

RANDOM ADVICE

From Troop 984 parents after their first year in Boy Scouts

Keep this folder and its contents for future reference. The first few months of Boy Scouts can feel overwhelming, and you will receive lots of information and advice. Refer back to this folder, browse the troop website, and ASK other parents.

Keep all the cards, pins, patches, information, etc., when your son earns a rank advancement or merit badge in a safe place.

Make a copy of the rank advancement pages of your son's scout book before every campout so if he loses or damages his book you will still have record of your son's advancements.

Don't worry about everything right now. Not all scouts have the same goals. Let your scout's first few months be about FUN and learning the troop methods. One rule of thumb is to encourage scouts to focus on camping and rank advancements for the first year (first class by first year) and pick up Merit Badges starting around Summer Camp.

Feed your scout dinner before every campout. We usually leave around 5:30 but they will not eat a full *meal* with the troop until Saturday breakfast (snack usually offered Friday).

SUMMER CAMP IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. This year our troop will be at Camp Tomahawk in Birchwood, WI from July 30 – August 6. More info to come soon.

Don't compare your scout to others. Unlike in Cub Scouts, your son won't necessarily earn rank or merit badges at the same pace as other scouts. That's okay.

Do NOT buy a bunch of new gear or high adventure supplies for your scout's first campout. Chances are he has most of what he really needs for now and you can build his gear supply in time. Most important for first campout: good sleeping bag (especially if it will be cold), layers of clothes, rain poncho/gear, flashlight/head lamp, water bottle, small first aid kit. Most of these basic supplies are available at your house, Walmart, Sports Authority, Bass Pro, Cabela's (scout discount), or the scout shop.

Respect the boy-led program. Give your scout some space for the first few months as they learn to work within the patrol method. You can still be present and involved by attending troop meetings, committee meetings, and parent forums.

Let your son grow in this program. The best experience will come from the scout taking on responsibility for his progress and accomplishments. This might mean he makes a few mistakes or forgets a few times before he figures it out. Encourage him to talk to other scouts.

Important Dates & Contacts

Troop Meetings every Thursday 7-8:30 p.m. in DPC gymnasium*

(Refer to Troop Calendar on <http://www.troop984.scoutlander.com> for most updated info)

*Thursday, March 3, 6:30	First Troop Meeting for New Scouts, Special Early Start! New Parent Forum starts at 7:15 in Choir Room (basement of church)
Thursday, March 10	Parent Forum during regular Troop Meeting (How Your Scout Should Pack for Greenhorn)
Thursday, March 17	Parent Forum during regular Troop Meeting (questions about summer camp, scout advancements, etc.)
Fri-Sun, March 18-20	Greenhorn Campout, all first-year scouts need to attend, first-year parents can visit Sunday morning for pick-up
Date TBD	Parent/Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. in church basement B-5, all parents welcome
*Thursday, March 24	No Troop Meeting (Maundy Thursday)
Thursday, March 31	Court of Honor during Troop Meeting 7 p.m. in gym
Thursday, April 7	Parent Forum during regular Troop Meeting (questions about April campout, boards of review, etc.)
Fri-Sun, April 15-16	Nuclear Science Campout
Monday, April 18	Parent/Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. in church basement B-5, all parents welcome
Thursday, May 5	Parent Forum during regular Troop Meeting
Monday, May 16	Parent/Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. in church basement B-5, all parents welcome
Fri-Sun, May 20-22	Spring Camporee Campout

Fri-Sun, Jun 17-19

Zip lining Campout

Fri-Sun, July TBD

Raging Rivers Campout

Sat-Sun, July 30-Aug 6

Summer Camp, Camp Tomahawk, Birchwood, WI

Points of Contact

Scott Mitchell, Scoutmaster: smitchaccess@gmail.com

Rob Morrison, Committee Chair: morrisonwustl@gmail.com

Carrie Becher, Adult Volunteer: carrie@becher.net