

# Troop 8 Membership Parent Orientation Package

Adventure, Learning, Challenge, Responsibility  
The promise of Scouting is all this and more.



Are you ready for the adventure to begin?

*Scout Oath: 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.*



## AGENDA

- Opening Flag Ceremony
- Orientation Session
  - \* Purpose of Orientation
  - \* BSA Mission/Aims/Methods
  - \* Overview of Troop 8
  - \* Troop Calendar
  - \* Visiting/Joining the Troop
  - \* Adult Volunteers
  - \* Functions of the Troop Committee
- Closing Flag Ceremony

### Purpose of Orientation

Advancing from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, or joining Scouting for the first time, is an exciting experience. The purpose of this package is to provide parents with information about the Scouting Program in Troop 8.

Parents are welcome to attend Troop 8 Scouting activities.

Questions are welcome at any time during this presentation.

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



## Boy Scouts of America

### Mission

Since its incorporation in 1910, it has been the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

### Aims

To achieve its mission, Boy Scouting works towards three aims:

1. Growth in moral strength and character
2. Participating citizenship
3. Development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness

### Methods

To accomplish the aims, Boy Scouting has developed its program using eight methods:

1. Ideals (Scout Oath and Law)
2. Patrols
3. Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Adult Association
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. Uniform

## Troop 8 Kingwood, Texas

### Overview

- ❑ Chartered in Fall of 1989
- ❑ Sponsored by Strawbridge United Methodist Church
- ❑ 175 Eagle Scouts since 1989
- ❑ 50+ Scouts
- ❑ Part of the Flaming Arrow District of the Sam Houston Area Council
- ❑ Consistently earns the annual Quality Unit Award
- ❑ Commitment to BSA's Youth Protection Program
- ❑ All outdoor activities are supervised by a registered adult with the BSA required level of training and focus on safety



## Ideals

- ❑ The Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Scout Law are part of the Opening ceremony for every Troop Meeting
- ❑ Scouts learn to recite and explain the Scout Oath and Law in their own words
- ❑ Service projects are part of the Scouting experience

## Age Requirements

Your son can be a Scout if he has completed the fifth grade and is at least 10 years old, or is eleven years old, or has earned the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is under 18 years of age meets the age requirements to become a Boy Scout.

## Visiting the Troop

Troop 8 welcomes your interest and invites you and your son to visit us at any of our Troop meetings. We meet from 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm on each Monday of the month (except Mondays' following a camping trip). When you arrive, please approach one of the Scout leaders or adult leaders so that we can include your son in the evening activities, and meet with you to discuss our Troop operations and procedures.

## Patrols

All Scouts in Troop 8 are organized in patrols. Scouts in a patrol are approximately the same age and skill level. Webelos joining the Troop are usually kept in the same group. Camping and formations are done in patrols. Each patrol has its own leaders, who serve for six months when new leaders are elected by the patrol members.

## Outdoors

Skills are taught at Troop meetings and during campouts. Camping provides the environment for hands-on application of the skills needed by each Scout.

Troop 8 is a camping Troop. We have one weekend campout or day event every month except for June or July. We camp when it is hot, cold, wet, dry, windy, calm, or any combinations of these.

For June or July we schedule a seven-day Summer Camp Out at a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) camp. Our Summer and Winter (during the Christmas break) campouts are focused on advancement and merit badges, in addition to having fun.

Most of the campouts and day events are at BSA Scout Camps, or at state, or national parks.

## Advancement

Advancing through the ranks is a way to demonstrate increasing skill levels. Scouts are encouraged to advance at their individual pace. Summer and winter camps are focused on scout skills, merit badges, and advancement. A



designated Troop Committee member provides additional focus for those Scouts who have attained Life Rank as they work towards the Eagle rank.

### Scout Skills

Basic skill training for new scouts is held in March each year. New Scouts are encouraged to join prior to the May campout. Here new scouts will work with older scouts on requirements for advancement. Saturday evening includes an induction ceremony for all new scouts.

### Adult Association

Adults provide a valuable role model for the Scouts. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters provide training and guidance to the Scouts. The members of the Troop Committee provide administrative support for the Troop. Registered leaders are expected to complete the appropriate Boy Scout Leader Training. All adults are encouraged to join in activities and to attend the Troop Committee meetings.

### Personal Growth

As the Scouts plan and participate in the activities and rotate through leadership roles they experience personal growth. Participation in service projects enhances the idea of “giving back” to the community.

### Leadership Development

Simply put, the Troop is run by its boy leaders. The top boy leader is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). Helping the SPL are the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, the Patrol Leaders Council, and the other leadership positions within the Troop.

The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters train the boys to be leaders, make available the resources and guidance they need to lead well, and then step into the background and let the boys do their jobs. Needless to say, these leadership roles are frequently assumed by Scouts lacking in experience or knowledge. That is expected and the Scoutmaster, his assistants, and role mentors do monitor the boy leaders and Troop activities providing support to the boy leaders.

Scout leadership positions are held for six months. Consequently Scouts will rotate between leadership and individual contributor roles during their Scouting experiences.



## Uniform

The formal field (class A) uniform is worn at all troop meetings, when traveling and when in public. An activity (class B) uniform is worn when camping and doing projects. The uniform is a symbol of pride in Scouting. All rank and leadership patches are to be kept current.

## Dues

Annual dues are \$200, payable on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dues are pro-rated for boys joining in a month other than October with a \$40 additional charge for a Troop 8 duffle bag. If the duffle bag (one time only) needs repaired or replaced it will be the scout's responsibility to exchange the duffle with the Scout Shop and have it monogrammed. The dues, supplemented by funds raised from our annual fundraiser (bark mulch sales), provide the funding for all expenses with the exception of Summer Camp, Winter Camp and High Adventure Camp/Base. Summer Camp, Winter Camp, and High Adventure Camp/Base are paid for by the Scouts attending that activity.

## Troop 8 Calendar

Each year the boys plan the activity calendar. Over the years we have consistently included the following events:

- White Water Canoeing
- Rock Climbing/Rappelling
- Backpacking
- Shooting Sports
- Winter travel trip to Vicksburg, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, or Austin

## Interest in Scouting

We hope that your son is interested in the activities and opportunities that the Boy Scout program offers. The purpose of Scouting is consistent across all Scout Troops. You may want to visit several troops to see which ones appeal to you and your son.

- Dues Structure
- Reimburse boys for Campout food based on Budget
- Individual Tents are distributed in November/December of the second year of scouting
- Summer and Winter Camps
- Duffle bags
- Joining Meeting must be attended by parent prior to first outing with troop
- Induction Ceremony held at Scout Skills campout in May



## Adult Volunteers

In addition to having your son join the Troop, we hope that one or both parents will become active in Troop activities. Experience shows that Scouts get more out of the Scouting program when there is active involvement from the parents. The Troop needs adults with a variety of skills, experiences, and time availability in Assistant Scoutmaster, administrative and support roles. This is an investment in your youth and ensures that we can support a comprehensive Scouting program. We do understand that the level of parental participation will vary by family. While we encourage parent participation, it is not a requirement.

## Troop Committee Functions

The Troop Committee is the Troop's Board of Directors and Supports the Troop Program by:

- Ensuring that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained.
- Supporting adult leaders in carrying out the program.
- Responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
- Obtaining, maintaining the properly caring for troop property.
- Ensuring the troop has an outdoor program.
- Serving on Board's of Review and Courts of Honor.
- Supporting the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.



## Troop 8 - Questions

It is likely that questions will come up after today's meeting. Please feel free to contact any of the following people:

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