

## Boy Scouts of America Troop 870 General Information

### Who We Are

Boy Scouts of America- Troop 870  
Sam Houston Area Council, Bayshore District

### Who Charters Us

University Baptist Church  
16106 Middlebrook Dr  
Houston, TX 77059



### When Did We Start

Troop 870 has been in existence since June, 1, 1977, and currently has a membership of 53 Scouts, 33 registered adults, and 10 registered Scoutmasters.

### When Do We Meet

Troop 870 has regular Troop Meetings on Monday nights at 7 p.m.

Parent/Committee meetings, to which parents are strongly encouraged to attend are held on the first or second Monday of each month at 7pm.

Campouts are typically the third weekend of each month.

The Troop attends Summer Camp in various locations and supports other long-term camping opportunities that become available (typically including Fall Camp, which usually begins the Friday before Thanksgiving)..

Service projects may be scheduled at other times.

### Where Do We Meet

Troop Meetings are held at University Baptist Church. On some occasions meetings may be held at alternate locations.

### Resources

Scoutmaster: Mike Lovelace 281-216-2493 [M.Lovelace@Aquillix.com](mailto:M.Lovelace@Aquillix.com)  
Committee Chairman: Kari Francis 281-300-4384 [shmandroo@aol.com](mailto:shmandroo@aol.com)  
Troop web site: [www.troop870wubc.com](http://www.troop870wubc.com)  
Troop email: [list@troop870wubc.com](mailto:list@troop870wubc.com)

(**please** use this address rather than “replying” to all)

Clear Lake Scout Shop  
1300 Bay Area Blvd. (United Way Building)  
Phone: 281-282-6067

### Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

*“It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we try to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.”*

### Troop 870 Mission Statement

*“Troop 870 is a boy-led troop that develops young men into accountable leaders by stressing service, citizenship, and character development, while having lots of fun.”*

## Troop Guidelines

### Scout Expectations

Work hard, play fair, respect all that is around you, and live by the Scout Oath and Law.  
Stay in contact with your patrol leader. If you miss a meeting, call and find out what happened.  
The more you participate, the more you will get out of the program.

### Advancement

A Scout advances in rank from Scout to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally to Eagle. The requirements to advance to each rank are described in detail in the Scout Handbook. While the Troop makes every effort to maintain a separate record, Scouts are responsible for their own advancement and maintenance of records in their Scout Handbook.

Remember that Scout skills cannot be mastered by performing them just once. A Scout will have many opportunities to practice each skill and will be thoroughly tested before it is "signed off" by a senior scout (unlike cub scouts). A Scout should expect to practice each skill repeatedly, even after the requirement has been signed off. As he progresses, a Scout is expected to teach these skills to less experienced Scouts, which will further reinforce his knowledge and skill.

When a Scout has completed all requirements for a particular rank, he may contact/email the advancement chair to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC). SMC's are held during a regular troop meeting, typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.

Following a successful SMC, a Board of Review (BOR) is scheduled. These are typically held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. This is not a retest but is a review of the Scout's progress in Scouting, and a review of the Troop program through the Scout's eyes. The board is composed of 3 or 4 committee members (parents) who verify that the Scout has met the rank requirements and then award the rank.

Rank patches will generally be awarded at the first opportunity following completion of a BOR. The pocket rank cards will be awarded at the next Court of Honor (COH). COH's are typically held three times a year – in ~June, August, and January. All rank and merit badge completion cards need to be maintained by the Scout in a safe place.

Troop 870 follows BSA Advancement Policy and Procedures.

### Merit Badges

Earning merit badges allows Scouts to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills, and introduces them to subjects that may become lifelong interests or a rewarding career.

There are about 120 merit badges from which to choose, ranging from Archery to Woodwork. Scouts may work toward earning any merit badges at any time, once they have gotten Scoutmaster approval. Scouts do not need to be a certain rank, nor wait for someone to tell them which merit badge to work on. Information on merit badge requirements is in the merit badge pamphlet and the current BSA Requirements book.

Sometimes the requirements for a merit badge will change from those listed in the MB pamphlet. The controlling requirements are those found in the Requirements Book that is published each year. On-line resources (e.g., [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) or [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org)) are also available. MB pamphlets can still be used as a reference material to learn about the subject. All of them are available for purchase at the Scout Shop.

The Troop 870 library also has many of the merit badge pamphlets. These may be checked out by contacting the troop librarian. If a Scout purchases a new merit badge pamphlet, he is encouraged to donate the pamphlet to the troop library.

Here are the steps to earning a merit badge:

1. Contact the Scoutmaster and request permission to begin work on a Merit Badge. Then request a blue merit badge card from the Advancement Chair. Fill in your name and address on the blue card. The Scoutmaster's signature indicates that you have approval to begin work on the merit badge. In rare cases, the Scoutmaster might counsel the Scout on his choice of merit badge.
2. Use the Troop website to identify the counselor for the selected merit badge. If you wish to request to use a different counselor or a counselor is not listed, contact the Troop Merit Badge Coordinator.
3. Call the counselor and set up an appointment and decide on a meeting place. Along with a buddy (another Scout, a family member, or a friend), meet with the counselor. The counselor will explain the requirements and help the Scout get started.
4. The Scout works on the badge requirements until he completes them. The Scout meets with the counselor (along with his buddy) whenever necessary. The Scout keeps the merit badge card until all the requirements are completed and the counselor has signed the card. If the Scout loses this card, he will have to start the badge over unless the counselor is willing and able to vouch for what the Scout has already completed. There is no time limit for completing a merit badge, except that all requirements must be completed and the MB Card signed before the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a Scout changes counselors for any reason, it is up to the new counselor to decide if he will accept the work that the Scout completed with the previous counselor.
5. After the counselor signs the merit badge card to indicate all requirements have been completed, it is the responsibility of the Scout to bring the rest of the card to the Advancement Chair, who will include the merit badge in the Troop's advancement report.
6. The Scout will receive his merit badge at the next Court of Honor.

## Uniforms

Scout Items to buy:

- Scout shirt, pants, socks, belt, and merit badge sash. A hat is optional. However, if a Scout chooses to wear a hat at meetings or campouts, the hat must be a Scout hat (e.g., from the Scout shop or a Scout camp, etc.).
- Sam Houston Area Council patch, World Crest patch, and patrol patch
- Scout Handbook

Troop 870 will provide:

- Green shoulder epaulets
- Neckerchief and slide
- "870" patch

The Class A or "Field" uniform consists of the tan Scout shirt with green epaulets, Scout pants or shorts, Scout belt, and Scout socks. The "full" Class A uniform (required during Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and Courts of Honor) also includes the black troop neckerchief, neckerchief slide, and merit badge sash. The Class B or "Activity" Uniform is Scout pants or shorts with a Scout T-shirt. Check with the troop uniform / t-shirt coordinator or the Committee Chair about the purchase of a troop 870 t-shirt.

Troop 870 also has a uniform exchange. Contact the uniform coordinator for a list of shirts, pants, shorts, and accessories that are available for a nominal fee. If a Scout outgrows his uniform, consider donating the uniform to the troop uniform exchange.

## Campouts and Other Events

We camp almost every month; typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month. The cost is:

- Usually \$20 per scout paid to Troop 870 for camping fees (may be more depending on location of camp, event fees, etc.).
- An additional \$10 per scout for food – collected separately by Scouts (grubmaster) for grocery shopping

In the summer the troop attends a weeklong session at a BSA camp. Each fall the troop attends Fall Camp that begins the weekend before the Thanksgiving Holiday. In the summer of 2010, some Scouts attended Skymont Scout Ranch in Tennessee, while others attended Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In 2011, the troop will attend summer camp at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch in West Texas. In addition, a group is participating in a BSA high adventure camp at Sea Base in Florida. The troop will also have a group attending Philmont in the summer of 2012.

The following rules are in place to protect the Scouts and to maintain compliance with the Guide to Safe Scouting.

- Knives and axes may not be used until the Scout has earned the Totin' Chip. Inappropriate or oversized knives will not be allowed. Because safety is always the troop's primary concern, inappropriate use of knives will result in loss of privileges.
- Ipods, cell phones, video games and other electronic equipment will only be allowed in vehicles during travel to and from events with the permission of the driver. During the event, these items will be locked in vehicles. The troop is not responsible for any damage or loss of these items.
- In case of emergency during an event or outing, parents should communicate with Scouts through the event coordinator.

## Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Chairman is responsible for making sure that Health and Safety Requirements are followed by all participants. All registered youths and adults must have turned in a completed BSA Medical Form prior to participating in any Troop events. A completed form includes immunization data and a signed permission to treat. Most camps are now requiring copies of insurance cards for participants. A copy of the front and back of the participant's insurance card should also be provided to the troop.

### Health Forms

- Parts A & B are required for **EVERYONE** (this includes non-camping committee members and other parents) that will be attending an event that lasts 72 hours or less. Note that this part of the medical form does not require a physical exam. This form must be renewed annually.
- Part C is required of all youth and adults that are participating in events that are greater than 72 hours or when the nature of the activity is strenuous or physically demanding such as high-adventure trek. The Part 3 Medical Form requires a physical exam, and also must be renewed annually.
- Certain High Adventure camps (i.e. Sea Base, Philmont) may require a separate medical form specific to that camp to be turned in prior to participation.

Medication use is the responsibility of the Scout and the parent. However, the parent should notify the Scoutmaster staff of any required medications prior to any activity or campout. Detailed dosing procedures should be provided. Medication needs to be in an original properly labeled prescription bottle. A Scoutmaster may, if comfortable, elect to assist in administering the medications.

Parents should also inform the Scoutmaster in advance about any special needs a Scout may have, including dietary restrictions, food or other allergies, bedwetting, sleepwalking, acute homesickness, etc. Not telling the Scoutmaster about these actions could lead to an unsafe situation for more than just the Scout.

\*\*\*A current member of our troop has a severe peanut allergy. Please do not include any peanut type products in your Scout's supplies when attending troop events or outings\*\*\*

## Fundraising

The Troop Fundraising Chairman is responsible for coordinating fundraising activities by the troop. The troop fundraiser is Patriotic Holiday Flag Subscription in which American flags are placed in the yards of the subscriber for approximately one week before and after Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Patriot's Day (9/11), and Veterans Day. Each Scout is required to participate in at least two of the dates per year plus participate in the annual sale of subscriptions. On the designated dates, the Scout will be responsible for approximately 30 flags - picking the flags up from the Troop storage location, placing the flags in the designated subscribers' yards, removing the flags, and returning the flags to storage unit.

## Troop Fees

The troop charges an annual re-charter fee of \$60, paid in January. This includes \$10 for a subscription to Boys' Life. For Scouts who join during the year, the fee is pro-rated at \$5 per month. The troop strongly encourages at least one parent to register with the troop as well. The annual fee for parents that are registered is \$15 dollars.

## Community Donations

Troop 870's "Good Neighbor" number for Randall's donation program is 6492. Kroger's "Neighbor to Neighbor" program: contact Troop Treasurer Leah Galliker.