

# **Boy Scouts of America**

## **Troop 2**

**Chartered to Christ Episcopal Church**



**Cedar Rapids, IA**

**Parent/Scout Handbook**

**2014**

## INTRODUCTION

Troop 2's parent/scout handbook is designed to give parents/caregivers and Scouts an idea of expectations and how the Troop functions. Its purpose is not to repeat in detail information found in the Boy Scout Hand-book. The goal of this handbook is to help ensure that each new family gets off to a great start in Troop 2. This is certainly a work in progress and hopefully it will be improved upon each year with the help of both Scouts and parents/caregivers.

Above all, the best way to stay informed about the workings of the Troop is for everyone to stay involved and participate!

Troop 2 has by-laws that are available for anyone to review ([WWW.T2BSA.ORG](http://WWW.T2BSA.ORG)).

### **TROOP MEETING:**

- Troop Meetings are held Tuesday nights September through May from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 220 - 40<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Cedar Rapids. Court of Honor starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. Some troop meetings may be held off site with notice. Please check our web site if you have any questions ([WWW.T2BSA.ORG](http://WWW.T2BSA.ORG)).
- Parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. They should sit separately from the Scouts, however they may be asked to help with some activities. All of our Scouts have special needs, so if your Scout, or another Scout, misbehaves or needs assistance, please intercede and help him.
- Troop policy is that meetings will not be canceled when school is closed or dismissed early due to weather. If actual conditions do warrant a cancellation, Scouts will be called. Calls will be made as early as possible, but the decision is not typically made until early evening (after the Scoutmaster gets home from work). If in doubt, Scouts should phone their Patrol Leader to verify the status. When school is not in session or is dismissed early for scheduled reasons (i.e. parent/teacher conferences), Troop meetings will typically be held, except on certain holidays. These instances will be announced ahead of time by the Senior Patrol Leader. These policies may be changed on a case-by-case basis. In such case, families will be notified as to whether or not meetings will be held.

### **UNIFORMS:**

- The Official Boy Scout Class A Uniform Shirt is the expected attire at Troop Meetings, while traveling, and at all service projects and other outings. The official pants are strongly encouraged. Star or above Scouts must wear green pants (not necessarily BSA). A Scout belt is also expected. Athletic ware is not acceptable. A neckerchief will be presented by the Troop.
- A merit badge sash may be worn with the official shirt at any time to display merit badges earned. In Troop 2, the sash is typically worn at special events such as Court of Honor. The official Boy Scout hat is optional
- Scouts will be given a Class B Troop 2 t-shirt, which may be worn for certain outdoor and other activities as appropriate. Additional shirts may be purchased from the Scoutmaster.

- We have a tub of pre-worn shirts, shorts, pants, boots, sleeping bags, etc. available to all Scouts free of charge. They will be available at the Court of Honor. Please see the Scoutmaster if you are interested. We will accept any articles your Scout no longer can use to help benefit other Scouts.

## **HANDBOOK:**

A Scout's handbook is the road map for adventure. It lists all the requirements for each rank, provides a great deal of information about the skills learned for each requirement and has pages for recording completion of each requirement.

- Scouts will be given the Boy Scout Handbook when he joins the Troop and should bring it to Troop meetings and outings.
- They should also bring a notebook with pen or pencil and a camera if available.
- Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to read at least the Introduction section of the handbook to gain an understanding of what Boy Scouting is about and how it works.

## **RANK ADVANCEMENT:**

- Scouts advance at their own pace. Participation at meetings, outings, and summer camp is one key to steady advancement.
- Parents **can not** sign off on advancement requirements. Only the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and other Scoutmaster-designated individuals may sign off advancement requirements.
- Scouts must ask leaders to signoff requirements in their Handbooks. Leaders will not seek out Scouts to sign off. Parents may need to assist their Scout with this.
- Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks focus on basic Scout skills.
- Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks focus on broadening horizons (merit badges), service to others, and leadership.
- Awards are presented as soon as possible after being earned, typically at the next Troop Meeting.
- Scouts must try each advancement. Requirements may be altered with approval from the Hawkeye Area Council.

## **MERIT BADGES:**

- Only registered counselors for a particular merit badge may sign off requirements for the badge.

- The Scouts should obtain a merit badge blue card and the name of a counselor from the Scoutmaster prior to beginning work on a particular merit badge. The Scout should then periodically meet with the counselor as requirements are completed. See the Boy Scout Handbook for additional details.
- Scouts must complete all Merit Badge tasks as written.
- Troop leaders who are registered as counselors for a particular merit badge may periodically teach merit badge-related skills at troop meetings. However, these sessions will almost never cover everything required for the merit badge. Scouts will still need to devote time outside of meetings to complete a merit badge.
- Attendance at summer camp provides an opportunity to earn up to four Merit Badges over the course of one-week period.
- Periodically Merit Badge workshops are offered at which a badge can be earned or partially earned in one day (typically on a Saturday in March and November in Iowa City or Cedar Rapids).
- If a Scout can't complete an Eagle requirement with approval from National, an alternate may be elected of similar skill.

#### **COURT OF HONOR:**

- Court of Honor provides an opportunity for public recognition for boys advancing in rank and earning awards.
- Court of Honor is typically held in the church sanctuary four times a year (December, March, May and October).
- Court of Honor usually includes a potluck supper beginning immediately after the meeting in the church basement. Please bring enough food for your family and to share. Table service and beverage will be provided.
- Scouts and their families may invite anyone they wish.

#### **CAMPOUTS AND OTHER OUTINGS:**

- Outings and camp outs are usually scheduled monthly, with meeting place usually at Christ Episcopal Church with departure time of 5:00 p.m. Contact our web site if you have any questions ([WWW.T2BSA.ORG](http://WWW.T2BSA.ORG)).
- The annual calendar typically schedules eight one-two night campouts, one week of summer camp and a special outing in July.
- Parents/caregivers are welcome, subject to the following:
  - a) Parent/caregivers should mostly observe, but may intercede with a Scout when necessary.

- b) Do not interfere with Leader/Scout “chain of command”.
  - c) Parents/caregivers sleep in their own tents, apart from their Scout. (unless prior approval)
- Siblings are not invited, but Scouts may bring a non-Scout friend in a “recruitment” capacity (not on a recurring basis), with permission from the Scoutmaster.
  - Scouts and adults plan menus one to two weeks in advance of the campout. The Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster may buy the food and bring it to the campout, however, a Scout is usually asked to do this to advance in rank. Scouts prepare their own food with appropriate guidance/safety assurances from leaders.
  - Scouts will bring their money at the time of the campout and give to the Scoutmaster.
  - All unit persons will help with campsite closure.
  - Items from the trailer will be cleaned and returned to their proper designated area before leaving the campsite.
  - When returning from a campout, sometimes Scouts will be dropped off at home while others will phone home shortly before arriving back at the church to arrange for a ride. A ride home can always be arranged, just have your Scout ask.

**CAMPING EQUIPMENT:** (Tents are provided by the Troop.)

- Refer to Boy Scout Handbook for detailed information.
- Bring appropriate clothing and shoes/boots for forecasted weather (**WOOL** socks).
- Bring appropriate bedding for forecasted temperatures.
- Bring mess kit or other table service.
- ALWAYS bring rain gear.
- ALWAYS bring rain gear (Yes, it is listed twice, it is that important)!
- Bring personal effects such as toothpaste/brush, deodorant, etc.
- **DO NOT** bring electronics including cell phones, digital music players (MP3, ipod), pagers, TV's DVD players, radios, CD players etc. These items will be confiscated if discovered. Leaders will have cell phones to contact parents if necessary.

**SERVICE PROJECTS:**

- In keeping with the Scout Oath and Law, Troop 2 participates in service projects each year. Scouting for Food occurs in October. Other service projects are held on an “as-needed” basis.

## **FUND RAISING AND SCOUT ACCOUNTS:**

- Troop 2 participates in the Hawkeye Area Council's annual popcorn sales in the fall of each year. A portion of the Scout's sales (decided on an annual basis) is deposited in a "Scout Account" for their use in paying for Scout-related equipment and/or activities. Scouts need to participate in fundraisers in order to pay for Troop expenses.

## **PARENT OPPORTUNITIES/EXPECTATIONS:**

- Parents are encouraged to become registered leaders. Level of involvement as a registered leader is up to the individual. No matter how much or how little time you have available, we have ways for you to contribute. **AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!**
- Parents are expected to drive to and from outings on a case-by-case, as-needed basis.

## **BOY SCOUTING VS. CUB SCOUTING:**

Boy Scouting is very different from Cub Scouting. The boys control their own destiny regarding planning of outings, campouts, and most other activities. Parents should allow the Scouts to make their own decisions, subject to safety and other guidelines. Parents should not interfere with the Scout "chain of command", as defined by the BSA, except where safety is involved. Some of their decisions will not be good ones. This is how they learn responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. Parents are encouraged to advise, consult, encourage, enable, poke, prod, and otherwise motivate the boys, but should not make their decisions for them nor do their work for them.

## **TYPICAL EXPECTED EXPENSES:**

Class A BSA shirt, badges on shirt, and a sash. Scouts have always been encouraged to pay their own way, to the extent possible, for their activities. Scouts that participate in annual fund raising will be able to reduce their out-of-pocket expenses, and those of their families. With that in mind, some typical Troop and Scout expenses are as follows: (Financial assistance is available on an as-needed basis.)

## **FIXED EXPENSES (paid for by the Troop):**

Boy Scout Handbook, neckerchief, Class B Troop 2 t-shirt, 1 for each rank, 1 patrol patch, 1 each merit badge, and some Merit Badge University patches. (If you lose one, you will have to replace it.)

## **OCCASIONAL EXPENSES (paid by Scout/Parent):**

Merit Badge University patches, lunches for outings, Scout Camp incidentals, high adventures, and other non-campout events.

## **TYPICAL OUTING EXPENSES:**

Campouts – \$7.50 per day, \$15.00 maximum for Scouts per event, \$30.00 maximum for family per event.

Summer Camp – to be determined by the Hawkeye Area Council. Financial assistance is available on an as-need basis.

**TROOP DUES:**

Annual dues of \$35.00 are due in October. If a scout joins later, dues will be prorated.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Troop 2 Website – [WWW.T2BSA.ORG](http://WWW.T2BSA.ORG) (Camp Calendar)

Troop 2 Scoutmaster: Lloyd Plume 319-286-1158

Troop 2 Assistant Scoutmaster: Scott Thompson 906-281-2603

Troop 2 Advancement Coordinator: Diane Hill 319-560-4188

Troop 2 Parent Liaison: Audrey Hill 319-396-3721

Health Forms - [WWW.Scouting.org/HealthSafety/forms.aspx](http://WWW.Scouting.org/HealthSafety/forms.aspx)

**WELCOME TO TROOP 2  
SECOND TO NONE**

