

SCOUT GUIDE

BOY SCOUT TROOP 654

Welcome to Troop 654! We want you to have a great scouting experience. This guide is provided to help each Scout understand how the Troop works and will hopefully answer many of your frequently asked questions.

MEETINGS

The Troop has several different types of meetings, including Troop meetings, Committee Meetings, Personal Advancement nights, and Green Bar meetings. The Troop also has Courts of Honor three times per year.

Troop Meetings: Troop meetings are held on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church. The meetings are generally held in Parrish Hall, but may be elsewhere in the Church if a conflict arises with the use of the Hall. Meetings last approximately 1-1 ½ hours depending upon the program. The Troop does not meet the Monday following a Troop weekend outing, as that date is reserved for the Troop Committee. Recognizing that our troop has scouts that attend both public and private schools, the Troop will try to not meet on school or national holidays. Upcoming events are discussed and organized. Periodically guest speakers may also provide information about an activity or merit badge. Each Scout's attendance is strongly encouraged as the meetings are an opportunity to meet fellow Scouts in the troop as well as the adult leaders.

Committee Meetings: The Troop committee meeting is for parents only. The Monday following a Troop weekend outing is usually reserved for the Troop Committee meeting. The finances and upcoming plans for the Troop are discussed. All parents are invited to attend. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held in Parrish Hall of St. Luke's Church.

Personal Advancement Night: From time to time the Troop will schedule an evening to be devoted to advancement or learning a new skill. A Scout's attendance at a Personal Advancement night meeting will depend upon whether the skill being taught or the topic discussed applies to that Scout. These meetings also begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held on Monday nights.

Green Bar Meetings: These meetings usually take place the 2nd or 3rd Sunday evening of the month (check the Troop Website). The Scouts whose attendance is required include the elected and appointed leaders of the Troop: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, Scribe, Historian, Troop Guide(s), Chaplain's Aide, Quartermaster and Librarian. The purpose of the Green Bar meeting is to help plan the Troop's calendar for the upcoming month or so.

Courts of Honor: Courts of Honor are held in February, June, and September each year. This is the time when awards and advancements are recognized for each Scout. Courts of Honor are more formal meetings so each Scout must wear his Class A uniform. The February Court of Honor also includes our annual dinner. The Scout's family is encouraged to attend to recognize the Scout's achievements.

RANK ADVANCEMENT

Each Scout will advance at his own pace. The pace at which each Scout advances depends on how active the Scout is in the Troop activities. The Troop generally attempts to have each first year Scout achieve the rank of First Class by the end of the Scout's second summer in the Troop (after his second summer camp.)

GETTING REQUIREMENTS SIGNED OFF

From time to time each Scout will have learned one of the required skills for rank advancement. It is each Scout's responsibility to discuss having this skill signed off by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Green Bar or other designated adult leader of the Troop. At that time, the Scout will either have to perform the skill requirement, or demonstrate that the requirement has been successfully completed. The Scout's Handbook will then be initialed and dated at the back of the Handbook at the appropriate place. When skills are learned or completed at an outing, the leaders will try to sign each Scouts Handbook at that time. If that does not happen, then ask the Scoutmaster at the next meeting to sign the Handbook.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

One of the last requirements for advancement for any rank is the Scoutmaster Conference. This is a meeting between the Scoutmaster (or his designee) and the Scout to be sure that each requirement has been completed for that rank, and to set goals for the future. Each Scout must wear a Class A uniform for a Scoutmaster conference.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The last step in rank advancement is the Board of Review. Once the Scoutmaster conference is successfully completed, then the Scoutmaster will instruct the Scout to contact the Advancement Chairman of the Troop committee to schedule a Board of Review. The Board of Review consists of three adults from the Troop who will discuss Scouting with the Scout. The Scout must also wear a Class A uniform for this meeting. Once the Board of Review is completed, then the Scout officially earns his rank. The rank will officially be awarded at the next meeting of the Troop, with additional recognition of the award of the rank at the next Court of Honor.

MERIT BADGES

There are 119 merit badges that a Scout may earn. Merit badges are required for rank advancement for the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle. First year Scouts will have an opportunity to earn merit badges at summer camp. However, the focus of the first year Scouts should be on the requirements of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class during the first year.

BLUE CARDS

"Blue Cards" are used to confirm that each Scout has completed the requirements for a merit badge. The blue card must be signed by the Scoutmaster and the merit badge counselor in order to complete the merit badge. Each Scout will receive a section of the blue card for his personal record of advancement. These blue card sections should be kept in a safe place, in case a question arises regarding whether the Scout completed a merit badge.

SCOUT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

The Troop holds elections in September of each calendar year to elect the following officers: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, and Patrol Leaders. Troop Guides are also appointed in each patrol to assist the first year Scouts.

SCOUT HANDBOOK

A Scout Handbook is given to each Scout who joins the Troop. The Handbook contains all of the information that each Scout must know to advance in rank. Each Scout should read his Handbook on a regular basis. Each Scout should bring his

Handbook on every outdoor outing so that any rank requirements may be signed off at that time, and so that the Handbook will be available for review. It is encouraged that the Handbook be carried in a Ziploc plastic bag or waterproof cover to protect the Handbook from bad weather, etc.

UNIFORM

Upon joining the Troop, each Scout will receive a Class B Troop t-shirt which may be worn to class B Troop meetings and outdoor events unless the Class A uniform is required to be worn (such as at the Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, uniform inspection nights at meetings, etc.)

PATROLS

Upon joining the Troop, each Scout will be assigned to a patrol. This "Brown Sea" patrol will generally remain together for at least the first 5 months. At summer camps and weekend events the scouts in these patrols will take turns sharing the leadership responsibilities, mentored by a Troop Guide and a Assistant Scoutmaster for New Scouts.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During the year the Troop will have a number of events, including campouts, walking hikes, bike hikes, ski trip, swim night, bowling night, summer camp. Each Scout should pay attention to the Troop calendar so that he does not miss one of these events.

SUMMER CAMP

The Troop will attend one or more summer camps each summer at an official Boy Scout camp. These camps last for one week, and the Troop camps together at the camp. The activities for each Scout depend on the age and experience of the Scout. The Troop considers it very important that each Scout attend one of the sponsored summer camps.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Every event that a Scout attends requires a permission slip signed by a parent. The permission slip contains emergency medical information as well as names and phone numbers for notification in case of an emergency.

LIVING BY THE SCOUT OATH AND LAW

It is the expectation of the Troop that each Scout will live by the Scout Oath and Law both in his daily life and as a Scout in the Troop:

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

"A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

The Troop expects that all Scouts who participate in an event will behave responsibly and with consideration of the outdoors and his fellow Scouts, and in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If any Scout has any additional questions, you may ask the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Patrol Leaders, or the Troop Guides.

Check us Out!!

www.Troop654.org