

Uniforming

Scouts should have a scout shirt, pants, belt and socks (Class A uniform). Uniforms should be worn at the weekly meetings. Class B uniforms are the Troop t-shirt. Proper placement of patches and other insignia is shown inside the cover of the Scout Handbook. The Arrow of Light badge and square knot emblems for God and Country Awards are the only items worn in Cub Scouting that transfer to Boy Scouting.

Advancement

Scout ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Most of the early ranks (through First Class) involve learning Scout craft skills. Star, Life and Eagle ranks involve earning merit badges. Scouts pass off most requirements at weekly meetings and campouts. Scoutmasters will record all completed requirements. Only a few merit badges such as Family Life, Personal Fitness, and Personal Management are completed away from the Troop. Boys will have a Scoutmaster Conference and go before a Board of Review to complete rank requirements. Scouts should wear their Class A uniform for Boards of Review, which occur on the first Monday of each month. The Troop will send out the boy's advancement records 3 to 4 times a year. The Troop holds Courts of Honor twice a year (spring and fall) to recognize Scout advancements.

Dues/Fundraisers

Dues are \$45 and are to be paid in January when the Troop recharter. When Webelos Scouts cross over to the Troop, fees are not due until the following January. Troop fundraisers include selling popcorn, Christmas trees, and bird houses.

Patrols

Scouts are divided into manageable working units called Patrols. All new Scouts are placed together in a patrol under the guidance of an Assistant Scoutmaster. Patrols are lead by a Patrol Leader and an Asst. Patrol Leader. Patrol Leaders will pass along information to the other scouts in their patrols.

Meals/Menus/Grubmaster

Each patrol is responsible for planning and cooking their own meals on campouts. Menus are planned before each campout by the Scouts. One Scout is selected to buy the food; he is the "grubmaster". The Scout will be reimbursed by the Troop for the cost of the food. The grubmaster must make reasonable purchases and stay within the set budget.

Camping/Gear

The Troop has a campout, hike, or other activity once a month. Generally, a one night campout will have a \$10 fee and a two night campout will have a \$20 fee. Fees will be higher for special trips such as canoeing or white water rafting. Scouts should have a sleeping bag, back pack, sleeping pad, flashlight (head lamp), eating utensils, plate, cup, and water bottle. Cold weather sleeping bags (at least 30⁰ rating) are needed for winter camping. Most Scouts need a "long" sleeping bag. Have your Scout prepare for inclement weather. When we camp, it usually rains. Campmor.com, Bass Pro Shop, and Outdoor Gear (in West Point at the Mossy Oak outlet) are good sources for camping equipment.

Summer Camp: June 6-12, 2010

Troop 14 traditionally attends summer camp at Camp Seminole near Starkville. New Scouts can pass off a number of requirements for the early ranks and earn merit badges during this week. A Class 1 & 2 Medical Form must be completed by a physician or nurse practitioner for each Scout. Early registration for summer camp is desirable. Mosquito netting (from Campmor item # 86662 or the local Army/Navy Store) will make your Scout's week much more enjoyable.

Communications

The Troop has a monthly newsletter and has a Troop website, <http://www.starkvilletroop14.org/>. If you have questions, feel free to contact one of the leaders. Information is passed along the Troop chain of command: Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scout.

Adult Leadership

Troop 14 is led by Scoutmaster Russ Hayes and a number of Assistant Scoutmasters. Troop Leadership is also provided by the Troop Committee which is chaired by Bill Kibler. Committee members help with popcorn sales, transportation, advancement, Troop record keeping, and maintaining equipment. Parents are welcome at any meeting or campout. Because of the size of the Troop, any help with transporting Scouts to activities is greatly appreciated.

Scout Safety

Safety and Youth Protection are stressed in Boy Scouting. Leaders are trained in providing a fun experience in a safe, controlled setting. "Two Deep Leadership" is always practiced in Scouting. Hazing of new scouts is never permitted.

Council/Camporees/Jamborees/Philmont

Troop 14 is chartered in the Pushmataha Area Council which covers a 10 county area. Camporees are Council-wide events held twice a year. Troops from all over the Council converge for a two night campout. Jamborees are held every 4 years on the national level and a contingent of Scouts from across the Council attend this event. Every two years, a contingent of Scouts from across the Council can sign up for an expedition to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. A number of our Scouts and adults have participated in this high adventure camp.

Behavior

We have high expectations of our Scouts at Scouting events and away from Scouting. Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Law and Oath. They are also encouraged to leave any electronic devices at home that may be lost or damaged, and cause distractions to the Scouting program.

Pickup

Meetings are Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. We usually return from camping trips at 12:30 PM on Sundays. Please be considerate and pickup your Scouts promptly after meetings and camping/hiking activities.

Parent Orientation 2010



Boy Scouts of America Troop 14 Starkville, MS