

# TROOP 354 ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

*Including the ones you didn't know you had!*

**When are meetings held?**

**Usually every Monday that school is in session at Georgetown United Methodist Church from 7-8:30 pm.**

Activities include announcements, rank advancement, demonstrations, Scout skills and *Tuck Shop!*

**PARENTS! Come right in!**  
(even if the door is closed!)

we believe:

Boy Scouts learn leadership by being leaders.

**Who leads the Troop?**

The boys themselves plan and execute all meetings and events. Their leadership group is the Patrol Leaders Council. The Scoutmaster, his Assistants, and the adults on the Troop Committee provide guidance and adult skills such as driving (and signing checks!).

Scouts with questions talk to your Patrol Leader first. If he can't help you, then up the ladder are the Assistant and Senior Patrol Leaders. At last resort, call the Scoutmaster.

PLC meetings:  
Last Monday each month

Boys organize *and* run their own meetings!

Adults advise!

If Boy Scouts are leaders, then Boy Scouts are *teachers*, too. Knowledge is passed from one boy to another: knot tying, outdoor survival, compass use, safety, getting along with others. Of course, the Scoutmaster helps. Only he, his assistants, the adult Committee members or Leadership Scouts sign for rank achievements in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Parents do not. Bring your book to every meeting and campout and every occasion when you might need information. Leaders will know you're using it by the worn and taped covers, scribbled margin notes, crumbs in the binding and hot-chocolate stains on many pages .

**BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK**



Wear it to all meetings and other official Scout functions such as Mackinac Scout Service camp, Summer Camp, Jamboree, Scout Sunday, parades, official fundraisers, *and while traveling.*

- “Class A”**
- Official Scout shirt (long or short sleeve)
  - Official Scout pants or shorts
  - Scout socks (over-the-calf with shorts)
  - Troop 354 Scout neckerchief and slide.
  - Scout cap

- “Class B”:**
- Any Scout shirt (polo or T-shirt)
  - Scout shorts/pants
  - Sneakers okay.

Brown **dock**side shoes preferred for formal events (especially Mackinac service camp)

→ You certainly may wear the official Boy Scout cap but this Troop allows our Scouts to wear souvenir Scout Berets from the Canadian Camporee and the exchange trips to England. You must wear a red Scout beret for Mackinac honor guard duty. The only badge of rank you may transfer from your Cub Scout uniform is the Arrow of Light.

**FINDING UNIFORMS:**

<b>New:</b> Rogers Department Store, Emdins and the BSA Council Office. There is no price difference.	<b>Used:</b> Troop Uniform Sale Nights, spring & fall. Buy, Swap or Sell via <i>The Bugle</i> newsletter.
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Annual *Dues* are \$55 for and \$50 for each additional the Troop at the same time. pay a \$30 *Activity Fee*, Christmas wreaths during of popcorn. Dues and boy's official Boy Scouts of America registration, the *Boys Life* subscription, and Troop operations. Dues and Activity Fees must be paid by November 30 each year. A \$5 late fee is charged as of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.



the first boy in the family boy from the same family in In addition, each Scout must unless you sell at least 10 that fundraiser or \$100 worth Activity Fees cover each

## Service Time

A Boy Scout serves his community. It's built into each rank advancement. Earn service time by volunteering for Eagle Scout and other Troop projects.

- Adopt-A-mile:** twice annual roadside trash pick-up along Chicago Drive.
- Tootsie Roll Drive:** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Governor's Honor Guard** at Mackinac Island.
- Marine Corps' Toys-For-Tots** holiday campaign
- Community Food Drive** at Thanksgiving.

ADVANCE IN RANK!

# ADVANCE IN RANK!

You get ahead by demonstrating new skills, helping with service projects, obeying the Scout Oath and Law, being an active Scout, completing all requirements for each rank, and having them signed off by a Scout leader. For ranks above First Class, you will need to earn *merit badges*. Each merit badge shows that you know more than the average person does about that topic. Some merit badges are required. Some you do just because you want to. Some Scouts discovered their life-long careers while earning merit badges!

Six steps to earning a merit badge:

1. Decide which one you want or need.
2. Team up with another Scout.
3. Get a "blue card" from your Scoutmaster.
4. Study the merit badge pamphlet.
5. See a Merit Badge Counselor.
6. Give the "blue card" to your Scoutmaster.

Check the rank requirements or look at the list of merit badges in the back of your *Boy Scout Handbook*.

FILL IT IN!

2

Boy Scouts always use the buddy system!

5

**Buy** at the BSA Council Office.  
**Borrow** from the Troop Librarian or another Scout.

Officially registered counselors' names are on a list held by our Troop Librarian (a Scout), our advancement Chair (adult), and our Scoutmaster. You could also call the BSA Council office.

**IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME**  
It's your responsibility to go through these steps yourself.

READ THIS AGAIN!

Mom or Dad can become merit badge counselors!

Ask the Scoutmaster member for an application and turn in to the Scoutmaster. Get *and read* the merit badge book. As the teacher, you should be quite familiar with the topic through your work or hobby.

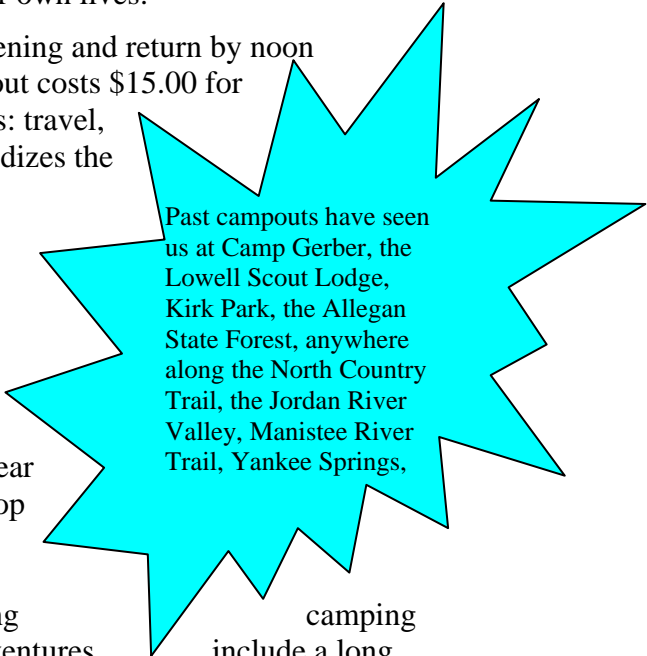


This Boy Scout Troop is active! We do something every month. Mostly we love to get outdoors and go camping..or biking..or canoeing..or-- you name it!

Scouts pitch their own tents and learn to take care of themselves: cooking, campfire building, even cleaning up! They work on rank advancement skills, too, such as Orienteering and Pioneering and First Aid. Many boys discover the outdoors is not scary as they develop self-confidence and survival skills that may someday save their own lives.

Generally we arrange to leave around 6:00 on a Friday evening and return by noon that following Sunday. The basic weekend Troop campout costs \$15.00 for each Scout or parent who attends. This covers all expenses: travel, meals, and group supplies. The Troop's general fund subsidizes the difference. Some special campouts may cost more.

**"Backpacking" versus "Camping":**  
Most Troop campouts are near a road where our supply trailer can haul in our kitchen equipment, propane tanks, water jugs, dutch ovens and other large, heavy equipment. On a backpacking trip, however, the Scouts take only what they are capable of carrying on their backs for 10-to-15 miles (or much longer for High Adventures). Such trips usually are not conveniently near civilization.



Past campouts have seen us at Camp Gerber, the Lowell Scout Lodge, Kirk Park, the Allegan State Forest, anywhere along the North Country Trail, the Jordan River Valley, Manistee River Trail, Yankee Springs,

Every other year or so, the Troop plans a "High Adventure",

which is a longer and generally more physically demanding experience geared toward the older Scouts. Past High Adventures backpacking trip through Michigan's Porcupine Mountains, a hilly Appalachian Trail in Virginia, whitewater rafting on the New River in West Virginia, and a week in the wilderness of Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior.

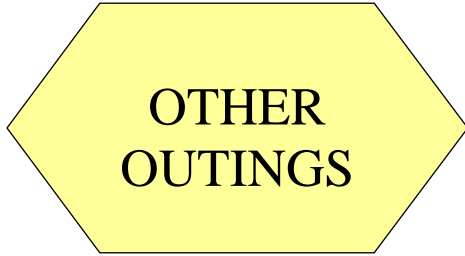
camping include a long portion of the

**Why go to Summer Camp?**  
Rank advancement is made easy for things like Environmental Science, Camping, Swimming, and other "outdoors" merit badges. Younger Scouts usually advance in rank while at Summer Camp and pick up valuable camping and social skills visiting with Scouts from other Troops.

Troop 354's equipment trailer includes a lot of tents, group kitchen equipment and patrol cooking equipment, as well. The Troop supplies backpacking stoves, fuel and water filters for backcountry hikes. Each boy should have his own personal equipment such as a sleeping bag, pack, "mess kit" (spoon, bowl & cup at a minimum), flashlight, water bottle, and etc.

A Scout may *not* bring hatchets, axes, fixed-blade sheath ("hunting") knives or any kind of electronic entertainment. He is expected to bring a folding-blade pocketknife *only if* he has earned a Totin' Chip card *and* has it with him.

**TIP!** Many Scouts tape their Totin' Chip cards inside their *Handbooks*, so they always have both!



**OTHER  
OUTINGS**

**Mackinac Island Honor Scout Service Camp**  
Our Scouts serve as guides at Fort Mackinac and as the Governor's Honor Guard in early June on Mackinac Island. They also raise and lower the flags each day. They live at the Scout Barracks near the Fort. Service on the Governor's Honor Guard at Mackinac Island requires a minimum First Class rank.

Conclaves and other OA outings are reserved for OA members only.

***Order of the Arrow***

For this honor service camper organization, you must be at least a First Class rank, have camped 15 days (7 of which must be at a long-term camp), and must be a leader in the Troop. Eligible Scouts are selected by their peers and "tapped out" in a formal ceremony.

**The National Jamboree**

This camping excursion is organized by the national BSA office every four years, usually at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia near Washington, DC. The next event is 2010. Each National Jamboree is attended by upwards of 30,000 Scouts from all over America and neighboring countries. It is an event to be remembered for a Scout's lifetime.

**Philmont, Seabase, ...and others!**

This year we send 3 Adult leaders to the National Jamboree along with several scouts...some in key leadership positions. Philmont is the original "high adventure" National BSA camp in the mountains of New Mexico. Seabase is a maritime version of High Adventure where the Scouts do it on (and in!) the waters off Florida. The BSA operates other such programs as well. You could get information through the Council office and, of course, there are frequent articles in *Boys' Life*.



**MOST SPECIAL PROGRAMS REQUIRE A  
MINIMUM FIRST CLASS RANK**



So after earning your rank, where do you get it? At the...

***Court of Awards***

We hold our formal Scouting award ceremonies in October, February and June. Each Scout is publicly recognized for his rank advancement, merit badges, and special achievements. We usually like to celebrate with the Scouts' families, so we plan a potluck dinner or, sometimes, an ice cream social!

The Eagle Scout rank merits its very own special Eagle Court ceremony and ...

**Everyone's Invited!**



## Your SCOUT ACCOUNT

Each Scout has "personal" money that is on deposit with our Troop Treasurer. You helped earn this money in fundraisers, so you may spend it for *any* Scouting cost: dues, equipment, trips, uniform, camp...



When you leave the Troop, the balance of "your" account goes back into the Troop's general fund. Your parents could ask that it be transferred to a younger brother's Scout account. If you earn Eagle, the Troop gives you the balance as a special recognition.

Our fundraising event is an annual Holiday Wreath Sale. You earn \$3 in your Scout Account for each wreath that you sell. We expect each Scout to sell at least 10 wreaths. Prizes go to Scouts who sell at least 30 wreaths. Extra cash goes into the Scout Accounts of the top three sellers, as well!

**Sell 10 x 3 = \$30**

The *Activity Fee* goes away and you could get camping gear, too!

### OUR SPONSOR

Knights of  
Columbus  
7487

**PARENT STUFF**

### Parents Committee

The Troop Committee is made of parents, community leaders, and members of our sponsoring organization who support the Troop and set out policy. Any parent of a Scout may apply for a Committee seat.

Dues for Committee membership are \$10/year.

All parents are welcome at any Committee meeting; just show up! The Troop Committee meets on the first Monday each month during the Troop meeting (after opening ceremonies) at Georgetown UMC.

### PARENTS CAN DO A LOT!

Troop Committee  
Troop Leadership

**Merit Badge  
Counselor**

Transportation  
Fundraising  
Website Updating  
or simply Helpful  
Support!

The Scoutmaster and Assistants are volunteers, too. They'll go away when their kids do.

Committee Chair Ben Kapla  
457-4973 bk728@sbcglobal.net  
Scoutmaster Mark Courtade  
901-7689 mark.courtade@usdoj.gov

Click on Troop-354 on the Web! <http://www.jenisonbsa.org>

# COME CAMP WITH US