

# Troop 125

Boy Scouts of America  
Circle Ten Council  
Northwest Bible Church  
8505 Douglas \* Dallas, Texas 75225

Our 15th year  
2003

August 18, 2004

Dear New Scout Family:

We are delighted you and your family have decided upon involving your son in Scouting and have selected Troop 125. Boy Scouts began around the turn of the century and is considered by many to be the finest youth organization in the world. Led almost entirely by volunteers, the aims of Scouting; Character, Citizenship and Fitness, hold steadfastly to timeless values for life.

As Scoutmaster, my mission is to ensure that our troop delivers on "The Promise of Scouting" to your son (see pages 1-2; page 21 in BSA Handbook) through a "boy led" program, and to do so in a Christ-centered environment. My goal is to spend as much individual time as possible with your son and to help him achieve his goals in Scouting. Scouting isn't just about earning ranks and badges, it is about honor, teamwork, and leadership, it is about gaining self-confidence, learning outdoor skills, ... but most of all, it's about having fun! The ranks and badges are a way of keeping them focused and giving them a sense of accomplishment along the way. The real reward is a lifetime of enriching experiences in a program that strongly reinforces fundamental values.

Here's what we need from you:

## **GET INVOLVED, STAY INVOLVED.**

Direct parental involvement is vital to a Scout's staying involved with the program. On average, 2-3 Scouts out of every 100 become Eagle Scouts. The number goes up dramatically when the family is supportive and committed, and the dad is actively involved in the Troop.

## **COME TO MEETINGS.**

Get to know the other dads and boys. Invest time by being actively involved in your son's Scouting experience.

## **MAKE SCOUTING A FAMILY PRIORITY**

There are many worthwhile activities to compete for our sons' attention ... sports, band, church, school, etc..., all very worthwhile. Because of its emphasis on values that influence for a lifetime, we ask that your family prioritize Scouting as much as possible, especially the meetings and outdoor (camping) program. An annual calendar will be provided you. Please add important Troop events to your family calendar to prevent conflicts.

## **GET A UNIFORM AND WEAR IT TO THE MEETINGS.**

We teach the boys to have pride in their uniform. The adult leaders should lead by example.

## **GET TRAINED**

In order to best contribute to the troop, and enrich your own experience, it is very important to be educated in the Scouting system and the adult volunteer's role in the program. BSA, and particularly our district (North Trail) and Council (Circle Ten) have excellent training programs. Two of particular value are: Scoutmastership Fundamentals (Adult

Leader Training). Taught once in fall and spring, it teaches the patrol method, an overview of the program, and basic camping/outdoor/cooking skills. It consists of four meetings once a week, followed by an overnight campout. The next session is Thursday, September 27th, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11th and 18<sup>th</sup> and a campout October 24<sup>th</sup>. It is great fun and a must for all adult volunteers that will enhance your Scouting experience immeasurably. Every boy deserves a trained leader and our Troop needs good adult leadership. Wood badge teaches the eleven leadership skills of an MBA program and is a tremendous experience personally and professionally. Completion of SM Fundamentals is a prerequisite.

### **ATTEND CAMPOUTS.**

Come as often as you can. We ask that you commit to at least one Fall and Spring campout, but the more the better...and it's a lot more fun than yard work!

### **INVEST YOUR TIME/TALENT.**

We are asking that you invest one hour per week of your time, outside of meetings, in the troop. There are many ways to plug in, either by offering your special talents and gifts, or helping carry out tasks in service of the Troop. We are only as good as our volunteers, and we all do it for our sons. Get involved on Troop Committee and come to the monthly Committee meetings. We need merit badge counselors. You will be given a form to fill out identifying your areas of special interest or skills. This is an invaluable resource for our boys.

### **REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A KID.**

If you take the time, remembering what 11 to 17 years of age was like can help you better connect with your son and Scouting often enables you to be a kid again.

### **MAKE THE SCOUTING EXPERIENCE YOUR OWN.**

Scouting is a wonderful program for both youth and adults. If you were a Scout, you can continue your Scouting experience while sharing it with your son. If it's your first experience, dive in and learn right along with your son.

I look forward to getting to know you and thank you for the privilege of serving as your Scoutmaster,

Yours in Scouting,

Pat Hamner, Scoutmaster