

JOINING THE TROOP AND YOUR FIRST TROOP MEETING

WHO CAN BE A BOY SCOUT?

You can be a Boy Scout in Troop 72, (or in any Boy Scout troop), if:

- A. You are at least 11 years old, but not yet 18 years old, or
- B. You have completed the 5th grade, or
- C. You are a graduating Webelos Scout. (Second-year Webelos Scouts graduate into a Boy Scout troop in February or March of each year, usually at the Blue and Gold Banquet held by their Cub Scout Pack).

HOW DO I JOIN TROOP 72?

A. IF YOU ARE A GRADUATING WEBELOS SCOUT

(Note: You don't have to earn the Arrow of Light to join Troop 72. If you are a Webelos Scout, and you are joining the troop, then you are a "graduating Webelos Scout").

1. Complete an *Application to Become a Boy Scout*, a short registration form. Your Webelos Den Leader will probably have those forms available. If not, ask your contact person in Troop 72, and we will get them to you right away.
2. Deliver that *Application to Become a Boy Scout*, along with a check in the amount of \$20.00 payable to "Troop 72," to the troop. Sometimes Webelos Den Leaders collect all of the registration forms and checks from the parents and pass them on to the troop in one packet; and sometimes each family turns in the forms and checks directly to the troop.
3. Your Webelos Den Leader should notify his or her troop contact of the date, time and location of your Blue and Gold Banquet. At that banquet, the Troop 72 Scoutmaster or an Asst. Scoutmaster will be on hand to welcome all graduating Webelos into the troop. Each new Boy Scout will receive a special Troop 72 neckerchief as part of that ceremony.
4. Finally, new scouts will attend their first troop meeting on the Monday listed on the front of this booklet. Even if you will graduate from your pack after that date, you will still attend your first troop meeting on the date listed on the front of this booklet.

B. IF YOU ARE TRANSFERRING TO TROOP 72 FROM ANOTHER BOY SCOUT TROOP

1. Complete an *Application to Become a Boy Scout*. Deliver that form, along with a check in the amount of \$20.00 payable to "Troop 72," to the Scoutmaster of Troop 72 at your first troop meeting.
2. Ask your former Scoutmaster to review his troop's records and provide you with the following information, then deliver that information to Troop 72:

- a. Date you joined the troop, and a list of all merit badges and advancements in rank you earned, and the exact date of each.
- b. Number of nights of scout camping you have completed, including number of nights of weekend camping; and number of nights of long-term (summer camp, Philmont Scout Ranch, etc.) camping.
- c. All Positions of Responsibility (leadership positions) you have held, and the exact dates of each.
- d. If you are a member of the Order of the Arrow, the exact dates you became an Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor member.
- e. Any other awards or honors you have received, and the dates of each.

C. IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A WEBELOS SCOUT OR A BOY SCOUT

Complete an *Application to Become a Boy Scout* and deliver it, along with a check in the amount of \$20.00, payable to "Troop 72," to the Scoutmaster at your first troop meeting.

WHAT BOY SCOUT UNIFORM SHOULD I WEAR?

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization, and Troop 72 is a fully uniformed troop. We wear the complete Boy Scout uniform to virtually all troop meetings and other activities, including camping trips. The complete uniform consists of the following:

- A. Tan scout shirt, with red shoulder loops, and all patches sewn in place. We recommend a short-sleeve shirt.
- B. Green scout pants or green scout shorts, with the green scout web belt. If you wear shorts, you must also wear the green and red scout socks.

When you were a Cub Scout you may not have worn official uniform pants, but in

Troop 72 we do wear the complete scout uniform, including uniform pants.

- C. Troop 72 blue neckerchief, held in place with a neckerchief slide. Any neckerchief slide is okay, whether it is one you purchase, or one you make yourself. Do not use a rubber band, bread twist, a piece of string, etc., to hold your neckerchief in place.

Your neckerchief is not required for most weekly meetings, although you may wear it if you wish. It *will* be required at the first troop meeting of each month, and for special events, such as awards ceremonies. You will be told about those special events in advance. The troop will provide you with your blue neckerchief, custom made just for our troop. No other troop has this neckerchief.

- D. Scout cap. Caps are not required, but if worn, they must be scout caps.

Your uniform, *Boy Scout Handbook*, and other scout items can be purchased at the Scout Shop, 393 Marshall Avenue in St. Paul, (same building as the Northern Star Council office), 651-224-4175; or at the Scout Shop in Mounds View, 763-786-3090.

WHAT PATCHES SHOULD I WEAR ON MY UNIFORM, AND WHERE SHOULD THEY BE SEWN?

Wear the following patches on your uniform shirt:

- A. "Northern Star Council" shoulder patch. (If you have an old "Indianhead Council" patch, it's okay to wear it instead).
- B. The numerals "7" and "2," sewn together to make "72."
- C. The patrol patch for your patrol. If you do not know your patrol name yet, you will have to purchase that patch later.
- D. U.S. flag.
- E. Arrow of Light patch, **IF** you earned the Arrow of Light as a Webelos Scout.
- F. Religious Square Knot, **IF** you earned a religious award as a Cub Scout.

The exact position of your patches on your uniform is shown, life-sized, on the inside front cover and inside back cover of your *Boy Scout Handbook*. If you have any questions, please ask the Scoutmaster.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON SEWING PATCHES:

The inside back cover of the *Boy Scout Handbook* shows a gap between the "council patch" and the "troop numeral." **DO NOT LEAVE A GAP.** That spot is for a patch that our troop does not wear, so you should move the "72" up so that it is just touching the bottom of the council shoulder patch.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I ATTEND TROOP MEETINGS?

Troop 72 meets every Monday of the year, with a few exceptions, all of which are on your annual calendar.

During the school year we meet at Christ Episcopal Church, one block south of Target, in Woodbury.

Troop meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., but scouts should arrive about 10 minutes early. Meetings end at 8:35, and after clean-up and last-minute business, scouts are ready to leave by 8:40 or so. Each month a different patrol serves as the Service Patrol, and they must arrive at 6:45, and stay until about 8:45. Their duties include setting up, taking down, and cleaning up the meeting room. That schedule is published in the annual calendar, on the back side.

In the summer, after summer camp, we move our weekly meetings to a local softball field. We hold a short meeting, then play a friendly game of softball. Parents, family and friends are always welcome to play or watch. Pick-up time for these summer games is dusk, which changes each week.

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE MY FIRST TROOP MEETING?

Inside the front cover of your *Boy Scout Handbook* is a booklet entitled *How To Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*. Ask a parent to read that booklet, and to then go over it with you. When you and your parents have completed the booklet, ask a parent to sign and date the front cover of the booklet. Bring that signed booklet to your first troop meeting to show that you have reviewed it with a parent.

You must complete that booklet and have it signed by a parent to earn your Boy Scout badge, which you will do at your first troop meeting.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO MY FIRST TROOP MEETING?

Below is a list of things you should bring to your first troop meeting. And, except for the first two items on the list, you should bring them to EVERY troop meeting.

- A. Booklet *How To Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, signed by a parent to show that you and your parent have completed the requirements listed in the booklet.
- B. Membership application and fee, if not already turned in.

- C. Your *Boy Scout Handbook*. We suggest strongly that you also purchase a plastic cover for your Handbook. Be sure to write your name on your book, because every scout has one just like it.
- D. A pen. This is a must!
- E. A spiral notebook. Get a notebook to use just for scouts, and bring it to every meeting. Put your name on it.
- F. A pocket folder. Get one just for scouts, and bring it to every meeting. Use it to carry your scout papers. Put your name on it.

YOUR FIRST CAMPING TRIP

WHEN WILL I ATTEND MY FIRST CAMPING TRIP?

If you joined the troop in February or March, your first camping trip will be a weekend trip in about mid-April, as listed on the front of this booklet, and on your annual calendar. We will leave Woodbury late Friday afternoon, and return home Sunday morning.

If you joined the troop at any other time, check your annual calendar, or ask the Scoutmaster.

Two or three weeks before each camping trip we distribute via email a *Camping Trip Information Sheet*, with full details concerning that trip, including dates, times, uniform, special equipment, rides, and so on.

Before your first camping trip, you will spend time at troop meetings learning camping skills. If you still have any questions, ask your Patrol Leader.

WHAT CAMPING EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED FOR MY FIRST TRIP?

The troop will give you three camping equipment checklists:

- A. A *special* checklist just for your first trip.
- B. A *general* camping equipment checklist.
- C. A *winter* camping equipment checklist.

We suggest that you don't purchase any major items of camping equipment, such as tents, sleeping bags or backpacks, right away. After you have been on a few camping trips, and better understand what you will need, you can begin acquiring those items.

However, if you do decide to purchase any of those items right away, please talk to the Scoutmaster first. Troop 72 is a traditional, light-weight camping troop,

and equipment which would be fine for family camping, or even for some other troops, might not be the best choice for you now.

You will need a few smaller items before your first camping trip. Some you may already have, and some you may be able to borrow.

- A. **SLEEPING BAG:** If you have one already, or can borrow one, it will probably do fine for now. If you are going to buy a new sleeping bag, however, please talk to the Scoutmaster first.
- B. **SLEEPING PAD:** This is a pad you place under your sleeping bag to provide insulation from the cold ground, and padding from the hard ground. In the "old days," (long ago and far away, such as when the Scoutmaster was a scout), you would have used an air mattress, but today you will want a full-sized, (meaning at least 6-foot long), closed-cell (meaning it won't absorb water) foam pad. (Closed-cell pads are sometimes called "ensolite" pads). If you have a choice of thicknesses, such as 1/2" or 5/8", get the thicker pad. Sleeping pads are available at stores such as Gander Mountain, Cabela's, or at any other camping supply store, for \$8.00 to \$15.00.
- C. **WATER BOTTLES:** You will need outdoor water bottles, meaning plastic bottles especially designed for camping; or a canteen. Do not use old pop or bottled-water containers. Bring two quarts of water, in either one 2-quart or two 1-quart water bottles or canteens. If you buy new water bottles, we suggest the round, 1-quart Nalgene brand plastic water bottles. Put your name on them.
- D. **FLASHLIGHT:** Whatever you have is okay for now. If you buy a new flashlight, we strongly suggest that it use two AA batteries, and not C or D batteries. Use alkaline batteries.
- E. **RAINCOAT WITH HOOD, OR RAINCOAT WITH A SEPARATE RAIN HAT:** This is required, and it must be a real raincoat, not just a nylon windbreaker. Before your first camping trip you will have to show your raincoat to an adult leader.
- F. **COLD-WEATHER BOOTS:** If you join the troop in February or March, your first camping trip will be in April, when it can still be cold and wet. For that trip you will need warm, waterproof boots and wool socks. You will have to show your boots to an adult leader before departure.

WHAT ABOUT KNIVES, AXES AND SAWS?

On your first camping trip you will earn your Totin' Chip, a card which says that you are allowed to use a knife, ax and saw. Your Totin' Chip, and thus your right to use those tools, will be taken away if you use them unsafely.

- A. **KNIVES:** We do not allow unusually large knives, such as so-called survival knives, "Rambo" knives, etc. A good-quality, standard-sized pocket knife, without too many gadgets, is a good choice for camping. If you have a question about a particular knife, ask the Scoutmaster. You may bring a knife on your first camping trip, but you must leave it in your pack until you earn your Totin' Chip.
- B. **AX AND HAND AX:** Do not bring your own ax. When a scout advances to Eagle Scout in Troop 72, he is presented with an official Boy Scout ax, and only Eagle Scouts may bring a personal ax on camping trips. The troop owns an ax, and your patrol may borrow it if needed.
- C. **SAW:** The troop owns several camp saws, and we suggest that your patrol check one out for each camping trip. In addition, a camp saw, sometimes called a bow saw, would be a handy piece of camping equipment for you to own. You can purchase a regular bow saw for under \$10.00 at any hardware store.

A regular bow saw may be difficult to carry, however, because of its shape, and because the blade is exposed, so you may have to make a cover for the blade. To solve those problems, you can purchase a "Sven" saw. A Sven saw has a red handle, and it collapses, so that when carried the blade is completely hidden inside the handle. A Sven saw (Sven is the brand name), will cost over \$20.00, and replacement blades are more expensive than regular bow saw blades.

own way). However, if parents do not want their son to participate in fund raising to earn his own dues, they may instead pay the \$40.00 directly to the troop. Whichever method parents choose, however, payment of the \$40.00 is required.

After the scout has earned his \$40.00 dues for the troop, (for example, by selling Christmas wreaths), the rest of the profits earned by additional sales are split between the scout and the troop in a formula established each year. Scouts have earned hundreds of dollars for their own use.

In addition, we also offer sales prizes each year, such as new tents, winter sleeping bags and backpacks.

OTHER FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES: In addition to our fall fund raising project to allow scouts to earn money to pay their own dues, we sometimes conduct one optional fund raising project in the spring, with all of the profits going to the scouts in the form of Scout Bucks. This allows the scouts to earn money for summer camp, camping equipment, special trips, and so on.

SCOUT BUCKS: When a scout participates in a troop project and earns money for his own use, those funds are known as Scout Bucks, and are put into the troop bank account in his name. Scout Bucks may be used to pay any activity fees, (such as summer camp), or to purchase scout uniforms or camping equipment, (such as a tent or sleeping bag). Scout Buck purchases must be approved by the parents and the Scoutmaster. Scout Bucks must be used before the scout leaves the troop.

FEES FOR CAMPING TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES: Generally, there are no fees to attend camping trips and other troop activities. However, if the troop attends an activity where someone else charges an attendance fee, such as a camporee, we may pass that fee on to the scouts.

When the troop goes camping, each scout must pay his share of the food purchased by his patrol. That fee is determined by the scouts themselves, based upon the menu they plan.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TROOP FINANCES

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE TROOP: The troop has determined that each scout should pay about \$40.00 per year (the amount may change from year to year), to help support the troop. This is in addition to the fee you paid to join. We hold a fund-raising activity in the fall of each year so that scouts can earn their own dues. We ask each scout to participate in the fund raising activity. (The Scout Law says that A Scout is Thrifty, and helps to pay his

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CAMPING TRIPS

ARRANGED BY PATROL: Transportation for troop trips is arranged by the patrols, and provided by parents. Troop adult leaders do not plan transportation for scouts.

TRIP TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORKSHEET: As part of the planning process for each trip, patrol members will ask their parents to drive to or from the trip, and will arrange enough rides for all patrol members attending that trip. They then must complete a *Transportation Planning Worksheet*

on which they list the name of each driver, how many scouts that driver is carrying, and obtain the initials of that driver on the form. No patrol may depart for a trip until that form is signed, initialed, and turned in. The patrol's Asst. Scoutmaster reviews and approves each patrol's transportation arrangements.

Most camping trips are 30 to 60 minutes driving time from Woodbury. Summer camp is about 2.5 hours away. Driving instructions and sometimes maps are provided via email prior to departure.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY: The following rules are strictly enforced: there must be a seat belt for each passenger, with no "sharing" of seat belts; no one may ride in the bed of a truck; all vehicles must be insured in compliance with Minnesota law; speed limits and other traffic laws must be observed; no one under age 18 may drive for a troop activity; and drivers under age 21 must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster.

HOW SCOUTING WORKS: THE PATROL METHOD:

THE PATROL METHOD: Scouting, unlike other youth organizations, is not a group of boys led by adults. Rather, we believe in developing leadership and responsibility in scouts by training them, and then allowing them to assume as much leadership as possible. For that reason, we use *The Patrol Method*, the cornerstone of the scouting program.

Troop members form their own patrols, groups of six to ten friends, and elect their own Patrol Leaders for a six-month term. Scouts then participate in troop meetings and camping trips as members of that patrol, rather than as just one of many troop members. In their patrols, Scouts learn to make plans, to carry out those plans, to share the work, and to solve their problems, all as members of the patrol.

"To get first class results, you have to give the boy leaders real, free-handed responsibility. If you only give partial responsibility, you will only get partial results."

*- Lord Robert S.S. Baden-Powell
Founder of Scouting*

Some of the things patrols do for themselves include electing their own leaders, planning menus for camping trips, purchasing their own food, cooking their own meals, making a duty roster and doing their own camp chores, and arranging their own transportation for camping trips.

Yes, adults could usually do these things much more efficiently. And in some troops, they do. But *when*

they do, the Scouts don't learn how to accept responsibility, how to take the initiative to identify and solve problems, how to resolve conflicts between themselves, and how to be leaders. Instead, they learn that someone else will take care of everything, that someone else will solve all of their problems, that they have no real responsibilities, and that all they have to do is show up and be entertained. Plenty of other organizations seem to be trying to teach our boys those things...we're not.

Instead, we give our Scouts real responsibility, which includes the freedom to make mistakes. In return, over time, we get real results.

CAN MY FRIENDS JOIN TROOP 72 AND MY PATROL?

In a word...yes. If you have friends who want to go camping with you, bring them to the next troop meeting. Your friends can join your patrol, and go camping with you and your patrol buddies.

NO BULLYING ALLOWED

Troop 72 is a safe place for you and friends to spend time. We absolutely do not allow older or bigger scouts to pick on or bully younger or smaller scouts.

This has never been a problem, and we intend to keep it that way. If you EVER feel that an older or bigger scout is bothering you or bullying you, you should immediately notify the Scoutmaster, your patrol's Assistant Scoutmaster, or any other adult in the troop. We will make sure that it stops, and that it never happens again.

YOUR PATROL'S ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER

Each patrol has an Assistant Scoutmaster who serves as an advisor for that patrol, and his name is on the last page of this booklet.

That Asst. Scoutmaster is here to make your first year in the troop comfortable, exciting and fun. He will spend time with you and your patrol at each troop meeting, help you prepare for camping trips, work with you on advancement, help you on camping trips, and assist you and your patrol in any way he can.

You should feel free to talk to your patrol's Asst. Scoutmaster whenever you have a question, have a problem, or need help. You can always talk to him at a troop meeting or activity, or call or email him between troop meetings and activities.

Any time that you see the word “Scoutmaster” in this booklet, (such as: “If you have any questions, ask the Scoutmaster”), it also means your patrol’s Asst. Scoutmaster.

However, you can always feel free to personally speak to, call or email the Scoutmaster.

LEAVING THE TROOP

If you later decide to leave the troop for any reason, you are expected to do two things:

- A. Personally notify both the Scoutmaster and your Patrol Leader that you are leaving. **It is not enough to ask someone else to notify them, or to just stop attending meetings. As a scout, you must accept this personal responsibility.**
- B. Pay any funds that you owe the troop; and return any equipment, books or other property that you have borrowed from the troop.

PARENT’S MEETING

Shortly after your first troop meeting we will hold a meeting for the parents of all new scouts. This meeting will occur during a regular troop meeting, and the Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman will brief parents on troop policies, camping trips, camping equipment, summer camp, and more; and will answer questions.

The date of this parent’s meeting is on the cover of this booklet.

QUESTIONS?

Call Scoutmaster David Hart at 763-391-8328, or email him at DAHart72@aol.com; or contact your patrol’s Assistant Scoutmaster.

Congratulations on joining Troop 72. You have taken the first step towards the many great adventures which lie ahead...camping, hiking, canoeing, backpacking, summer camp, and more.

We are glad to have you as a member of the troop.

Good Scouting!

WHERE YOU FIT INTO SCOUTING

My Council:

Northern Star Council

One of about 375 councils in the Boy Scouts of America. Northern Star Council serves the St. Paul and Minneapolis area, then north to Grantsburg, Wisconsin, into eastern Wisconsin, south to Cannon Falls, and west to the South Dakota border. We are the fifth-largest council in the entire Boy Scouts of America. You wear our council's patch at the top of the left sleeve of your scout shirt.
393 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102.
651-224-1891 www.NorthernStarBSA.org.

My District:

Riverwood District

One of 21 geographic districts in the Northern Star Council. Riverwood District serves the cities of Woodbury, Stillwater, Afton, Bayport, Lakeland, Marine on St. Croix, and Oak Park Heights. <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/riverwood/>

My Troop:

Troop 72

One of 6 troops in Woodbury; and one of 15 troops in the Riverwood District. <http://home.comcast.net/~troop72/>

My Scoutmaster:

David Hart

763-391-8328
DAHart72@aol.com
David Hart was a Boy Scout in Austin, Minnesota, (about 100 miles south of Woodbury), is an Eagle Scout, the father of an Eagle Scout, and has been a Scoutmaster for over 35 years.

**My Patrol's
Asst. Scoutmaster:**

Tom Hunter

651-459-8431
Tom Hunter was a Boy Scout in this area, is an Eagle Scout, and has served as both a Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmaster for many years.

My Patrol:

Write your patrol name above.

One of seven patrols in Troop 72.

My Patrol Leader:

Michael Burbank
651-769-0808
Scoutman606@comcast.net

My Asst. Patrol Leader

Tom D'Agostino
651-731-7611
Mdag@comcast.net

**My Troop's
Chartered Partner:**

Christ Episcopal Church
7305 Afton Road
Woodbury, Minnesota