



NEW MEMBER FACT SHEET

What I need to know on “Day One” after my son joins Troop 15?

Joining a troop should be a wonderful experience for both parents and Scouts. In order to keep you from being overwhelmed by new customs and practices, the following is provided to help answer some of the many questions frequently asked when first joining the Troop. Further elaboration on these points can be discussed with the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, or Assistant Scoutmasters in the Troop.

1. Troop Meetings:

- ◆ Regular Meetings (August - June) –
 - Gathering begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church. The address is 915 E. Glenn Avenue, Auburn.
 - Flag Ceremony at 6:40 p.m. sharp!
 - Meetings last until about 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise notified by Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman.
- ◆ Summer Meetings (July) - Generally, the Troop does not meet during the month of July.
- ◆ After Campouts - Troop meetings will not be held the following Monday that a campout is held unless otherwise notified by the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman. The reason is to give the boys a chance to clean their gear after a campout and to hold our monthly Patrol Leaders Council meeting.

2. Outdoor Activities:

- ◆ During August – June, the Troop will usually go on one campout/outing each month.
- ◆ Transportation is provided by our Troop Bus. However, we sometimes will need to rely on Troop 15 parents to transport the boys to and from events.
- ◆ Adults are welcome and encouraged to attend campouts/outings whenever possible. This includes males and females. All adults accompanying Scouts on campouts/outings will eat and sleep as a patrol and will be asked to pay the campout/outing fee.
- ◆ Sign up and payment deadline for each campout will be one week before the event. We will have a sign-up sheet available at the meetings. We need to know in advance so we can make sure we have enough transportation and food for the event and coordinate the other logistics for the trip.
- ◆ Campouts will include the following costs if needed and will be broken out to reflect the cost associated with each category: Food, Transportation, Camping/Registration Fee (if it applies) and Supply/Equipment Cost (i.e. propane, etc.)
- ◆ If a scout commits to a trip and any costs are expended based upon that commitment, the scout is responsible for paying those costs whether he attends the event or not. Emergency situations will be handled on a case by case basis.

3. Troop Advancement

- ◆ Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, and registered merit badge counselors may sign-off on requirements.
- ◆ Rank advancement requirements will be completed on campouts/outings, at summer camp, at Scout meetings and/or scheduled merit badge counselor appointments.
- ◆ Scouts have several opportunities to earn merit badges throughout the year. We have a fall and spring merit badge rotation where scouts work on a merit badge during one troop meeting a month. Also, we offer several additional merit badge classes outside of Troop meetings.
- ◆ Troopmaster is available online for parents and adult leaders to review their son's advancement. Adult leaders will also be available to review and add to their patrol's advancement. If you are interested in a username and password, please let me know and we will assign you one. If you need assistance with accessing the Troopmaster, you can visit the Troop Office for one-on-one training.

In order for the scout to advance in rank, it requires the following:

- a. Fulfill the requirement of rank by learning the skills, practicing the skills, and demonstrating proficiency to the Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster.
- b. For certain ranks, scout will need to hold a leadership position and attend associated training for each position that a scout holds.
- c. Meet or exceed the participation requirement of 75% at scout meetings and campouts/outings as required by the Participation Policy unless other authorized Troop events are approved as a substitute.
- d. Ability to learn and retain skills through specific requirements for lower ranks and merit badges for higher ranks. There are certain requirements that must be met for merit badge work to count. It must be carried out by a registered merit badge counselor.
- e. Exhibit Scouting spirit by living the Scout Oath and Law and wearing the proper Scout Uniform to Troop functions.
- f. Participation in service projects.
- g. Completing a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review.
- h. Attending Court of Honor.

4. What about uniforms?

- ◆ Uniforms are to be worn to all Troop functions unless otherwise communicated by the Troop Committee Chairman or Scoutmaster.
- ◆ A Scout Uniform Information Sheet can be found at <http://www.chattahoochee-bsa.org/filestore/pdf/34283.pdf> that lists the uniform items and where to buy the uniform.
- ◆ Class A Uniform –
 - The Troop wears the traditional, official BSA uniform (called "Class A") to all regular meetings and for all special occasions such as Court of Honors, etc.
 - Troop neckerchief will be worn at Court of Honor and public events such as parades, fundraisers, and other Troop functions. Scouts do not need to wear them to Troop Meetings.
 - On campouts, you will be notified if your son is to wear a Class A or if they need to bring this uniform to wear on the campout.
 - The official "Class A" uniform is available from the Council Scout Shop in Columbus and West Point.

- ◆ Class B Uniform –
 - This uniform is worn under the Class A uniform (allows them to change into this uniform at Troop meeting if needed), campouts and designated work days/service projects.
 - The “Class B” uniform is the Troop 15 t-shirt, a Scouting Camp t-shirt, or a BSA t-shirt purchased from a Council Scout Shop.
 - Additional Troop 15 t-shirts can be purchased. Please see Troop Items Order Sheet for prices and selection of other troop items.

5. Financial commitments

- ◆ Registration Fee - There is a onetime **activity fee of \$55** when the boy joins the Troop. This fee includes Troop hat, Class B t-shirt, Troop 15 number patch, and Troop Neckerchief.
- ◆ Yearly Troop Fee –
 - Instead of collecting dues on a monthly basis, we are requesting that each scout pay a yearly **Troop 15 fee of \$125.**
 - This fee can be paid all at once or can be paid in three installments in Sept., Oct., and Nov. Also, a scout can pay for all or some of this fee by selling popcorn.
 - This fee will go to purchase meeting materials, advancement rank, and equipment needed to carry out the scouting program.
- ◆ Campout/Outing Fees - Troop 15 will participate in a monthly outdoor activity in order to earn advancement and practice the scout skills that they have learned at a troop meeting. Fees will be based on the type of event.
- ◆ Scout Accounts - If a scout decides to sell popcorn, the commission earned by each scout is placed in an account for their use on Troop activities and expenses. It can be spent on the Troop Activity Fee, summer camp, campouts, t-shirts, etc.

6. Summer Camp:

- ◆ We will attend Camp Daniel Boone on June 21-27.
- ◆ Lisa Sandt, Troop Committee Chair will be in charge of registration and Becky Barlow, Troop Treasurer will collect payments.
- ◆ The cost of Base Camp and High Adventure Programs will be sent out to the parents. The fee will include meals, transportation, camping fee, and incidentals. Each cost will be broken out by category.
- ◆ The payment schedule for summer camp is as follows:
 - **December 15th** - A deposit of \$125 for scouts wanting to attend Base Camp and 1/3 of the total cost for those who sign up to attend the high adventure programs
 - **January 19th, February 16th, and March 16th** - Installment payments of 1/3 of the remaining balance will be due on these dates. If full payment is not received by April 30th for base camp, your reservation will be cancelled.
 - For high adventure programs, if payment is not paid in full by the March deadline then your reservation will be cancelled.
 - You can learn more about these programs in the 2013 Leader Guide at <http://campdanielboone.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=IhA3JqGqfpQ%3d&tabid=171&mid=617>.
- ◆ It is strongly recommended that every scout attend summer camp. ***It is the single most important activity of the scout year.***

7. Troop Fundraisers -

- ◆ Scouting is made affordable through the troop's fundraising efforts as well as Troop Activity Fees.
- ◆ Fundraising is used to support purchasing equipment as new scouts join, sponsoring scholarships for uniforms and summer camp for those scouts who cannot afford it, and other Troop expenses.
- ◆ Fundraising requires scout and parent support -- and participation.
- ◆ The troop will participate in the following fundraisers throughout the year:
 - **Popcorn** – Our fall fundraiser will be to sell Trail's End Popcorn. Scouts can sell popcorn and receive a percentage from their sales to be placed in an individual Scout Account. If a scout sells popcorn, the Troop Activity Fee will be deducted from their sales. Each scout will be assigned a username and password to complete online ordering.
 - **Discount Card Fundraiser** – Our spring fundraiser will be to sell the discount cards again. These funds will go directly to the Troop to purchase new and repair existing camping equipment.
 - **Other Fundraisers** – Will be planned as needed.

8. Parents and Families

Here are some examples of ways parents can help with the troop.

- ◆ Become a registered, uniformed and trained leader (Assistant Scoutmaster and/or Troop Committee). Training offered includes Fast Start, Leader Essential, Leader Specific, Outdoor Training, Wood badge, etc.)
- ◆ Become active in the Troop Committee by signing up to be responsible for one of the following areas: membership, advancement, troop popcorn sales, fundraising, outdoor program, troop equipment, social events (Court of Honors, Christmas Party, etc.) or serving as a member.
- ◆ Become a merit badge counselor in a subject in which you have interest and experience by filling out a Merit Badge Counselor form and Adult application.
- ◆ Assist with the planning and logistics for a campout.
- ◆ Drive to and from events.
- ◆ Help arrange a service project.
- ◆ Participate in an outing or backpacking trip.
- ◆ Assist with Skill Instruction for new Scouts.

9. Troop Email, Facebook and Website:

- ◆ You can receive additional information about the Troop and view the Troop Calendar at www.bsa15.net.
- ◆ Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Troop15
- ◆ Troop Email: Info@bsa15.net

10. For questions or if you need additional information, contact the following individuals:

- ◆ Todd Sandt, Scoutmaster – 334-319-0999
- ◆ Lisa Sandt, Committee Chairman – 334-740-2972
- ◆ Dennis Grooms, Chartered Organization Representative – 334-728-1983