

PARENT'S GUIDE



**BOY SCOUT TROOP 555
NORTH STAR DISTRICT
LAS VEGAS AREA COUNCIL**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



Welcome:

Congratulations on your son's decision to join Boy Scouting! Troop 555 is a National Quality Unit, and our boys and adult leaders show great *esprit de corps* to that effect. More than that, however, Troop 555 is a family unit, and when you join our troop, you become part of our scouting family, the "Triple Nickel" family.

The following information should answer many of your questions about Scouting and our troop in general. We encourage you to check out scouting websites such as the National and Council websites, in addition to our own. Scouting done right requires a serious commitment from the boy and his parents. After all, the ultimate goal of a Boy Scout is the Eagle rank, which will provide him with quite an accomplishment to help him throughout his lifetime.

We encourage you to thoroughly read our charter and policies. Much information is provided, describing our policies, procedures, funding, and so forth. These policies are the rules under which we operate, in addition to the rules, guidelines, and policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Most information concerning the troop is accessible via the website (www.troop555.us) and e-mailings. It is imperative we have your current e-mail address! All late-breaking information concerning campouts and other troop activities will be disseminated in this manner.

Expectations:

Boy Scouting is a youth-led organization. Anything that can be done to run, organize, and lead the troop is done by youth officers, under the guidance of the scoutmaster. Our young men receive training in skills and leadership over a period of months and years and then, usually within a year of joining, boys assume a leadership role in the troop.



The youth leadership is elected by the boys. Elections are held twice a year for the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) position, and the Patrol Leader (PL) positions. Those elected then appoint their assistants and fill

out the rest of the leadership positions within the troop.



Immediately after joining, the new Boy Scout will become part of a patrol. Each patrol has a Patrol Leader (a youth they select from among themselves). For the inexperienced boy or adult, the best way to learn about Scouting is to read the *Scout Handbook* and get to know the boys in his patrol. One meeting per month is reserved for patrol meetings, in which the patrols members meet with each other only. This night is also the committee meeting night, same time and same place. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the committee meetings.

Adults:

Scouting in its entirety is quite complex. Few leaders, with the exception of life-long scouters, will ever fully grasp the entire breadth of the scouting program or management from the national down to the unit level. It is imperative, therefore, that the right leaders are in charge, and they appoint capable volunteers to help. These carefully selected leaders are chosen for their experience in Scouting and their commitment to the program and our boys. With rare exception, these leaders have boys in our troop and so have a vested interest in the success of the troop and the boys who run it. All adult leaders are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, and background checks are performed. *Safety is our number one concern, and we espouse the entire safety requirements as prescribed by the BSA. This includes two-deep leadership at all times, and Youth Protection training.*



Cost:

There are several fees associated with Scouting, but because our troop has an aggressive fundraising program, much of the cost can be paid from your son's fundraising efforts. We believe in the 2/3 rule—2/3 of the cost of scouting comes from your son's personal efforts in fundraising contributions from his own money (i.e. allowance, mowing lawns, etc), and the other third comes from the bank of mom and dad.

An annual program fee of **\$100** per scout has been instituted to offset the troop expenses, such as awards, ceremonies, and other costs. The program fee will be collected in quarterly installments, due on the first day of each calendar quarter (January, April, July, and October). This program fee also pays for the boy's registration



fee for BSA for one year. The registration includes a twelve-month subscription to Boy's Life magazine.

All boys joining the troop are required to pay a **\$50** registration fee. This fee covers the first quarterly program fee installment, the boy's registration fees for the year, his new Scout Handbook, Troop Neckerchief, and certain patches.



Additionally, monthly patrol dues in the amount of **\$5** will be collected and distributed, with \$3 going to the troop for operating expenses (awards, etc) and \$2 going to the Scout's patrol. It is recommend that in keeping with Scouting principles, the youth should pay this \$5 from his allowance. The patrol's portion of the dues may be used at the patrol's discretion in any manner they desire, provided the use corresponds with a Scouting activity. Campouts typically incur \$10

for his portion of the patrol's food. Summer camp is an important and exciting week-long adventure at a professional Scout camp, and the fee for this is ranges from about \$250 for first year scouts, and aroundbetween \$700 for older scouts.



Uniforms:

What do I need to buy? A scout uniform, and camping gear as outlined in the Scout Handbook and our Troop documents. As a Webelos, he already has most of it. Your boy will also need the troop-specific uniform components, which include the troop hat and t-shirts, also known as Class-B uniform. Typically the boy will need 2-3 of these shirts to take with him to camp each month.

Scout uniform requirements:

Available from Scout Trading Post (7220 S. Paradise Rd)

Official BSA tan Boy Scout shirt
Las Vegas Area Council strip (patch)
World Scouting Crest (purple, oval patch)
Boy Scout Belt
Scout Socks

Provided by Troop 555

Official Boy Scout Handbook (in joining fee)
Troop Neckerchief/slide (in joining fee)
Troop numerals (in joining fee)
Troop hat (cost \$14)
Troop class-B t-shirt (cost \$10)

First-year scouts (those under the rank of First Class) only require the uniform from the belt up. Upon reaching the rank of First Class we require the full and complete Boy Scout uniform. Substitutions for official components are not acceptable.

Questions:

For more information about anything with the troop or the scouting program, please consult with the Scoutmaster. All issues, questions, problems, and suggestions from parents should be directed to the Scoutmaster, or the committee.

All issues, questions, problems and suggestions from Scouts should be directed to their chain-of-command, beginning with their patrol leader.

