



Troop 337 Parent Information

Welcome to Troop 337!

The following information is for the parents of new Troop 337 Scouts. It is not meant to be a complete list, but merely highlights some important aspects of the Troop:

ABOUT THE TROOP - Troop 337 is a unique Troop which has a focus on high adventure outings, true leadership development, meaningful community service, and character development through mentoring relationships.

TROOP MEETINGS – All Troop Meetings will be run by the boys under the direction of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), with the oversight and the assistance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants. Parents should allow their sons to attend meetings without them present, in order to allow their son to grow in independence at this crucial time of his life. The Troop will have other rooms for parents who wish to wait during the meeting. If a parent feels it important to attend a meeting, they are asked to coordinate this with leadership, and will be asked to sit quietly in the back of the room.

COURT OF HONOR – Parents are expected to attend the Court of Honor, which is an important time for your son to be duly recognized for his accomplishments. Families are expected to help by bringing food items or other items as requested by the Boy Leadership to the Court of Honor.

ABOUT DUES – Scouts are asked to earn their own dues at home, and to bring them to the Troop meeting and to submit them to their Patrol Leaders. Parents are asked not to submit dues to anyone on their son's behalf. The purpose of this is to instill responsibility, and the concept of the value of earning, and saving money, and for contributing for a greater purpose. Dues are used for awards, meeting expenses, shirts, annual registration, charter fees, and supplemental outing expenses.

OUTINGS & EVENTS REGISTRATION PROCESS – Parents are expected to carefully review any/all details about each event, which will be posted online. They are encouraged to ask any questions prior to the event. Scouts (not parents) are expected to read and print out information sheets and permission forms and to turn in the permission form and payment by the posted the deadline. Parents may need to guide their sons in this process, but should allow them to do it.

FINANCES – Fundraisers such as Popcorn sales will be offered throughout the year. Proceeds from these fundraisers will go directly into a Scout Account, which may be used for any Troop expenses. If they are to be used for dues, the Scout is to turn in the request for dues to be taken out, not the parent. For other fundraisers denoted as "Troop" fundraisers such as a pancake breakfast, the proceeds will go to the Troop or a combination of the Troop and Scout account, as noted prior to the event. If finances become a hardship, a request for assistance can be made directly to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair at any time.



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SCOUT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS – Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Law at all times, to treat other Scouts and Leaders with respect, and to be non-disruptive at all Scout meetings. If a Scout has a continuing problem with behavior, he will be warned and the parent will be informed, then a parent conference, and finally a committee board of review which will result in corrective action. See the Troop By-Laws for more details.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS – Unlike Cub Scouting which is a family program, Boy Scouting is a boy program. Most Troop meetings, activities, and events are for the Scouts and Adult Leaders to attend. When an event is for the whole family, it will be noted. Campouts as well are for Scouts and trained Leaders unless it is designated as a family campout. If a parent desires to attend a campout, they should make a request to the Scoutmaster. This method of Scouting is used to foster independence, to encourage personal responsibility, and to help the boys grow into true leaders.

SAFETY – Troop 337 will have fully trained Leaders at every event in order to make all of our outings safe. Prior to each event, there is a detailed review by the leadership of all aspects of safety for the event. It is important that parents review all safety requirements and equipment needs about the event well in advance. All leaders are background checked by the BSA, approved by Faith Fellowship Church leadership, undergo extensive Youth Protection Training, and are required to follow all Youth Protection Guidelines within the Guide to Safe Scouting, as well as be properly trained for the particular event. If there is any concern you have about any aspect of the outing, please do not hesitate to let us know.

LEADERSHIP – Troop 337 Adult Leadership is made up of a small group of well-trained, experienced leaders with specific roles and responsibilities and is organized into two sub-groups, the Committee (primarily business and administrative matters), and the Program side (headed by the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters). Those interested in being a part of leadership should make their request to the Troop Committee Chairman, who will bring the request to the Committee.

TEACHING LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY - You may wonder why there is so much emphasis on adults stepping back, and allowing the boys do things themselves. Empowering boys to be true responsible leaders is the core of Scouting. It is only through this hands-on experience that the boys can learn to lead and to be responsible. As we step back, it encourages the boys to step up!

CONTACTING SCOUTS – Parents are asked to not directly contact Scouts regarding any Troop Matters, but to go through the Scoutmaster, unless it has already been established and agreed upon by the Scoutmaster that they will be working directly with a Scout on a particular project.

The leadership understands that as parents step back and let the boys engage in the program, they will have, and should have a lot of questions. We want parents to be well informed so that they can help their son navigate through his Scouting career at Troop 337, and welcome any/all question that you may have. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours in Scouting, ***Troop 337 Leadership***

March, 2014