

Dear Parents and Scouts:

We welcome you and your son into Troop 90 and into the World Brotherhood of Scouting. We hope the information contained here will answer many of your questions and ease the transition into Troop 90. If there are any questions not answered here, please feel free to call your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair at any time. Also consult our website at www.troop90bsa.org.

TROOP MEETINGS: Troop 90 meets every Wednesday that school is in session. We meet in the Brook Park School gymnasium from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Please wear gym shoes. You are always welcome to attend all meetings. At each meeting we conduct the troop's business, make announcements, and teach, demonstrate, and try various Scoutcraft activities, and end with a game, if time permits.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Troop Committee is made up of concerned parents and others who oversee our program, set troop policies, and deal with the financial aspects of Scouting. The Committee normally meets the fourth Wednesday of the month after our regular troop meeting at 8:45 PM at a designated location. Parents are always invited to attend our Committee meetings, and are encouraged to join our Committee.

UNIFORMS: Scouting is a uniformed organization. We require all Scouts to purchase a Scout shirt with the appropriate patches. Upon induction, a Scout will receive the official Troop 90 neckerchief, a patrol patch, and troop numerals. Because of the rapid growth of boys of Scouting age, we do NOT require the purchase of Scout pants. We request that clean, untorn jeans be worn. No sweats. If shorts are worn to a meeting, they MUST be Scout shorts. A summer uniform consisting of Scout shorts or switchbacks, short sleeve shirt and green socks is mandatory for all boys attending a summer activity. Uniforms should be worn to all troop meetings and activities unless specifically told otherwise. The uniform MUST be worn while traveling to and from campouts. Uniforms and supplies may be purchased from the Des Plaines Valley Council Scout Shop.

HANDBOOK: Each Scout must purchase a copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. It details all aspects of Scouting. Make sure it is the twelfth edition published in 2009, as all others are obsolete. Other good reference books are the Scout Fieldbook and the current Boy Scout Requirement Book.

DUES AND REGISTRATION: Each year Scouts must register with the National Council. Troop 90 collects its dues yearly rather than weekly or monthly. This is easier on all concerned. Dues help to pay for awards, insurance, equipment, refreshments, and other expenses. Dues and registration for the year are \$40.00. Transfers are \$29.

BOY'S LIFE: *Boy's Life* is the magazine of the Boy Scouts of America. It is available at the reduced subscription rate of \$12.00. This is payable at the time of registration.

MEDICAL: If your son has any extraordinary medical problems, restrictions, allergies, etc. please let your Scoutmaster know. This information may be vital while on an outing. We are covered by Mutual of Omaha and Health Special Risk Inc. for medical insurance during all activities.

PATROLS: Scouting is run on the Patrol Method. Your son will be assigned a patrol shortly after his induction. Patrol members are obligated to attend monthly patrol meetings.

NEWSLETTER: Each month you will receive a newsletter from Troop 90 about upcoming activities, information, trivia, etc. It is normally distributed the first week of the month.

FAMILY NITES: We normally hold four Family Nites per year. In September, our Annual Dinner in February, April, and our Family Picnic in June. Special Family Nites may be scheduled as needed. We request that parents attend all Family Nites.

PROGRAM: In addition to our weekly meetings, at least one extra activity is planned each month. Camping and outdoor activities are stressed. Before each activity, a permission slip is sent home detailing all the information regarding the trip (cost, times, equipment needed) Please note the date the permission slip is to be returned and follow that date. All activities are predicated on the fact that we have adequate participation by both Scouts and parents. No Scout function can take place without at least two adults present. Please do your share when called on.

ADVANCEMENT: Scouts take full advantage of the Scouting program when they advance in rank. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks emphasize outdoor, first aid, and citizenship knowledge, and are approved by Patrol Leaders or adult leaders. Merit Badges are required for Star, Life, and Eagle, and these are approved by merit badge counselors who are experts in their field. We ask that parents help and encourage their son to advance. Time is taken at some troop meetings and most outings to work on advancement.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES: Each year Scouts are given the opportunity to attend a weeklong activity. For all Scouts, Camp Lefebvre is located near Laona, Wisconsin and offers camping, swimming, canoeing, sailing, nature, archery, rifle, metalwork, horsemanship, and much more in a patrol method setting. High Adventure activities are planned for High School age Scouts. Philmont Scout Ranch (Cimarron, NM), Boundary Waters (Ely, MN), Florida Sea Base (Islamorada, FL), Houseboating (Lake Cumberland, KY and Table Rock, MO), White Water Rafting (WV) are some of the options available. We urge all Scouts to attend at least one of our summer activities each year.

FUND RAISING: The troop normally holds two fund raisers a year, our Pancake Breakfast in Fall and our Rummage Sale in Spring. These activities give us enough operating cash for the year and also help to offset the cost of our summer activities. The Scouts can participate in the optional Popcorn Sale in fall, with 100% of the profits going to the Scout to help fund High Adventure activities when he is eligible. We ask every family member to do their share for our fund raising activities.

DISCIPLINE: Upon joining you will be given a Troop 90 Discipline Procedure sheet to read and become familiar with. It details our discipline policy at troop meetings and campouts.

AFFILIATIONS: Troop 90 is in the Voyageur Trace District of the Des Plaines Valley Council. Our Council office and Scout Shop is located at 811 W. Hillgrove Avenue in LaGrange. The National office is located in Irving, Texas.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY: We ask that parents provide a uniform and handbook, attend Family Nites and troop meetings when required, drive and/or camp with us when asked, support fund raising activities, encourage advancement and good uniforming, and to assist the Troop Committee and Troop leaders when asked.

WEBSITE: Check our website, www.troop90bsa.org for permission slips, calendars, upcoming events, photos, forms, equipment lists, and much more.

SCOUTMASTER

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