

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 611
SHAWNEE TRAILS COUNCIL
OWENSBORO, KY**

**SPONSORED BY:
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OWENSBORO, KY**

BOY SCOUT PROGRAM AIMS

Character Building
Citizenship Training
Leadership Development
Physical, Mental, Moral, and Spiritual Fitness

BOY SCOUT METHODS

Scouting Ideals
Patrol Method
Advancement
Leadership Opportunities
Outdoor Program
Personal Growth

SCOUTING - WHY AND HOW

Fun, adventure and association with friends, those are probably the primary reasons your son has sought to become a member of Troop 611. We want very much to meet these needs, together we can do much in this direction.

However, you need to know that Scouting seeks another mission to help the home, school and religious institution in development of youth. Scouting has as its primary aims character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness

development. We are sure you appreciate that meeting the boy's needs and parental desires will no occur through the simple recreational activity of troop meetings and camping trips. Scouting has definite and specific methods by which we approach our efforts. These methods are the Scouting ideals, the patrol system, advancement, leadership opportunities, outdoor program, positive adult role models, and personal growth. Parental understanding and interaction with the adult leadership of the troop will help keep all in the right track

PURPOSE OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for young adults an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens who:

- Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit;
- Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such high qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness;
- Have personal and stable virtues firmly base on religious concepts;
- Have a desire and will to help others;
- Understand the principles of the America social, economic, and governmental systems;
- Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world;
- Have a keen respect for the rights of all people.

TO REGISTER

To be a Scout, your son must:

be 11 years old ; complete an application form, which you must sign; submit a \$10.00 application fee to cover:

Annual subscription to Boy's Life
National BSA membership fee
Insurance
Troop 611 Neckerchief
Boy Scout Handbook
1 Pair of Red Tabs

In addition there will be a \$.50 per week dues to cover:

Patrol Equipment
Patrol Resource Materials
Badges
Administrative Costs.

The \$10.00 is a one-time fee, when your son joins the troop. Boy's Life is a monthly magazine, which is a valuable aid to your son's Scouting program and is priced at half the regular subscription price. Only one subscription to Boy's Life is needed per family, so multiple Scout Families only need to pay once. Though we collect dues weekly, please work with your son to help him earn and save this money. The ninth point of the Scout Law is Thrifty.

TO JOIN

At the time he accepts your son's application to become a Scout, our Scoutmaster will talk with him to see that he understands and subscribes to the Scout Oath and the Scout Law; that he understands the Scout Motto, Scout Slogan, salute, sign, and handclasp; and he knows the significance of the Scout Badge and Outdoor Code. When he meets these requirements, he is a Scout. These Scouting ideals are in the Official Boy Scout Handbook. Every Scout needs his personal copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. It contains everything he needs to know about the advancement program, information on the uniform, camping know how, and many other skills of value and variety. It will be supplied when he joins.

YOU - YOUR SON AND THE TROOP

Our troop is organized, and administered by a group of volunteer adults, many of them parents of the boys in the troop. The troop is sponsored by The First Presbyterian Church where the troop meets on a regularly scheduled basis.

Our troop is granted an annual charter by the Boy Scouts of America through the Shawnee Trails Council to the sponsoring organization when they agree to provide an adequate meeting place, select people of good character to serve as Scoutmaster and his Assistants, and use the program of Scouting as offered in the Boy Scout Handbook and other related literature. Troop meetings are planned and conducted by the boy leaders under the coaching and guidance of the Scoutmaster. This is part of the plan to help your son grow, to make responsible decisions and take an active part in making the troop program successful. Your son's patrol is encouraged to meet twice a month to carry out a project or practice some skill in preparation for an upcoming event. Quite possibly, this will be in one of the boy's home. You can help by making your home available on occasion for such a meeting. Encourage your son to take his share of the responsibility by taking an active part in all patrol and troop meetings and activities (a two third attendance at troop meetings is required for advancement). This is how he will grow in Scouting. Each month our troop will conduct a special event. It may be on overnight camping trip, a visit to some location of special interest or significance, or a troop service project. Encourage your son's participation in these events, but let him make the decision if a conflict of activities occurs. Let him prepare for these activities on his own as much as possible. For instance, if we are going on an overnight trip let him collect and pack his own gear. He may make mistakes or forget something, but let him do it, that's part of the learning experience of Scouting. In addition, on return from a trip he is responsible for cleaning any dirty troop equipment that might be sent home. We recommend that each boy have a physical exam each year. We keep a copy of the current health form on file at each Scout outing.. We require the boy and parent to at least complete the personal statement side of the Medical Evaluation Health Form. As your son progresses, he may be selected to serve as a patrol or troop leader. If selected, you'll want him to take advantage of the District and Council leadership development courses for troop leaders to add to this personal growth. As a concerned and interested parent, the role you play will be vital in determining just how much effect these Scouting experiences will have on your son's development.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Although our Scouting program is planned, run, and enjoyed by the Scouts with adult supervision, some elements are designed for the family. For examples, Troop Courts of Honor, were Scouts receive advancement recognition, are designed for parental participation. Your enthusiastic participation will go far in making our whole program successful.

The adults, who provide supervision, support and time to make our troop a success need your help. Several areas where specific help is required are:

TRANSPORTATION- our outdoor program calls for at least one activity per month. With a troop our size, all families need to take their turn in providing their time and automobile for transporting Scouts and equipment to and from activities.

TROOP COMMITTEE- adults who carry out the many plans and logistical requirements necessary to guarantee a successful troop program.

FUND RAISING & SPECIAL PROJECTS- help to organize fund raising activities for the troop.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS- people are needed to provide training and testing for the many merit badges offered to the Scouts. A list of the merit badges is in the Scout Handbook, and we solicit you special talents.

OTHER SUPPORT- we need help form time to time in putting on dinners, making telephone calls, etc. You will be provided with an annual schedule showing when the various activities will take place. Please help your son to meet these obligations by seeing that he arrives at each activity at the appointed time.

COUNCIL SUPPORT

The program of the Boy Scouts of America in our area is administered by the Shawnee Trails Council, which is supported by the United Way and the Sustaining Membership Enrollment of the parents and friends of Scouting. Our troop receives constant help from the Council through program information, literature, the Council Camping Program, and training opportunities for both adult leaders and Scouts. When you support the United Way and/or become a Sustaining Member, you are helping your son and the troop.

THE UNIFORM AND THE SCOUT

It is not the purpose of the Scout uniform to hide the differences between boys or make them feel they are all the same. Scouts come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds; have different religious beliefs and have differing family traditions. Scouting encourages boys to take pride in these differences, rather than hide them or be ashamed of them.

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 to the principles of the Scout Promise and the Scout Law. This is important in a time when there are many things, which seem to divide people from each other. The Scout

Promise and Law bind all Scouts of the world together in a common purpose. So boys wear the Scout uniform to identify themselves openly with some beliefs to which we are all committed. It is "be it, believe it," a taking of an open stand for their convictions.

Advancement

The advancement process in Boy Scouts is a small change from Cub Scouts. In Boy Scouts we have the Following Ranks:

Scout	Tenderfoot	Second Class	First Class
Star	Life	Eagle	

The requirements for the lower four ranks, Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, can be "signed off" by any youth leader. The upper 3 ranks, Star, Life, and Eagle, must be "signed off" by one of the adult leaders. In the case of the Eagle Rank, it must be approved by the Scoutmaster.

In addition to rank awards in Boy Scouts can earn Merit Badges. These cover a Variety of subjects and require numerous requirements to be completed. The Merit Badge process requires the boy to obtain Scoutmaster permission to work on the badge, then the boy meets with a "Merit Badge Counselor" to complete the requirements, The counslor signs the "Blue Card" and gives it to the boy, the boy returns the "Blue Card" to the Scoutmaster who then approves the Merit Badge and turns the card into the troop advancement person. The badge is then awarded at the next troop Court of Honor.

The troop has adopted a policy that to eliminate any bad feelings, an adult can not sign off any advancement for his/her own son.

Requirements:

Scout Badge

(Boy Scout Joining Requirements)

1. Complete the fifth grade, or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but be younger than 18 years old.
2. Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian.
3. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handclasp.
5. Demonstrate tying the square knot (joining knot).
6. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath or promise, Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code.
7. Describe the Scout badge.
8. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse."
9. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

Tenderfoot

The requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks may be worked on simultaneously; however, these ranks must be earned in sequence.

10. Present yourself to your leader, properly dressed, before going on an overnight camping trip. Show the camping gear you will use. Show the right way to pack and carry it.
11. Spend at least 1 night on a patrol or troop campout. Sleep in a tent you have helped pitch on a ground bed you have prepared.
 1. Demonstrate how to whip and fuse the ends of a rope.
 2. Demonstrate you know how to tie the following knots and tell what their uses are: two half hitches and the tautline hitch.
12. Explain the rules of safe hiking, both on a highway and cross-country, during the day and at night. Explain what to do if you are lost.
13. Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the American flag.
14. Repeat from memory and explain in your own words the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan.
15. Know your patrol name, give the patrol yell, and describe your patrol flag.
16. Explain why we use the buddy system in Scouting.
 1. Record your best in the following tests:
 - * Pushups _____
 - * Pull-ups _____
 - * Sit-ups _____
 - * Standing long jump _____ ft _____ in
 - * Run/walk approximately one quarter mile. _____
 1. Show improvement in the activities listed above after practicing for 30 days.
 2. Identify local poisonous plants; tell how to treat for exposure to them.
 1. Demonstrate the Heimlich maneuver and tell when it is used.
 2. Show first aid for the following:
 - * Simple cuts and scratches
 - * Blisters on the hand and foot
 - * Minor burns or scalds (first degree)
 - * Bites and stings of insects and ticks
 - * Poisonous snakebite
 - * Nosebleed
 - * Frostbite and sunburn

NOTE: Alternate requirements for the Tenderfoot rank are available for Scouts with physical or mental disabilities if they meet the criteria.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

As a Scout, your son is expected to be faithful in his religious duties and respect the convictions of others. In addition, there is an optional program - - Religious Emblems Program — through which he can carry out a program of study, action and service as a Scout in his religious institute. See the Boy Scout Handbook for more information and colorful illustrations of the emblems available through the various religious denominations or discuss this with the religious Leader of your faith.

SMOKING

Smoking by a Scout at a meeting or Scout activity is not allow in this troop. Most tents today are made of nylon, and although treated to be flame retardant they do catch fire. The burns from nylon are ugly and painful. Scouts caught smoking will be treated in an appropriate manner including the reporting of the incident to the parents. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the troop.

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Outdoor Program is an integral part of the Scouting Program designed for the Scout to learn and have fun in the out-of-doors. Our troop will have at least 15 days and nights of camping each year. Along the route to this outdoor adventure we will try to achieve a balanced mixture of weekend outings and summer camp through which the

Scout will become self reliant, learn to lie closely with others, acquire outdoor camping and hiking skills, develop his abilities as a leader and learn appreciation for our rather fragile environment. Eventually, your son will need a backpack, hiking shoes, poncho, pocket knife, sleeping gear, and cooking gear. Use your own judgment, only you know how much you can afford. If you are planning to purchase camping equipment, check with the Scoutmaster first. He has a good idea of the equipment the Scouts in our troop need. There are good quality items available through the Scout distributors. The following are some additional suggestions: Make your purchase from a reputable sporting goods shop or camping supply store. Their sales people are trained in helping you to select the proper equipment. There are also many camping equipment catalog stores, some of these advertise in the back of Boy's Life.

SHOES- pair of ankle height hiking boots are a necessity especially for cold weather camping. These should be well broken in before going on a hike or camping trip.

SLEEPING BAG- we recommend polyester filled sleeping bag in the 3 to 4 pound range. Since most of our camping is in either cool or cold weather a mummy style is suggested but not required.

PACK AND FRAME- this is probably the hardest piece of equipment to recommend because of the growth a Scout goes through during his years in Scouting. First on the list is the "adjustable frame", these are also the most expensive but will provide comfort for your son now and for years to come. The "non-adjustable" only come in one size and may be uncomfortable if your son is built small. A pack is easier to select, and should have 2 main compartments and several outside pockets. Check the stitching of the pack and reinforce if necessary.

MESS KIT- the troop has patrol mess kits for cooking, therefore all that a Scout needs is a cup, bowl, plate, fork, knife, and spoon.

CANTEEN- a plastic one quart canteen is preferable to the metal canteen.

KNIVES- the only knife allowed at an activity is a pocketknife. Please do not allow your son to bring a sheath knife. A new Scout is not to bring a knife to an activity until he has earned his "TOTIN' CHIP" card

AXES, HATCHETS, AND SAWS- this troop does not allow the use of axes and hatchets except under adult supervision. The saws are provided as troop equipment.

GROUND CLOTH- a piece of plastic 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 is ideal. In addition, an old shower curtain is a good choice.

PONCHO OR RAIN COAT- a poncho is preferable to a raincoat as it can cover both Scout and his pack while hiking.

TENTS- the troop provides two man tents. It is the policy of the troop that all camping on troop outings will be done in the troop supplied tents. The troop is not responsible for any damages that occur to personal tents at troop activities.

We hope these suggestions will help you in your selection of equipment. If you have any questions please call us. It is very important that your son - our Scout - has adequate equipment when camping.

CAMPING COSTS

Each Scout is asked to share the food cost and camping fee (if applicable for hikes and camping trips. If transportation requires additional expense, he may be asked to share in these costs also. District and Council Camporees have an additional charge to cover patches and program. Encourage your son to look for jobs he can do to earn his own money for these activities.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp, a week at our Council Scout Camp, requires a little more planning. This is the "high point" of the Scouting Year, please encourage your son to attend. The troop goes to summer camp at Camp Roy C. Manchester, near Kentucky Lake. Again, we ask you to encourage your son to earn the money for camp.