarship any scout needing financial assistance with the cost of camping. Contact the scoutmaster or troop committee chairman for more information.

### WHAT IS CRACKER BARREL?

After the campfire or evening activity, the Troop comes together in the Rocking Chair Patrol campsite for refreshments. These snacks are provided by the Rocking Chair patrol.

### MAY I WEAR A SCOUT UNIFORM?

Yes, in fact, you should! We require the Scouts to be in uniform...the Adult Leadership should be also! The adult uniform is identical to your son's.

### MAY I COME TO TROOP COMMITTEE MEETINGS?

Yes. In fact, it is important that dads attend as often as possible. Troop committee Meetings are held once each month from 6:00 till 7:00 before the regular troop meeting. Campout planning is a major agenda item, along with the various sub-committee reports. It is also the best place to get your questions answered.

### MAY I COME TO TROOP MEETINGS?

Yes, it is not only encouraged, but also expected. Wear your uniform. All the adults are volunteers and you son needs your support and participation. Dads participate in Boards of Review for scout rank advancement.

### MAY I HELP WITH MERIT BADGES?

Yes, if you are a registered Adult Scouter you may serve as Merit Badge Counselor. You cannot serve as a Merit Badge Counselor for your own son on a one-on-one basis, although you can teach a class he attends. An additional adult application along with the merit badge registration form should be completed to sign up as a merit badge counselor. Talk to the scoutmaster, troop committee chairman, or advancement chairman for more information.

### WHAT KIND OF MERIT BADGES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are more than 100 Merit Badges available ranging from Agriculture to Woodworking. A good resource is a booklet called *Boy Scout Requirements*. It is an annually updated summary of the requirements for all ranks and Merit Badges, as well as Special awards.

### WHAT IS BLT?

Basic Leadership Training (BLT) is the old name for Scoutmaster Fundamentals. Plan on attending it by either name if you want to become active in leadership positions in the Troop. BLT is a prerequisite to “Wood Badge” Advanced Adult Leadership training. Ask the scoutmaster for more information.

### WHAT TROOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS MAY I HOLD?

If you are a registered Adult Scouter, you are eligible to be a member of the Troop Committee. You can then participate in troop activities, work with patrols, be a merit badge counselor or participate in other troop activities. The more active you are in the troop, the more likely your son will stay involved and achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

### WHAT IS THE “TOTIN CHIP”? WHAT IS THE “FIREMAN’S CHIP”?

Your son must earn the “Totin’ Chip” in order to carry a pocketknife or use a bow saw at any Scout activity. To earn the Totin Chip, he must demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of cutting tool safety. The “Fireman’s Chip” is required in order to use a Coleman or other propane stove. The troop leadership holds classes several times a year for new scouts.

#### WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE ARROW?

The OA is an honorary camping society within Boy Scouting. Their fellow Scouts elect members of the OA after they have achieved First Class rank, shown exceptional Scout Spirit, and completed a minimum number of nights of camping. Elections are held once each year in the spring. OA induction is held the Saturday night at Camporee in the spring and on Friday night at Summer Camp. OA Scouts are responsible for planning and staffing the District Camporee each year, as well as participating in various service projects and camping activities outside their home Troops.

#### SHOULD MY SON GO TO DISTRICT MERIT BADGE CLINICS AND CAMPS?

Yes. They are a fun way to meet other Scouts and earn Merit Badges. Several camps and clinics are held throughout the year. Watch for information in the Circle Ten newspaper sent to all registered adult scouters and on their website [circle10.org](http://circle10.org).

#### HOW DOES MY SON GET A MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR?

There are three primary ways to earn Merit Badges. One is to go to District Merit Badge Clinics and Camps. Another is to ask the 125 Advancement Chairman to contact a registered Scouter to be your son's counselor. The third way is to come to one of the Merit Badge classes taught throughout the year as part of the Troop Advancement Program. See the Advancement Chairman or Scoutmaster to be assigned a troop MB Counselor and get a "Blue Card" signed by the Scoutmaster. The Scout is to complete all the other Scout and unit information on the blue card before it is turned in.

#### WHAT IS A SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE?

A Scoutmaster Conference is required before every rank advancement. Your son will meet with the scoutmaster or one of the assistant scoutmasters to discuss his progress in Scouting and set goals for his next rank. For ranks up to First Class, a Scoutmaster Conference usually takes about 15 minutes. Your son must ask the scoutmaster for Scoutmaster Conference. They will not be scheduled for him. Part of the leadership training integral to Scouting is learning to take responsibility for his own advancement.

#### HOW DOES MY SON GET A SCOUTMASTER'S CONFERENCE?

He must ask the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

#### WHAT IS A BOARD OF REVIEW?

A Board of Review is required before every rank advancement. Your son must have completed his Scoutmaster Conference for that rank before he can have a Board of Review. Three adult scouters who are not scoutmasters comprise a Board of Review panel. They talk with your son about his progress in Scouting, goals for his next rank, what he likes and dislikes about Scouting, and what the Scout Oath and Scout Law mean to him. For ranks up to First Class, a Board will take about 20 minutes. Boards are available periodically the Monday before the Court of Honor and by special arrangement with the adult who coordinates the Boards of Review. Your son must ask for a Board of Review. A Board will not be scheduled for him.

#### HOW DOES MY SON GET A BOARD OF REVIEW?

He must ask the advancement chairman or the adult responsible for the Boards of Review to set up a Board.

#### HOW DOES MY SON GET A RIDE TO TROOP CAMPOUTS?

Show up at the parking lot of Northwest Bible Church at the designated time. There are always sufficient numbers of adults going on campouts to take all the Scouts. You do not have to arrange for a ride for your son.

#### IS SUMMER CAMP IMPORTANT?

Yes, in fact it should be a family priority! Most Scouts describe summer camp as the highlight of their Scouting year. It is **especially** important for First Year Scouts. Attending Summer Camp will help your son meet the other Scouts after he joins the Troop. He will learn to work together with his Patrol. He will complete many of the requirements for his first rank advancements and may earn several Merit Badges.

#### WHEN WILL MY SON MAKE FIRST CLASS?

#### WHEN WILL MY SON MAKE EAGLE?

Every Scout advances at his own pace, but the goal of the First Year Scout Program is for every scout to achieve First Class within their first year as a Scout.

Your son will earn his Eagle rank when he feels motivated to earn it. An Eagle Scout must have matured to the point that he takes responsibility for his own actions. Do not push your son to make Eagle. Your son has all the resources he needs to become an Eagle Scout in the programs of Troop 125. Many Scouts are mature enough to earn Eagle rank sometime between their 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

#### WHAT IS CLASS "A" UNIFORM?

The Boy Scout Class A Uniform consists of the following: 1) Scout shirt with current rank patch, 125 numerals, Circle 10 patch, Patrol patch and red shoulder tabs, 2) scout shorts or pants, 3) Scout belt, 4) Scout socks, 5) Scout neckerchief. A Merit Badge sash is added for Courts of Honor. A full Class A Uniform is required for all Troop meetings, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor. For the ride to and from campouts and Summer Camp, worship services on campouts, final assembly on campouts he does not have to wear the neckerchief.

#### WHAT IS CLASS "B" UNIFORM?

"Officially", there is no "Class B" uniform. However, it is the commonly used name for the *activity uniform*, and includes the following: 1) Troop 125 tee shirt or red Scout tee-shirt; 2) Scout shorts or pants; 3) Scout belt, 4) Scout socks. *Class B's* are worn most of the time on campouts except when the Class A Uniform is required.

#### WHO IS MY SON TENTING WITH AT SUMMER CAMP?

Part of the Summer camp registration packet is a tent-mate selection form. Patrols tent together and to the extent possible, requests will be honored. If your son does not have a person who he wants to tent with, ask the scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, or his patrol leader for help find someone else needing a tent mate as well.

#### WHY DOES THE SCOUTMASTER CHANGE EVERY TWO YEARS?

Being a Scoutmaster for Troop 125 is a big job and requires a 2-year minimum commitment, although some serve longer. It requires a major commitment of time and high energy level. It requires the generation of new ideas and programs. But, it is simply, the best job in Scouting! You will discover that the Scoutmaster is not the only adult leader that will change every two years. The same is true of most adult leadership positions in the Troop. The Committee Chairman and Advancement Chairman as well as others serve two-year terms. Troop 125 is always just two years away from having no adult leadership. That is why it is important to become involved in the Troop.