

Welcome to Troop 26

Some Things You Should Know



Here's some information to help you get started in Boy Scouts.

- **Meetings** – the Troop meets every Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel United Church of Christ in downtown Bartlett. Meetings last until approximately 8:30-8:45 p.m. Parents are welcome to stay, but not required. We meet year-round, except on U-46 non-school days. Each week a different patrol will be responsible for the opening and closing ceremonies and the skills topic of the evening.
- **Patrols** – the boys are broken into “patrols”. The boys will work together as a group and with the entire Troop based on the activity. The patrols will vote on a leader amongst themselves and a patrol name.
- The boys will learn a lot about **Personal Responsibility**. They will be expected to pack their own items for campouts, cook with their patrol on campouts, and keep track of their achievements in order to advance to the next rank, earn merit badges, etc. The boys that have been elected into leadership positions plan and run all of the meetings and meet annually to plan the campouts.
- **The First Year** – during the first year, the boys can expect to work on earning their Tenderfoot rank and if they participate in summer camp, they will also earn some merit badges. If they are industrious, they might even get to their Second Class rank or farther. It's all based on how involved the boys want to be. Our older Scouts are responsible for meeting with the younger Scouts during designated meetings to guide them in moving up in rank.
- **Uniforms** – field uniforms (Class A) are to be worn at meetings and while Scouts are traveling back and forth to campouts and activities. In your Scout book, there are pictures to show what patches should be on the uniform and placement of those patches. The last Monday meeting of the month, the boys are allowed to wear their Troop t-shirts/sweatshirts.
- **Campouts** – campouts are planned for every month of the year. During cold weather, most of the activities are indoors. In your Scout book, there are lists as to what is appropriate to pack for these trips. The boys should be going through the list to make sure they have what they need. The patrols are also responsible for planning and cooking their own meals while on campouts (the food is provided). Parents are welcome to come along, but not required.
- **Merit Badges** – the boys can earn merit badges at any time throughout the year based on activities they participate in.
- Tom Wachter is our **Scout Master**, he can be reached at (630) 483-7957 with questions or concerns.
- Kevin Brandner is our **Committee Chair**, committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the church to discuss troop business and upcoming events/campouts. To participate or join the discussion, contact Kevin at (630) 837-6205.
- John Emrich is our **Troop Treasurer**, he handles the Troop finances and keeps track of the boys' Scout accounts.
- Judy Dombrowski is the **Membership Chair**, she collects dues annually and updates the Troop roster each year. Dues for the **first year** are \$27.50 per quarter, due in March, June, September, and December. After the first year, dues are \$110 per year, due in January.
- **Scout Accounts** – each Scout (and some adults) have their own troop managed “bank accounts” that can be used to pay for campouts or other scout-related activities or equipment.
- **Fundraising** – all fundraising is voluntary. The Troop will offer several options for fundraising throughout the year, including our annual spring flower sale, popcorn in the fall, Christmas wreaths at, you guessed it, Christmas time, and various smaller fundraisers when available. The profits from most of the fundraisers go directly into the boys' Scout accounts and can be used to pay dues, campout fees, etc. Profits from other fundraisers go to support Troop activities and necessary purchases.
- **Volunteers** – of course we are always in need of volunteers to help with fundraisers, projects, campouts, etc. If you can spare some time to help out, we would appreciate it. Also, if you have any skills that you feel might be beneficial, let us know that too! Contact the Scout Master or Committee Chair.

So again, Welcome to the Troop and get ready to make some good friends and have some fun with all our kids!

