



Welcome to Troop 514

General

Troop meetings are Monday night from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at First United Methodist Church La Porte (Fairmont Parkway @ Underwood). The Scout must always wear his Class A uniform to the meetings. Scout rank “Boards of Review” are held from 8:00pm to 8:30pm.

The Monday after a campout is the “Patrol Leader Council” (PLC) and “Troop Committee Meeting”. Scouts in leadership positions must attend the PLC. All parents are encouraged to attend the Troop Committee Meeting.

Once a quarter, rank advancements are awarded at a “Court of Honor”. The Scout is required to wear his Class A uniform to the Court of Honor. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend to recognize the Scout’s personal achievements. Troop information, newsletters and calendars are found at the Troop web site <http://www.Troop514.US>. **It is the Scout’s responsibility to bring information handouts home and keep his parents informed of scheduled events.**

Cost

The Troop dues are \$36/yr [pro-rated] and the Council fees are \$11/yr for a total of \$47. These fees are due in February and the Troop Scout Year is March to March. Boys Life is the Scout monthly magazine and has stories and jokes related to Scouting. Breakdown of the costs are as follows:

	<u>Scouts</u>		<u>Adults</u>		
Troop Dues	\$36	Required			
Council Fee	\$10	Required	Council Fee [Adult Leader]	\$10	Required
Insurance [per Scout]	\$1	Required	Insurance [per Adult Leader]	\$1	Required
Subscription to Boys Life	\$12	Optional	Subscription to Boys Life	\$12	Optional
Total	\$47 or \$59		Total	\$11 or \$23	

Troop Organization

Boy Scouts of America emphasize youth leadership and personal development. Troop 514 is one of the largest troops in the Bayshore District of Sam Houston Area Council with around 76 boys. Troop 514 is a “Scout Lead” Troop. All activities of the Troop are planned and run by the elected youth officers of the Troop with guidance from our Scoutmaster and his staff. The “Business Office” is located in the hallway in the second room on the left during all Troop meetings. All business matters are handled there so as not to disturb the Troop meeting. Parents and adults wanting to hold conversations need to do so in the hallway or Business Office, not in the Troop meeting room. If the SPL can hear talking in the back, you will be asked to move to the hallway.

The Troop is organized around the Patrol. A Patrol is between 8 and 10 boys and is intentionally a mixture of different skill level Scouts. Scouts are initially assigned to a Patrol, but have the option to move to other Patrols based upon personal choice. Each Patrol has an elected Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leader (APL). The Patrols interact with older Scouts who are elected by the Troop into Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) positions.

The number of Patrols and leadership positions are dependent upon the overall Troop size. The Troop currently has five Patrols, one SPL and four ASPL's. The senior Scout leadership is responsible for overall Troop function. This includes trip planning, Scouting skill instruction, merit badge instruction, group assembly, flag ceremonies, work project assignments, and Troop contest participation. The PL and APL are responsible for Patrol functions, which include trip menu planning, cooking, cleanup, and contest participation.

National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) is offered annually. It is held overnight on the Friday before the Annual Troop Fundraiser (usually in March). Before a Scout can be elected as a PL or APL, he must be a First Class Scout or higher and have completed the Troop's NYLT course. To be elected as an ASPL, he must be a Star Scout or higher and have completed the Troop's NYLT course. To be elected as a SPL, he must be a Life Scout or higher and have completed the Troop's NYLT course.

In addition to Patrol leadership positions, the Troop offers leadership positions as Chaplain Aids, Historian, Librarian, Head Quartermaster, and Quartermaster (responsible for Troop gear). NYLT is not required to hold these positions.

Once a month, the Troop holds a Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meeting. Under the guidance of our Scoutmaster and his staff, the Youth leadership uses these meetings to plan the next month's meetings, organize upcoming camping or other events, critique the past month's activities, and receive additional leadership instruction.

The Troop "Committee" meeting is held at the same time in another room. Parents are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the Troop Committee is to support and equip the Troop to provide a quality program for the boys. The Committee is also a forum for oversight of the Troop activities, rank advancement, record keeping, budgeting, and general operation of the Troop. The strength of our Troop is a direct result of the level of our parent involvement. Troop 514 has more than 76 registered adults and there are always opportunities for service. You do not have to be a registered leader to participate in any meeting or function, EXCEPT CAMPOUTS.

Campouts

Campouts are an important part of Scouting. The Troop runs a year around camping program, rain or shine. Campouts are where the Troop focuses on Scout crafts, rank advancements, and merit badge requirements. A parent is required to complete a medical form for each Scout for Troop campouts. Summer / Fall Camp require a Doctor's physical using the same form. Scout physicals can be obtained at the Texas Chiropractic College for a nominal cost.

The Monday meeting before every campout is for trip planning, money collection (limit \$11 per person for food), Patrol menu preparation, and event organization. Any last minute trip or fee changes (i.e. time/day of departure; location; return time; etc.) are announced at this meeting. Scouts are expected to come to this meeting prepared with their commitment to the event and with their money for food. We require the Scouts to cook two meals on each campout. The Sunday morning breakfast must not involve cooking to ensure easy clean up. The Patrol decides who buys the groceries and completes the duty roster schedule (cooking/clean up). It is the Scouts responsibility to get the money to the Scout doing the shopping BEFORE the shopping is done. If a Scout is unable to attend a campout due to an unexpected circumstance, he is responsible to pay for his portion of the food if it has already been purchased. If he calls Mr. Mills

AND the person responsible for purchasing food before the purchase has been made, his money will be refunded. Leaving messages is NOT sufficient if the Scout did not get the message before making the purchase, so it's best to make verbal contact. The Troop provides coolers for each Patrol and the Scout doing the shopping needs to pick up the cooler after the Monday meeting before the campout. Adults do not eat with the Patrols, but Scout food preparation is supervised by the Scoutmaster, his Assistants, Troop Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol leaders.

Based on the trip Patrol rosters, an Adult Leader works out the transportation arrangements. The Scouts are assigned to a driver to and from the trip. If we do not have enough adults driving, we will ask for volunteers to help drive to and from the trip. All parents are welcomed on a campout, however siblings are not allowed.

On the Thursday before the trip, the Troop trailer is loaded from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. This includes Patrol food, Patrol cooler, personal gear, cots, tents, chairs, and clothing. The Head Quartermaster (Scout) and Quartermasters are responsible for loading the trailer. Scouts attending the trip are expected to help with the process.

Unless otherwise notified, the Troop will meet at the Koons Scout Building on Friday at 5:00pm. We leave promptly at 5:30pm. It is imperative that the Scout is on time or he runs the risk of being left. The Troop will not wait on latecomers. The Troop trailer will already be gone as the person driving the trailer, likes to leave early to allow proper set up at the site. Each Scout is required wear to his Class B uniform. The Scout needs to either eat dinner before arriving or bring a sack dinner. Ask permission from the driver to eat in their car. Medications with written instructions must be given to an Assistant Scoutmaster for proper dispersing. Unless otherwise notified, the Troop will return on Sunday around 11:30am. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure they know the correct return time for each trip. When picking up the boys, please do not park around the Koons Scout Building so we can pull the trailer into the building.

On the Campout a Patrol is required to function as a team for food preparation, chores, and activities. The Patrol Leader makes sure the duty roster is followed. Boys are required to tent together as a Patrol. The adult leaders and Youth Leaders will ensure that the campout objectives are met, everything is done safely, and the Scouts are having fun. On Sunday morning before leaving, the Troop Chaplain's Aid (Scout) will provide a short non-denominational service.

Advancements & Merit Badges

The Scout should always bring his book to meetings and campouts. Summer Camp and Fall Camp emphasize merit badge programs. Not all merit badges can be earned at camp. A list of completed "partial" requirements is maintained by the Troop. It is the Scout's responsibility to follow up with an Assistant Scoutmaster to complete merit badge requirements. A Scout does not have to go to camp to earn merit badges. He can work with merit badge counselors to complete requirements.

Once a Scout has completed his rank requirements, he must complete a "Scoutmaster Conference" and "Board of Review". He must present himself in a Class A uniform with his Scout book for the Scoutmaster Conference. Once the Scoutmaster is satisfied, the Scout must sit for a Board of Review. Three Adults will discuss with the Scout his personal growth, goals, and feedback on the Troop. Parents are allowed to observe the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review, but may not participate. The Board of Review is not a test. Once the Board approves the rank advancement, it is the Scout's responsibility to present the

completed rank to the Advancement Chairperson to record the achievement. The Scout has not earned the rank until he turns in the information.

Programs

The Troop offers three program levels:

First Year Emphasis

If a boy joins the Troop and he is not a First Class Scout, he can attend the Troop's "First Year Emphasis" program. Beginning in March each year, the Troop pulls these Scouts into separate classroom training and are instructed on the fundamental requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks. If the Scout completes the home self study, makes all of the planned meetings, campouts, and Fall/Summer camps, he can earn his First Class rank by the following February. Classes are taught by Eagle Scouts, Assistant Scoutmasters and Senior Leadership Scouts.

Eagle Trail

The "Eagle Trail" program emphasizes leadership and self development. Once the Scout has earned his First Class rank and he has completed NYLT, he is eligible to run for elected office. The Troop holds elections every six months (February & August). To earn the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks, the Scout must complete additional skills training and hold a leadership position in the Troop. To get credit for leadership positions, the Scout cannot miss more than three planned activities during the 6 months he is in the position.

Self development requires the Scout to earn merit badges. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a minimum of 21 merit badges must be earned. Twelve of the 21 must include the following:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. First Aid | 7. Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving |
| 2. Citizenship in the Community | 8. Environmental Science |
| 3. Citizenship in the Nation | 9. Personal Management |
| 4. Citizenship in the World | 10. Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling |
| 5. Communications | 11. Camping |
| 6. Personal Fitness | 12. Family Life |

If the Scout completes the home self study, holds a leadership position once a year, and makes the most of the planned meetings, campouts and Summer/Fall camps, he can earn his Eagle rank before his eighteenth birthday. A Scout cannot become an Eagle past his eighteenth birthday.

High Adventure

If your Scout has earned his Star Rank and is 14 years old, he can participate in the Troop's "High Adventure" program. This program is designed for older boys who want to participate in a larger variety of outdoor adventures that require a minimum level of outdoor skill and maturity. Don't let the name fool you, it is not always "High Adventure" we do campouts and other activities that are designed to keep the older boys interested in Scouting and keep them on track to Eagle. These campouts and activities are geared more towards having fun than focused on earning badges, but many times they do overlap. The boys in the program propose, plan, and lead the activities with adult support and guidance. The Troop has

sponsored backpacking, canoe, and kayaking trips. Scuba diving training and more complex trips are currently under development.

Scout Adventuring

In addition to the High Adventure program, most State and National Scout summer camps offer high adventure programs for 14 year old Scouts that have earned their First Class rank. These include BTSR Cavalcade (horseback riding), BTSR Mountain Man Hiking, National Scout Jamboree, World Scout Jamboree, Northern Tier High Adventure Canoe Base, Philmont Ranch Backpacking, Florida Seabase (sailing), and Scuba diving.

Scout Equipment

When your Scout participates in activities with the Troop he will find the following equipment helpful. When you invest in gear, purchase products that will last. Always label all personal gear with your last name and T514. When we are away at campouts, the Troop number allows other organizations to get the equipment back to the Troop. We maintain a lost and found in the Koons Scout Building.

<p>1. Class A Uniform Purchase from the Scout Shop. The closest shop is in Clear Lake. 1300 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058 [281] 2826067. The Class A uniform is worn to all Scout meetings, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor. At summer and fall camps it must be worn to dinner.</p>	<p>9. Scout Book. Purchase from the Scout Shop. This book has the rank requirements and is used as the record keeper for rank progress.</p>
<p>2. Troop 514 Class B Uniform Purchase from Troop. The shirt has the Troop logo and Scout's name on the shirt. We use it to help the boys to learn each other's names and on trips to identify our boys.</p>	<p>10. Tent & Ground Cloth The Troop does not provide tents as we have had problems with maintenance. A 7'x7' by 5' tall minimum size is recommended. This allows two Scouts to share a tent.</p>
<p>3. Cot [Optional] or Ground Pad [Minimum] We allow the boys to sleep on cots on all Troop campouts. Although optional, it is recommended for summer and fall camp. Purchase one with rounded legs so it doesn't punch holes in the tent.</p>	<p>11. Compass Liquid filled with a direction arrow on the base.</p>
<p>4. Water Bottle or Canteen and Plastic Cup</p>	<p>12. Personal First Aid Kit The Scout must make one for a Second Class Rank.</p>
<p>5. Rain Gear</p>	<p>13. Folding Chair</p>
<p>6. Shoes / Boots Two good pairs of shoes or boots. Boots are strongly recommended for high adventure hiking trips.</p>	<p>14. Rubber Boots Fall Camp has a history of being very muddy</p>
<p>7. Day Pack / Book Bag Use as carry on bag to and from camp as well as book bag for merit badge classes.</p>	<p>15. Plastic Gear Box / Foot Locker Recommended for summer and fall camp. Protects clothes from water and can be locked to protect personal effects. Academy / Wal-Mart / Target all have inexpensive gear boxes / foot lockers.</p>
<p>8. Flashlight</p>	<p>16. Hat Both summer and fall camps require a wide brim hat that protects the face and neck from sun. It is recommended for all Troop outings.</p>

Adult Leaders

Here are some points of contact for information in the Troop:

Adult Leaders

Committee Members

Scoutmaster (SM)	John Mills
Committee Chairperson	Jane Webb
Charter Organization Rep.	Alan Bassinger
Advancement Chairperson	Tamara Aisenbrey
Camping Chair	Jim Smith
Garage Sale Fundraiser	Marie Nieto
Chaplain	Eric DeVries
Class B Uniforms	Julie Bishop
Committee Member	Mark Powell
Eagle Coordinator	David Whitmore
First Year Emphasis	Justin Gardner
First Year Emphasis	Chris "Chuck" Cantu
First Year Emphasis	Ryan Smith
First Year Emphasis	Robert Segelquist
First Year Emphasis	Blake Johnson
First Year Emphasis	Steven Powell
High Adventure SM	Len Jones
High Adventure ASM	David Whitmore
High Adventure ASM	Ralph Spence
Health Records Manager	Brenda Mills
Membership	Tamara Aisenbrey
Merit Badges-Partials	Russell Adams
Secretary	Donna Thibodeaux
Summer Camp Coordinator	Nikki Verbeck
Tour Permits	Janet Jones
Training Chair	Nikki Verbeck
Transportation Chairman	Vacant
Treasurer	Denise Segelquist
Webmaster	Cyndi Smithson

Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM)

Russell Adams
Stephen Bassinger
Samuel Brechtel
Chris "Chuck" Cantu
Eric DeVries
Andrew Fields
Justin Gardner
Jeremy Hicks
Will Hicks
Blake Hogue
James Johnson
Len Jones
Danny Koons
Derek Morrison
Steven Powell
Blake Smith
Joe Thibodeaux
George Walters
Paul Walters
Charles Weseloh
David Weseloh
Justin Young

Important Web Sites

Troop:	http://www.Troop514.us
Bayshore District:	http://www.boyscouters.org/bayshore/
Sam Houston Area Council:	http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Home/
Boy Scouts of America:	http://www.scouting.org/
Merit Badges:	http://usscouts.org/usscouts/meritbadges.asp