

Welcome to Troop 308



Omaha, Nebraska

Welcome to Troop 308

We are pleased that you are considering joining Boy Scout Troop 308.

It is our hope that you will find your time with Troop 308 a rewarding and fun experience in which to continue or begin your Scouting adventure.

We'd like to share some information with you that may help you along your new Scouting journey. Whether you are bridging over from Cub Scouts or just joining the Troop, you are in for a lot of fun, and will learn some important skills that will serve you for a lifetime.

This pamphlet was created as a quick reference guide to information you want to know now. It addresses such issues as uniform requirements, equipment, advancement, dues, and parent participation.

Please feel free to ask us any other questions you have.



About Troop 308

Meetings: St Andrews United Methodist Church
15050 West Maple Road

Time: Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Scouting is a year round activity. We do meet all year.

Web site: <http://www.troop308omaha.com>

Our Troop was founded in 2001. We have already seen a high number of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. This is accomplished not only because Scouts are having fun but because of the support that is coming from the Scout's own leadership and the strong support and active involvement of many of our parents.

Troop 308 fosters the principles of being "boy led".

Troop 308 has an active program, attempting to camp one weekend each month and to schedule as many varied experiences as possible throughout the year. We encourage attendance at as many activities as you can.

What it takes to join Troop 308

At Troop 308, we strive to keep scouting affordable to everyone. We want to reach as many youth as possible in an effort to train them as individuals, a team, and as future leaders. All you have to do to join is simply come out to any of our meetings and talk to us. We will have applications available to fill out at any time.



The cost of membership is \$90 per year for boys. We renew our membership every November. Financial hardship should not be a barrier for anyone to join. If assistance is desired, please speak privately with our Committee Chairperson or Scoutmaster.

New Patrols

A Patrol is a smaller group of Scouts, 6-10 Scouts that works together as unit of the Troop. It is similar to a Den in Cub Scouts, but run by the Scouts instead of an adult leader. Patrols in Troop 308 are formed by age. All new Webelos crossing over will be formed into their own Patrol(s) with other Scouts from their old Pack when possible or with other boys their own age. The younger patrols are given a Troop Guide (older Scout) to mentor them their first year.

Camping

Troop 308 is an active Troop. We camp year round. We attend at least one week long summer camp each year. Older Scouts participate in one BSA high adventure camp each year.

As a general rule, we try to camp at least once a month. Yes, even in winter the boys still camp outdoors. We do teach the youth how to properly camp in cold weather.



When we camp, we ask that each scout brings their own personal gear with them. The Troop provides one tent for every two boys along with all their cooking supplies. On the Friday night of camping we normally depart from behind St Andrews at 6:00 pm and carpool to the campsite. On Sunday, we return to Buffet Middle School (not St Andrews) around 10 AM. Returning to Buffet Middle School is a safer choice due to the increased traffic at St Andrews for Sunday morning services.

These campouts are for the scouts. This means the scouts are expected to assist in preserving the

equipment they use. Scouts are required to take troop gear (a tent or a cook box) home after camp-outs to dry and/or clean it. Troop gear is then returned at the next Troop meeting or as soon thereafter as possible.

Camping fees are kept as low as practical. Scouts do NOT prepare meals on Friday night. There will be cracker barrel (usually something like sausage and cheese) but they need to eat at home, or bring it with them and eat as they head to the campsite. The scouts do their own meal planning and cooking. All cooking is done over Troop stoves or with Dutch ovens. No cooking over fire.

Meals are planned in the meetings before a campout. This is done by Patrol. If a Scout has particular likes and dislikes, he needs to make sure he is there to voice his opinion. If a Scout is allergic to a food, make sure it is on his health form and tell the leaders about his allergy. We will gladly accommodate health issues.

Packing lists and advice on gear purchases is available on the camping page of the Troop website. The Troop has extensive equipment such as tents and stoves and much more. Scouts will only need to bring their personal gear.



If families, due to economic hardship, cannot afford camp or any other Scout activity, please discuss this with the Troop Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster. We may be able to scholarship a Scout to a Troop activity.

All parents are welcome to join us on camping trips and at summer camp. But there are some requirements. All adults who go on overnight camping trips need to have taken online Youth Protection Training (YPT). To do this, create a myscouting.org account and take the training online. It takes less than 1/2 hour. Any Scout or adult going to summer camp must have a physical, signed by a medical professional on the BSA Medical form (part C) that is less than one year old at the time of summer camp. If you are coming to a campout or summer camp you will eat quite well for the most part, but will be expected to help out with transporting Scouts.

Conduct: Keeping Things Safe and Enjoyable

- Troop leadership makes every effort to balance Scout-led activities and safety. Our Bylaws outline our policies in this regard.
- Our leaders must be registered with the BSA with background checks and training for the Youth Protection – YPT (on-line training is available at www.MyScouting.org).
- A BSA Medical Form is required once annually. We will need parts A&B (parent fills out) to

attend any camp out. We will need Part C with a doctor's signature for any week- long (summer camp) and high adventure trips.

- A signed Permission Slip may be required for certain outings depending on the activity. Permission Slips outline any additional requirements, photo releases, horseback riding, canoeing, and allow parents to indicate emergency phone numbers and authorize emergency procedures.

Summer Camp

Troop 308 attends a one week summer camp every year. We always attend Camp Cedars near Fremont, Nebraska but will occasionally attend an out-of-council camp.

Summer camp is a big part of the scouting experience. Not only will Scouts advance in rank and merit badges, but they will also grow as an individual and grow with other scouts as a unit.





A big part of the payment for summer camp can come from fundraisers such as popcorn sales, Christmas greenery sales, and Camp Cards. These fundraisers allow scouts a chance to earn their way to summer camp. Any money they raise goes directly into their Scout Account program which they can use to pay for camping.

Service Projects

We are here to make a difference in our community one project at a time. We have participated in a wide range of service projects. Scouts that are active in our community see that they can have a positive impact and that they can make a difference.

Parents

Without commitment from parents, we would not have a troop.

By commitment, we mean being committed to being aware of what is going on in terms of activities and events. Stay informed.

Parents are welcome (and needed!) to help out at Troop 308 events. It is the responsibility of the Senior Patrol Leader (with the assistance of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters) to provide leadership and guidance to individual boys, but all assistance is welcome.

If you don't have that much time to offer there are other ways you can be involved. Parents can be in charge of a variety of things from fundraisings to coordinating service projects. These may be annual events that only take a few hours of your time but are a big help to the Troop. Please talk to the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee if you are interested in learning more.

For adults that do not want to be trained leaders or camp, there are a variety of other Troop positions vital to helping the Troop run smoothly. Consider joining the Troop Committee or becoming a merit badge counselor.

An involved parent **greatly** increases the chances that their son will achieve Eagle. You will be surprised at how much fun you have too.

Scoutmaster's Minute

The Scoutmaster's Minute is the traditional way of wrapping up our Troop meeting each week, so in the spirit of Scouting here is a brief word from our own Troop 308 Scoutmaster.

“Scouting reinforces the skills and values we want our sons to learn while they're having fun. Our goal at Troop 308 is to continually develop a program that will challenge the youth of our community to make a difference where they live. Scouting goes far beyond camping, canoeing, hiking, earning merit badges, rank advancement. Scouting is a way of life, a set of values and standards for young men.”



FAQ

How is Boy Scouts different from Cub Scouts?

Many parents and new Scouts can be a bit surprised at the difference between Cubs and Boy Scouts.

Cub Scouts is more family oriented and parent driven. Most of the activities are planned and arranged by the parents and Den Leaders. In Cub Scouts most of the achievements and advancements are worked on by the Scout and parent together and signed off by the parent. Boy Scouts is boy oriented and boy driven. The boy is responsible for his own advancement. You will often hear "We're a boy led Troop." That means they are responsible for planning their activities and making them happen.

A Cub Scout comes in as a boy and leaves as a boy. A Boy Scout comes in as a boy but leaves as a young man.

At Troop 308, the Scouts plan and decide on the program, run the meetings, manage the equipment, plan the trips, and learn leadership skills.

What are Rank Advancements?

In Boy Scouts there are seven "Ranks" that indicate where your son stands in Scouting. They are, in order, Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout, Life Scout and the pinnacle of scouting, Eagle Scout. As your son completes the rank requirements he will get them signed-off by the Scoutmaster or Assistant

Scoutmaster. When he has finished all of the requirements for a rank, your son will request a Scoutmaster Conference from the Scoutmaster.

The Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters will do this. After completing the Scoutmaster Conference, your son will request a Board of Review. Upon completion of the Board of Review, your son will have earned that "Rank" and will be presented with the appropriate Badge at the next Court of Honor. Courts of Honor are held quarterly.

It is important to note that Scouts progress at their own rate through ranks with the goal to reach Eagle well before your 18th birthday. Thus advancement depends directly on your motivation to complete the requirements for each rank. It's up to the Scout!

How long should it take a Scout to advance through each rank? How long before he makes Eagle?

To answer the second question first, a Scout may not make Eagle Scout. Not all boys do. In fact there are statistics that show less than 5% of all boys who join Scouting will achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. As to how long it takes to advance through each rank. That varies by individual. Each Scout will advance at his own pace. Some Scouts are more driven than others and advance faster. The important thing is that a Scout keeps completing his requirements and gets them signed-off by the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster or one of the Eagle Scouts.

The Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster or an Eagle Scout can sign-off on rank requirements. So parents can't sign their son's book?

No they cannot. Only the Scoutmaster, an Assistant Scoutmaster or one of our Eagle Scouts can sign-off on rank requirements. This is a check and balance in Boy Scouts. For instance, we have adult leaders who are committee members. They cannot sign-off on rank requirements either, because they will be the ones conducting the Board of Review. Conversely, the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are not allowed to sit on a Board of Review. A Cub Scout leader is also not considered a Boy Scout leader in the Troop. We would welcome parents to sign on as an Assistant Scoutmaster in the Troop, but you still cannot sign your own son's rank requirements.

If this is a boy led Troop, does that mean you don't need any help?

Not true at all! Even in the best run boy run Troops there is always a need for adult volunteers. We can always use additional Assistant Scoutmasters. There are positions available on the Troop Committee and many other volunteer positions. There are many Merit Badge Counselor positions available and you don't need to take a specific position if you don't want to. You can always just help out whenever you have some time. Parents are always welcome to help on campouts too.

What is a Scout Account?

The Scout Account is like a bank account that the Troop maintains for each Scout. Funds earned by a Scout from fundraisers go into the Scout Account. The funds are tracked by our Troop Treasurer. Funds in your Scout Account can be used to pay for camping trips, summer camp, re-chartering, or nearly anything else Scouting related.

Does a boy have to go camping?

Camping is an important part of the Scouting program. It's one of the factors in developing independence and leadership in Scouts. It's also where many Scouting skills are learned. A Scout cannot advance beyond a certain point if he doesn't go camping.

What kind of gear does a Scout need to go camping?

The Troop provides tents and cooking gear, including stove, pots & pans, utensils, etc.. A Scout will need a sleeping bag, some type of pack or duffel bag, a flashlight, a water bottle (with carabiner clip) and a mess kit. We don't recommend the traditional Boy Scout or Army style mess kit with fry pan and tin cup. Scouts are not going to be cooking with them and they are impractical for eating. There are a lot of kits available that include a full size plate, cup, bowl and silverware in a mesh sack.

Cots are used at summer camp but are not permitted on weekend campouts. The cot legs will damage tent floors and there is no room for two of them in the tents.

We do not use the Troop tents at summer camp and the tents at summer camp have no fabric floors. The tents are mounted on raised wooden platforms and therefore cots are allowed and highly recommended at summer camp.

Does a Scout have to go to Summer Camp?

Summer camp is an important part of the Scouting program. There will be many advancement and merit badge opportunities available at summer camp and some of them will ONLY be available at summer camp. If he doesn't go, it will put him behind the Scouts who do attend. 70% of Scouts that don't attend summer camp don't continue with scouting. So yes, attending Summer camp is highly encouraged.

Does Troop 308 have a "dress code"?

Yes we do. We observe two uniform dress codes. The Field uniform or what most Scout Troops refer to as a Class "A" Scout uniform, which consists of an official Beige/Tan Scout shirt with all appropriate patches including current rank patch and shoulder loops, neckerchief and slide, Official Scout pants (recommended but not required. Jeans or khakis OK), Scout belt and socks. Shorts must have belt loops. No basketball shorts please for Class A.

This uniform is to be worn to all meetings. It is also to be worn to all Courts of Honor, all Eagle Courts of Honor and in general to any occasion where the Scouts will be seen in public representing Troop 308 unless specified

otherwise by the Scoutmaster or the Senior Patrol Leader.

All travel is in Class "A" Scout Uniform which means traveling to and from campouts and travel to and from summer camp.

Our other uniform dress code is the Activities uniform or what most Troops refer to as a Class "B" Scout Uniform. It consists of a Scout appropriate Troop T-Shirt, or any other official Boy Scout themed shirt or any plain solid color T-shirt with NO advertising on it.

What does the Troop expect from a boy as a Scout?

We expect a Scout to be an active participant in Scouting. We expect that he will be respectful of all adults and his fellow Scouts. We expect that he will conduct himself in a safe manner.

What does the Troop expect from parents?

Most important, give your son support and encouragement. Get him to meetings and events on time in the appropriate uniform. Please help the troop whenever you can and in any way you can. The commitment in time is minimal when viewed in light of all a Scout receives from the Scouting program. If you can do more, volunteer to be an Assistant Scoutmaster or take a position on our Troop Committee. We have a very friendly group of dedicated adult volunteers who serve as the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and on the Troop Committee. They quite literally put in hundreds of hours annually to run the high quality program our Troop offers boys.

We know this is a lot of information to digest. Please feel free to ask any uniformed adult at the weekly Troop meetings if you have a question.

You will find more Troop 308 information at our web site including our Troop calendar of upcoming events.

The Troop web site is a great source of information. The Mid-America Council web site is a valuable resource as well.

Troop 308: <http://www.troop308omaha.com>

Mid-America Council: <http://www.mac-bsa.com>

