



Troop 42/422

Parent information packet

Your family is probably asking how their Scout makes the transition to Scouts BSA. This document is designed to help with that process. The fifth grade year is the time to visit Scout Troops, ask questions, think about what you are looking for in a Scout Troop, and to decide which one to join.

Choosing the right Troop is an individual decision. Troops can vary in their focus and makeup. Members of a single den can end up going to two or three different Troops.

Encourage your Scout to join a Troop. After four to five years of Cub Scouts, your Scout may feel that he has experienced all there is in the program. But... Scouts BSA is a very different program full of new experiences. Encourage them to try it for a year to observe the differences.

Your fifth grade Webelos (AOL) Scout is able to join as soon as they have finished the Arrow of Light requirements. Your Scout will still be able to participate in the Arrow of Light crossover ceremony at the blue and gold in the spring.

National Scout policy requires the scout to visit at least one Troop meeting before joining Scouts BSA. We would encourage you to visit several Troops to learn the uniqueness of each. Select a Troop that fits the needs of your family. Below you will find Troop 42/422's answers to some very important questions; we encourage you to ask the same questions of other Troops. For your convenience we have put these questions available on our Troop website - www.troop42.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Question: How many registered Scouts?

T42/422 Response: Troop 42/422's average is 50+ scouts registered. January through May is a very active time around the Troop and this number is changing weekly because of new scouts.

Question: How many are active?

T42/422 Response: On a weekly basis we will have about 30 scouts at a meeting. The younger scouts attend almost all meetings. The older scouts have a lot of other weekly commitments but attend when they can. Some of these are high school age scouts still working towards their Eagle Scout rank.

Question: How many registered adults?

T42/422 Response: In 2022 we have more than 25 registered adults with the Troop.

Question: How many are active?

T42/422 Response: All of our adults are extremely active in all of BSA not just at the Troop level. We have two that are on the Hawkeye Area Council Scouts BSA of America Board of Directors, others who hold Red Cedar District positions and Council leadership positions, several act as merit badge counselors for the council Adapt-a-Merit-Badge program, and yet others act as volunteers throughout the year.

Question: What is the age distribution within the Troop?

T42/422 Response: Scouts BSA is for young people between the ages of 11 and 18. Most of our youth are at the lower end of that scale but we have some still working towards their Eagle up to 18.

FUNDING

Question: How is the Troop funded?

T42/422 Response: We are funded in several ways. Our primary funding comes from our annual pancake breakfast held on the first Sunday in February. Other funding comes from dues for each scout for the year and donations from both companies and individuals.

Question: Is there an opportunity for the scouts to earn money toward their expenses?

T42/422 Response: Yes, this is a very important part of the scouting program. We offer fundraising opportunity for the youth and others as they become available. The biggest and best is scouts can sell popcorn during the council's annual

popcorn sale. With this fundraiser the scout keeps 100% of the profit which is about 31% of his total sales. We have had scouts earn over \$1000 per year for their personal scouting use.

MEETINGS

Question: When, where, and how often?

T42/422 Response: We hold Troop meetings every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M., except the Monday following a campout when we hold a Troop committee meeting. Meetings are at St. Pius X church hall, 4949 Council St. N.E. (just west of Noelridge Park). Uniforms are "required" at all Troop meetings. Troop meetings are not held during school summer break to facilitate long-term camp, High Adventure activities, and to accommodate family vacations that are often planned for this time. We are still active during the summer with basically every other week Merit Badge Mondays.

Question: What is done at the meetings?

T42/422 Response: Our meetings are designed to have three parts: gathering and sharing of information, advancement requirements, and full Troop activity. Scouts work on merit badges and requirements for advancement at almost all Troop meetings. They also work on this advancement at our monthly campouts. Scoutmaster conferences and boards of review are held during our weekly meetings as needed. Scouts can advance as fast as they can complete requirements. If a Scout completes a rank, they will get their rank patch at that same meeting.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Question: What involvement is expected of the parent?

T42/422 Response: Your scout will not have a chance to succeed at anything in their life without the support and guidance of their parents. Some feel this support is coming to all meetings and not missing an activity. Some feel this support is just getting them to meetings and campouts. We would like all parents to come to the three Court of Honor meetings and any special Parent meetings called during the year as a minimum. All scouts and one adult will work the pancake breakfast.

Question: Can I be an adult leader in the Troop?

T42/422 Response: Simple answer is Yes Please! Troop 42/422 would not exist if adults did not step up and volunteer. Additional dedicated and trained adult leaders can only make the program stronger. Any volunteer must agree to take training and pay their own registration. Registration includes a council level background check.

COMMUNICATION

Question: How does the Troop communicate with the families?

T42/422 Response: Our primary method of communication is via email and our Web site. We also hold parent meetings each month and multiple Court of Honors each year.

Question: How do the families communicate with the Troop?

T42/422 Response: We believe highly in communication. We publicize the phone numbers, email addresses and physical addresses of all Troop committee members and encourage you to communicate any questions or concerns you have. You are always welcome to attend a weekly meeting or voice your concern at our monthly committee/parent meetings.

Question: Who makes the decisions?

T42/422 Response: A Scout BSA Troop is run by the youth leaders. These youth leaders make up what is called a PLC (Patrol Leaders Council). The heads of this council is the Senior Patrol Leader and his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. These scouts run all the meetings and activities at campouts. They confer with the other members of the PLC once a month for a planning meeting where they decide what to do during the meetings and where to go and what to do at the campouts. Other members of the PLC include each patrol leader, junior assistant scoutmaster, quartermaster and scribe. Most of these members are elected by their fellow scouts and serve six month terms.

CAMPING

Question: How often and where?

T42/422 Response: If you take scouting and drop the "sc" you have outing. Camping is a major part and one of the most popular parts of Scouts. Troop 42/422 has campouts every month during the school year at camping facilities all around eastern Iowa and surrounding states. These decisions are made by the youth and are subject to change. We also attend a week at Scout Summer Camp at the Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation just south of Central City, Iowa. Take a look at our high adventure section below for some of the best experiences in your life.

Question: Is this done through individual Troop planning and/or as participation at a district event?

T42/422 Response: Everything is planned by the current PLC. We give the PLC some guidance and encourage them to attend certain council and district events along the way. We also suggest some camping facilities around that they may not be aware of.

Question: How are the Scouts transported?

T42/422 Response: This is one of the biggest differences between us and other Scout Troops. Troop 42/422 owns its own bus and custom equipment trailer. This allows everyone to attend activities as one. Everyone has a chance to share with the rest of the Troop to and from each activity. This also saves wear and tear on personal vehicles and saves the Troop from finding vehicles to get to each activity.

Question: What equipment is provided?

T42/422 Response: The Troop has a huge inventory of camping equipment that is used each month. We provide all tents, stoves and cooking items, axes and saws, ropes, lanterns and anything else needed by the general Troop. The youth only need to bring their sleeping bag, clothes, and personal grooming supplies.

Question: What parent participation is expected?

T42/422 Response: We usually have several parents attend our campouts. We encourage all to do so at some point but this is not required. The biggest thing is to make sure your scout comes to the campouts because this is where we work on advancement. Scouts that camp stay in the program and reap the benefits.

HIGH ADVENTURE

Question: Does the Troop attend National High Adventure camps?

T42/422 Response: Absolutely! This again is one of the biggest differences between us and the others. We have a three year high adventure rotation that allows families to plan well in advance. We attend Philmont, the pinnacle of all scouting high adventures, located in the rocky mountains of northern New Mexico; Sea Base, located in the beautiful Florida Keys where we explore the world underneath; National Jamboree, we join 40,000 other scouts at The Summit in West Virginia; our final high adventure trip is to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in northern Minnesota for a week of canoeing. We rotate between these. Check out our website for what we have in mind for the coming years.

Question: How is participation funded?

T42/422 Response: Some pay for this entirely with the funds they have earned through popcorn sales and others have most paid by their parents. We have several places that we can steer families for scholarships. This usually will not cover everything but we have had scouts earn \$1000 in one year to both cover the trip and necessary gear.

ADVANCEMENT

Question: Is there a plan to help the Scout earn the requirements for the lower ranks?

T42/422 Response: All adult advisors of the Troop take advancement seriously and help in many ways. If a scout shows up to meetings and campouts and applies them self our history shows that they will advance.

Question: Is this done at meetings, extra meetings, campouts etc.?

T42/422 Response: We work on advancement up to 1st class at our weekly meetings and monthly campouts. Please note, many requirements need to be done on a campout. We also hold Scoutmaster conferences and boards of review during our weekly meetings.

Question: Is there a plan to help the Scout obtain merit badges for the upper ranks?

T42/422 Response: We work on merit badges at almost all Troop meetings. We also attend multiple merit badge workshops throughout the year where they can usually earn a merit badge in one day. Troop 42/422 has a merit badge coordinator who will help arrange for any merit badge a scout has interest in. Many adults in the Troop are registered merit badge councilors. We have had over 160 scouts reach the rank of Eagle. We cannot guarantee the rank of Eagle to any scout but history shows those that attend our campouts and meetings and have the desire will reach the top rank in Troop 42/422.

SERVICE

Question: Does the Troop do service for the community?

T42/422 Response: Service is one of the requirements for every rank in scouting from 2nd Class to Eagle. We perform

service projects for churches, schools, camps and nature areas just to mention a few. We also have multiple Eagle projects every year where our Troop alone gives over 1000 hours to the community.

LEADERSHIP

Question: What opportunities does the Scout have for leadership?

T42/422 Response: Troop 42/422's number one goal is to train and develop future leaders. Scout Troops are youth led. These youth leaders make up what is called a PLC (Patrol Leaders Council). The heads of this council are the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. They run all the meetings and activities at campouts. They convene with the other members of the PLC once a month for a planning meeting where they decide what to do during the meetings, and where to go and what to do at the campouts. Other members of the PLC include each patrol leader, junior assistant scoutmaster (appointed by SM), quartermaster, and scribe. All of these members are elected by their fellow scouts and serve six-month terms. Other leadership opportunities are chaplain aide, historian, bugler, librarian, Troop guide, den chief, OA Troop representative and assistant patrol leader.

Question: Within the Troop? Outside the Troop?

T42/422 Response: The above mentioned leadership opportunities are within the Troop but there are numerous opportunities outside as well. Den Chief is a popular leadership position that doesn't require election and there are a number of opportunities within the Order of the Arrow which is a Scout Scout honor society.

Welcome to the world of Scouts BSA - where outdoor adventure, service projects, and opportunities for leadership will give youth the experiences and responsibilities that will help them mature. The knowledge and attitudes they develop as a Scout will spill over into the rest of their life. And this is all accomplished through fun and friendship.

Please contact any Troop 42/422 family and ask them about their experience with Troop 42/422.

Key contacts within the Troop concerning membership are:

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