

Information for Parents & Scouts New to Troop 1681

1. Goals of Troop 1681: To instill in youth the value of character, and to have fun along the way.
2. As you begin with us, begin with the end in mind: have a goal to work towards. Eagle Scout?
3. To help the adults and youth find out a little about each Scout we have a survey for the new Scout to fill out. See "Getting to Know You."
4. We are a little different. We ask that all families have a subscription to Scout Life magazine. There are articles that can be used to further the purposes and activities of our Troop. Nationally, it has been found that those who read it stay in longer and progress further.
5. We are a uniformed Troop. We ask all to be fully uniformed. Think of a sports team: does the coach allow players to go out on the field or court in a partial uniform? We want each to wear their uniform thus showing their commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting and recognize it as one of America's greatest youth organizations.
6. We take attendance weekly, based primarily on how much of a full uniform is worn. If a full uniform is worn weekly, root beer floats are awarded on the first week of the next month.
7. A Troop neckerchief and woggle are part of the uniform. They stand for our Troop and its goals.
8. Two Troop T-Shirts are available, the one to be worn to be worn varies on the outing, activity, or service project.
9. Our Troop meetings are held weekly. The time is broken into several parts, including an opening and closing ceremony, songs, jokes, review of first aid and knot skills, work on advancement, and a game. Twice a year the Scouts vote on their preference of monthly themes for the next six months. Our monthly outing is usually a culmination of that month's focus on that theme. We usually work on a merit badge each month associated with that theme, for those who are first class or higher in rank.
10. Campouts are held most months, towards the end of the month, usually at varied sites relatively close by. We leave on Fridays by 4:00 pm and return by about 4:00 the next day. The Scouts get to experience cooking three meals on these outings. Our outings periodically include hikes of 5-15 miles in length as we work towards the Hiking and/or Backpacking MB.
11. Our advancement time during weekly meetings is divided into two parts. Those who are not yet first class will have instruction time individualized towards passing off requirements for their next rank. Those who are first class or higher in rank will participate in a merit badge class.
12. We sponsor monthly merit badge classes for Scouts in Hurricane and St. George. They are held on Thur. at the Hurricane Rec Center from 7:00-8:30 pm, usually on the 2nd and 4th weeks, depending on the school schedule.
13. To help expedite those working towards first class, periodically a list is sent home of work that can be done at home and passed off by parents.
14. Our courts of honor are scheduled quarterly. As ranks and badges are earned, we strive to be able to present them to the Scouts at the next Troop meeting. We present the cards for those awards and the mother's pins at the courts of honor, doubly recognizing the accomplishments.
15. At our first court of honor for the new year we award four engraved plaques recognizing our a) first aid skills champion, b) knot skills champion, c) best camper, and d) most impressive Scout.
16. Three times a year we hold a Scout Auction. The young men earn Scout Bucks for their participation and advancement. Some of the items we auction may be trivial, others are valuable equipment items.
17. We have three variations of patrols: a) New Scouts for those working towards their first class rank, b) those who are first class and star rank, c) and two patrols for those who are life and Eagle rank.
18. We strive to have a Scout-run adult-advised Troop. A senior patrol leader and assistant are in place. A patrol leader and assistant lead each patrol. Appointed leaders are assigned for other duties which qualify

them for leadership positions needed for advancement in the upper ranks. Leadership positions are rotated every six months. Patrol meetings are a part of most of the Troop meetings. A patrol leaders council is scheduled monthly to address the upcoming business of the Troop including the planning of the next month's meetings. A portion of that meeting is devoted to teaching leadership skills to the youth leaders.

19. We have a few fundraising events during the course of the year: a) Selling of mounted U.S. flags with a hole drilled at curbside during April/May, b) emptying trash containers at Peach Days in Sept. and c) selling of Christmas wreaths during Sep/Oct. These efforts are intended to 1) help offset the cost of Council summer camps, 2) reduce the family out of pocket expenses of annual re-registering, 3) assist the Scouts in acquiring Scouting personal equipment, and raise funds for the Troop itself.
20. Our list of anticipated expenses provides a breakdown of the costs associated with being a part of our Troop. It is an expensive endeavor to be a part of Scouting anymore. We try to be upfront with all as to what those costs are.
21. Each badge and materials for activities have a cost associated with them. To meet those expenses, we ask for \$25 in dues for the year. For the new year Registration fees will be \$86, the New Scout joining fee will be \$25, Scout Life subscription will be \$15, and dues will bring the total to \$151. Last year one of our more ambitious Scouts sold several flags, worked at Peach Days, and sold Christmas wreaths reducing his parent's out of pocket costs to only \$13.
22. Equipment for the Troop: we have slowly acquired some nice items for our outings – Dutch ovens, Camp Chefs, patrol cook boxes, ice chests, totes for food, tables to eat off of, GPS units, lots of rope, poles for lashing, etc. When backpacking we have small portable stoves, pots and pans, and a group-sized water filter.
23. We do not have any Troop tents. Scouts are to have their own. This brings the responsibility of maintenance and care of the tent to its owner. Unless household members are on the outing, we normally discourage multiple individuals in the same tent.
24. Troop Trailer: Rotary Club was generous enough to purchase a new trailer for us in 2021. We have had it wrapped in a design our Scouts chose. On the back is an ongoing list of name and dates of those who have earned their Eagle Scout Award while in our Troop. Cooking items are kept in the trailer and space is available to transport personal gear for our outings.
25. Personal Equipment for the Scout: we have developed a list of items we recommend for every Scout to acquire. Some are needed for each outing: tent, sleeping bag, ground pad, eating utensils, flashlight, knife, etc. Others are to be acquired as needed and as finances allow. We do not recommend purchasing the lowest cost equipment just to save money. Our list includes quality equipment, which with proper care, will last for many years. See "Recommended Personal Equipment List."
26. Summer Camp is a week-long experience, at a staffed Council Camp, usually during June. Work on advancement and merit badges is one outcome of that week. Another is the experience of being with other Scouts for several days in a row along with being away from home for that lengthy time period.
27. Transportation of Scouts and equipment on outings. We always can use help in this area. Parents are needed to camp with us and help with transportation. However, Scouting policy prohibits younger children, who are not registered members of the Troop from participating.
28. Ongoing Parental Help: this is critical for the success of our large Troop. Adults are needed as assistant scoutmasters for each patrol to serve as advisers to the youth, to guide them in their decisions, to help them carry out their duties and plans, and be with them on campouts and summer camp. Adults are also needed on the Troop Committee as we have many small duties which are intended to lighten the loads of the scoutmaster and assistants. Mothers are highly effective Committee members. See "Survey of Parents" for a list of our adult needs.