



Welcome
To
Scouting

Welcome to Troop 405

The boys and leaders of Troop 405 of Rittman would like to welcome you and your son to the Troop. We have put together this information guide to help answer questions, yet, if you have any additional questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact any of the unit leaders.

Scouting Background

Our unit was originally founded in 1928 and has been continuously active for over 60 years, sponsored by the American Legion Post and throughout that time scouting has used fun programs to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The backbone of the Boy Scout program is the Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law, both of which the scouts pledge to observe while at troop activities and outside of troop activities.

Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.



The Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
brave, clean and reverent.

These are backed up with the scout motto of "Be Prepared"
and the scout slogan of "Do a Good Turn Daily"

Meeting Time and Place

We meet every Monday from 7:00 - 8:30pm, at the American Legion Hall on East Sunset. The Troop provides a calendar of meeting times and events, so check the calendar or check with unit leaders for our schedule on holiday weekends. If the weather is really questionable in the evening, check with unit leaders, but on Mondays when school is canceled due to weather, we often times will meet, since the road conditions are usually much improved by evening time. We do meet throughout the summer months, many times at the picnic pavilion located just behind the American Legion. Camp-outs are planned in advance and may alter the regular meeting schedule.

Boy Scout Responsibility

One of the major goals of the scouting program is to instill the concepts of confidence, teamwork and leadership and one way that this is accomplished is to place the responsibility of many troop and patrol decisions and operations on the boys themselves. The adult leaders supervise and provide guidance and suggestions while encouraging independence, responsibility, teamwork and leadership.

One responsibility that is placed on every scout is to be a good communicator. This position is backed with the rule that each scout should always bring his handbook, pencil and paper to every meeting. Thus, the scout learns to be responsible for what he is to do within his patrol and troop by taking notes. This means that the information, schedule of activities and any cost or equipment requirements that are discussed with the scouts, becomes each scouts responsibility to share that information with his parents.



Scout Membership Fees

The membership year for our troop runs from March to March with re-registration happening in February.

The \$10 registration fee will include:

a full years membership with National BSA.

As an Option for scouts is a subscription to Boys Life Magazine.

This is an additional \$12 per year. (This is not a requirement).

The magazine includes articles on many varied topics of interest to scout age boys, while supporting the ideals of scouting.

Scout Uniform

The basic uniform for Troop 405 is the khaki BSA shirt with the troop neckerchief. The uniform shirts are available at the Great Trail Council Scout Shop in Akron on South Main, or Whitey's Army/Navy on the square in Medina, or Freedlander's in Wooster. New shirts in youth and adult sizes range in price from \$25 to \$35. Uniform shirts can also be found in second hand clothing stores and at Goodwill stores. Additional items needed on the uniform are the Council shoulder patch and red shoulder loops. The numerals "405" and Troop neckerchief is provided by the troop.

Scouts attending summer camp must have scout shorts and scout socks, hiking boots and preferable a scout belt. Because we have learned that a troop must look its best to win the retreat banner.

The troop also maintains a uniform exchange program for scouts that need a uniform to grow into or uniforms that have a lot of life yet to go. Talk to a unit leader about the sizes of uniform that are available.

Boy Scout Handbook

This is the one major book that the boy scouts work out of throughout scouting. Many of the activities and projects that the troop works on refers back to different sections in the handbook. Each scout must provide his own handbook, which costs about \$8.00. This book will get a lot of use and a lot of abuse, it is recommended to make or get a book cover to help protect it. Remember, the Scout Handbook should be brought to every meeting along with paper and pencil for taking notes.



Advancement in Rank

When a boy completes his application to join Boy Scouts, learns the basics of scouts and agrees to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, he will receive his first badge, the Joining Badge. This will start him on the road towards earning advancement in rank as he learns from the varied activities of scouting. A new scout will first be working toward his Tenderfoot rank and the unit leaders encourage the newer scouts to work on completing Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class before trying to tackle too many merit badge projects. The knowledge and experience gained while earning these ranks forms a base for future rank and merit badge programs. As your boy continues in scouting he can work toward Star Rank, Life Rank and the top rank of Eagle Scout. The troop provides the merit badges & badges of rank.

Every scout works at his own pace, and even when we try to work on projects or merit badges as a group, not everyone completes these projects together. Some scouts may be more ambitious and will work faster. Some boys really enjoy the activities and camping, but they progress in rank a little slower.

The troop leaders encourage all the boys to work toward advancement, because we know they will be learning and growing along the way. The one incentive that is generally placed before the scouts to encourage them to work on their rank advancement, is the summer adventure trip. The unit leaders meet with each scout, early in the year and agree on an attainable target, to earn the right to go on the adventure trip.

Weekend Camp-outs

Usually 12 months out of the year, the troop will participate in weekend camp-outs. Generally leaving Friday at 5:30pm from the scout building and returning on Sunday in the late morning. The "Patrol Method" is often used for camp-out food and cooking. This means the patrol plans their own menu, buys their own food and prepares it during the camp-out. The food costs are then divided amongst the participating members of that patrol. This cost would be in addition to any campground or activity fees, for which the troop would divide the cost amongst everyone participating.



Scouts may serve as patrol cook for an outing. With parent's help, the scouts should estimate their food costs, collect money from fellow patrol members, purchase food supplies and then lead the patrol through the weekend during preparation of meals and clean-up. The troop supplies coolers, containers, pots & pans, and all cooking equipment planned for. Some food supplies (ketchup, mustard, syrup, spices, etc...) may be available in the scout refrigerator. Be sure to check the supply before purchasing more.

The troop supplies tents and other group gear. But, Personal gear, such as cups, plates, eating utensils, etc. are the responsibility of each individual scout, along with other personal items such as sleeping bag, flashlight, etc.

Typical weekend camp-outs range in cost for each scout from \$6 - \$16 for the entire weekend including food.

Summer Camp

Troop 405 takes part in a week long summer camp at Camp Manatoc near Peninsula, OH. Running from Sunday to Saturday, the boys have the greatest opportunity to work on merit badge programs and gain advancement in rank. With a lot of fun and exciting activities filling the weeks schedule.

The 2008 schedule for summer camp is the week of June 15th - 21st.

Early bird camp fee - \$190 per scout if paid by May 15

Regular fee - \$210 per scout

Late fee - \$230 per scout



Do not let the cost of summer camp, keep your scout from having the time of his life. Scouts can earn money during Troop fund raisers and Campership money is available locally and through our Council. Please talk to a unit leader by the beginning of April, if you and your scout need assistance in getting to summer camp.

Summer Adventure Trip

This trip is usually planned for late in the summer and is set up as an incentive for the scouts to work on their advancement in rank. In 2006, the troop backpacked in the Allegheny National Forest. Other trips include: 2005-Kumbrabow State Forest and the Monongehela National Forest in West Virginia, 2004-Mammoth Caves in Kentucky. Plans are being made for a multi-day canoeing trip in July, 2007

Scouts must attend an entire week of summer camp to qualify for the Summer Adventure Trip, along with meeting any personal advancement goals set by the scout and the scoutmaster.

Gear Needed for a Typical Camping Trip

The Troop camps outside in all weather throughout the entire year, so please consider the range of possible temperatures and wetness when helping your scout prepare for an outing. ONLY help your scout, a big part of the scouting program is for the boys to learn to prepare and plan for themselves. A large duffel bag works well for scout gear, unless we are backpacking into a campsite.

-Sleeping Bag

-Ground Pad (Foam pad or extra blankets)

-Hiking shoes or boots



(Scouts should be wearing their boots when we leave!)

-Sneakers - Dry or fresh shoes are nice!

-Socks - minimum 3 pairs

-Rain Gear/Poncho (Large plastic bag will work)

-Long Pants/Shorts - depending on weather

-Changes of clothing

(Be prepared with 3 changes of clothing - these boys know how to get dirty and wet fast!!)

-Hat or cap

-Jacket/Sweater/Coat (Layer clothing if cold)

-Canteen/Water Bottle

-Mess Kit (plate / bowl / spoon / fork / knife)



-Cup (plastic or metal) without your own cup, you don't drink.

-Flashlight (Check your batteries)

-Toilet Kit (toothbrush & paste, washcloth, towel, soap, etc ...)

-Scout Handbook

It is a good idea to put your scouts name on his clothes and personal items.

The following items are generally considered optional, depending on the weather and personal preference.

-Pillow

-Sweatsuit (good to sleep in)

-Sunglasses & Sunscreen

-Bug lotion

-Personal medication

-Hiking stick

-Camp stool/chair

-Fishing Gear

-Camera/Film

-Frisbee



1. Always think about weather and destination when packing appropriate gear.
2. If you pack clothing in Zip-Lok bags ground moisture will not make your gear damp.
3. Scouts should not keep personal snacks in their tents. All food should be stored in containers or coolers, because raccoons and other critters will come looking for it.
4. No electronic devices - gameboy, radio, TV's, CD players, etc...
5. Don't bring along any items of great value. Camping areas are usually a very large place to be searching for anything lost.
6. Please notify the leaders of any medication or health needs or problems.

Boy Scout - Safety, Health and Medical

The scout leaders are always watching out to make all our adventures as safe as possible, but just in case of any medical emergency, all parents need to fill out the Class 1 section of the Personal Health and Medical Record Form. For scouts attending summer camp, the Class 2 section requiring a physical must be completed, at least once every three years.



Boy Scout Fund Raising

The boys generally participate in one or more fund raising activities during the year. These range from one night of a 50/50 drawing at a community event, to our annual popcorn sale that bridges about a month and a half in the fall, to candy sales in the spring, to the boy scout yard sale. These projects help raise money for the troop, to pay for activities and equipment.

Scout Accounts

Troop fund raisers also help individual boys to earn money. The troop maintains a separate ledger of funds earned by scouts, that they can use to pay towards summer camp, weekend camp-outs or to buy needed personal gear or equipment.

We encourage all the boys to participate in these fund raisers and the troop greatly appreciates the efforts of so many parents.



Parent Involvement

The troop is always looking for additional help from parents and adults to help with merit badge projects, supervision on camping trips and most often help with transportation to different outings and activities. You can help make the scouting experience better! Talk to one of the unit leaders about it!

<http://troops.scouter.com/oh/rittman405>

Troop Leader Contact Info

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