

Information for Parents of WEBELOS

November 6, 2009

*“Scouting is a game with a purpose.
Fun is the game.
Values are the purpose.
Learning is the process.”*

Lord Baden-Powell

Code Of Conduct

- All activities will be conducted in strict accordance with the policies of the BSA, with particular emphasis on Youth Protection and the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- All participants will be expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law. No Exceptions.

How is Scouting Different from Cubs/Webelos?

- Boy Lead w/ Adult Supervision
- Less DIRECT family involvement
- More opportunity for FUN
- Outings generally once a month
- Meetings every week
- More youth responsibility
- Higher level of expectation for Youth

Weekly Meetings

- Every Monday Night from 7:00 to 8:00
- The boys are responsible to get here and get home
- Uniforms are strongly encouraged.
- Parents are always welcome.
- To avoid distractions, the Troop Committee has developed a sibling policy. See website.
- There is NO meeting if there is NO school that day.

Advancements and Rank

- Different from Cubs
- Sign-offs by authorized persons only
 - Registered Leaders
 - Merit Badge Counselors
 - Certain Scouts
- With a few exceptions, no requirements require or allow parental sign-offs.

Advancements and Rank

- Initial Ranks
 - Scout – Much the same as Arrow of Light
 - Tenderfoot – Getting to know how the Troop operates
 - Second Class – Basic Skills
 - First Class – More complex skills
- Program designed to provide opportunities
 - Meetings
 - Campouts

Advancements and Rank

- Higher Ranks
 - Star – Leadership and Merit Badges
 - Life – More leadership and more Merit Badges
 - Eagle – Leadership, Merit Badges and a Leadership Project
- Opportunities presented, but must be self-motivated

Advancements and Rank

- Rank and Awards presented at Courts of Honor
 - Last Monday in January
 - Last Troop meeting in May
 - Ikes Campout in October
- Be there – it is a big deal for your son

Books and other Written Materials

- Boy Scout Handbook
 - Presented by the Troop upon registration with the Troop (hand out registration blanks)
 - Bring it to all meetings and campouts
- Merit Badge books
 - Available on loan from the Troop library
 - Scouts can purchase them at Summer Camp and get reimbursed for them when turned in after Camp
- Boy Scout Requirements
 - Purchased typically in 2nd year if at all – internet is all the current information needed
 - Periodically updated

Equipment

(things they might not already have)

- **Sleeping Bag**
 - Two-season bag
 - Extra blanket
 - Don't get a real good one until they grow up
 - Most campouts in warm weather or indoors
- **Sleeping Pad**
 - Closed-cell foam
 - A cheap one to start with
 - Effective for staying warm and dry

Equipment

(things they might not already have)

- Mess Kit
 - Not really needed
 - Military-style is good and Scout kits are also OK
 - Troop has insulated mugs for Scouts to use.
 - Almost always use paper plates and plastic utensils
- Backpack
 - Not needed for now
 - Need a decent duffle bag – one that contains all their stuff except sleeping bag

Equipment

(things they might not already have)

- Flashlight
 - Cap-brim headlamps are great
 - Mini-Mag is indestructible
 - Extra batteries
 - Smaller is better
- Knife
 - Lock-back feature is required
 - 3-4 inch blade is sufficient
 - No sheath knives, hatchets, axes or saws
 - Totin' Chip

Equipment

(things they might not already have)

- Footwear
 - Always two pair of footwear
 - Indoor
 - Outdoor
 - Appropriate for the weather- especially winter
 - Do not need expensive hiking boots yet
- Cot
 - Optional but a real good idea
 - Folding kind without “stick legs” that poke holes in tent floors

Equipment

(things they might not already have)

- Rain gear
 - Poncho – except for canoeing trips
 - Raincoat
 - Dry Camper is a Happy Camper
- Snow Gear
 - Snow pants, boots, parka, hat, gloves/mittens essential
- Matches or Lighters
 - Not needed or wanted
 - Troop supplied and controlled

Uniforms

- OK to get by with blue Cub Scout/Webelos Uniform for a few weeks
- Uniforms are very strongly encouraged at all meetings and events
- Class “B” red t-shirt ordered in January or so
 - Used mostly for travel and routine stuff
- Class “A” Tan Shirt
 - Meetings and “formal” events
 - New style (handout brochures)
 - Old style is OK, but buy new style if you are buying a shirt

Discipline

- Provided for safety of all
- Scout Oath
- Scout Law
- If we cannot control you son, you will be asked to come and get him, regardless of where we are
- This has happened only once in 13 years
- What happens at camp stays at camp

Safety

- Youth Protection
 - No one-on-one with a Scout that is not your son. EVER. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - Buddy system
 - Two-deep Leadership
- Guide to Safe Scouting
 - Age-appropriate activities
 - Colorado
 - Maui
- NO HAZING
- Accidents happen
 - Notification in accordance with BSA policy
 - Medical paperwork- Class I Form (handout)

Parental Involvement

- Welcome at all functions
- Transportation to events – mileage reimbursement
- Coordinator or assistance for events
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - Wreath Sales
 - Etc
- No prior notice needed except for campouts
 - Drivers
 - Adequate food and accommodations
- Opportunity to become Registered Leader

Disagreements

- Unfortunately inevitable
- Knowledge of Program is important
- Grievance Policy on website
- Ask questions – do not assume
- We are here for the Scouts – that is all that matters

Finances

- Camp Accounts
 - Prevents cash handling by Scouts
 - Mostly \$20 per weekend campout
 - Covers food, facility, mileage and activity
 - Balance on secure side of Website
 - Password and username upon registration
 - Couple of bucks for treats on the way home from weekend events
 - Keep the account in the black
 - In the hole more than \$50 may prevent participation

Finances

- Fund Raising Opportunities
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - Pro-rated earnings by hours worked
 - Wreath Sales
 - All profits usually go to Scouts
 - Some earn all \$ needed for entire year and then some
- Scholarships
 - Committee Chair – Doug Bordewyk
 - Troop Fund
 - Sioux Council
 - Order of the Arrow

Typical Weekend Event

- Signup available for two Monday's
- Must be signed up by Monday prior to event
 - Meal planning
 - Driver planning
 - Obligated at that time to event cost unless extenuating circumstances
 - Un-notified no-shows pay for event
- Shopping Friday at 5:00
 - Each Patrol has two shoppers identified in planning

Typical Weekend Event

- Gather to leave at 5:30
 - Usually Trinity Parking lot
- Leave at 6:00 sharp
 - Do everything you can to be on time
- Friday night meal for Leaders at Camp - BYOMTC
- Youth eat prior to leaving Madison
- Friday lights out typically at 10:30

Typical Weekend Event

- Saturday breakfast for Scouts cooked by Scouts
- Leaders cook Leader's meal
- Morning Program
- Lunch
- Afternoon Program
- Supper
- Evening program
- Free time

Typical Weekend Event

- Lights out Saturday night typically at 10
- Sunday cold breakfast for Scouts
- Leave at 10
- Arrive at Madison at about noon
 - Call ahead
 - Usually in front of Library
 - Please try to be there promptly to pick up your son