

Welcome to Troop 2!

Welcome to the adventure of Scouting in Troop 2! This booklet will help you learn about Scouting, help you discover what makes Troop 2 special, and help you find answers to many of your questions. The Scoutmaster will also be happy to answer any of your questions or concerns.

Troop 2 Goals:

Scouting in Troop 2 means challenge and adventure for your son and for you. Scouting is a game with a purpose: to develop future leaders of strong character, good citizenship, and personal fitness. Scouting's eight methods make it unique:

1. Scouting ideals (Law, Promise, Motto, Slogan)
2. Patrol System
3. Advancement
4. Adult Role Models
5. Outdoor Program
6. Leadership Development
7. Personal Growth
8. Scout Uniform

How Your Son Benefits From Scouting:

Scouting is much more than just a wholesome and enjoyable activity. Active Scouts develop initiative, leadership, self-reliance, and self-confidence. Scouting help boys become good citizens of strong character, who will be leaders and achievers in the adult world. Troop 2 Scouts earn youth's most significant honor, the Eagle Award, at nearly 5 times the national average.

What Parents Need to Do:

As a parent, you are the single most important factor that will determine how successful your son will be in Scouting! If you want your son to reap the benefits Scouting offers, you need to join Scouting with your son, either as a uniformed leader, as an active member of the troop committee, or as a highly visible and involved supporter. Scouts whose parents were actively involved attended more than twice the number of activities and attained more than twice the rank of Scouts with less involved parents. Approximately 90% of our Troop 2 Eagle Scouts have come from the 40% of our parents who have been the most active.

Who Can Join?

Troop 2 welcomes any interested boy of Scout age (either 11 years old or have completed the 5th grade or have earned the Arrow of Light, whichever occurs first). A boy does not have to complete Cub Scouts or Webelos to become a Boy Scout.

Programs For New Scouts:

Troop 2 makes unusual efforts to help new Scouts be successful. We usually have a New Scout Retreat held in March. During this first trip, and also initial meetings, new Scouts can all earn their Scout rank. Most progress towards Tenderfoot, and prepare for our Sand Dunes trip in late April.

Another Troop 2 effort is our special New-Scout patrol, where new Scouts are grouped together under the leadership of experienced Scouts and adult leaders. New Scouts will typically remain in this patrol until after summer camp. New Scouts who achieve rank and show maturity may join patrols with older Scouts. Some of the new Scouts may remain together throughout their Scout experience.

Any Scout who needs special attention or help with difficult skills or who just wants to advance at a faster rate, will have several adult leaders at each meeting to work with.

Summer Camp is Vital:

Boys who go to summer camp their first year stay in Scouting nearly three times as long as those who don't. Those who miss summer camp will have great difficulty catching up with the Scouts who went to camp, and more than half will drop out during their first year.

Be sure to put summer camp on your family calendar as soon as the dates are announced so your son won't miss out on an important and exciting week.

Troop 2 usually attends Camp Chris Dobbins, and sometimes Camp Alexander.

Troop 2 Meetings:

Troop 2 meets on Monday nights, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the First Pres. Youth Center on Wahsatch--across the street from the church. Parents may enter the parking lot and enter our meeting room just off the parking lot.

- Scouts need to arrive early so they can help set up chairs and flags.
- We expect and appreciate parents coming into the meetings.

Scouting as a Leadership Laboratory:

One of the biggest adjustments for boys and parents when they cross over into Boy Scouts is that the Scouts plan and run the Scout programs--from meetings to camping trips.

In Cub Scouts and Webelos, it was up to the parent leaders to provide fun activities for the boys. In Boy Scouts, the boys, with help from the troop leaders, brainstorm, plan, and carryout most troop activities. This is how our Scouts learn how to be leaders.

As parent leaders, we still have an active role to play. Our role is

- To teach and model positive leadership.
- To supervise all activities with a minimum of "two-deep."
- To review all Scout plans to ensure safety and quality planning.
- To help enforce high Scouting standards and discipline.
- To help teach and assess outdoor skills and merit badge work.
- Maintain a tight network of adult communication and support.
- To help support the Scouts in any way we can.

Boy Scouts, Grades, Sports, Band, Church?!

Or...How can my son do it all? How can my family do it all?

Think of all the wonderful challenges that await your son, if he's prepared. First middle school with all of its ups and downs; high school academics and sports and clubs and the social life! Then, college.

Rarely in life do opportunities and challenges come at convenient times or one at a time. As our boys prepare for their future and the opportunities that await them, some of the things that they need to learn are

- Time and task management--getting several important tasks and commitments done at the same time.
- Prioritizing--finding out what's important and taking care of those priorities first.
- Following through on commitments to others whether it's a team, patrol, teachers, or parents.
- Creating a *plan of attack* when deadlines loom.
- Making a tough decision when priorities and activities conflict.
- Making tough sacrifices for a long-term benefit instead of *what feels good now*.

Doing It All, cont...

Our experience shows us that the most successful Scouts are those with a variety of activities and interests. These are Scouts who are learning how to get it all done. When these Scouts get to high school and college, they will have a wealth of experience and leadership to help guide them through difficult times and decisions.

We want all of our Scouts to be active in church, music, sports, school, and other activities. However, if you and your son know right now that sports or some other activity is the top priority (that many meetings and camping trips will be missed) then Scouting in our troop may not be the best option for you.

Standards of Membership:

We expect each of our Scouts to be active, to advance regularly, to wear their Scout uniform, to practice good manners and behavior, and to his best to live by the ideas of Scouting as expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. In order to participate in the outdoor programs, a Scout must be active and in good standing with the troop and his patrol.

The troop may suspend Scouts for the following reasons:

- Poor or dangerous behavior
- Not paying dues
- Not attending or participating in meetings or outings
- Parent request

The key to successful Scouting is the camping program. We expect our Scouts to attend overnight camp outs year round, and to make every effort to attend our vital week at summer camp. Scouts who make little or no effort to camp will not advance in rank and will not be eligible for advanced camping trips or leadership positions within the troop.

We expect parents to support these standards and be actively involved with their son in Scouting. Scouts with involved parents reap the greatest benefits from Scouting.

Troop 2 Chartering Organization:

Ambassadors Sunday School Class, First Presbyterian Church
Tom Castle, Charter Organization Rep.

Steps to joining Troop 2:

- ❑ Express an interest and visit a Troop 2 meeting on a Monday night.
- ❑ Set up a time to visit with the Scoutmaster and fill out his interest survey.
- ❑ Fill out the Boy Scout application and submit it, along with dues to the Treasurer at a Monday meeting.
- ❑ Fill out and submit all Troop 2 paperwork!
- ❑ Purchase the Boy Scout Handbook and uniform.
 - Note on the uniform: Attend a Monday meeting before buying a uniform. Troop 2 has a special patch we will give you, and the green pants are not required.
- ❑ Complete the Youth Protection Booklet with your parents in your Scout Book as soon as possible.
- ❑ Mark on your family calendar
 - All Monday meetings
 - Feb, March, and April activities.
 - Summer Camp
- ❑ Start reading/working through your Scout book.