

Introduction to Troop 2535

Introduction

Welcome to Troop 2535 of the Boy Scouts of America. Your son will have a chance to enjoy the promise of Scouting (page 1, BSA Handbook), and along the way, learn about participatory citizenship, physical and mental fitness, and character development. The trained leaders of this troop use a variety of methods to impart all of this, and, as a parent, you may choose to play a part as well.

Our troop is sponsored by the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. We meet on Tuesday evenings, 7:15 to 8:30. Exceptions are the Tuesdays after major monthly troop events, or if the school is closed for inclement weather, or if the troop is off at summer camp.

Troop 2535 is a relatively new troop, established in 2007. We're also a boy led troop, with adult support from several Woodbadge Trained leaders. The boys plan most of the activities, and this planning, and leadership, is a critical part of their Scouting experience.

Troop Structure

The troop is organized into Patrols, each one consisting of between 5 and 8 Scouts. We want the boys to be in a patrol with their buddies, as this is where the best part of Scouting happens. The Senior Patrol Leader, elected by the youth, in consult with the Scoutmaster, determines the Patrol's membership. Frequently, when a number of new members join the Troop, they become one Patrol, and they may have an older Scout serve as a Guide. Patrol members elect their own patrol leaders for 6 month terms, and that PL represents his Patrol in the Patrol Leaders Council, which does the annual and monthly planning for the troop.

Advancement

Advancement = Learning. When it's done right, boys advance by participating in the outdoor activities that the troop provides. The first rank they earn (after joining as a basic "Scout") is Tenderfoot. For our new scouts, we try hard to get them up to this rank, before they take off for summer camp. If there's ever a time to NOT miss Scout meetings, it is in the months between joining the troop, and going to summer camp. We have a plan for completing Tenderfoot in that timeframe. As they become more comfortable in the outdoors, they become Second Class Scouts, and then First Class Scouts. If they go to summer camp, and participate in troop activities, Scouts should be able to attain the First Class Rank within a year of joining the troop. The next ranks are Star, Life, and finally, Eagle. For these, scouts need to earn merit badges (120 topics to choose from) provide service, and leadership, and show initiative to work on some of these things on their own.

We recognize the Scouts for their advancement at a Court of Honor, typically held about three times per year. Parental attendance at these events is one way to show support your sons efforts.

Activities

We aim to have one major outdoor activity each month, and usually at least one service project each month as well. This year's calendar is attached. We also offer a chance for Scouts to go to summer camp for multiple weeks each summer. This summer, we will be at Goshen Scout reservation for the weeks of July 17, and July 24. Scouts may choose one, or both weeks. It's worth noting that scouts that attend both weeks are very comfortable for the second week, and really start to enjoy being outdoors more. Several of this new troops Scouts will become Goshen Staffers this year.

7 of our older Scouts went to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico in 2010. This was a capstone Scouting experience, where they used all of their scout skills to carry their gear, food and water for 12 days on the mountain trails in the 137,000 acre camp in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In the previous summer, 8 of our scouts spent 2.5 weeks in Hawaii, touring the islands, and spending one of those weeks at their local Boy Scout Camp.

7 more of our Scouts enjoyed a 120 mile week long bike trek on the Alleghany Gap Trail.

All told, our 23 scouts spent more than 50 weeks total at Scout Camps this past summer.

Uniform

We ask our Scouts to wear their "Class A" uniform (Scout shirt with insignia, trousers, and troop neckerchief) to troop meetings and for travel to camping trips and activities. The troop will provide the numerals and the neckerchief. Replacement neckerchiefs are available for \$10 from the Troop Committee Chair.

What to buy: Scout short sleeved shirt, Scout pants, long or short, green shoulder loops, Council Shoulder Strip, World Scouting crest, web belt, socks.

Where to buy: Casual Adventure on Washington St., Scout Headquarters in Bethesda, Scout Shop in Ravensworth Shopping Center, Annandale.

Annual Dues and Fund Raising

Regular annual dues are \$75 per Scout. That covers National BSA Registration and a subscription to Boys Life Magazine. It also provides some of the support for the troop, for equipment, recognition, and supplies. If you have just paid your Pack for renewal for a year, we will discount this for the first year.

We sell BSA Popcorn in the Fall. One third of the sales support the troops operations. For scouts that sell more than \$300 worth of Popcorn, additional sales accrue some funds to their "Scout Account" so that they can cover their own Scouting Expenses. One of our Patrols decided to go out together and shovel snow (recently!) and they raised money for their Scout accounts. Scout account money can be used for summer camp, camping or camporee fees (camping trip is typically \$10 to \$20 and covers food and site fees)

How Can You Help

We hope for *some* level of support from every parent. There are large and small ways you might help, such as:

Attend all Courts of Honor – bring cookies!

Provide Transportation for a camping Trip

Camp with us

Help us track advancement

Help us track registration

Become a Troop Committee Member

Sit on a Scouts' Board of Review

Be a Merit Badge Counselor

Get trained to be an Assistant Scoutmaster

Questions? More Information

Scoutmaster – Bill Lee Leebill@starpower.net

Committee Chair – David Carlson carlsonbsa@verizon.net