



## Overview

Troop 28 is a Boy Scout Troop established in 1961 and sponsored by the Men's Club at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Peoria Heights, Illinois.

This document is being provided to assist Scout parents in understanding the purpose and goal of Scouting. There is a lot more to Scouting than simply dropping off your boys for meetings and activities. You will both get much more from your Scouting Experience by engaging in the meetings and activities. It is the individual Scouts that ultimately must participate and work to achieve their desired result from Scouting; however, even in a boy-led Troop parent involvement and support is critical to the success of the Scouts and the Troop as a whole.

## Parent Support:

Scout parents are invited and encouraged to attend as many Scout meetings and activities as desired. It takes a considerable amount of planning for a successful Scout Year (typically starts in late August and ends after Summer Camp in June or July). Parents are encouraged to help organize events during the year even if they cannot attend the particular activity. Things such as making reservations, organizing transportation and assembling attendee rosters must be completed for every activity. Scouts and adults committing to monthly activities at least 2 weeks in advance greatly enhances the ability to organize each event.

Parents should encourage their Scouts to be prepared for meetings and activities. When a Scout has been elected to or accepted a leadership position within the Troop parents should help ensure their sons are able to make necessary meetings (PLC's / camp outs) and are prepared to fulfill the responsibilities of their position. Parents should not do the work for their sons! Boy-led and parent supported.

## **Mission:**

The mission of the Boy Scouts is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This is done through activities such as badge work, community service projects and camping. Scouts are given the opportunity to learn, to grow and to develop their individual skills by interacting with other scouts and the community. These can be fun activities, but like most things in life, fun comes with responsibility.

## **Troop Meetings**

Troop meetings are usually held most every Monday from 7-8:30 at St. Thomas Old Gym. Scouts should wear their uniform and bring their Scout Handbooks to meetings unless informed otherwise. Here is a link to what the Class A Uniform looks like. <http://bsauniforms.org/#/boy-scout/item-boyscout>. The PLC (Patrol Leader Council) works hard to plan and organize the meetings and they would appreciate the scouts coming on time so as not to disrupt the meeting.

## **Troop Structure and Goals**

Troop 28 is built on boy-led principles, the Patrol Method, and takes pride in seeing Scouts grow and reach their potential. The Troop includes faith and community service. Over 68 scouts from Troop 28 have earned the rank of Eagle.

The Troop offers many activities that will help Scouts learn, explore and build their skills. Older scouts are paired up with younger scouts and take an active role in encouraging and mentoring them through the Scout ranks. The Troop offers many leadership positions for scouts that will challenge them and give them an opportunity to put their leadership skills to use.

## **Scout Troop Leadership Positions**

There are numerous scout leadership positions that a Scout may hold. Some of these positions are elected and some are assigned. The Scout should talk with the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) and the Troop Leader to understand the structure and identify his leadership goals. As a Scout progresses in rank certain leadership

positions are required for further rank advancement (see the Scout Handbook). Some of the leadership positions follow:

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Scribe
- Troop Historian
- "Can-Master"
- Quartermaster
- Librarian
- Chaplain Aide
- Instructor
- OA Troop Representative
- Den Chief to Pack 28
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Webmaster
- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide

## **Troop Patrols**

Troop Patrols can increase and decrease as needed based on the troop size. Blazing Dragons, Fantastic Frogs, Eagles and Legends are examples of patrols. Each Patrol has a name, a patch and a Patrol Leader and each Scout is assigned to a Patrol. Some Troop responsibilities are assigned by Patrol. On camping events the responsibility to plan the menu, purchase the food and cook the meals is the responsibility of the individual Patrols.

The Legends are the Leadership Patrol for Troop 28. To be a part of the Legends Patrol, you must be elected by existing members. Those elected must show characteristics of leadership and show they are motivated to help lead the rest of the Troop by their own example.

## **Rank Advancement**

There are seven rank advancements in Boy Scouts. In most cases Boy Scouts reach the rank of First Class in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Scouting (there is no specific

timeline). There are numerous requirements to reach each rank and these can be worked on simultaneously (can complete First and Second Class requirements while working on Tenderfoot). Parents are encouraged to review the requirements with their Scouts to help them stay on task and work through each rank. Scouts are encouraged to work with their Patrol Leader to fulfill requirements. Camping events are a great way to meet many of the requirements. It is important that parents only mentor and guide - not do the work for the Scouts!

The seven Scout Ranks follow:

- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle

The ranks Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class focus on learning skills, participating in a group and learning self-reliance. The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle are designed to develop leadership skills and explore vocations. The Boy Scout Handbook explains the requirements for each rank. To advance, the Scout must comply with the requirements and each requirement must be 'signed off' by their Patrol Leader, one of the other Scouts in leadership or an adult leader. Once requirements are complete the Scout is to report to the Advancement Chair (Cori) with their Scout Book showing all requirements have been met. With the approval of the Advancement Chair a Scoutmaster Conference is set followed by a Board of Review to complete the rank advancement. The Scout must maintain good records and actively participate in the meetings and activities to advance. A camping log and volunteer activity log is included in the Scout Handbook.

Another important aspect of rank advancement for all ranks, but especially for Star, Life and Eagle is demonstrating Scout Spirit (a requirement for every rank advancement). Scout Spirit is about living the Scout Oath and Law in everyday life. The Scoutmaster may require a Scout to improve behaviors, show additional Troop leadership or complete other tasks before signing off on this requirement. Simply meeting the book requirements for rank advancement is not sufficient.

## Merit Badges

A list of badges that can be earned can be found on line at <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>

Some badges are required for rank advancement; some badges are required for Eagle. A Scout may earn badges in multiple ways.

- The Troop may sponsor a badge and offer time at the meetings or campouts to complete requirements.
- Attend a Merit Badge Day(s) - these events offer a scout the opportunity to complete badges in a day or two. Scouts may attend as a troop or as individuals.
- Summer Camp offer the opportunity to earn numerous merit badges
- Many museums, schools, parks and zoos offer merit badge days. Check websites and Council site for more information.

Remember it is the Scout's responsibility to manage his badges and badge requirements. He should not rely on Troop meetings only to complete required badges.

A minimum of 21 total Merit Badges are required to attain Eagle Scout. A list of Eagle Required Badges Follows:

- First Aid
- Swimming or Hiking or Cycling
- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving
- Environmental Science or Sustainability
- Family Life
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Cooking - required beginning in 2014

## Troop and Individual Events

- PLC (Patrol Leader's Council) - meets once a month to plan meeting and activities.
- Scoutmaster Conferences - The Scoutmaster Conference is a discussion where the Scoutmaster and Scout get to know each other a little better and can discuss how Scouting values apply to their everyday lives.
- Boards of Review for rank advancement - When a Scout has completed all of the requirements for a rank, he must appear before a Board of Review. A Board of Review consists of three to six Troop parents whose job is to "evaluate the Scout's progress in the Scouting program."
- Troop Court of Honor - an opportunity to share with family and others the achievements of the troop and scouts. It is a time to present badges earned, ranks achieved, special awards and other activities. Troop 28 usually holds a Troop Court of Honor twice a year.

## Activities

*Cost* - The costs associated with an activity is typically divided among the Scouts and leaders participating in the event. The costs may include things such as registration, camping fees, food and transportation. Many times a final cost per Scout cannot be calculated until all the receipts are turned in for the activity. In this case, an estimated cost will be shared and the final amount will be taken out of the scout account when known. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure there is sufficient balance in the account to cover the Scout's activities.

*Planning* - At each meeting there are Patrol Sign-up Sheets to help Scouts plan and register for activities. Each week the Scout is asked to mark his attendance and to indicate what activities he will be participating in and if a parent can help. It is important that Scouts commit to events as early as possible rather than waiting for the last moment (2 weeks prior is preferred). The Monday before the event is the final cut-off date. The Troop needs sufficient time to plan the details of event and ensure enough transportation and food is available. The Troop understands a Scout may have to withdraw from a scheduled activity. The Troop

will work with the Scout but there may be some fees (such as individual registration, food, etc.) that the Scout will be responsible for.

*Summer Camp* - The troop tries to attend at least one summer camp each year. Summer Camp is a great place to earn merit badges, and to really live the Scouting Experience. Ideas for Summer Camp locations are discussed with Senior Leadership and at Parent Meetings. Typically the Troop alternates years between supporting the W. D. Boyce Ingersoll Summer Camp and attending an out of area summer camp. This variation has proven to be a good way to offer a variety of opportunities to the Scouts.

*Cache Lake* - The Troop has enjoyed many great trips to Cache Lake. Cache Lake Camp is a Boy Scout camp owned by the W. D. Boyce Council, in Ontario, Canada. The troop may decide to enter the yearly lottery for a spot at Cache Lake.

*High Adventure Camps and Activities* - There are many activities available for Troop 28 and Scouts. Some of the activities that Troop 28 Scouts have participated in include: the National Scout Jamboree, Philmount Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, canoe and bike trips, cave exploration, camporees, badge days, retreats, climbing activities, and Order of the Arrow activities.

## **Training**

*Adults* - There are multiple leadership training opportunities available for adults and scouts. Some training may be required to participate in events. Any training requirements will be communicated through the Parent Meetings. Adults can look on the W. D. Boyce website to find lists of training classes offered and information about the Scouter Supplemental Leadership Development Day (SSLDD) or talk to any Troop Leader for more information.

*Scouts* - Troop 28 focuses on supporting, training and enabling each Scout to grow through leadership training and opportunities. Training opportunities include troop presentations, Troop Leadership Training (TLT) and the National Youth leadership Training (NYLT). Additional information will be communicated through at the Parent Meetings.

## **Finance**

The Troop maintains a checking account that is managed by the Troop Treasurer and the Troop Leader. The funds in the account are tagged as Troop Funds or Individual Scout Funds. The Troop Treasurer is responsible for reporting at the Parent Meetings the status of the Troop Account and the individual Scout Accounts. Questions about an account should be directed to the Troop Treasurer.

Individual Scout Accounts consist of money raised by the Scout through fundraisers and money deposited into the account by parents/scouts. The money in the Individual Scout Account is used throughout the year to pay for the Scout's activity. It is suggested that each Scout start the year with a balance either from a deposit or from previous year's balance. This helps the Troop manage the finances more efficiently. A typical weekend camp out costs between \$12.00 - \$20.00 per attendee. Costs vary based upon the activity, travel costs, camping fees, etc.

Money that is in the account can be used for any Scout function and will carryover from year to year. Money that is in the account from parent deposits may be returned when a Scout leaves the Troop. Money from Scout fundraisers will default back to the Troop when the Scout leaves the Troop. If the Scout transfers to another Troop the fundraiser money will be transferred to the Troop Account and will remain with Troop 28.

## **Monthly Parent Meetings**

The number one way the Troop Leadership and Parents communicate with each other is through the monthly Parent Meetings. The Parent Meetings are facilitated by the Committee Chairman and include sharing activities scheduled, getting feedback from events, coordinating volunteers, discussing finances and fundraisers, gaining feedback from parents and other Troop items. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate in each monthly meeting.

Parent Meetings are usually held during the troop meeting the first Monday of the month which is usually a week after the Troop PLC meeting. Holding Parent Meetings the week following the PLC allows discussion and approval of ideas

presented at the PLC in a timely manner. The Parent Meetings are typically held in the lower level of St. Thomas old gym. Please check the Troop website for any date or location changes that may occur.

### **Parent Volunteering**

Troop 28 is proud to be an active Troop and to maintain that level of activity requires the help and support of parents. There are many ways to volunteer including but not limited to Troop Leadership positions, fundraising chairmen, activity organizers, attending camping events, providing transportation to activities, serving on rank advancement Board of Reviews, etc. One easy but important way to support the Troop is to volunteer to organize or help organize a Scout activity. These activities are discussed and communicated at the Parent Meetings. Please take the opportunity to volunteer and support the Troop. Current information on Troop schedules and activities can always be found on the Troop Website at [www.troop28bsa.org](http://www.troop28bsa.org).

### **Fundraisers**

Troop 28 has three types of fundraisers: Group, Individual and Joint Fundraisers. The Troop Leadership will announce what type of fundraiser it is before the fundraiser kickoff.

- Group Fundraiser - The money raised from group fundraisers go towards the troop funds and are used to support the troop. Examples of uses include purchasing tents or equipment, covering training costs, purchasing patches or other awards. Scouts and parents are encouraged to participate in the Group Fundraisers to help provide for the Troop needs.
- Individual Fundraiser - This type of Boy Scout Fundraisers rely heavily on individual scout work. The money raised from these activities goes into the individual scout account.
- Joint Fundraiser - The money from a Joint Fundraiser is split between the Troop account and Individual accounts.

### **Discipline**

Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Oath and Law. For the Troop to achieve its goals and maintain a safe environment, it is important for each Scout to participate, work as a team and follow directions. The Troop needs to maintain discipline. If an issue arises the Scout may be addressed by the Adult or Scout leadership and it is expected that the Scout corrects the behavior. If the behavior is not corrected the Adult Leader at the event may ask the Scout's parents to pick him up from the event. If a leader feels additional corrective action after the event is warranted, they will bring their concerns to the Troop Leader, the Committee Chairman and the Troop Representative. The issues will be communicated with the Parents, the proposed discipline will be explained and we will work with the Scout to improve his behavior. In rare cases the Scout may be asked to leave the Troop.

### **Troop Leadership - who to go to for what**

List different adult and Scout leader positions with responsibilities and who to talk with based on the situation