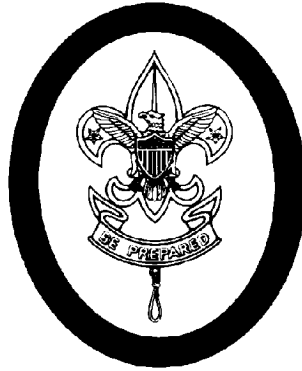


Welcome to



Troop 415

Boy Scouts of America

Coon Rapids, MN

Guide For Families

2006

Purpose of The Boy Scouts Of America

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts Of America to provide an effective program designed to instill within the youth desirable qualities of character, to train them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to help develop their personal fitness, providing this country with citizens who:

1. Are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.
2. Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidence in such qualities as initiative, courage and resourcefulness.
3. Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
4. Have the desire and skills to help others.
5. Develop and practice respectful attitudes toward adults and peers.
6. Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and government systems.
7. Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
8. Have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people.
9. Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in other forums of the world.

Boy Scouts of America

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts Of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scout Oath Or Promise

On my honor I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy

Loyal

Helpful

Friendly

Courteous

Kind

Obedient

Cheerful

Thrifty

Brave

Clean

Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Aims and Methods of the Boy Scout Program

Aims

Boy Scouting works toward three aims moral strength and character, participating citizenship, and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook, and his interactions with others.

A second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship with others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society in which he lives, and to the government that presides over that society.

A third aim of Boy Scouting is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self control, courage and self-respect).

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

Methods

Advancement- Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. More is discussed about Advancement later in this guide.

Adult Association- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

Personal Growth- As Scouts plan their activity, and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The good turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good turns for others.

Ideals- The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what he becomes.

Patrols- The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected leaders.

Outdoors- Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive. More is discussed about the outdoor program later in this guide.

Leadership Development- Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform- The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an active program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a World Brotherhood of Scouting that believes in the same ideals. More is discussed about the uniform later in this guide.

Troop 415 Organization, Administration, and Leadership

Troop 415 is a participating member of the Three Rivers District of the Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

Chartered Organization (Sponson)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 415 is Coon Rapids Lions Club, Coon Rapids, MN. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as liaison between the Troop and the school. Our Chartered Organization Representative is Roger Johnson.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee Functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop.

The Troop Committee consists of men and women interested in the Scouting program, who wish to make a contribution. The committee is theoretically appointed by the chartering organization, but in reality is formed by parents of Scouts in the troop, and non-parents with an active interest in Scouting. Many of Troop 415's adult leaders were active in the Scouting movement as boys and all share a strong belief in the purpose of the program.

The Troop Committee's purpose is to administer the affairs of the troop and to assist the other adult leaders in the operation of the troop. The Committee meets monthly at the Presbyterian Church of the Master (Corner of Olive St. and Northdale Blvd. in Coon Rapids). The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults. All may voice their opinions, but only the registered Committee members are allowed to vote on proposals put forth. The Scoutmaster is not actually a member of the troop committee, and has no vote.

Some of the responsibilities of the Troop Committee include:

- Providing and supporting competent adult leadership for the troop.
- Helping in the acquisition and maintenance of troop equipment.
- Supervising fundraising activities.
- Coordinating activities and securing permits.
- Assisting with financing and record keeping.
- Supporting the troop advancement program.
- Supporting the outdoor program.
- Keeping the boys and parents informed of the troop's activities.
- Serving on Boards of Review and Courts of Honor.

It is the function of the Troop Committee to support the troop program, not to operate it. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are responsible for directing the troop program, and guiding the boy leadership to execute the troop program effectively. The troop program and its execution are primarily the responsibility of the boy leadership of the troop.

Troop 415 is a boy-run troop. Leadership is one of the methods of Scouting. Every boy will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership. The meetings are planned and carried out by the patrol leaders' council (PLC). The patrol leader assigns all duties for patrol activities. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps the boy accept the leadership of others and helps him to grow into a more responsible adult. The troop organization chart on page 6 outlines the complete organization of the troop. The following is an outline of the duties of the key leaders within the troop:

Scoutmaster:

The Scoutmaster is the adult leader responsible for the image and program of the troop. The Scoutmaster and his or her assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts. The general responsibilities of the Scoutmaster include:

- Train and guide boy leaders.
- Work with other adult leaders to bring Scouting to boys.
- Use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.

Assistant Scoutmasters:

Assistant Scoutmasters are recruited by the Scoutmaster and approved by the troop committee to assist the Scoutmaster in the operation of the troop. Assistant Scoutmasters are assigned program tasks by the Scoutmaster and provide guidance to the boy leadership. He or she also provides the required two deep leadership (two adult leaders present at every Boy Scout activity).

Senior Patrol Leader:

The senior patrol leader (SPL) is the top boy leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council (PLC) and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed. It is his responsibility to make sure adequate planning and preparation takes place for an effective program. It is his duty to instill the Scouting spirit into the troop.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader:

The assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL) fills in for the SPL in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors.

Patrol Leaders:

The patrol leaders (PL) are responsible for giving leadership to the members of their patrols. They are their representation on the patrol leaders' council. The PL is also responsible for holding monthly patrol meetings outside of the regular troop meetings.

Assistant Patrol Leaders:

Assistant patrol leaders help the PL run the patrol and fill in for him in his absence.

Troop Meetings:

Troop 415 holds meetings on Monday night, approximately three times a month. These meetings are held at Sand Creek Elementary from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting times are distributed to the scouts in a monthly calendar. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. Parents are required to make transportation arrangements for their Scout(s), and are highly encouraged to stay for the duration of the meeting.

Adult Leadership:

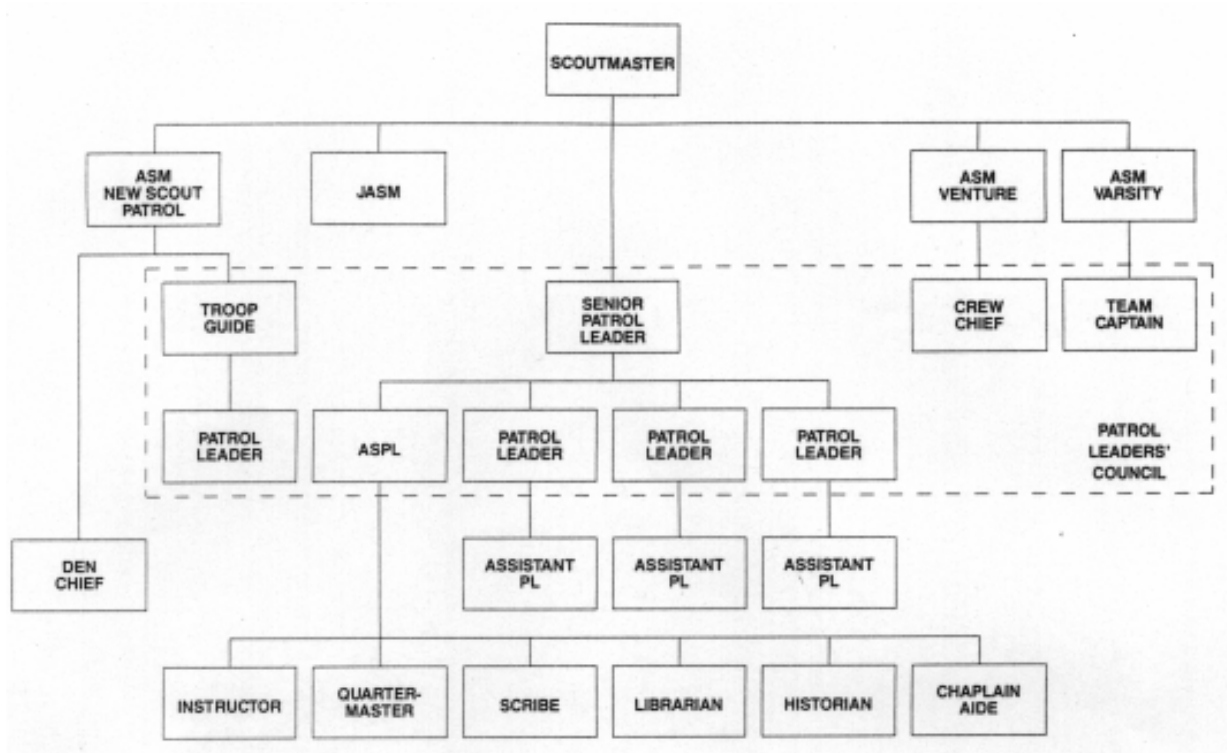
Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent (not spouses) both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 415 meetings, trips or outings. This is known as "two-deep leadership".

Troop Parents:

The role of parents within Troop 415 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting. Parents should attend an informal Boy Scout Fast Start by the Troop Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. Help provide transportation to and from campouts and other outings. Offer to provide adult supervision, allowing the troop to comply with the "two deep leadership" policy. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts, and therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

Troop Organization Chart



Scout Uniform

Scouts in uniform are conscious of their rank and make a greater effort to advance. Only the uniform provides a place for display of badges - important symbols of achievement. Scouts have more fun, stay longer, and feel greater pride in advancement.

How the uniform can help a boy:

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between the boys or make them feel that they are all the same.

But there is one way in which all Scouts are alike. Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform he knows he is like that person because both have committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose.

By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support.

Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a

way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

How the uniform can help the troop:

1. When smartly worn, the uniform can help build good troop spirit.
2. By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a kind of a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
3. The uniform makes the troop visible as a force for good in the community.
4. When properly worn on the correct occasions, it can attract new members.
5. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood, thus helping to counteract the negative feeling some adults have about youth.

The troop uniform:

The following is the official uniform of Troop 415 is:

Field or "Class A" Uniform (Worn for meetings, public events and ceremonies).

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches.
- Troop number 415
- Troop 415 neckerchief
- Neckerchief slide
- Blue jeans or scout pants/shorts
- Boy Scout socks, hiking socks or athletic socks.

Activity or "Class B" Uniform (Worn as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform). These are "T-shirts" imprinted with "Troop 415" and are available for sale at a reasonable price.

Official placement of insignia may be found on the inside front and back cover of the Scout Handbook.

Scout Shops:

There is an official Scout Shop in Burnsville where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Scout Shop

2218 County Hwy 10

Moundsvew, MN 55112

763-786-3090

Hours: MF 9:30 am - 6:30 pm; Sat. 9:30 am - 4 pm.

Advancement

Advancement is the process by which youth members progress through the ranks in the Scouting program by the gradual mastery of Scouting skills. Ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything boys do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be designed to help boys have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Boy Scout advancement, a four-step process:

1. The Boy Scout learns.

A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is tested.

His patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop, may test a Scout on requirements. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is reviewed.

After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, members of the troop committee conduct the review. Members of the district advancement committee conduct the Eagle board of review.

4. The Boy Scout is recognized.

When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his next rank will be presented to him at the next troop court of honor.

Advancement Through First Class

Tenderfoot, Second and First Class Ranks

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scouts begin to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil, which stand for the three parts of the Scout

Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within the First 12 to 18 months in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Star, Life and Eagle Ranks

From the achievement of First Class Through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor. Parents of Troop 415 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors.

Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he will meet with the Scoutmaster for a one-on-one meeting, followed by a Board of Review.

The Scoutmaster conference provides an opportunity for the Scoutmaster and Scout to spend 15 minutes reviewing the Scout's overall progress in scouting and to discuss any issues that either party may have. The Scoutmaster will often ask the Scout what their next goals are in scouting as well as if they see anything that could be done to improve their scouting experience.

The Board of Review is composed of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather, it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement; to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program; and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Court of Honor

As stated above, when a Scout advances, he should be recognized as soon as possible - preferably at the next unit meeting. He is recognized a second time at a public ceremony called a court of honor.

The main purposes of the court of honor are to finish formal recognition for achievement and to provide incentive for other Scouts to advance.

Troop 415 has formal courts of honor four times a year, at the end of each quarter. All families are asked to attend and guests are certainly welcome. Every boy who advances in a quarter deserves to be recognized in front of his family. The court of honor is the boy's special night.

Outdoor Program

Scouting is effective whenever we take advantage of it's truth: The place where Scouting works best is also the place that boys want the most. The outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special; here are the four that are especially good:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.

2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.

3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.

4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for its health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

Troop 415 and the outdoor program:

Troop 415 has a very active outdoor program and all boys are encouraged to participate. Our program includes a number of weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes and other outdoor activities.

Troop 415 provides the communal camping equipment including cooking gear, sun/rain awning, axes, water containers, stoves, lanterns, tents, and other campsite necessities.

What to bring on a campout:

- ◇ Sleeping bag ◇ Mess Kit ◇ Sewing Kit
- ◇ Foam Pad ◇ Cup ◇ Flashlight
- ◇ Sweater ◇ Soap ◇ Scout Knife
- ◇ Rain gear ◇ Toothbrush ◇ Watch
- ◇ Clothes ◇ Toothpaste ◇ Personal ID
- ◇ Canteen ◇ Comb ◇ Notebook
- ◇ Silverware ◇ Washcloth ◇ Pen / Pencil
- ◇ Towel ◇ Boy Scout Handbook

Do Not Bring

- Radios
- Snack Food
- Electronic Games
- Firearms
- Sling Shots
 - Sheath knives

Youth Protection

Program Summary

Child abuse is a major problem affecting our society. Each year more than 2 million cases of suspected child abuse are reported. This means that 1 percent of American children are experiencing physical abuse, 1 percent are experiencing sexual abuse, and 2 to 5 percent are experiencing emotional maltreatment or some form of neglect. Because of the significance of this social problem, The Boy Scouts of America has declared child abuse as one of the "unacceptables" to receive special attention by those involved in the Scouting program.

The BSA has developed a five-point plan to combat child abuse and to improve the environment in which young people live. The key elements of this strategy include the following points:

- Educating Scouting volunteers, parents and Scouts themselves to aid in the detection and prevention of child abuse.
- Establishing leader-selection procedures to prevent individuals with a history of child abuse from entering the BSA leadership ranks.
- Establishing policies that minimize the opportunities for child abuse to occur in the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encouraging Scouts to report improper behavior in order to identify offenders quickly.
- Swiftly removing and reporting alleged offenders.

Parents guide

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills.

Troop 415 and the Youth Protection Program

Troop 415 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster or the Council Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chairman or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the Council Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of the youth.

Administrative

Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration information and fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also meets with the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop is completed during the first quarter of each year.

Annual Expenses

The annual expenses for the scouts cover registration (which includes national BSA membership, insurance, Boys Life Magazine [optional], summer camp and individual outings).

Fundraising

The boys through various fundraising activities raise funds. Currently Troop 415 participates in selling Lions Club Chili dinner & pancake breakfasts tickets. 100% of the money collected for these tickets goes into the scouts account. We also sell popcorn and Christmas wreaths. The Troop Committee plans additional events. It is the goal of Troop 415 to encourage the Scouts to cover their annual scouting expenses through troop ***fundraising*** activities. Participating in fundraising is not mandatory!

Scout Accounts

Each Scout will have an account set up with the troop. Money earned from fundraising activities will be credited to this account. Money in the account can be used toward covering camp fees, registration renewal, scouting events and personal scouting equipment. The boys (or their parents) may also deposit money into the boy's account. Our policy that no scout will be aloud to take part in a Court of Honor or attend a campout if his account is not kept current. If the scout owes money please take care of this matter right away. If a boy leaves the Troop, the credit balance on his account will be either forwarded to his new troop or revert to the Troop 415 general fund if he quits scouting. The Scout has 6 months to take care of the balance of his account or it will automatically revert over the Troop 415 general fund. A Scout may spend money in his account for Scout related equipment only with approval of the Scout Master. Receipts must be presented in order for the Scout to get reimbursed. No Check will be cut with out a receipt.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Northern Star Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

Medical Forms

Each scout must have a current Class 2 medical form on file with the Troop. Adults participating in Troop activities such as camp-outs, hikes, etc. must also have a current Class 2 medical form on file, or a Class 3 medical form if they are 40 years of age or older. Boys and Adults interested in participating in High Adventure activities must have a Class 3 medical form on file.

And Finally

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, you son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us "big kids" are scouting to have Fun!