

BOY SCOUT TROOP 309

CAMPING

Camping is an essential element of the Scouting program and reason why many, if not most, boys join Scouting. Scouting in the outdoors helps to teach self-reliance (self confidence) by utilizing and developing skills such as boating, tenting, hiking, cooking, backpacking, and wilderness survival. Most of all, camping is fun. Boys learn to accommodate to group needs as well as to eventually provide group leadership. Older scouts and trained adults provide instruction/support.

Unlike Cub Scouts, parents are not required to attend overnight campouts. However, parents are certainly welcome to attend. For example, some parents attend all or just part of our week at summer camp. (Any adult spending the night at summer camp must have a completed medical/physical form.)

Troop 309 usually has one outing per month during the school year in addition to a week-long summer camp in June. The troop also schedules a High Adventure trip for the older boys about once a year (usually in July). The outings fall into several classifications. There are outings where the main theme may be about a single scout skill such as a First Aid Meet in November. Other events could be for fun or a test of skills (e.g. Klondike Derby held in February). Outings may range from 1-2 week wilderness trips to a simple afternoon activity.

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 309 leaves for summer camp on a Sunday and returns the following Saturday. We only attend certified/inspected BSA camps, with trained staffs, and affiliated with a BSA council. The annual week at summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for boys to experience Scouting in an outdoor environment. The problem solving, leadership, and teamwork opportunities these camps produce are outstanding. The camps are also an excellent way for the boys to work on merit badges and their scout-craft skills.

We sleep on cots in troop tents (2 boys per 9' x 9' tent) and cook our own food. Tents and food are provided while each boy brings his own cot and personal gear.

Anyone attending must have a BSA medical form, completed/dated *after* July 1, 2009.

We strongly recommend that all boys attend summer camp.

For 2010: The fee is **TBA** (\$260 in 2009) and includes food, transportation, and shirt. There may nominal activity fees for some merit badges. A \$30 discount can be earned if funds are pre-paid (\$100 by March 1 and remaining balance by April 1).

**ALL INCOMING WEBELOS (AND FIRST YEAR SCOUTS) RECEIVE
THE \$30 DISCOUNT.**

**We leave for Seven Ranges Boy Scout Reservation on Sunday, June 20, 2010.
This is the primary week of 2010 summer camp for Troop 309.**

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SAFETY

Troop 309 strictly follows all the Boy Scout safety rules and regulations, as published in *The Guide To Safe Scouting*. All adult leaders have taken and successfully passed **Youth Protection Training**. BSA rules require that TWO adults (at least one BSA trained) are present at all times.

Sheath knives, fireworks, and tobacco products (of any kind) are prohibited at all BSA functions.

EQUIPMENT

Scouts are expected to understand the equipment requirement(s) for each outing. The requirements for each event are carefully reviewed at meetings. In addition, packing lists and equipment suggestions are detailed in the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Tents, cooking equipment, and other gear are provided by the troop. **All boys and leaders are responsible for their own knife/fork/spoon and plate/bowl/cup (a mess kit works well).**

ADVANCEMENT/RANKS

Only 2% of boys in Scouting reach the rank of Eagle Scout. However, any boy can become an Eagle Scout. Troop 309 leaders work with each boy to insure that they are progressing in rank. This insures that the Scout is learning the skills and gaining the experience to one day be a leader. **Since our founding in 1941 there have 112 Eagle Scouts from Troop 309.**

BOYS' "BANK" ACCOUNTS

Each boy has a "bank" account with the troop. The funds in the account are used to pay for camping/activity fees. A portion of each boy's fundraising money is credited to his account. Accounts are not allowed to go to a negative balance. When a boy's account nears a zero balance he will be notified and required to make a deposit. These accounts save the troop from asking and collecting money from every participant every time we have an activity.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Service projects are part of the advancement process and are an important part of the Scouting program. Projects can usually be classified as conservation or community oriented. **The Scoutmaster must approve all service projects, IN ADVANCE.**

The concept of service to community culminates with a boy's Eagle project.

SCHEDULING/CONFLICTS

The Troop leadership realizes that our sons have other non-academic interests besides Scouting. Obviously, no scout can have perfect attendance at all meetings/events. However, to advance in rank to Star, Life or Eagle Scout, a scout must "Be active in your troop for at least four (Star)/six (Life, Eagle) months" since earning the previous rank. In addition, these ranks require a position of *active* leadership/responsibility.

Cancellations: If Orange Schools are closed or dismiss early because of weather conditions, there will be no troop/patrol meeting that night.

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TRANSPORTATION

For most events the participating leaders have the seating space for the boys (and equipment) attending. However, at times, we will need parents' help in driving to or from an event. There are a few points to note about Boy Scout transportation:

1. Scouts should wear the correct uniform set for the event.
2. Adult drivers must be lawfully licensed and with insurance information submitted in advance to the troop (and Greater Cleveland Council).
3. Per troop policy, drivers transporting other scouts must be over the age of 21.
4. Any Scout leaving an event early with a parent **MUST** notify the Scoutmaster/leader.
5. Scouts are required to wear seat belts and be on good behavior at all times.

FEES & REFUNDS

Camping fees are based off of campsite charges, food and transportation costs. All reservations, paperwork, and fees must be submitted by the troop meeting before the event, unless otherwise specified (e.g. summer camp). Reservations/fees are not refundable but are transferable. The normal/standard fee for a weekend campout is \$30. Special events or locations may be priced differently.

Annual Registration Fee: The registration fee for Troop 309 is \$75. This includes the BSA insurance premium and a subscription to *Boy's Life* magazine. One-third of the fee can be offset by successful participation in the fall fund-raising event(s).

The registration fee for incoming WEBELOS and new scouts is \$50.

HIGH ADVENTURE SCOUTING

Older (13+) and more experienced (First Class and above) Scouts have the opportunity to participate in the BSA High Adventure Programs. Some of these places are; Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico (visited in 2007), Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier Canoe Bases in Manitoba and Ontario, Tinnerman Canoe Base in Ontario (13 yrs and older, visited in 2005), National Jamboree (13 yrs and older, next one in 2010), World Jamborees (14 yrs and older, next in 2011). In certain years, Troop 309 has designed our own High Adventure trips (e.g. canoeing/backpacking in the Adirondacks in 2006).

These trips take a lot of energy, strength and preparation (hence the age requirement). A one-week trip may cover 50 miles on the water or in the mountains. High Adventure outings are a chance to see and be in the wilderness and represent one of the most demanding and rewarding experiences that a Scout can experience. It is a tremendous boost to a young man's self-confidence to discover what he can accomplish (while still having fun). Scouts are carefully screened, trained and prepared prior to a trip to assure that they will have a successful experience.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 309

SONGS & PRAYERS

Sung at the closing of each Troop meeting:

Boy Scout Vespers

(Sung to O Christmas Tree)

*Softly falls the light of day, as our meeting fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask, have I done my daily tasks?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless rest tonight?
Have I done and have I dared, everything to be prepared?*

Grace or blessing said before meals:

Philmont Grace

**For food
For raiment
For life
For opportunity
For friendship and fellowship
We thank thee, O Lord
Amen.**