



Welcome to Troop 451!

Boy Scout Troop 451

Lewisville, TX

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Welcome to Troop 451!

When your son bridges to a Boy Scout Troop, most new parents are chock full of questions! We hope that this will help you and your son understand how a Boy Scout Troop is run and, specifically, how Troop 451 is run. This is a great Troop with great adult leadership and a bunch of energetic and fun boys!

Meetings

Boys need to attend weekly meetings as often as possible. We meet every Monday unless it is a LISD school Holiday. You can read and print the monthly Troop calendar from the web site. The calendar will contain information about what will be worked on at the meeting.

During Troop meetings, the boys normally work on skills needed to advance in rank, get to know the other boys and work on merit badges that have been chosen by the Patrol Leaders Council. Boys should always wear their Class A uniform, bring their handbook and a pencil. Boys should be paid up in their dues. The dues are paid on a monthly basis. The boys will give their dues to the Boy Scout who is the patrol Scribe.

You may drop off your son or stay. There is a room where committee members gather. You are welcome to come in and meet everyone, sit and listen to what's happening and get involved if you desire! Most of you have already volunteered to help and we thank you for that.

At the end of the meeting (around 8:15-8:30), the boys "circle up" and I suggest you be there to hear the announcements. You will get emails from the troop, but this is the best source of "what's happening" with the troop, upcoming events, etc..

Camping

Monthly campouts are on the schedule. See the equipment list or ask a leader if you have questions. The boys plan their own menus and need to pay a week in advance. It is always \$15.00 for boys and \$10.00 for adults (Yes, you are invited and welcome to campout, but will stay/eat separately from the boys).

The boys' money has to be broken out in cash as 1- \$10.00 bill and 1-\$5.00 bill or 3-\$5.00 bills. This is to assist in bookkeeping and to facilitate purchasing of the food.

The boys will alternate the "grubmaster" position. The grubmaster for the patrol is responsible for purchasing the food (usually the Thursday evening prior to the campout).

The times given for departure are usually pretty close, but the return back can vary GREATLY. Please be flexible! The boys are in charge and sometimes things take longer than expected. One parent will be designated to call the others when the boys are leaving to let you know when and where to meet to pick up your son.

Rank Advancements

One focus of the Troop is advancement. The Troop schedules meeting activities that support advancement and has a leadership position focused on getting the boys to the First Class rank. You can help your son advance by:

- Reviewing the requirements in the book with them
- Set aside time each week at home to do something for Scouts, so it is not overwhelming
- Make sure he attends all meetings, campouts, fundraisers, service projects, etc.

You cannot sign off anything in your Scout's book like you could in Cub Scouts. This must be done by an older Scout with a higher rank if it is a skill, or by one of the leaders or the Advancement Chair.

Once all of the requirements for a rank are met, he should ask the Advancement Chair to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. If he passes this, he then asks the Advancement Chair to schedule a Board of Review.

The Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review occur at different times and will occur at the normal Troop meetings or on the night of the Patrol Leader's Council meeting.

The rank is signed off when he passes the Board of Review and the patch will be presented at the meeting, usually at "circle up". Once the boy is confirmed by the Board of Review, he has earned and is considered to be that rank. The rank will be recognized in a more formal setting at the next Court of Honor.



Merit Badges

Merit badges are a fun part of Scouting and many are required for upper level rank advancement. The Troop generally works on merit badges throughout the year, but your son may choose a badge- to work on that he has a special interest in. The boy must have a buddy to start a badge, but that buddy does not have to be a Scout. If your boy has a particular interest, have your son talk to the Advancement Chair to get started. He will tell him who the adult counselor is that can help him, and if anyone else is currently working on it. If not, he can find another boy that might also be interested so that they can sign up together. They may then work together or independently.

Some specific and more difficult badges are required for Eagle. They are noted in the handbook. Boys should work on these whenever the opportunity arises. Additional opportunities for merit badges are available throughout the year, including summer camp and merit badge "colleges".

Service Hours

Your son will need service hours as a part of his rank advancement. A significant aim in Scouting is to teach boys about service in the community. These opportunities come up in the form of Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout project assistance, reading to the elderly, working at CCA, etc..

Your son may also do service outside of the troop for any church or non profit group. Please have this pre-approved and then bring a letter in to the Advancement Chair from the group stating the nature of the service and the time spent.

Summer Camp

This is a great and exciting time for the boys. Your son should definitely plan to attend summer camp. He should attend 2 out of the 3 spring campouts before he goes so that both the boy and the leaders feel comfortable that he can handle a week away from home.

A parent's meeting to discuss summer camp is scheduled every year. Please attend as the information provided will answer all of your questions. Make sure you review the recommended list of items carefully as you may need to purchase a few additional things.

We recommend that your son try to take Swimming at camp as it helps fulfill many of the 2nd and 1st Class requirements at the same time. This is just a suggestion but seems to work out well for most Scouts. There are lots of badges to choose from!

Be sure to read the packet carefully as many badges are not offered to first year campers.

Web Site / E-Mail

The Troop maintains a web site with relevant information for Scouts and their families. The address is <http://www.troop451.org>. A monthly calendar is available and is updated regularly as well as Troop documents and the Troop Handbook.

Most communications outside of meetings takes place via email. All emails are sent by blind carbon-copying the recipients, preventing your email address from being displayed or used by others. All emails from the Troop will be Scouting-related.

Photos of Scouting events are posted in a photo gallery on the web site and include photos from campouts and Scouting events. In order to protect the privacy of individuals and adhere to the Safe Scouting guidelines, boys are only referenced by their first name and last initial if names are used at all. If you have any concerns about this or wish to have pictures of your son, or yourself, omitted, please contact one of the leaders or the webmaster.

Acknowledgements

This document was created based on the original from Kathi Keane. Kathi was the Summer Camp coordinator for the Troop for several years and put together this information based on questions she had about the Troop. Our thanks go out to Kathi for taking the initiative to put this together.



Appendix 1. Terms and Definitions

Court of Honor – Ceremony where the boys are recognized for their rank advancements and merit badges. The Court of Honor is usually held quarterly on a Sunday afternoon. This is where your son is honored for and receives his advancements and merit badges.

Scoutmaster Conference – This is the time when the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster meets with your son to review his progress. This review will occur before, and is a requirement for, rank advancement but may also be held periodically to keep the Scout progressing.

Board of Review – After a successful Scoutmaster conference, several committee members will meet with your son and review his advancement. They will question the Scout as to his advancement in the Troop to ensure that the boy is adjusted and feels that he is a functional part of the Troop. The questions will not be focused on the skills that were reviewed by the Scoutmaster, but rather will cover areas such as progress in school, family, etc..

Scout Spirit – Always a part of rank advancement and is shown by participation in meetings, service projects, camping trips, etc.. It is an attitude that shows the Scout is proud to be a Boy Scout and part of Troop 451. The Scoutmaster or one of the Assistants will sign off on the Scout Spirit requirement.

Blue Card – A blue multi-part card that is used to keep track of merit badge awards. The adult counselor leading the badge and the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair must sign this card signifying that all of the requirements have been met. One part is for the Troop records and the other part is awarded with the badge at the Court of Honor. **The boys must keep these cards!** Many use plastic baseball card sheets to organize these. This is your proof that your son has completed the badge and you will need this for advancements (especially Eagle Scout).

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) – The “boy leader” of the Troop. The position is rotated every 6 months.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) – Takes charge if the SPL is unavailable.

Patrol Leader (PL) – Each patrol has a leader and assistant, voted for every 6 months by the patrol members.

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) – All of the Patrol Leaders get together once a month to review the campout and once every 6 months to plan the Troop activities.

Class A/B Uniform – The tan Scout shirt, Scout pants, belt, socks, neckerchief and slide and proper insignia. The Troop t-shirt is optional but recommended. “Full” class A is required to achieve First Class rank. Prior to that, the pants are not required but recommended. Class B uniform includes all items of the class A uniform above except that the Troop t-shirt is substituted for the tan Scout shirt.

Order of the Arrow (OA) – Scouting's National Honor Society. Boys are elected in that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Mic-o-Say – Honor Society for Camp Geiger in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Chartered Organization – The group that sponsors and provides support for our Troop. The chartered order for Troop 451 is the Knights of Columbus.

Committee Members – Adult leadership that help keep the boys on track. Anyone who wants to volunteer can serve in the committee. There are many positions available. The committee meets once a month to discuss Troop policy and to address financial and other concerns.



Appendix 2. New Scout Camping Checklist

Recommended Gear

The following list should be treated as a guideline. Adjust as appropriate for the Scout.

- Canteen or water bottle
- Mess kit with silverware (we don't use paper goods)
- Drinking cup
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sleeping bag (doesn't have to be expensive but should go to 20 degrees)
- Sun screen
- Insect repellent
- Toilet paper
- Scout book
- Class A & B Uniforms (must be in class A while traveling)
- Hiking boots or other rough soled shoes (should be broken in before camping!)
- Poncho or rainsuit
- Personal toiletries
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste
 - Comb or brush
 - Lip balm
 - Glasses case
 - Mirror
 - Contact case and solution

Optional Items

- Pillow
- Folding chair
- Cot and/or sleeping pad
- Scout hat
- Paper and pen/pencil
- Compass
- Whistle

Tent

A 2 or 3 man tent is sufficient for the monthly campouts the Troop goes on. Each boy does not need a tent. The boys camp by patrol, however, so make sure if you are sharing with a friend that they are in the same patrol. The Boy Scout should know how to set up the tent before he goes camping.

Weather

Remember to dress in layers and be prepared for all kinds of weather. Add warm clothing, including sweatshirt, cap and gloves, if the weather is expected to be cold. Check the weather where you will be camping, not where you live. Do not assume it will be the same!

