

Welcome to Troop 175

We're excited you're here!!

- We meet Monday nights, 7:00-8:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 2112 Rudolph during the school year; **Except** after campout/weekend activities (see attached schedule)
- Parents are always welcome (encouraged) to come be with us at all meetings/campouts. We **need** parental involvement to keep the Troop vibrant and growing. If you have (or can be talked into having) any interest in helping, PLEASE contact us. You can be involved as little or much as you desire.
- Important phone numbers: Mike Larabee (Scoutmaster), 834-0867(h), 225-9524(c). We use e-mails to inform and remind scouts and parents of activities.
- What you need to get your son (Scout office on Hastings Way - they can help you find these items):
 - 1) Scout Shirt (short sleeves and a little big recommended)
 - 2) Council Patch for left shoulder of Scout shirt
 - 3) Scout Handbook: VERY important...bring to every meeting.
 - 4) Neckerchief Slide
 - 5) Merit Badge Requirement Book; not required, but useful.
- What we'll provide:
 - 1) Troop 175 patch; to put under Council patch on Shirt
 - 2) Neckerchief; to be worn at meetings and special events
 - 3) Merit Badge Sash: when he earns his 1st Merit Badge.
- Ask your son every week what the announcements were (put a pen in his shirt to write them down). Some are important.
- Our Troop provides most camping equipment, but each Scout needs a sleeping bag, ground pad, mess kit/utensils, and clothes appropriate for the activity.
- Dues for the 2007/08 school year (payable in Jan 08) are \$38, but Webelos crossing over pay less due to partial year.

In order for your son to have the most fun, and steady advancement... (we want all scouts to have the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout), we suggest the following:

- 1) Come to as many Monday night meetings as you can; here we plan campouts, work on advancement, and have fun.
- 2) Go to as many Campouts as you can; these make the learning real, and are a **lot** of fun.
- 3) Go to Boy Scout Camp (**August 3-8, 2008**); the single most educational and 'funnest' experience of the year!
- 4) Go to Merit Badge Clinics, if possible; these will 'jump start' your earning of Merit Badges, which is a **BIG BOOST** to later advancement. The last 3 Ranks (Star, Life, and Eagle) are primarily based on Merit Badges.
- 5) When choosing a Merit badge at camp or clinic, try and take an 'Eagle Required' Merit Badge, if available. You'll need 12 of these eventually. They tend to be a bit harder than the average Merit Badge, so getting them at a clinic or camp is a big help.
- 6) Look to see if things you are doing anyway are a Merit Badge (e.g. Reading, Painting, Fishing, Music, Pets, Sports, Skiing, etc.). If so, we will help you find an approved Merit Badge Counselor to help turn this regular activity into a Merit Badge. Check out the book, or ask other Scouts for ideas. Many are there just waiting to be earned.
- 7) Parental involvement is **VERY HELPFUL**; to the Scout, to the Troop, to the Parent (yup, it's fun for the adults too). Please get involved (as much) as you can. **NO EXPERIENCE** required, we all learned from others and by doing, and lived through it !!