

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



March 2009 Newsletter

Damage to Troop Equipment

There have been a couple of instances over the past few months of troop gear being intentionally damaged. In the future, any troop or patrol equipment intentionally damaged will be repaired or replaced at the Scout's family expense and disciplinary action will be taken. The attitude of a few scouts should not undermine the hard work the troop has put into fundraising so that new equipment could be purchased.

Campout Food Costs

Due to the increased cost of groceries we will be adjusting the meal costs for each campout. The normal cost of food per boy or adult for a full weekend campout will be \$15 (\$1.50 / snack and \$3 for each meal). This will include Friday snack, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack as well as Sunday morning breakfast. This has been effective as of June 2008.

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**).
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.

Monthly Permission Slips and Camping Fees

If you are intending to go on the monthly campouts, please have your fees and permission slips at the beginning of the meetings on the Monday night that they are due. If you are unable to attend the meeting but plan to go on the campout, please get your money and permission slip to your patrol leader.

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 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.