



Boy Scout Troop 385

Faith United Presbyterian Church
Tinley Park, IL 60744

Thank you for your interest in Troop 385 and welcome. The Troop was founded in 1976 and celebrates 30 years of continuous operation. We have a vibrant and active advancement and outdoor program. Since its inception the troop has had 32 scouts reach the rank of Eagle. Troop 385 is a boy run troop, which means the boys are leaders, and actively involved in decisions. While this can be challenging, it allows the boys to grow in the many ways. Scouting is a value driven program and at Troop 385 we believe in giving boys the opportunity to experience responsibility and learn leadership skills preparing them for higher levels of scouting and life in general. The adult leaders of 385 are present to assist the scouts run the troop. All of our leaders receive Basic Leader Training and youth protection training but most have attended Boy Scout Leader Training or the highest level of scout leader training, Wood Badge.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Faith United Presbyterian Church of Tinley Park, IL sponsors Boy Scout Troop 385 of Calumet Council. We meet at the church located at 6200 W. 167th Street (at the corner of 167th and Gaynelle), Tinley Park, IL. Troop meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We usually break for two weeks for the winter holidays and our summer meetings are informal. There is a short Patrol Leader Conferences (PLC) for the youth leaders after each meeting. In addition there are periodic PLCs where program planning is developed for the next month's meetings. Troop meetings involve working on specific skills, advancement or other activities. The boys are expected to attend as many of these meetings as possible. We understand that school, sports and other activities sometimes create schedule conflicts but each boy is an important member of his patrol, whether it is making decisions or activities; the patrol isn't complete without him. If a boy can't attend a meeting, he should let his Patrol Leader or the Senior Patrol Leader (the overall youth leader) know in advance.

Four times a year the Troop Meeting is designated as a COURT OF HONOR where the boys are recognized for awards and advancement they have achieved over the previous months. Patrols participate with skits or other entertainment, and each Scout is asked to bring a treat to share with all the Troop Families. Families are invited and encouraged to attend Courts of Honor, they are special nights for our Scouts and should be shared with the entire family.

TROOP PROGRAM

In addition to the weekly meetings and periodic Courts of Honor, we stress complete Scouting program for the boys. We camp monthly and we have other day activities such as hikes, bike trips, snowboard/ski trips, climbing and other non-camping events. We are also involved with community service, village events and regional scouting activities. The point of all this is to

help the boys become self-sufficient both “in the woods” and in other parts of his life. We attempt to build a self-confident and a well-rounded person.

ADVANCEMENT

Advancement in scouting is very important and a major aspect of the scouting program. Advancement tracks the scouts learning, knowledge and progress toward the ultimate goal of Eagle Scout. Each boy is expected to work actively toward his next rank. It is important that the scout be encouraged to advance. Advancement teaches valuable skills and safety lessons used throughout life. Periodically, each boy will be counseled and reminded of the importance of rank advancement.

OUTINGS

¾'s of Scouting is outing. We have an exciting and well-rounded outdoors program at 385. While we realize that there are parts of the boy's life beyond Scouting but outings are an important part of the Scouting experience and rank advancement. For a Scout to reach the First Class Rank, he must actively participate in the campouts. During the school months, we camp one weekend every month (even in the winter months). During the summer months we spend a week at Scout camp and schedule a High Adventure for the older scouts.

✓ WEEKEND CAMPOUTS

Typically, weekend campouts start at about 6:00 PM on Friday at the church, with a return to the church around noon on Sunday. The boys will plan menus and shopping lists, and they with the help of an adult or older scout, will buy the food. The typical cost for a weekend outing is between \$30.00 and \$35.00 per person depending upon the type trip, distance, food required etc. For some of the outings, the boys will receive a patch that the Troop purchases. To attend any Troop outing, all Scouts must turn in a completed permission slip signed by a parent or guardian. The slips are handed out at a Troop meeting a week or two before the outing.

✓ SUMMER CAMP

All Boys joining the Troop are eligible to attend summer camp. Over the past few years our summer camps have been held in Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. If your son wishes to go to summer camp, we ask that he become an active member of the Troop as soon as he joins. Our normal activities and weekend campouts will help prepare him for the experience. We've found that Summer Camp is a “grabber” – boys who attend camp the first year tend to be more successful and stay longer in Scouting. Many parents think their son is too young for summer camp the first year. Last year and the year before almost all of the first year scouts went to camp, they all had a great time and camp jump-started their advancement. We highly recommend that all scouts but especially new scouts attend summer camp. The costs are very affordable and the experience priceless. This year we will be going to Loud Thunder in Illinois about 2.5 hours west of Tinley Park near the Mississippi river.

✓ HIGH ADVENTURE

Older scouts above 13 or 14 years old, at least first class and having Scoutmaster approval can participate in High Adventure. These trips are one to two weeks long and designed to be more challenging for the scouts. In past years we have had trips to the National Scout Jamboree, backpacking and white water rafting in the Smokey Mountains, trips to the

Scout Sea Base in the Florida Keys, canoeing in Canada and backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Two years ago we had two crews at Sea Base, one scuba and a sailing crew, last year we went back to Philmont. This year National Scout Jamboree is the troop's high adventure trip scheduled through Calumet Council.

SCOUT REGISTRATION

There is an initial registration fee of \$50.00 for each Scout (minus \$15.00 if the Scout is already registered through Cub Scouts), which includes a \$10.00 Council registration fee, \$10.80 for Boys Life magazine, \$0.80 for insurance, a neckerchief, troop t-shirt and dues for the year. When the scouts re-register, the fee is \$40.00 and includes everything listed above except the neckerchief and t-shirt. If your scout is coming from Cub Scouts or another Boy Scout Troop their registration can be transferred to Troop 385. Addition registration money may be needed to cover the cost of the neckerchief and t-shirt.

UNIFORM

There are two uniforms the scouts wear. The "Class A" uniform is the standard dress uniform of the Boy Scouts of America (shirt with required patches, pants or shorts, socks, neckerchief and cap). All scouts of 385 should have a complete Class A Uniform. We provide a distinctive Troop Neckerchief that the Scout will receive upon completing Tenderfoot Rank. Uniforms can be purchased through authorized Scout distributors; Sports Station on 171st Street in Tinley Park or the Scout Service Center on Calumet Avenue in Munster, Indiana. The boys are expected to wear "Class A" uniforms on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. "Class A" uniform inspection is held once a month on the fourth Wednesday. The scout should wear as complete a uniform as possible for inspections. The "Class B" uniform is more casual and replaces the dress uniform with a Scout related t- shirt and casual pants or shorts. We recycle uniforms as the boys have a tendency to grow during their time with the Troop. If you need assistance in finding or purchasing a uniform, please talk to the Scoutmaster or other adult leader.

OTHER SCOUT EQUIPMENT

Your son will need some basic equipment as soon as he joins Scouting. This includes:

- THE OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK
- A pair of good hiking boots
- Rain gear (poncho)
- Eating utensils (knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl and cup)
- A good temperature rated sleeping bag and ground pad

The adult leaders will be happy to help you select the necessary equipment and we encourage you to ask. Buying the right items the first time will avoid having buy again in the near future. Your son should help pay for his uniform and equipment. We've found the boys take better care of these items when they help pay for them.

PHYSICALS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

We request that when your son has his yearly physical exam for school, you also have a Scout Medical Form filled out by your physician. Completion of the scout physical form is necessary for summer camp or high adventure and a good idea for weekend outings. There is a space on the permission slips to insert any medical information that we may need to know on our outings. But the permission slip only includes information such as medications, allergies and

temporary medical limitations. The combination of medical form and permission slip provides us with valuable information if emergency medical treatment is needed. A yearly update of personal information is required, as many changes take place with the family's health insurance coverage over the scout's time in the troop. Registered adults with the troop also must have medical forms on file.

FUND RAISERS

Troop 385 holds a few fund raising activities over the year. There is a council sponsored Popcorn Sale in the fall which benefits the council, troop and the scout. A portion of the proceeds from the popcorn sale goes to the scout's personal account, which can be used for troop or scouting related fees and equipment. A few other troop fund raising activities are scheduled through out the year and may include a late winter candy sale, pancake breakfast, chili dinner, working at the World Music Theater. The proceeds from troop fund raising events are used to purchase camping equipment and other items that every troop needs to operate. Any fund raising suggestions are appreciated and welcomed. We also ask for your help by volunteering your time to help make our fund raising activities as profitable as possible.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Your son's success in Scouting depends, to a great extent, on the support he receives from home. He needs encouragement from you if he is to succeed. Your interest and support can do much to help him get the most out of scouting. Your presence at Courts of Honor, or your involvement in a Troop projects, meeting and outings will help reinforce his belief in the Scouting program.

TROOP COMMITTEE / PARENT MEETINGS

Troop Committee or Parent Meetings are held on the second Monday night of each month at the church starting at 7:00 PM. All parents are invited to attend. Troop activities and outings are discussed. Please come to the meetings give us your input and if you can volunteer to assist the Troop; it will not survive without parental support and it's fun and rewarding to work with the scouts.

We encourage both parents to join our Troop as adult leaders and become involved with troop activities. We ask that you complete a TROOP RESOURCE SHEET and return it to the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman. If both parents cannot join we hope at least one will take an active role or consider being a Merit Badge Counselor especially if you have any special interests, hobbies, or avocations. The adult registration fee is \$15.00 per year or \$26.00 per year if Boys Life magazine is requested. We also ask that even if you are unable to become actively involved with the activities you still try to attend our Committee Meetings as often as possible.

Thank you for your interest in Troop 385, a troop dedicated to keeping the fun in scouting while developing boys into young men in a value driven organization.

11/21/2008