

INTRODUCTION TO TROOP 14

Welcome to Troop 14. As a Webelos Scout or a new or transferring Boy Scout, the following information will help you and your parents become acquainted with our program.

In Troop 14, we believe that Scouting is both fun and educational. It builds character, develops citizenship and enables a boy to develop skills in a wide range of areas. In teaching Scouting, we also teach the boys a way to live.

Scouting is a partnership with both parents and leaders helping the boys to meet the challenge of Scouting and attain the goal of an Eagle Scout who lives in the spirit of the Oath and the Law

To teach Scouting, we use the following tools:

Scouting Ideals

These are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan.

Patrol Method

Within the troop, boys work in patrols of five to eight members. Patrols choose their own name and leaders, who in turn help run the troop.

Leadership

Boys develop leadership skills because they help run the patrols and the troop. The Senior Patrol Leader, who is selected by the Scoutmaster with Committee approval, runs troop meetings. Scouts who want to assume leadership positions are expected to attend the Junior Leader Training courses.

Advancement

Scouting provides recognition for achievement. Boys learn new skills, both those they have chosen as well as some they would not have selected by themselves.

Outdoor Program

We will make every effort to go camping or have at least one outdoor activity per month. During the summer we will spend one week at a resident summer camp and will also schedule at least one week of backpacking and/or other outdoor activity.

Community Service

A significant part of Boy Scouts is service to his community. There will be several opportunities each year for Troop 14 to be a visible part of our community through service in a variety of projects. The rank of Eagle Scout requires the boy to assemble and execute a significant service project. Every Scout in Troop 14 is expected to take part in service projects, both troop service and Eagle projects, with the same enthusiasm as he does for all other outings.

Scout Uniform

The influence of the Scout uniform on boys has been a factor since the earliest days of the Scouting program. It identifies a boy as a member of a great

international organization. In Troop 14, a boy needs a Boy Scout shirt, trousers or shorts, socks, red epaulets, council patch, troop number (14), neckerchief, neckerchief slide and belt.

Scout Handbook

A necessary tool for learning and recording advancement, and available at **ALL** Scout activities

Finances

Each year in November a boy registers for the following calendar year and is asked to pay a registration fee of \$35. *(If a boy registers during the year, the full fee is still payable)*. This fee covers the costs of registering with BSA, subscription to Boy's Life, insurance, annual dues, awards and miscellaneous costs. In addition, there will be expenses for trips, food for trips, summer camp and personal gear. Individuals or patrols are responsible for lost or damaged troop equipment.

Meetings

Our troop meetings are held weekly on **Wednesday evenings at Apple Blossom School from 7 to 8:30 PM**, with the exception of when the school is closed due to a holiday, or a preempting school function, or if the meeting is scheduled to be at a different location. Apple Blossom School is closed for the summer and therefore locations for the summer months will be announced.

A boy will get out of Scouting only what he puts into it. Each meeting and troop activity is a learning opportunity. Missed events put a boy at a disadvantage: he does not obtain information that could be critical to his personal development and advancement. In addition, there is undue stress on the adult and boy leadership by forcing changes in the program to get the boy back on track.

Campout Fees

Fees for campouts reflect cost of transportation, the campsite, equipment surcharge, etc. Meal costs are decided by each patrol when the menus are prepared. Patrols are responsible for collecting money two weeks prior to the event and purchasing supplies before each trip. If a Scout has agreed to go on a trip and has paid his money, there cannot be a refund in the event that he cannot go. **Scouts must attend both troop meetings immediately preceding a campout**: the first meeting will generally involve planning for the trip (includes collecting money to buy the food) and the second meeting will generally involve the distribution of the food and equipment.

Permission Slips are required for each Troop outing. These are necessary to allow the outing adult leaders to get medical aid for your Scout in the event he has been injured while away.

Summer camp fee payment schedules are determined by the dates provided by the summer camp organization. Usually divided roughly in thirds, starting early in the year with the final payment due about two months prior to the camp date.

Departure and return times will be announced, the latter being a rough estimate, which will fluctuate due to trip distance and weather conditions.

Medical Release Form

The Class 1 form must be updated annually for all participants. The Class 2 form must be updated every thirty-six months for all participants under the age of 40. The Class 3 form must be updated annually for all participants over the age of 40.

The trip leader must have a complete, current form on file prior to departure for any trip.

No form, no go!