TROOP 52 NEWSLETTER July 13, 2025



The Lakeway Church | Bee Cave District | Capitol Area Council

Troop Meeting

July 14, 2025; 7PM

Kayaking & Annual Plan Rollout

@ The Lakeway Church

Monthly Campout

July 26, 2025 - 7:30AM-2PM

Kayaking MB on Lake Travis

Kayaking with Austin Paddleboard & Kayak

PLC Meeting

July 28, 2025

Patrol Leaders Conference (PLC)

Implementing Annual Plan

@ The Lakeway Church

Parent's Meeting

June 29, 2025; 7PM-9PM TBD

All Adults/Parent's Invited

Formerly known as the Committee Meeting

@ The Lakeway Church

Troop 52 Annual Plan Summary July 2025 – June 2026

Overview: Troop 52, a very active Boy Scout Troop based at Lakeway Church in Lakeway, Texas, emphasizes leadership development, community service, and outdoor adventures. The troop meets every Monday at 7:00 PM in the Parish Life Center (except after campouts) and focuses on fostering skills for Scouts in grades 5 through high school, with a strong tradition of producing Eagle Scouts.

TROOP 52 VISION STATEMENT: TROOP 52 IS DEDICATED TO FORGING LEADERS THROUGH ENGAGING ADVENTURES AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

Monthly Breakdown

- July 2025:
 - Weekly Meetings: Regular Monday meetings at 7:00 PM at Lakeway Church for planning, merit badge work, and skill development.
 - Outdoor Activity (July 26, 2025): Kayaking on Lake Travis
 - Leadership: Annual Planning Meeting on July 12, 2025
- August 2025:
 - **Weekly Meetings**: Continued focus on merit badge progress and preparation for fall activities.
 - Court of Honor: A formal event to recognize Scout achievements, including rank advancements and merit badges. Scouts may volunteer for speaking roles
 - Monthly Campout: Electronic Lock-in @ Lakeway
 Church Auguts 8-9, 2025
- September 2025:
 - Weekly Meetings: Continued focus on merit badge progress and preparation for fall activities.

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Summer Camp Notes

TBD

SUMMER CAMPER 2026

Recruiting an adult to serve as Scouter In Charge and potential locations for next year's Summer Camp. Stay tuned!!!

TROOP MEETING LOCATION:

Lakeway Church Fellowship Hall



• **Campout**: A troop-organized campout, including activities like Flyfishing.

October 2025:

- Weekly Meetings: Continued focus on merit badge progress and preparation for fall activities.
- Campout: Balmorhea & McDonald Observatory;
 October 17-19, 2025
- Order of the Arrow: Fall Assembly Oct. 3-5, 2025
- Shred Day Fundraiser (October 18, 2025): A major troop fundraiser where Scouts assist in shredding confidential documents at Lakeway Church (8:00 AM–12:00 PM). Scouts are required to attend in Class A uniforms. This event supports troop activities and may provide service hours for "Cavs in Service" or National Honor Society (not for rank advancement).

November 2025:

- Weekly Meetings: Continued focus on merit badge progress and preparation for fall activities.
- Leadership: Applications for January–June 2026 POR open, with a calendar-posted cutoff. SPL and ASPL interviews.
- **Campout**: A monthly campout to reinforce cooking @ The Narrows on the Blanco River; Nov. 14-16, 2025.

• December 2025:

- **Weekly Meetings**: Focus on wrapping up fall activities and preparing for the new POR term.
- Order of the Arrow: Winter Assembly; Dec. 6-7, 2025
- **Campout**: Backpacking Campout @ Enchanted Rock with hiking planned and Trial meal cooking.
- **Leadership Announcements**: New POR assignments for January–June 2026 announced before the new year.
- Winter Camp (Session 1: December 27-30, 2025 or Session 2: January 2-5, 2025).
- NYLT 2025 Winter (December 27, 2025 January 1, 2026).

• January 2026:

- Weekly Meetings: New POR term begins, with Scouts taking on leadership roles like Quartermaster or Patrol Leader. Meetings include planning for spring events.
- Campout: A winter campout, focusing on First Aid skills TBD.
- Court of Honor @ the Texas Capitol (January 24, 2026): A formal event to recognize Scout achievements, including rank advancements and merit badges. Scouts may volunteer for speaking roles

• February 2026:

Weekly Meetings: Continued advancement work, with ASMs guiding Scouts on merit badge requirements.

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Gear Tips & Tricks: End of Summer & Fall Scouting

Dry Out Gear: After summer camps, fully dry tents and sleeping bags to prevent mildew. Store them loosely in a cool, dry place.

Waterproofing: Apply waterproof spray to tents and backpacks. Check seams for leaks and seal them for fall's wetter weather.

Sleeping Pad Upgrade: Consider a foam or inflatable sleeping pad for extra insulation against cold fall ground.

Headlamp Check: Test headlamps and replace batteries. Add a small backup flashlight for shorter fall days and longer nights.

Pack Rain Gear: Include a lightweight rain poncho or jacket. Fall showers are common, and staying dry is key.

Organize Your Pack: Use stuff sacks or color-coded bags to keep gear organized and easy to find in dim fall light.

Sharpen Knives: Ensure pocketknives are sharp and rust-free. A dull knife is unsafe and less useful for camp tasks.

Layered Clothing: Pack moisture-wicking base layers, fleece mid-layers, and a windproof outer layer for unpredictable fall weather.

Tarp Trick: Bring a small tarp for extra shelter or ground cover. It's a lifesaver for wet campsites or gear protection.

Gear Repair Kit: Pack duct tape, needle, thread, and cordage for quick fixes to tents, packs, or clothing on fall trips.

- **Campout**: Shooting Campout @ Lost Pines Scout Reserve (February 20-22, 2025).
- Service Opportunities: Scout Sunday, February 8, 2025
 Lakeway Church.

March 2026:

- **Weekly Meetings**: Focus on preparing for spring activities and summer camp planning.
- campout: Scout Skills @ Pace Bend March 28-29, 2025
- Advancement: Webelos Crossover Bridge Build (March 1, 2026 & Webelos Crossover Ceremony on March 2, 2026, 7PM @ Nature Conservancy, Barton Creek Nature Preserve Pavillion

• April 2026:

- Weekly Meetings: Emphasis on outdoor preparation for upcoming summer camp.
- Campout: Bee Cave District Camporee @ Smilin V
 Scout Ranch
- Shred Day Fundraiser April 25, 2026): The second major fundraiser of the year, held at Lakeway Church (8:00 AM-12:00 PM). Scouts assist with document shredding, wearing Class A uniforms.

• May 2026:

- Swim Test (Mid-May): A swim test to prepare for summer camp, ensuring Scouts meet safety requirements.
- Order of the Arrow: Spring Assembly; May 1-3, 2026
- Campout: A monthly campout, likely focusing on Climbing; May 8-10, 2026.
- **Leadership**: Applications for July–December 2026 POR open, with a calendar-posted cutoff.

• June 2026:

- **Weekly Meetings**: Final preparations for summer camp and leadership transitions.
- Summer Camp (Tentative, Mid-to-Late June): A weeklong camp with merit badge classes, adventure activities, and team-building.
- Philmont Trek (June 10-22, 2026): 12-day backpacking trek featuring rugged trails, western activities, and modern challenges. Crews are accompanied by a Philmont Ranger for the first three days and complete conservation work to earn the Philmont Arrowhead Patch.
- Seabase Scuba Crew (June 28-July 4, 2026): With 3 locations in the Florida Keys, 1 in Abaco Bahamas, and 1 in the United States Virgin Islands; youth participants can choose from 20 different adventure treks which include options for camping, conservation, coral restoration, fishing, marine education, ocean paddling, live aboard sailing, scuba diving, and snorkeling.
- Leadership: Patrol Leader and Assistant PL elections held, with new POR announcements by the end of June.

TROOP 52 NEWSLETTER June 8, 2025

Scouting End of Summer & Fall Prep Factoids

- Gear Check: Inspect tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks for wear and tear from summer camps. Repair or replace damaged items before fall outings.
- Weather Prep: Fall brings cooler nights. Pack layers like fleece jackets and thermal base layers to stay warm during overnight trips.
- Skill Refresh: Practice knot-tying and fire-building skills before fall campouts. These are essential for colder, wetter conditions.
- Calendar Planning: Review the troop's fall schedule. Sign up early for campouts and events to secure spots and avoid conflicts.
- First Aid Update: Restock first aid kits with essentials like bandages, antiseptic wipes, and bug spray for fall hikes.
- Merit Badge Goals: Set a goal to start or complete a merit badge this fall. Check requirements now to plan ahead.
- Boots & Footwear: Ensure hiking boots fit well and are broken in.
 Wet fall trails can be tough on unprepared feet.
- Scout Handbook: Review your Scout Handbook for tips on fall camping, like pitching tents on uneven ground or staying dry.
- Pack Light: Fall trips may require extra gear, but avoid overpacking. Aim for a backpack weight under 20% of your body weight.
- Community Service: Look for fall service projects like leaf raking or trail cleanups to earn service hours and give back.

Troop 52 Photo Albums:

If you need to check for the latest info, event photos or announcements, follow us on <u>Facebook</u> or on the <u>Troop 52</u> Website

NYLT 2026 Summer (June 8-13, 2026).

Key Themes and Activities

- **Regular Meetings**: Held every Monday at 7:00 PM at Lakeway Church (except post-campout), focusing on merit badge work, skill development, and planning.
- **Monthly Campouts**: Troop 52 organizes monthly campouts to foster outdoor skills, teamwork, and leadership. These align with Scouts BSA requirements for ranks like Star, Life, and Eagle.
- **Fundraising**: Two Shred Day events (October 18, 2025, and April 25, 2026) are critical fundraisers, requiring Scout participation. These events also provide community service opportunities.
- Leadership Development: The troop emphasizes boy-led activities, with Scouts applying for PORs twice yearly (January–June and July–December terms). SPL, ASPL, and Patrol Leader elections are key events, with applications and interviews scheduled in November/December and May/June.
- Advancement: Scouts track progress via Scoutbook, with ASMs approving achievements. Regular SMCs and BORs are scheduled, requiring Scouts to prepare and demonstrate skills related to the rank they are working on like knots and first aid.
- Community Engagement: Service projects, such as Shred Day and other church events, reinforce the Scout Law's commitment to helping others.

Additional Notes

- Scoutbook Usage: The troop uses Scoutbook.com to manage calendars, track advancements, and communicate. Scouts and parents are encouraged to keep profiles updated for accurate records, including adding an email for your Scout so it is easier for leaders to communicate to the Scouts. All emails in Scoutbook will copy the Scout's parents.
- **Eagle Scout Focus**: With over 150 Eagle Scouts produced, Troop 52 emphasizes advancement, with structured support for merit badges and rank requirements.