

## **Cut to the Chase The Important Stuff at a Glance**

The Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road Greenbelt, sponsors troop 746.

Troop meetings are on Wednesday beginning at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church. The complete designated uniform is required for Troop Meetings. Meetings usually end around 9:00pm.

The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meetings are held on the last Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Methodist Church.

The Troop Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30PM. All adults are invited.

### **Troop communication**

The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) informs the Patrol Leaders (PL) and other members of the PLC then each Patrol Leader (PL) informs the members of his Patrol. Our Troop has been utilizing the Internet and e-mail as a way to keep people informed. Please see the Scoutmaster if this is an option for you. [WWW.troop746.org](http://WWW.troop746.org) is the troop website URL.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

**Activities:** The program published in our annual calendar is distributed in September. Courts of Honor are held in September, March and June. We schedule a *major* activity each month, such as camping, biking, backpacking or canoeing, which is the essence of the Scouting program. It is said, "three fourths of **Scouting** is outing".

**Service Projects:** Part of a Scout's responsibility is to provide service to his community (help other people at all times).

**Program Cost:** Troop 746 recharter with the National BSA each January. We currently operate at a fee of \$20.00 for youth members and \$12.00 for Adults who want to register. This pays for registration with the National Office, Boy's Life Magazine subscription, insurance fees, as well as funds to support the Troop program. Other expenses include the varying costs of food for camp outs, gas, camping permits, park entry fees, etc.

Currently the fee for individual outdoor outings is \$15.00 per person. This covers the food for the weekend. At times additional funds maybe required. Please note this fee is due two troop meetings before the outing. To help the patrol member purchasing food, please pay in cash if you need to send a check send it blank and the person buying food for patrol will endorse.

## **ADVANCEMENT OVERVIEW**

The advancement process is an important part of being a Scout. The advancement process consists of five steps.

1. Learning - acquiring of knowledge of a subject through participation in activities.
2. Testing/application - skills are demonstrated to a qualified leader.
3. Scoutmaster's Conference - process completed, evaluated, new goals set.
4. Review of work: Scout participates in a Board of Review to ensure standards have been met and assess the Scouting experience in general.
5. Recognition - public recognition of work at a Court of Honor. Now, let's go over the steps in more detail.

## **MERIT BADGE PROCEDURES**

Merit badges deal with skills in specific areas requiring greater accomplishment than the requirements for a badge of rank. They can be earned in any order, with a few exceptions.

### **The steps to earn merit badges are:**

1. Obtain the Scoutmaster's approval. Be sure to get a blue MB application card from the Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster before you begin. The Advancement Chair will provide a list of MB Counselors within the Troop & District. Select and contact a counselor prior to starting the requirements. Get the MB pamphlet from Troop library.
2. Contact the Councilor and talk to her/him about what arrangements will be made to meet and discuss the requirements.
3. Learn and do the things that are required. If the counselor is satisfied that you have completed the requirements, he/she will sign and date both portions of the blue card.
4. Show completed card to the Scoutmaster and return the card to the Advancement Chair. You will receive your Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE SCOUT

*As part of the Scout Oath, I will do my best to do my duty to God . . .) and Scout Law (A Scout is reverent.) members of Scouting are required to believe in a Supreme Being, whatever he may determine that to be.*

**Each Scout of Troop 746, is expected to:**

- Live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan in his day to day living, and in all Troop meetings and activities.
- Attend weekly Troop meetings. (Attendance at 2/3 of the meetings since joining or the last 6 months, whichever is shorter, is required for advancement.)
- If a Scout signs up to participate in an activity, but does not attend, he is still responsible for his financial obligations for the activity (food, transportation, and share of camping fees, etc.).
- Attend summer camping activity. (Normally one week in length.)
- Wear the complete designated uniform at meetings and designated activities in Neat well-groomed manner.
- Keep his HANDBOOK up-to-date & bring it to **ALL** Troop meetings & activities.
- Return permission slips and registration fees for Troop activities on time.
- Enter and exit the Church by the doors at the West first floor hallway at the covered entrance near the parking lot. Treat the Mowatt United Methodist Church with more care and with more respect than own house.
- Do not wander off from the group, whether at a Troop meeting, activity, or campout.
- While at Troop meetings or activities, the Scout will conduct himself in a manner that he, his parents, and the adult leaders can be proud of.

Your son's commitment to these expectations should lead to having lots of fun, learning a great deal and to earning higher rank.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARENTS

Just as you expect the Troop leadership to provide a challenging, safe, rewarding and appealing program for your Scout, there are certain responsibilities expected of you, the parents, to ensure a successful program.

- Please encourage and support your son as he embarks on his Scouting adventure, for it will truly help him to grow as a person - physically, mentally and spiritually.
- It is important to know that the HANDBOOK now contains a tear out section entitled "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parent's Guide".
- We ask that you attend all Courts of Honor. It is at these Courts of Honor, that we honor your Scouts for their hard work & accomplishments.
- Attend other Troop functions as well.
- The BSA requires a minimum of 2 adults (one of who must be at least 21 years old) for any Troop function, even if there is only one Scout at the function. If the required number of adults is not present, the activity will be cancelled.
- The need for transportation for weekend outings requires your cooperation and support so the load is distributed fairly.
- In order to allow the Troop Leaders to deal with any medical emergencies, please complete the Medical Information Form in Appendix (one for each Scout & adult) and personally return it to a Troop Committee member at the next Troop meeting.