

Webelos Parent Information
Boy Scout Troop 175
(Effective January, 2005)



Welcome to Troop 175. We hope both you and your son enjoy your visit with us. These three pages will give you a quick overview about our Troop's organization and expectations. Once your son officially joins our Troop, your family will receive a copy of the "Troop 175 Handbook". Please refer to the Cub Scout vs. Boy Scout Comparison sheet for additional information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask any of the leaders.

Organization Structure

We are part of the Northwest Suburban Council, Blackhawk District and our sponsoring organizations are the Holy Name Men's Club of St John Brebeuf Church, and the North American Martyrs Council 4338, Knights of Columbus. As a Troop, we have been in existence for over 40 years.

Troop 175 is a boy-led Troop, and we foster the idea that leadership is one of the key aspects of Scouting. Every boy who is active in the Troop will have an opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership.

Patrol System

Once joining the Troop, each boy will be assigned to a group called a Patrol, which is made up of six to eight other Scouts. Although we try to keep friends together when creating Patrols, we can not guarantee that all boys entering the Troop at the same time will be in the same Patrol. We encourage and foster all boys entering the Troop to develop friendships with the other Scouts in their Patrol and the Troop at large. During Troop meetings, the Scouts in a Patrol sit together. During meetings, trips or other activities, the Patrol may be responsible for certain tasks. A Patrol will also have separate meetings at least monthly to work on advancements or plan other activities. A Troop guide, who is an older, more experienced Scout, helps "New-Scout Patrols". An Assistant Scoutmaster is usually assigned to this Patrol for additional support.

Troop Meetings and Activities

Troop 175 meets every Monday night, except for an occasional holiday and during summer camp. The meetings start at 7:00pm, and end around 8:30pm. A theme for the month is chosen by the Patrol Leaders, and they plan activities for each meeting. A typical meeting agenda includes an opening ceremony, announcements, skill instruction based on rank or level, merit badge work, a game or other Patrol activity and a closing.

Troop 175 also has a very active outdoor program. Every month (except February and December), at least one camping trip and another local fun activity is also planned. Activities sponsored by the district or council may supplement Troop activities. Some of these activities may be free or have a nominal charge (\$3 - \$7). Camping trips are generally more expensive due to the food, transportation, camp site and possible special equipment rental. The Troop also spends at least one week at summer camp. Registered Leaders, chaperones and drivers are always needed for any trip, and some of the costs are often covered by the Troop.

Flyers/permissions slips are given out prior to the activity **and it is the Scout's responsibility to make sure that they are returned on time.** If the slip is not returned by the due date, the Scout may not be able to participate. A monthly calendar is also given to the Scouts that list the activities and meetings.

Because the boys are often involved in many other worthwhile activities, Troop 175 allows Scouts to attend and participate in as many or as few of the Troop's activities and meetings as he likes. However, if the Scout wants to advance, it is his responsibility to stay active.

The individual Patrols will also have meetings monthly, usually held at one of the member's houses. At these meetings the boys work on advancements, plan additional activities, or just have fun.

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Committee and Parent Meetings

The adult leadership and interested parents met at least 6 times a year as part of the Troop Committee. These meetings include the Committee Chair's reports and are the adult planning and information dissemination meeting.

All parents are expected to attend "parent meetings" which are held two or three times a year. During these meetings, the parents receive information about the Troop, important events, and fundraising information. It is important that each family have a representative at these meetings.

Uniforms

Troop 175 is a uniform organization and we have three "classes" of uniforms. On the 1st and 3rd meetings of the month, all Scouts and Leaders wear the Class B Uniform. Uniforms are not required for other Monday night meetings, unless specifically requested. It is also expected that all Scouts and adult leaders follow the uniform code, as indicated for the meeting or activity.

Class A Uniform

The long or short-sleeved BSA field shirt, with all insignia placed in the appropriate locations, with merit badge sash and no more than 3 medals. All Scouts wear Troop neckerchief and slide. Special occasion neckerchief (i.e. religious or Eagle) may be worn instead. Official Boy Scout pants or long khaki pants may be worn. The Scout may wear Official Boy Scout shorts or khaki shorts. If shorts are worn, official Boy Scout socks must be worn. Official Boy Scout belt and appropriate shoes for the occasion should also be worn. The Scout may wear an official Scout cap, but is optional.

Class B Uniform

It is the same as the Class A uniform without the merit badge sash and medals. This is the uniform for uniform meetings, and specific activities.

Class C Uniform

Troop 175 has a green T-Shirt that is worn along with nice jeans, pants or shorts as our car "travel uniform" or casual activities uniform.

All uniforms and Scout related items may be purchased from the:

Northwest Suburban Council Scout Shop
600 N. Wheeling Rd
Mt. Prospect, IL
Phone 847- 824-6887

What is provided by the Troop?

Troop 175 provides to each boy:

- 175 Troop # insignia
- Troop neckerchief
- red shoulder loops
- all rank badges (as earned)
- Patrol patch
- badge of office
- Boy Scout Handbook
- 1 Troop green T-Shirt

What is the responsibility of the Scout?

Each Scout must obtain:

- Boy Scout field shirt
- Council insignia and world crest
- neckerchief slide
- Official belt
- Official socks (if wearing shorts)
- Official or Khaki pants/shorts
- Official cap (optional)
- Additional green T-Shirts

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Equipment

Troop 175 provides most of the equipment needed for Troop camping and other activities. Scouts however, are responsible for the care of the equipment assigned to them. A list of the personal equipment each boy should bring can be found in the Troop handbook.

Volunteer Expectations

It is important to remember that Scouting is a volunteer organization. All the leaders and volunteers are as busy as other parents with their families, jobs, and other responsibilities. Yet these parents take the time to support their son's and other's involvement in Scouting and look to the other parents to do their share.

A list of specific adult volunteer jobs can be found in the handbook. **All families are expected to volunteer and to assist with several activities a year.** Besides these formal positions, **all parents need to volunteer several times a year to be drivers and/or chaperones for camping trips and other activities.** Unfortunately, if we do not have sufficient adult volunteers, activities are canceled and we can not offer the program the boys have planned.

Registration Fees, Fundraising Expectations and Troop Finances

Troop 175 charges each new boy a \$1 transfer fee from Cub Scouts. Annual registration is in December and the fee is \$30.00. The Troop also depends on fundraising to cover additional costs. Several fundraising opportunities occur throughout the year. These may include popcorn sales, wreath sales, candy sales, pumpkin sales, flea market, spaghetti dinners, or pancake breakfasts. Each Scout is asked to assist with as many activities as possible.

We also have "Scout accounts" in our Troop. For some fundraisers, part or all of the money earned is placed in these accounts for the boys that assist with the fundraising activity. The money in these accounts can be used for a Scout's participation in Troop activities.

Camp and Activity Policies and Safety

In order to provide a safe and effective program for all the boys, the Troop has developed written rules and policies that must be followed by all Scouts. Many of these are National Boy Scouts of America policies, state, or local regulations. In addition, Troop 175 has a discipline policy. It is not our goal to provide punishment when rules are broken, but to provide growth in moral strength and character, teach the Scout of his relationship and obligations to others, and encourage self-control and self-respect. It is our aim as leaders to provide a safe, comfortable environment for all Scouts. Scouts and their parents are asked to sign a "Letter of Understanding" once they have review the policies found in the Troop 175 Handbook.