

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 (week of Father's Day). 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.

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).**

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.

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. After a Scout reaches First Class then rank advancement is accomplished by earning Merit Badges. Some Merit Badges are taught in at the troop meetings (e.g. First Aid). Troop 309 also maintains a list of registered Merit Badge Counselors.

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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.

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. 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 2008 registration fee for Troop 309 is \$50. This includes the BSA insurance premium and a subscription to *Boy's Life* magazine.

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MEDICAL FORMS

An appropriate and current medical form is required for all Scouting activities. There are three different types of medical forms:

1. **Class One.** General purpose form for all single-day and weekend activities. For all Scouts and adults (under the age of 40). May be completed by parent. Renew annually.
2. **Class Two.** Same for Class One but must be signed/competed by a physician. This is required for summer camp. Must be renewed every three years.
3. **Class Three.** More detailed/in-depth form complete by a physician. Required for High Adventure programs and for adults over the age of 40. Renew annually.

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 309 leaves for summer camp on the Sunday of Father's Day (usually the third Sunday in June). We return 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 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 other personal gear.

We strongly recommend that all boys attend summer camp.

For 2008: The fee is \$250 and includes food, transportation, and shirt. There may a nominal activity fee for some merit badges (e.g. materials for Basketry merit badge). A \$30 discount can be earned if funds are pre-paid (\$100 by March 15, \$120 by April 15).

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

We leave for Seven Ranges Boy Scout Reservation on Sunday, June 15, 2008.
This is the primary week of 2008 summer camp for Troop 309.

NOTE: A second week of summer camp at **Beaumont** Scout Reservation is currently being planned for the week of **July 13-19**. The fee for this week is \$200. A \$20 discount can be earned if \$100 is paid by March 31, 2008.

At this week of camp we will be dining in the Beaumont Dining Hall.
We will be camping with Troop 241 from Chagrin Falls.

Only one or two Troop 309 leaders will be attending this week of summer camp.

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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.

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.**