



T52 NEWS



Emmaus Catholic Parish | Bee Cave District | Capitol Area Council

<https://troop52lakeway.us>



Crossover – Monday, February 28, 2022 – 7:00 pm

This date marks new scouts' official entry into Troop 52 with our crossover ceremony at the Nature Conservancy. The entrance is located on Bee Cave Road near Lake Hills Church. Scouts will cross our rope bridge and shake hands with everyone. We will all enjoy some of that delicious Troop 52 cobbler. The troop registrar will take applications. Scouts and parents will sign code of conduct forms. You will have an opportunity to buy swag - hats, class B shirts, hoodies, cups, etc.

Adults, please bring a camp chair and a blanket if you get cold. New scouts will sit on benches up front. Please wear Class A uniforms.

If you have not used this entrance before to the Nature Conservancy, it is located at Resaca Boulevard and Bee Cave Road. Turn right on Resaca, left like you are entering the parking lot for Lake Hills Church, and instead take the dirt road labeled "The Nature Conservancy." Park in the upper area and walk down. The stairs are in need of repair, so avoid them. They are blocked off.

Map link:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/30%C2%B018'31.3%22N+97%C2%B055'02.8%22W/@30.308692,-97.9179882,193m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m14!1m7!3m6!1s0x865b37cad5ea6441:0xadd4c3fa3815d0c9!2s11521+Bee+Cave+Rd,+Austin,+TX+78738!3b1!8m2!3d30.3088452!4d-97.9160503!3m5!1s0x0:0xbfdf0ec65aa048d4!7e2!8m2!3d30.3086919!4d-97.9174409>



Fishing Campout – March 4-6, 2022 – Tom Wood Ranch

Our next campout will be the Fishing campout. Younger scouts will work on the Fishing Merit Badge. Older scouts will get an opportunity to work on the Pioneering Merit Badge. The cost is \$20 per person. Please register by Wednesday evening on the troop web site in the troop store: <https://troop52lakeway.us/>

Adults are welcome to attend Troop 52 campouts. Prior to doing so, you must complete an adult BSA application, YPT (Youth Protection Training), and EIM (Ethics and Integrity in Ministry). Your existing Cub Scout YPT is sufficient. EIM is taught by the Austin Diocese. This training is mandatory and exceptions cannot be granted. It is good for three years. Instructions for taking the class are here: <https://austindiocese.org/application>

The fishing campout is located at 3605 CR 264, Richland Springs, Texas 76871. We will meet in the parking lot near the tennis courts at LTMS at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 4. We will make sure there are enough drivers before departing. You can use these directions: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/3605+Co+Rd+264,+Richland+Springs,+TX+76871/@31.340591,-98.9872645,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x8650a7bc1c2a8e63:0x9eeee76c04f076d9!8m2!3d31.340591!4d-98.9850758>



Sign up for Summer Camp 2022 – San Isabel Scout Ranch – Beulah, Colorado (June 18th - 26th)

Summer camp 2022 is at San Isabel Scout Ranch in the heart of the San Isabel National Forest just outside of Pueblo, Colorado.

Second payment of \$250 is due by March 1st.

It's not too late to sign up - If you are interested in going, please pay \$500 per person by March 1st (comprises of 1st and 2nd installments).

Final payment of \$150 (scouts) or \$70 (adults) is due by April 1st.

We are also planning on White Water rafting – if you are interested that will cost an additional \$100 per person.

Please go to the Troop 52 Scout Store to make your payments: <https://troop52lakeway.us/store>

SICs for summer camp - Ken Semph & Vamsee Konda

For leader guide, camp map and other details please visit - <https://pathwaytotherockies.org/sanisabel/forms-resources/>

Camp Location:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/San+Isabel+Scout+Ranch/@38.003256,-105.0429923,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x871474dfbcac772f:0xf4b351c97cf8f504!8m2!3d38.003256!4d-105.0408036>

New scouts – one of the best things you can do is to go to summer camp. You will have a lot of fun while learning some crucial scout skills. Transitioning to middle school is made so much easier by spending a week at camp.



PLC – March 7, 2022 – 7:00 pm – Emmaus

We are having PLC on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm at Emmaus. Please come prepared to discuss several upcoming important events. New parents, there is no troop meeting the Monday

after a campout. Only boys in a Position of Responsibility (POR) attend the PLC (patrol leadership council).



Committee Meeting – March 8, 2022 – 7:00 pm – Emmaus (Room TBD)

Please join the troop adults for the Troop Committee Meeting. All interested adults should attend. The PLC is for the boys to make plans. The Committee meeting is for the adults to find a way to implement what the boys voted for at the PLC. Scouts should not attend. All adults are welcome to be a part of the troop committee to discuss troop operations and make plans for the remainder of the year. If you would like a say in how the troop is run, then this is the meeting for you. We have several committee positions where we could use your help.



Bee Cave District Awards Banquet – Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm – Emmaus

The Bee Cave District Awards Banquet is to honor adult leaders in the Bee Cave District. Troop 52 is hosting it this year at Emmaus. Attendance is by invitation only. Troop 52 Stinger Award recipients will be announced as well as other Bee Cave District Awards. Stingers recognize Scouters who render outstanding contributions to their Unit.



Philmont 2023 Announcement

Great news for Troop 52!

We applied for - and received - 2 treks for Philmont in June of 2023. We will be leaving Austin on 6/24/23 and returning on 7/8/23.

We have room for 16 Scouts and 8 Adults to join in this adventure (many of these slots have been spoken for) so please sign up via Scout Book and secure your spot with a deposit by January 15, 2022.

Scouts will need to be 14 years old by 6/25/23 (or have completed 8th grade).

The 12-Day Reservation fee is \$1,500.00/person with payment schedule as follows:

- Deposit of \$160.00/person due 1/15/2022
- Advance of \$670.00/person due 9/1/2022
- Balance of \$670.00/person due 2/1/2023



Sea Base – Spring Break 2023

Good news! We were able to secure a spot for Sea Exploring on a tall ship for Sea Base in March 2023. More details will be forthcoming for registration.



Summit Bechtel Reserve High Adventure – July 6-12, 2022

We still have a few slots for high adventure at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia this summer. Please see Mr. Ezell for information.

Summit Bechtel Reserve High Adventure – June 13-21, 2023

We have at least one spot available (we may be able to add more) for high adventure at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia the summer of 2023. Please contact Josi Bogdon at 512.971.8141 or easonj@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Bee Cave District Awards Banquet – Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm – Emmaus

The Bee Cave District Awards Banquet is to honor adult leaders in the Bee Cave District. Troop 52 is hosting it this year at Emmaus. Attendance is by invitation only. Troop 52 Stinger Award recipients will be announced as well as other Bee Cave District Awards. Stingers recognize Scouters who render outstanding contributions to their Unit.



Col. Mike Fossum – Astronaut, Aggie, and Eagle Scout – 6:00 pm, Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Scouts, Mr. Ezell is volunteering to take a group to this event, hosted by the local Aggie Moms Club, at Austin Ridge Bible Church Bee Cave. Please RSVP to Mr. Ezell separately and please use the event registration page to reserve a ticket. The club is offering free admission to Scouts, Scout leaders, and one parent for each Scout. Scout attendees are asked to wear their uniform. There is an option to purchase a Chick-Fil-A boxed meal.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-8-colonel-mike-fossum-astronaut-new-date-tickets-210171106437>

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Col. Michael Fossum - Astronaut is joining Austin Aggie Moms for a one night only event to speak about his amazing career!

About this event

Austin Aggie Moms Club is proud to bring distinguished guests of this caliber to our community. Col. Fossum will share his experiences throughout his full and illustrious career, as he inspires our next generation of leaders and explorers.

Col. Michael E. Fossum '80 UAFR (Ret) currently serves as a Vice President of Texas A&M University, the Chief Operating Officer of the Galveston Campus, and the Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. Col. Fossum joined Texas A&M following his retirement from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Johnson Space Center in 2017.

Col. Fossum is a veteran of 3 space flights with more than 194 days in space and more than 48 hours in 7 spacewalks during his 19 years as an astronaut. During his last mission in 2011, Col. Fossum served as the Commander of the International Space Station. He has logged over 2,000 hours in 35 different aircraft throughout the course of his career. Fossum earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1980. He is also a graduate of the US Air Force Test Pilot School and has earned Master of Science degrees in Systems Engineering and Physical Science/Space Science.

Col. Fossum promotes the STEM program in Scouting - having earned Eagle Scout Rank himself having earned the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and is involved with The Order of the Arrow.

Please use the albums below to enjoy and share photos from our wonderful Troop 52 Events!

Crossover (upcoming on 02/28/22)

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/SxDCjgZm3xgyoLxx5>

Crossover Bridge Build

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/hNSEX4GLYHNPiKi1A>

Welding Merit Badge Class

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/LvECPqAYx69b9RVv6>

First Aid Campout

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gkfLg7hvc3PoggFD6>

Court of Honor

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TsAbm6GLN9WzaiuD6>

Potluck Dinner

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uSxA5TrHbmBDGNJk7>

Webelos' Woods

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/usZTpPK1DpkbsNNX8>

Backpacking Campout

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TYJejLFqBmLD9rK17>

Climbing Campout

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5Wd2rJx4zKYBpCeN8>

Troop Blog

If you need to check for announcements on the troop web site, we do have a blog that gets updated by Tray Bates. You can access it here: <https://troop52lakeway.us/blog>



Merit Badge Policies

Scouts and parents,

We would like to clarify policies and procedures for merit badges from both the BSA and Troop 52. Several questions have come up. Scouts, parents, and counselors should take note of these instructions.

The final word on advancement is called the BSA Guide to Advancement. It is here: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

Merit badges start on page 40.

These are the Troop 52 policies and procedures.

I. Blue Cards

Scouts should obtain a Blue Card by requesting one through Scoutbook. In the case of the troop conducting a merit badge at a troop meeting, a class, or activity at a campout, then the scout will not need to individually ask for a blue card. The merit badge counselor will be responsible for taking attendance and giving proper credit. For other merit badges, it is still a good practice to obtain a blue card and contact a counselor before beginning work on any merit badge in case there are questions. There are exceptions for doing work without getting a blue card first.

The Guide to Advancement says at 7.0.0.3:

“Even though Scouts may benefit from reviewing requirements with a merit badge counselor before getting to work, a Scout may begin the effort on any badge at any time after registering in Scouts BSA or becoming a qualified Venturer or Sea Scout. It is the counselor’s decision whether to accept work or activities completed prior to any meeting with the unit leader or the merit badge counselor. Common sense should prevail, however. For example, nights already camped as a Scout in Scouts BSA or as a qualified Venturer or Sea Scout, or coins or stamps already collected, would count toward their respective badges.”

Some items would clearly be called into question for proper credit. For example, tasks such as trips, camping, or hikes before joining scouts might not count for credit (ex: in third grade a class field trip visited the Capitol, a scout went camping with his parents on their own, etc.). Some merit badge requirements state “with the approval of your counselor” or other similar language. In cases like this, a scout should seek the approval from the merit badge counselor prior to doing the activity. In all cases, read the requirement.

II. Worksheets

Worksheets are a good idea, but are not required. The worksheet is there to assist the scout. Sitting for a merit badge is not a test. It's a review. It is the merit badge counselor's judgment to decide if the scout has met the requirements. Some scouts have all the info in their heads. Some need the paper. Either is fine. We strongly suggest using the worksheets because it lets the scout see the list of requirements right in front of him as the instructor is teaching. It gives them a place to take notes. Also, many requirements say "make a list," "keep a chart," "track and record," or "explain" something. That is what the worksheet allows the scout to do. Likewise, if the requirement says “demonstrate” or “discuss” then the scout should demonstrate it by doing it or discussing it out loud with the counselor. Maybe there are notes on the worksheet to reference during the discussion. Maybe there aren't. Again, either is fine. A merit badge counselor is not allowed to add requirements to a merit badge, so requiring the worksheet be filled out would be adding a requirement. However, if a scout can't discuss it (whether looking at the paper or by talking about it) then there can't be any credit for doing the work.

The Guide to Advancement says:

7.0.4.8 Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

“Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing “worksheets” may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.”

III. Eagle Required Merit Badges

The troop policy has always been that an Eagle-required merit badge taken outside the troop (such as summer camp or online classes) must be reviewed by a Troop 52 counselor to make sure that the requirements were satisfied. It does not mean re-teaching it or repeating work. It's a quality control exercise. We want earning Eagle Scout in Troop 52 to be truly meaningful and challenging. In the past, we have on several occasions found requirements at camp or online classes signed off where the scout clearly did not do the task and simply sat in a merit badge class with a dozen others and did not participate. That is not what we want to accomplish.

Here are some examples:

The Cooking merit badge says "plan a menu," "create a shopping list," and "cook the meals," etc. It does not say “watch” or "assist" or “learn about.” That's why we want the boy to be

grubmaster for a campout with his patrol from start to finish, not take part in a group lesson or sharing the same tasks among multiple scouts. This is an example where the worksheets provide an excellent resource for writing down menus and shopping lists.

Citizenship in the Nation requirement #4 says discuss several documents, including the Constitution. A scout who took an online class and did not participate other than listening has not discussed it. A scout cannot discuss something until he's read it, so the merit badge counseling session should not be the first time the scout has considered the information. Again, some notes on a worksheet would help in this situation when meeting with the counselor. If they haven't read the Constitution, they can't very well discuss it. We don't expect them to memorize it or understand it the way a lawyer would.

Why do we require Eagle-required merit badges taken at camp or outside the troop be reviewed? There have been specific examples of Environmental Science and Citizenship in the Nation, which are two difficult badges, taken at camp. One class for Environmental Science completely omitted any discussion of bees for #2G, but the counselor signed that the boys did it anyway. For Citizenship in the Nation, requirement #8 says for the scouts to find out who YOUR two senators and House rep are, then write to one and show the letter and any response to the counselor. The summer camp counselor simply had all the scouts write to a senator in New Mexico because that's where camp was. When they got back from camp, no one had a copy of his letter, no one could remember who he wrote, and they still didn't know who their Texas senators and rep were. That's not what the requirement says to do, so all that time taking that class was wasted.

Additionally, we don't want scouts to sit with their parent who is also the merit badge counselor if it's Eagle-required. We have multiple counselors and it encourages the boy to learn to relate to a different adult.

The Guide to Advancement says at 7.0.0.3:

“Counselors may work with and pass any member, including their own children, wards, or relatives. Nevertheless, we often teach young people the importance of broadening horizons. Scouts meeting with counselors beyond their families and beyond even their own units are doing that. They will benefit from the perspectives of many “teachers” and will learn more as a result. They should be encouraged to reach out.”

IV. Non-Eagle Required Merit Badges

Non-Eagle required merit badges taken at camp do not require the scout to sit for the badge if the whole thing was completed at camp. For example, if a scout takes Canoeing merit badge at camp for a week and comes back with a completed, signed blue card, we accept it. No sitting. The counselor at camp is saying the scout passed. Since it is not Eagle-required, there is no extra review unless the badge is only partially done. If it's only partially done, the scout would need to make an appointment with a merit badge counselor to show the completed work or make a plan to do so.

A scout's parent who is teaching a non-Eagle required merit badge is fine to sign off requirements if it's part of a class being taught to a group. If it's not a part of a group lesson or if it is an individual session, then we would prefer it if the scout sat with another counselor just to

give the scout a better experience in relating to multiple adults. We would not prohibit the parent sitting with him if there are no other counselors available.

Hopefully, this clears things up. If you have questions about the merit badge program, please ask Mr. Ezell.



Troop 52 Advancement Process

Scouts and parents,

As of January 1, 2022, we are following this process for rank advancement. Please take note.

Life and Eagle Scouts (as well as ASMs) will still physically sign books. Upon completing all rank requirements, scouts will go to their designated ASM for their patrol to show their books for verification. The ASM will check off items online in Scoutbook because that is the official record that BSA uses. At troop meetings, the Advancement Coordinator (Mrs. Royal) will take names from boys and set up appointments for a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) and Board of Review (BOR) for the boy asking for one. They can be done at meetings or campouts. Ideally, SMCs will be done by one of the ASMs at large, especially Star and Life. The Scoutmaster will continue to do all Eagle SMCs.

BORs will be done among committee members and parents who are not ASMs. We would like to avoid the same ASM doing SMCs for the same boy for multiple ranks since we want the boys to learn how to deal with multiple adults. The Advancement Chair (Mr. Bates) and/or Coordinator (Mrs. Royal) marks as complete in Scoutbook for the next Court of Honor.

Merit badge blue cards will be requested by scouts through Scoutbook.

When we receive new scouts at Crossover, the ASMs for each patrol can help welcome the new boys to their patrols and help mentor the new parents and answer their questions. We will pair those parents with an ASM to assist as new parent mentors.

Each ASM for the patrols will serve that patrol for a year and then we will transition to newer ASMs as we gain new leaders. We realize that not everyone can make every meeting, so hopefully we will have enough ASMs at a meeting for coverage.

Patrol ASMs - responsible for individual patrols

Vamsee Konda - Red Cobras - also SIC summer Camp

Greg Royal - Apaches

Bryan Russell - Blue Wolves

Ken Semph - Panthers - also SIC summer Camp

Jeff Schneider - Sharks

ASMs at Large - SMCs or SICs or other duties

John Cottey - also shooting sports
Reagan Evans - also climbing
Matt Gomes - also shooting sports
Patrick Gomes
Todd Grovatt - also climbing and shooting sports
Alfredo Loreda - also religious emblems
Ron Lugo
Mike Pusey
Ashwin Rao - also quartermaster and shooting sports
Jim Schulenberg - also Trail to First Class and climbing
Richard Wright - also shooting sports

Committee Members

Pete Chalfant - Committee Chair

Tray Bates - Advancement Chair and Webmaster
Jeff Beneski - Eagle Coordinator
Josi Bogdon - Communications Coordinator and Photos
Randy Bogdon - Committee member
Cara Cooper - Service Hours Coordinator
Victoria Dawson - Committee member
Bonnie Doggett - Committee member
John Doggett - Aquatics supervisor
Christy Hampton - Registrar
Mike Johnsrud - Committee member
Hank Kelbaugh - Chartered Org Rep and Treasurer and OA Rep
Annette Royal - Advancement Coordinator
Nicolas Sfeir - Committee member

Scoutmaster – James Ezell

Remember!

