

TROOP 5

NEW SCOUT ORIENTATION

Welcome to Troop 5. We want your scouting experience to be fun, rewarding, and meaningful. To that end, we ask that you read this orientation which we have developed to give you some insights into the manner in which the troop operates. If you have questions after you review this document, ask one of the troop members or the scoutmaster. They will be glad to answer your questions.

1. MEETINGS

The troop meets on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (812 Kirkman Street). 6:30 to 7:00 is generally fellowship and game time. At 7:00 we open the meeting and then breakout for instruction. This instruction includes rank advancement as well as merit badge instruction. Attendance at meetings is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged because of the instruction provided at the meetings. Meetings are adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The Monday before a campout is always reserved for campout planning. Each patrol plans their meals and develops a duty roster for the campout in the planning meeting. We strongly recommend that you attend all campout planning meetings for the campouts that you plan to attend. If you must miss a meeting before a campout that you plan to attend, it is your responsibility to contact your patrol leader and let him know that you are planning to attend the campout and get your assigned duties.

2. TROOP CALENDAR

Each year (before we begin our program), the adult leaders meet and plan the calendar for the year. The calendar is distributed to the scouts at the first or second meeting. You may also find a copy of the troop calendar on this website. Any adjustments to the schedule will be posted on the troop website so check often for updates.

3. UNIFORMS

Each scout is expected to wear the scout uniform to the weekly meetings (pants, shirt, belt, and socks). As directed by the scoutmaster, scouts are expected to bring uniforms to campouts.

For the "Court of Honor" program, each scout is expected to be in full Class A uniform (pants, shirt, belt, socks, and sash).

Uniforms can be purchased from the Scout Office on South Ryan Street.

4. SCOUT HANDBOOKS

Each scout is expected to purchase a scout handbook. Bring the Handbook to meetings and campouts so that your instructors may sign-off on the skills that you have mastered. In addition, you must bring your handbook to the "Board of Review" meetings to review your advancement with the scoutmaster.

5. ADVANCEMENT

As you progress along the trail of scouting, you will advance in rank and will earn merit badges. This process is aimed at leading you to the ultimate goal of the "Eagle" badge.

On a periodic basis, the troop conducts a "Board of Review" meeting. This meeting is designed to give you the opportunity to review your achievements with the scoutmaster. Once you have mastered the skills necessary for advancement, the scoutmaster will recommend you for advancement.

Merit badge work will be reviewed "Board of Review" meeting. If you have successfully completed the merit badge requirements, your instructor will recommend you for the merit badge(s) that you have completed.

All rank advancements and merit badges are presented to scouts at the "Court of Honor" meetings. The "Court of Honor" will generally be the week after the "Board of Review" and is open to family and friends. Rank advancement patches are sewn on the uniform shirt, merit badge patches are sewn on the sash.

6. WEBPAGE

Check the troop webpage (www.troop5bestalive.org) often as it is our primary means of dissemination of information. We post information such as the troop calendar, campout information, blank forms for duty rosters, permission slips, campout rules, and contact information for scouts and adult leaders.

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

The troop maintains a roster of scouts and adult leaders. You can find the contact information on the web page under the "Contact Info" tab. To access this information, you will need a password which will be given to you by one of the assistant scoutmasters. In order to get included in the roster, please complete the contact information form at the end of this document and present it to the senior patrol leader at the next meeting.

8. PATROLS

The scouts in troop 5 operate in patrols. You will be assigned to a patrol with scouts in your same age group. On campouts, you will eat, sleep, and work with your patrol. Each patrol has a patrol leader and an assistant patrol leader. These positions are elected positions and the scouts in each patrol pick their leaders on a yearly basis (at the beginning of the year; just after school starts).

9. CAMPOUTS

The troop schedules one campout a month (except for December when no campouts are scheduled). The troop always leaves from the church and returns to the church. Times of departure and return for each campout will be given to you at the campout planning meetings. It is important to come to all campout planning meetings with pen and paper (a bound tablet works best) to write pertinent instructions given regarding campouts.

For campouts, the troop has adopted a code of conduct. You can find a copy of the campout rules in the "Campouts" tab of the troop webpage.

10. MERIT BADGES

Merit badges must be earned in order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. In order to earn merit badges, you must complete the requirements of each merit badge. The requirements of each badge can be found on the web site www.meritbadge.com. In order to receive the merit badge, you must printout the merit badge worksheets and complete them. Bring your completed merit badge worksheets to the "Board of Review" meetings to receive credit for completed work. No credit is given for work without the completed worksheets.

11. SCOUT BINDER

It is strongly recommended that each scout maintain a three ring binder with his completed merit badge worksheets. These serve as proof of your hard work, and as a ready source of information when it is time to complete your Eagle application.

As you receive rank advancements, it is recommended that you place the signed cards in the binder in vinyl trading card sheets.

Troop 5 Contact Information Update

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mothers Name _____

Fathers Name _____

Home Phone No. _____

Work Phone No. _____

Mobil Phone No. _____

E-mail Address _____