

Troop 165  
Boy Scouts of America  
Lancaster, Ohio  
Sponsored by Fairfield Christian Church



## April 2008 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

April 12<sup>th</sup> – 10 mile Hike at Three Creeks Metro Park.

April 25-27 – (Campout) Chief Tarhe District Camporee at Fairfield Fish and Game.

### Monthly Activity Fees

Dear parents and guardians,

I am the "fee gatherer" for Troop 165 and I must confess that my organizational skills need some work and I could use your help. In the future if you could hand me camping fees, re-chartering money etc at the troop meetings this would help greatly. Sometimes money, permission slips and so forth, have been handed to me at campouts, when we are loading vehicles to leave and other times like this. I have ended up putting them in my pockets and must remember to put them in my satchel when I get home or risk having them make a trip through the washing machine . . . you get the picture. Also, a check made out to Troop 165 is the preferable method of payment. Sometimes people have handed me cash and I don't have the appropriate change on me at the time. In fact, this is a perfect opportunity to help your child work on being responsible. It is their responsibility to get the permission slip to you ASAP and then return the money and slip to me, so hold them accountable it's good for them. If your child should lose their permission slip there is a copy, with the amount listed, on the website. I humbly ask for your help to help me do a better job and thanks for the privilege of working with your boys, they are a great bunch of young men.

Sincerely,  
Steve Daugherty  
Assistant Scoutmaster/Fee Gatherer  
Troop 165

### Merit Badge Information

These are the steps a Scout takes to earn a merit badge:

1. Get a signed blue card from Mr. Marshall and the name and phone number of the merit badge counselor.
2. **Before starting the merit badge**, contact the merit badge counselor to arrange a meeting. Go with a buddy, parent or relative to see the counselor to find out what is expected.
3. Get the merit badge book on the subject.
4. When complete, call the counselor again to make an appointment. Along with a buddy, parent or relative, bring the things necessary to meet the requirements or proof of what you have done. The counselor will spend time to make sure you know your stuff. When the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has done what is required, The Scout's merit badge card will be signed.

### General Information

1. All merit badge counselors must be registered with the BSA.
2. A Scout cannot be counseled for more than four (4) merit badges from any one counselor.
3. Family members cannot counsel a Scout for Eagle-required merit badges.

### Merit Badge Counselor Guidelines

1. Be aware of all up to date requirement changes (**check [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com)**).

2. Follow the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts.
3. Have two or more Scouts present at all instructional sessions.
4. Understand that the Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated- no more and no less. Furthermore, he is to do exactly what is stated. If it says, "show or demonstrate," that is what he must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same holds true for such words as "make", "list", "in the field", and "collect, identify, and label."
5. You cannot require more of a scout than what is stated.

### **Merit Badge Cards**

There are three parts to a blue merit badge card. The counselor keeps one part, the advancement chairman keeps the second part, and the third part is returned to the scout (sometimes this portion is kept by the advancement chairman and returned with the merit badge at Courts of Honor). This is the scout's only record that he completed the merit badge. At his Eagle Board of Review, the District Advancement Chairman will ask to see all of his blue cards. Please keep all blue cards that are returned to you by your merit badge counselor.

### **Cancellations**

Any time a scout meeting or activity is cancelled due to inclement weather, scouts will be notified via their patrol leader. If school is cancelled but the roads clear up and adult leadership feels that there are no safety concerns, we will generally have our meeting as it is the easiest way to hand out and collect permission slips.

### **Troop Website**

Please go to our website [www.165bsa.com](http://www.165bsa.com) for more information about Troop 165.

### **Uniforms**

One of the eight methods of successful scouting programs is wearing uniforms. Lately, as a group, the troop could improve when it comes to wearing the proper uniform. As a reminder, Troop 165's field uniform (Class A uniform) includes the neckerchief and slide, Class A shirt, Troop activity shirt (Class B), Scout or olive green pants or shorts, scout belt, Scout hat, and scout socks. Adult Leader uniform includes everything that the boys wear except for the neckerchief. Unless told in advance, the full troop uniform is to be worn at each meeting/outing.