

Frequently Asked Questions

WHERE/WHEN DOES THE TROOP MEET?

We meet on Monday evenings, from 7:00 to approximately 8:30, in the Troop 65 Scout Cabin, 341 Fremont St. We are very fortunate to have our own building, located on a small wooded area in town, adjacent to the municipal swimming pool. We have a campfire circle behind the cabin, as well as a flagpole mall beside it.

HOW LARGE IS THE TROOP?

We currently have 33 active boys, and 21 active adult leaders. The scouts are currently organized into 4 patrols, plus a Leadership patrol for the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s). The adults are organized into a Troop Committee, and a Scoutmaster Corps, whose functions are defined in the BSA Literature.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE TROOP CAMP OUT?

Troop 65 has a 12-month, all weather camping program. Our program includes such activities as skiing, swimming, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, snowboarding, and wilderness survival skills, as well as merit badge work such as forestry, cooking, wildlife management, cycling, and hiking historic trails. We also visit places such as the Cosmosphere, Ft. Leavenworth, and other educational historic sites. See Troop 65 Handbook, section entitled "Camping", for additional information

WHAT ABOUT SUMMER CAMP?

There are 3 Boy Scout summer camps in the area. Troop 65 scouts have attended Camp Theodore Naish every summer beginning in 1934. We customarily go for one week in June. The program includes swimming, lifesaving, canoeing, and most of the outdoor merit badges such as herpetology, mammal study, wildlife management, rifle shooting, and archery.

IS THERE A HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAM?

There sure is. The older boys have gone on a High Adventure trip every summer since 1969. Most of these trips have been to BSA High Adventure bases, such as the Charles L. Sommers canoe base adjacent to the Minnesota Boundary Waters and Canadian Quetico canoe waters, Packard High Adventure base in Colorado, Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico, and other bases as far away as Florida or Maine. Also, we have attended the National Jamboree several times. Eligibility requirements to go on these trips includes Star Rank or above, 13 years old or older, physically fit for the types of activities involved, and the scoutmaster's recommendation.

WHAT DOES "LED BY BOYS, SUPPORTED BY ADULTS, JUST FOR FUN" MEAN?

All Troop 65 meetings, campouts, and other activities are planned by the Patrol Leaders' Council and are presided over by the Senior Patrol Leader. The scoutmaster provides advice and guidance as requested. The Troop Committee provides support for the program, and ensures that both common sense and BSA health and safety guidelines are meticulously followed. This "boy led" method provides opportunities for boys to practice the art of leadership and planning in a controlled environment where failure is allowed but is followed up by evaluation with the Scoutmaster or other adults.

WHAT IS THE COST OF SCOUTING IN TROOP 65?

The annual registration fee is \$20.00; of this, \$10.00 is forwarded to the National office, and the balance kept in the Troop treasury. The Troop buys all awards, badges, pins, handbooks, and camping equipment (except such personal gear as a sleeping bag). We maintain a merit badge pamphlet library which the scouts may use. We also have such routine expenses as electricity and water to pay for out of our budget. The total cost during the last calendar year was approximately \$285.00 per Scout. The Troop raises this money through a booth at the annual Maple Leaf Festival, which we expect all adults and boys to help staff. Additionally, we have a program by means of which the scouts may earn money to use for camping expenses (these expenses vary according to the program which the scouts plan). Individual scouts have earned as much as \$800.00 through this program; others, have earned little or nothing because they did not

choose to do the work. See the Troop 65 Handbook, section entitled “Finances”, for additional information.

HOW DO I JOIN TROOP 65?

There are several ways by means of which you can join: 1) Come to a Troop meeting any Monday evening. There, you can talk to the Scoutmaster and other adult Troop leaders, meet the boys who are already in the Troop, fill out an application (complete with parent or guardian’s signature), join a patrol, and be on your way. 2) Call or visit the Scoutmaster, John Richards, at his home, ph. 594-4200, address 1220 Elm St., Baldwin. 3) Call or visit the Committee Chairman, Roger Boyd, at his home, ph. 760-3172, address 520 3rd St., Baldwin. 4) Contact the Scoutmaster via the link on the Troop website (baldwinksboyscouts.org).