



The POTAWATOMI DISTRICT PARENTS' GUIDE TO SCOUTING

As the parent of a new Boy Scout, you are starting your son on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.



“On my Honor ...”

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility

Prepared by the Potawatomi District Committee, August, 2006

- the promise of Scouting is all this and more.**
SCOUTING promises you the great outdoors
SCOUTING promises you friendship
SCOUTING promises you opportunities
SCOUTING promises you preparation
SCOUTING promises you experiences

Are you ready for the adventure to begin?



**Your son is joining a Troop within the Potawatomi District.
Congratulations to both of you!**

**We realize that his decision to join Scouting is a reflection
of your interest in the program and the realization that
Scouting helps develop leadership skills for his lifetime.
For this commitment we sincerely thank you.**

**Your son will be exposed to many experiences that we
hope will interest and mature him. Your advice and
encouragement are necessary and critical for him to stay
active in Scouting and to fully develop his natural abilities.**

Later in this welcome package, we will outline our Council, each of the three Districts and where to find everything you will need to help make his experience a life-long success.

We are so happy you have chosen this fun, exciting and worthwhile youth program and hope you will have many happy and rewarding years participating in it. Welcome.

As your family continues on its path within Scouting, this package will be a handy reference for:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Registration | Leadership Roles |
| Troop Meetings | Dues & Boys' Life Magazine |
| Advancement | Boards of Review |
| Courts of Honor | Service Projects |
| Youth Protection | Safe Scouting |
| Camping | Uniforms & Camping Gear |
| Training | Northeast Illinois Council |
| Friends of Scouting | Your District Team |



REGISTRATION

First things first. Your son *must* register with the Boy Scouts of America. Registration will give your Troop's Leadership important information about your son and his basic health. The National Boy Scout Council will post his membership in the national database for advancement recognition (he could

be an Eagle one day!) and his subscription to Boys' Life and other publications. In other respects, upon registration, your son will be covered by the Council liability insurance policy.

You should have received the registration at the recruiting meeting or you can get one from the troop or the Council Service Center in Highland Park.

LEADERS and LEADERSHIP SELECTION

By now you should know who your troop's leaders are and perhaps you have been in contact with them regarding upcoming meetings.



The adult leadership will generally consist of the Scoutmaster, one or more Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Troop Committee including at least the Committee Chair, the Secretary and Treasurer. The adults involved in your unit are most often parents, just like you who have stepped forward to offer their skills to help provide the Promise of Scouting to your son and to the other scouts in his troop. You are encouraged and expected to participate along with the other adults to provide a quality program and to develop leadership skills for our youth.

Don't be concerned if you feel that you aren't ready to lead a group of boys. You will find an entire cadre of experienced, volunteer trainers to help make your experience great for the troop and fun and rewarding for you. (see training, below).

TROOP MEETINGS

The troop meeting calendar will vary slightly from one unit to the next, but generally, you can expect that your son will be asked to participate in three or four weekly meetings each month. In some troops, the number drops to three weekly

meetings when there has been a campout that month. Your son should arrive on time and in the uniform that the troop has chosen. You may stay at the meetings only if you have become a registered Leader or have been asked to stay and help by the Scoutmaster. Most troop meetings last from 60-90 minutes.

DUES and BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE

Your troop is likely to ask for annual dues which will help offset the cost of patches, merit badge literature and material, troop camping equipment, teaching supplies, registration fees and so much more. All of the dues paid to the troop stay within the unit for the benefit of its scouting program. You may also be asked to subscribe to Boys' Life Magazine. This national publication is nearly as old as scouting itself and its pages are filled with exciting and motivating stories, games and important news that your scout will enjoy reading each month. The issues he receives are age appropriate for his position.

ADVANCEMENT and RECOGNITION

Two of the most important tools that scouting uses to teach leadership skills and self-reliance are advancement and immediate recognition. Moving through the ranks and being publicly applauded has been, for almost 100 years, an important aspect of teaching boys to set and complete the goals to which they have made a commitment.



BOARDS OF REVIEW

As scouts complete the requirements for each rank, the Scoutmaster, in his role as quality control for the troop, holds a Scoutmaster Conference with each boy. If the Scout is sufficiently prepared to advance, a Board of Review will be convened to, well, do just that, review the progress and

Scout Spirit of each candidate. The Boards are made up of adults from the troop and occasionally by senior scouts. Parents of any particular boy, his Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters are not invited to sit on the Board.

As you find your way in the unit and look for ways to become involved, you may find that sitting on a Board of Review is wonderfully rewarding and a great way to get started and to meet other adults and the scouts as well.

COURTS OF HONOR

Advancement and recognition are so important to the Aims of Scouting that only a special ceremony is fitting and formal enough to carry it off. The Court of Honor is typically convened two or three times each year. This is the occasion where everyone is in complete uniform, parents and guests are all invited, food is served and the scouts are in full anticipation mode. You are expected to attend and support not only your son, but all the scouts in the troop as well. Come, you'll have a great time! Don't forget your camera.



SERVICE and SERVICE PROJECTS

Another of the Aims of Scouting involves service to the community and to the family. Each scout and scouting unit is involved in service projects such as: Scouting for Food, volunteering time at a retirement community, planting trees on public land to be enjoyed by everyone, repairing a bike path and restoring it to safe use. By participating in community service projects, your son will develop a sense of volunteerism; he will begin to understand that there is more to life than one's



self. The Scout Oath states in part “To help other people at all times”.



Service takes on further meaning when your son, or you, is chosen by others to become a member of the Order of the Arrow, which is scouting’s honor society. You will learn much more about OA if you are given this honor.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America has zero-tolerance regarding any condition that would put our youth in jeopardy. Hazing, corporal punishment, non-inclusion, inappropriate contact, private meetings between adults and scouts and other negative situations are forbidden in the scouting program. In fact, we feel so strongly about protecting our scouts that we have developed training programs to teach scouts to Recognize, Resist and Report potential abuse. We also require the unit leaders who work with boys to successfully complete Youth Protection Training. Two-deep leadership, well-trained adults leaders and a sincere effort to monitor changes in behavior are but a few of the ways we intend to protect your child.



THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

Yes, you will find it all in a book. In addition to our Youth Protection Training programs, the National Council has compiled an ever-revised guide to keeping scouting safe. The Guide to Safe Scouting (available at the Scout Shop within the Service Center in Highland Park or online at neic.org) is the definitive source to reference what is allowed in the scouting program and what isn’t. It contains the information you will need to know if your unit is properly trained to take the troop on a water-based activity or to go

climbing. Is go carting allowed? What are the rules for archery or shooting sports – is hunting *ever* permitted? Now you know where to find the answers.

CAMPING

Someone once said, *Camping puts the Outing in Scouting*. Clever that they were so able to put a finger on one of the most compelling reasons boys have to join scouting (properly building fires and learning to safely handle knives are some of the others). Your unit should be camping overnight at least nine times each year. The trips should be close enough to get there after school on a Friday night, but far enough away to create special memories. They can be held in good weather or be a teaching moment if it is raining while the boys are pitching their tents. Each campout typically has a theme. It might be a merit badge structure like emergency preparedness or wilderness survival or the hiking badge. It could be a weekend of canoeing on the Kankakee River, or a 50-mile bike campout at Horicon Marsh. How about repelling at Devil's Lake in Wisconsin?



While packs, troops, teams and crews camp throughout the Midwest and around the country, your Council owns or provides four amazing campgrounds for our scouts to use.

Dan Beard Woods – Dan Beard is located within and leased from the Cook County Forest Preserve, in Northbrook. Our Council manages the 80 acre facility that consists of forest and fields and include a cabin and tent sites. This facility is particularly well suited for one-day outings, training, weekend unit campouts and camp-o-rees. It is ideally suited for winter camping with its access to a heated cabin.

Camp Oakarro – Oakarro is also located within our Council boundaries near Wadsworth, Illinois. This property has 40 acres of wooded land with two ponds, a

large open field, campsites and an open shelter. Weekend camp-outs, Scout Reach Day, Webelos Woods and winter (outdoor) camping. Scout events keep the woods filled with the sounds of Scouts having fun year-round.

Camp Crown - Just over the state line in Wilmot, Wisconsin, Camp Crown has 146 acres of rolling hills with wooded and open areas, numerous campsites and a heated shelter to make weekend campouts a memorable experience for scouts. This facility is used for training, weekend activities, capture the flag, unit campouts, Camp-O-Rees, Webelos Woods and winter camping such as OKPIK.



Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation - Located 25 miles northeast of Antigo, Wisconsin (some five hours north of our District), Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation includes 1,560 acres of beautiful forest, two lakes and a natural creek. On this property our Council operates two full-service camps, plus a wilderness camp, a horse ranch and a family camp. During the summer months, Boy Scouts and Venturers attend camp for one or two weeks. Many of our Order of the Arrow programs happen here in the summer as well. Winter camping at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is an experience that will remain with scouts for years to come.

Whatever the goal, campouts are far more than just fun times. They are the practical, the lab for what is taught in the troop. The boys are having fun and hardly notice how much they are learning. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, once said, "Scouting is a game – with a purpose!"

UNIFORMS

Why do scouts and Scouters (adult leaders are referred to as Scouters) wear uniforms? Why is it so important to wear the uniforms properly? What are your thoughts when you are out and come across a group of scouts in uniform? Scouts belong to an organization that has, as its aim, a purpose that is much bigger than just the scouts themselves. The uniform shows that they belong. The rank patch recognizes advancement on the left pocket. A uniformed adult properly wears the uniform to set the example for the troop.



CAMPING GEAR

Your Scout must learn to be prepared. For a campout, your job is to help make that possible. Here is a list of camping gear in which you might want to invest. While higher price normally brings greater quality, careful selection of appropriate gear for particular activities is actually the real goal.

TENTS –There are several great rules for selecting a tent for your son or for you and your son to enjoy. However, you might want to save that information for non-scout camping. Your son's troop should supply all the tents for the scouts to use to provide them with shelter, a measure of privacy and a safe place to keep their personal gear (see how well your annual dues are paying off?).

SLEEPING BAGS - Generally speaking a poly-fill bag will be all that your son will need. Don't over-spend on a down bag unless or until he will be involved in extended cold weather or backpacking camping. Sleeping bags only last about five years and then you'll be looking for a new one. If you do camp in the cold, a



winter bag rated at 0 degrees is fine. Be careful though. The same bag that was so warm and comfortable in the middle of February can be absolutely uncomfortable in July at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. It is often better to get a moderately rated bag and employ a fleece liner for lower temperatures. A stuff bag is a great way to transport an otherwise large sleeping bag, but for storage at home, a less compressing storage bag will give a longer life to your investment.

GROUND PAD – One of the most important items in your camp sack is what you will sleep on. A quality ground pad will provide insulation from the ground temperature, provide a more comfortable night's sleep and better preparation for a busy day to follow and it will help keep your sleeping bag, and your son, dry. Another, successful alternative, especially for adults, is a portable cot. Be sure the cot breaks down to a small, easily carried package. You should look for a breathable material upon which to lie and a stiff external rail to support you.

FLASHLIGHTS – A great flashlight choice today is the multiple LED headlight. A high, medium and low setting will extend battery life. As a backup, you might consider a small LED flashlight that can be hung from the belt. The advantage of the LED is that the bulbs last over 10,000 hours and use about 1/10 of the battery that the older incandescent lamps used.

CLOTHING – Other than for extreme camping and hiking, everyday clothes that can be layered is a key to comfort in the outdoors. By removing or adding layers, your son will be able to adjust his warmth as the day progresses. Outdoor

waterproof or water resistant footwear should be considered a must. Tennis or gym shoes easily get wet and are very difficult to dry out on the trail. Additionally, hiking boots will offer greater grip on rough surfaces and more support for climbing. Pants must be comfortable for all day wear, but be able to dry quickly in



wet weather. Therefore on a raining day, jeans may not be the best choice. Perhaps a nylon shell might be an improvement. Under the pants and shirt, there are plenty of choices that will wick moisture away from the body and hold up much better come nightfall.

A nylon shell with a fleece lining works well as a basic outdoor jacket. Add a poly-fleece vest underneath and you have a very workable combination for fall and spring camping. Poly-fleece, nylon and wool are fabrics that are preferred on the trail.

STOVES and LANTERNS – As with tents, for scout camping the troop should have all the stoves and lanterns your son will need.

RAIN GEAR - Rubberized rain suits can be effective, but the price may be the internal heat they can generate. A breathable nylon jacket and pants may be a good investment. Umbrellas just don't work well in the woods.

SHOPPING – Shopping at stores that have the best selection is often the preferred way to shop frugally. Many large chains such as Dick's, REI, Gander Mountain and even some local stores offer Scouts a 10% discount when you show your registration card. Online sources can be a good choice as well.

TRAINING

Within the Potawatomi District and throughout the Northeast Illinois Council, adult Leader training is available and encouraged for *all* Scouter positions. You can easily find the training course you need listed in one of several places.

Your first stop should always be the Council website (neic.org). This site is sure to be your most current and up-to-date source. You will find the same information printed in the annual Council calendar that is distributed each spring. Finally, dates can be found at your District Roundtable in Wilmette and within the Council publication, Scouting Around.



We believe that every scout deserves a trained Leader. Does your son deserve anything less? Do his fellow Scouts? National studies have shown that boys in a unit with trained leaders stay in scouting longer and are more likely to learn leadership skills while there. Interestingly, trained leaders tend to stay in Scouting longer as well – and have much more fun!



These are the training requirements for the registered Boy Scout leader positions. Upon completion of your training continuum, you will be entitled to wear the coveted “Trained” patch on your uniform.

Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters

- Fast Start Video (short video, for all new Leaders)
- New Leader Essentials (90 minute, live course)
- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specifics Course (8 hour, classroom style training with multimedia)
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills Course (a weekend long camping experience emulating Tenderfoot through First Class rank requirements)

Troop Committee Members

- Fast Start Video
- New Leader Essentials
- Troop Committee Challenge (3 hour, position specific course with extensive interaction)

NORTHEAST ILLINOIS COUNCIL

Our Council, Northeast Illinois, is officially designated as Council #129. This is the unit number you will see on the uniforms of staff members at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. But, don't let the relatively high number fool you. Of the 330

Councils in the United States, ours is the oldest west of the Alleghany Mountains. In fact, our Council was founded in the very same year as the Boy Scouts of America itself – 1910!



The Scout Service Center is located at 2745 Skokie Valley Road (Route 41, just North of Route 22), in Highland Park. The main telephone number is 847-433-1813, the fax is 847-433-2036. For seasonal hours of operation, Council and District calendars, scouting links, training, Order of the Arrow and so much more, bookmark the website, neic.org.

At the Service Center, you will find the Scout Shop. Here you can purchase uniforms and patches, books and videos, camping gear and advancement insignia. Additionally, the Council professional staff and their support staff have offices here as well. You can call or visit the Center to get the answers and support you need to provide the very best Scouting program to the youth in your Troop.



Our Council Executive, John Mosby, has his office at the Center, as do our two District professionals, Chad Dillon and Elliot Bennett. They can be reached at 847-433-1813.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

During the Scouting year, you will hear the phrase, FOS or Friends of Scouting and not be familiar with its purpose. The annual Friends of Scouting campaign is the Council program to raise the funds needed to cover the shortfall in offering scouting to your community. A year's worth of scouting has a cost of well over \$100.00 per Scout. This is the total to maintain our four campgrounds, support the Service Center and our Council employees, provide accident insurance for each registered scout and Scouter, Council and District program activities, publications distributed without cost and so many other items necessary to keep scouting alive in Northeast Illinois. FOS also permits us to offer financial assistance for those who need help in order to participate. We hope that when you are asked to support the overall operations of your son's program during the year, that you will also "do your best" to help.



YOUR DISTRICT TEAM

By now you have seen that your family has joined a troop that is part of the Northeast Illinois Council. However, for ease of support and many activities, your Council is divided into three different Districts. Your District, Potawatomi, encompasses the Evanston, New Trier and Glenbrook School Districts. North of us is the Aptakisic District – from Lake Cook Road north through Highwood and part of Buffalo Grove. Where Aptakisic leaves off, the North Star District takes over and extends right up to the Wisconsin state line.



We all know that you, your son, your troop, everyone in scouting, needs help and support to “get'er done”. Listed below are the key members of our District, their areas of responsibility and how to contact them. And, please do. If

you do not contact us, how can we help you develop the very finest scouting program available for our youth?

DISTRICT DIRECTORY 2007-2008

Check the NEIC website for changes in other years

District Chairman	Jeff Brooks	jsbrooks@msn.com
District Commissioner	Gary Aschenbrenner	aschen2004@msn.com
District Vice-Chairman	Buff Hoffberg	buff636@comcast.net
Advancement Chair	George Sullivan	gsullivan@ilvc.org
Boy Scout Program Chair	Steve Ash	stephen.w.ash@jpmchase.com
Cub Scout Program Chair	Ann Yee	kessseff@comcast.net
Finance Chair	Vacant	
FOS Co-Chairs	Lisa Betz	lbetz1063@sbcglobal.net
	Carol Schuster	casdolphin@mail.com
Membership Co-Chairs	Susan Lee	minkuslee@sbcglobal.net
	Happy O'Brien	tbirdgforce@yahoo.com
Order of the Arrow	Bill Eidson	weidson@kkpsi.org
Training Chair	Edna Schrank	eschrank@comcast.net
Venturing Chair	Wayne Clayton	wayne.clayton@comcast.net

Council Scout Executive	John Mosby	mosby.john@bsamail.org
Potawatomi District Director	Chad Dillon	cdillon@neic.org
Potawatomi District Executive	Elliot Bennett	elbennet@neic.org

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program for character development and values-based leadership training. In the future, Scouting will continue to:

- **offer young people responsible fun and adventure**
- **instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law**
- **train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership. serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program**

“On my Honor, I will do my Best”

