

## Welcome to Troop 570, Boy Scouts of America!

Scouting is camping, hiking, swimming, campfires, and friendship. Scouting is learning about the community, our country, and the world. But most of all, Scouting is FUN! Here is what you need to know about Boy Scout Troop 570.

### Meetings: (except as noted in Troop Calendar)

- 7:00 PM in the lower north youth meeting room at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
- Troop Meetings are usually the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, (5<sup>th</sup>) Mondays of each month
- Patrol Leader's Council meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (or last Monday in a five-Monday month)
- Patrol Meetings at the discretion of the Patrol Leader
- Courts of Honor twice a year, usually in April and October (all parents should attend)
- Parent's Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Only registered Committee members can vote, if one is called for during a meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend.

### Location and Chartered Organization:

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124<sup>th</sup>, St., Kirkland, WA

### Joining requirements: (refer to the Boy Scout Handbook)

- Boys must be 11 years old, or be 10 ½ years and have earned the Cub Scout Arrow of Light.
- Submit a completed Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent.
- Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Show how to tie a square knot.
- Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan, and Outdoor Code.
- Describe the Scout badge.
- With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Child from Drug and Child Abuse*.
- Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

### Finances: The cost of running the troop comes from two sources.

- **Troop Dues** - \$60 for 2009 (annual dues paid in October for following year). This includes membership fee, insurance, and Boy's Life magazine. Dues are prorated for new Scouts joining during the year. *Dues for a second boy in the troop are \$48* (if only one copy of Boy's Life is desired for the home); registered adult leader dues are paid by the troop. If you cannot afford the Troop dues, talk to the Committee Chair.
- **Fundraiser** - the annual Christmas Tree Recycling allows Scouts to earn credits for Summer Camp, participation in high-adventure outing, vouchers for outdoor gear, as well as financing the Troop budget. All Scouts are expected to participate. Parents with trucks are also needed to help with tree pickup, and their participation earns credit for their sons. *Unpaid troop dues will be deducted from credits earned by the Scout during the Troop fundraiser.*

**Scout Participation:** Boys cannot receive the benefits of the Boy Scout program unless they actively participate in Troop meetings and the outdoor program. We understand that homework, sports, church activities, or other commitments will sometimes cause a Scout miss meetings or activities, but regular participation should be encouraged and aided by the parent. Rank advancement to First Class requires participation in at least ten troop activities (other than Troop meetings), three of which must be overnight campouts.

**Uniform:** Each Scout is expected to acquire his own uniform upon joining the Troop. If possible, the money to purchase the uniform should be earned by the Scout himself through chores, allowance, etc. The uniform should be properly worn at every Troop meeting, and especially for Boards of Review and Courts of Honor. The new official BSA uniform consists of the following items:

- Boy Scout Handbook (11th edition)
- Tan Scout shirt
- Forest green shoulder loops for epaulets on shirt
- Forest green Switchback pants with Scout belt
- Uniform socks
- Green and White Neckerchief provided by the Troop upon joining. *Replacement for a lost neckerchief is \$10.*
- Neckerchief slide of Scout's choice (BSA or homemade slide)
- Various troop-supplied patches– troop number, patrol, etc. (talk to the Advancement Chairman)

Uniforms are available at the Puget Sound Scout Shop (3120 Rainier Ave S, Seattle 206-721-5945). The Scout Shop usually carries “seconds” that are perfectly good quality at a discount. Uniforms can also be ordered through [www.ScoutStuff.org](http://www.ScoutStuff.org). Pre-owned uniforms can sometimes be found at local thrift stores.

**Patrol Method:** The Troop is divided into groups of around 8 Scouts, called a patrol.

- **Experienced Patrols:** The Troop currently has 5 patrols of experienced Scouts who have been members of the Troop for approximately 1 year or more. Each patrol elects an experienced Scout (usually 1<sup>st</sup> Class or higher rank) to act as Patrol Leader, who serves a term of 6 months. Patrols are encouraged to meet on their own to plan for outings and other activities.
- **New Scout Patrols:** When Webelos Scouts bridge from a Pack into the Troop, they are placed in a New Scout Patrol for the first 9 months or so. They elect a patrol leader, choose a patrol name and yell, and make a patrol flag. A new patrol leader is elected every 2 or 3 months, and for the first few outings, the new Scouts are split up among the experienced patrols to help them learn outdoor skills and planning. Older, more experienced Scouts, called Troop Guides, are assigned to help them learn Scout skills so they can advance to First Class. In the Fall, New Scouts are permanently assigned to an experienced Patrol. Each Scout has a voice in choosing his permanent patrol, and every effort is made to keep friends together while maintaining a balance of ages, experience, and patrol size.
- **Patrol Leaders Council:** The Scouts themselves, through the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC), run The Troop democratically. The Patrol Leaders meet once a month at the PLC, a.k.a. “Greenbar” Meeting under the leadership of the Senior Patrol Leader and the guidance of the Scoutmaster. The PLC plans activities and outings that the Troop will undertake for the year. Adult leaders are there to teach and assist them, and insure a safe environment. This means that things will not always be as organized or well planned, as we would like. But it is important that the Scouts learn by doing, including making their own mistakes. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant SPL, the Patrol Leaders, and other Troop positions are selected by a Troop Election every six months, usually in September and March.

**Advancement:** A Scout is responsible for his own advancement. Rank advancement is an important way for boys to learn Scouting skills, leadership, and responsibility. When a Scout joins the troop, he does not have a rank. He becomes a “Scout” by requesting a conference with the Scoutmaster and discussing the “joining requirements” found in the Scout Handbook. Afterwards, a Scout advances in rank as follows.

- **Requirements:** Each rank has specific requirements that must be completed by the Scout and signed off in the Scout Handbook. All requirements for a given rank must be completed before requesting a Scoutmaster conference for that rank.

- **Who signs the book?** Boys who complete a requirement must present their book for signature to the Senior Patrol Leader, their Patrol Leader, a Troop Guide, or one of the registered adult Scout leaders who can verify satisfactory performance of that skill. The Scout must ask for the sign-off; it doesn't happen automatically. Unlike Cub Scouting, parents should not sign off advancement requirements, except as described in the advancement guidelines. Parents are encouraged to help their son learn the skills needed for advancement and monitor their progress.
- **Progress to First Class:** New Scouts should set a goal to earn First Class rank by the end of their first year. This goal is challenging, but attainable. A First Class Scout has learned all the skills needed to be safe and comfortable in the outdoors. A Scout can work on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class simultaneously, but the badges must be earned in sequence.
- **Merit Badges:** Merit badges are not required for advancement to First Class, but may be earned at any time. To work on a merit badge, the Scout must first request a "blue card" from the Scoutmaster and find an adult Merit Badge Counselor to work with on it.
- **Scoutmaster conference:** After completing all the requirements for rank advancement, the Scout must request a Scoutmaster conference. The Scoutmaster will schedule an appointment to review the material for that rank with the Scout to verify that he has mastered the skills and completed the requirements.
- **Board of Review:** After the Scout has completed the advancement requirements and the Scoutmaster conference, the Scout must request a Board of Review by contacting the Advancement Chairman. In this conference, members of the Troop Committee will verify that all requirements have been completed, and ask questions to see if the Scout is having a good experience in the troop. The Scout is expected to present himself in full uniform, including the Scout Handbook.
- **Immediate recognition:** As soon as a Scout successfully completes his Board of Review, he has officially earned the rank. The badge will be presented to him at the next possible opportunity, usually at a troop meeting.
- **Court of Honor:** These ceremonies are held twice a year to formally recognize all Scouts who have advanced in rank, as well as the parents of the scout. Parents and families should attend to support their son's advancement.
- **Beyond First Class:** All Scouts should aim to advance by at least one rank per year.
- **Eagle Scout:** The trail to Eagle leads through the ranks of Star Scout and Life Scout – an exciting pathway that will challenge you, test you, and open many doors to new ideas and opportunities. Building on the knowledge and experience gained in becoming First Class Scout, the requirements for Star and Life offer plenty of freedom in choosing the direction your interests takes you, and many options for achieving each higher rank. The requirements also emphasize the roles that the Scout Oath and Law play in your life, and the importance of services to your Scout troop and to others.

### **Outdoor Program**

The saying goes "three quarters of Scouting is outing", and the Troop schedules at least one outing per month year around. We hike, car camp, backpack, snowshoe, and attend events like Camporee, Merit Badge Weekend and Klondike. These outings will be some of the best times you will ever have.

- **Monthly Outings:** These are financed per event, and generally cost at least a few dollars per person for gas money. Camporee and Klondike Derby usually cost \$10 or more. Details are found on the permission slip distributed in advance of the outing. For safety and insurance reasons, no Scout may participate in outings without a signed parent permission slip.
- **Summer Camp:** This is a highlight of the year and a great opportunity for Scouts to earn ranks and merit badges. Depending on where we go, typical summer camp costs are around \$200 for one week, including transportation and spending money. All Scouts are encouraged to attend.

- **Camperships:** If you cannot afford to pay for Summer Camp, talk to the Committee Chair. Limited funds are available from Chief Seattle Council and from the Troop to support needy families. Camperships are based on need, merit, and participation, and are generally limited to 1/2 of the camp fee. Recipients of camperships are expected to help earn their way to camp by participating fully in the Troop fundraiser.
- **Camping gear:** To be comfortable and safe in the outdoors, a Scout needs proper clothing and camping gear. Detailed lists of what to bring on a campout can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook, but every boy will need the following basics.

**Rain gear:** Here in the Pacific Northwest, we go camping rain or shine. A hooded plastic rain jacket or a poncho is a MUST to stay dry and warm.

**Warm clothes:** It gets cold at night in the mountains, even in the summer. Several thin layers are better than one heavy layer to adjust for changing conditions. Hats, shirts, sweaters, jackets, pants and socks should be wool or synthetic (“cotton is rotten”). Long underwear (synthetic) is highly advisable.

**Footwear:** Tennis shoes are OK for some outings, but a pair of hiking boots is advisable for camping and hiking on backcountry trails. Waterproof boots for snow outings are also a good idea.

**Backpack:** It’s hard to lug your gear without one. You will need something bigger than a schoolbook bag. Internal and external frame packs can be purchased or rented from REI, or sometimes borrowed from other Scout families. If you need to borrow equipment, let us know.

**Sleeping bag and pad:** If you buy a sleeping bag, make sure it is filled with synthetic fiber. The temperature rating should be between 15°F to 30°F, since we will seldom sleep out in very cold weather. A cold weather bag 0° is generally too warm for summer outings.

**The Ten Essentials:** See the Scout Handbook for a list of the ten essentials. Every Scout should carry them on every outing.

### **Parent Participation**

We need parent involvement to make the Troop successful. The adult leaders you see in uniform at meetings and activities are volunteers. They all have busy lives with jobs, family, church, school, sports, etc. just like you. Every parent should be willing and able to help the Troop in some way. Here are some ways you can help:

- Drive Scouts to and from a camping trip or outing
- Attend Parent Meetings and Courts of Honor
- Help with the Christmas Tree recycling fund raiser
- Encourage your son and help him advance in rank
- Come with us on a hike or campout
- Share your knowledge of a profession or hobby as a merit badge counselor
- Register and get trained as a Scout leader
- Stay for a troop meeting occasionally to see what’s going on
- Go family camping and help your son learn basic outdoor skills

### **Still have questions?**

If you are a Scout, ask your Patrol Leader.

If you are a parent, ask one of the adult leaders.