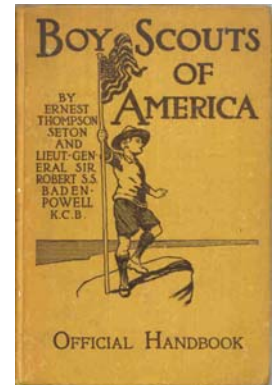


Boy Scouts of America

Troop 870 General Information



Who Are We

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

Who Charters Us

University Baptist Church
16106 Middlebrook Drive
Houston, TX 77059

When Did We Start

Troop 870 has been in existence since June 1, 1977, and currently has a membership of 45 Scouts, 30 registered adults, and 10 registered Scoutmasters.

When Do We Meet

Troop 870 has regular Troop Meetings on Monday nights at 7:00pm

Parent/Committee meetings, to which parents are invited, are held on the first or second Monday of each month at 7 PM.

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.

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.

Scoutmaster: Steve Ludovice 281-461-6569 sgludovice@sbcglobal.net
Committee Chairman: Carolyn Van Kirk 832-687-5042 cvk@swbell.net
Troop web site: www.troop870wubc.com
Troop email: list@troop870wubc.com

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 strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

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 this 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 it 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 on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Following a successful SMC, a Board of Review (BOR) is scheduled. These are typically held on the 3rd Monday of each month. This is not a retest but is a review of the Scouts 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). COHs are held twice a year, once in August and once in 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 badge 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. MB pamphlets can still be used as a reference material to learn about the subject. All of them are available for purchase from the Scout Shop. When a Scout finishes using his merit badge pamphlet, they are encouraged to donate the pamphlets 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. He will provide you with a blue merit badge card and the name and phone number of a counselor (or you may request to use a particular counselor). Fill in your name and address on the blue card. The Scoutmaster's signature indicates that you have approval to work on that merit badge. In rare cases, the Scoutmaster might counsel the Scout on his choice of merit badge.
2. 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.

3. 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 by the Scout's 18th birthday. If a Scout changes counselors for any reason, it is up to the new counselor to decide if he will accept the work the Scout did with the previous counselor.

4. After the counselor signs the merit badge card, it is the responsibility of the Scout to bring the rest of the card to the Advancement Chair who includes the merit badge in the Troop's advancement report.

5. 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; hat optional but we require a Scout hat be worn if your Scout wears a hat at meetings or campouts.
- 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, belt and Scout socks. Full Class A (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 a Scoutmaster about the purchase of a troop 870 t-shirt.

Campouts and other events

Camp most every month on typically 3rd weekend:

- \$10 per Scout for food – collected by Scouts (grubmaster) for grocery shopping
- \$10 per Scout for camping fees

In the summer the troop attends a weeklong session at a BSA camp. Each fall the troop attends fall camp over the Thanksgiving holidays. In the summer of 2007, the Troop attended Camp Hale in SE Oklahoma. In June 2008, the Troop attended Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch in west Texas.

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 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 will be able to communicate with Scouts through the event coordinator.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Chairman is responsible to ensure that Health and Safety Requirements are followed by all participants.

All registered youths and adults must have turned in a complete 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 participants insurance should also be provided to the troop.

Class 1 – required for all persons that will be attending an event that lasts 72 hours or less. This includes non-camping committee members and does not require a physical exam

Class 2 – required of all youth and adults less than 40 years old for events that are greater than 72 hours. The Class 2 Medical Form requires a physical exam.

Class 3 – required of all adults over 40 years old and for youth attending high adventure activities.

Medication use is the responsibility of the parent and Scout. However, the parents should notify the Scoutmaster Staff of any required medications prior to any activity or campout. Detailed dosing procedures should be provided. Medications need 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 of a Scout, 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 will participate in one fundraising event during the year. It is through fundraising that the Troop is able to purchase equipment and supplies for the Troop activities.

Troop fees

The troop charges an annual recharter fee of \$48, paid in January. For Scouts who join during the year, the fee is pro-rated at \$4 per month.

Community donations

Troop 870's "Good Neighbor" number for Randalls donation program is 6492.
Kroger's Neighbor to Neighbor program: contact Treasurer Audrey Muratore

Uniform exchange

Troop 870 has a uniform exchange run by Joy Bradbury. Contact Joy for a list of shirts, pants, and accessories that are available.