

The Boy Scout Uniform

The Boy Scout uniform is part of being a Scout. The troop encourages Scouts to wear their uniforms proudly. An official Class A shirt is required for all meetings, ceremonies, and when traveling to/from troop events. Class B T-shirts (with the troop or Boy Scout logo on the front) are acceptable for campouts and designated Scout activities.

The Boy Scout Handbook

The *Boy Scout Handbook* is an important part of your son's Scouting experience. In front is a section called 'How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide'. Please review this guide with your son. It will help prepare both of you for our complex society, and it is one of the requirements he must complete to earn his Scout rank badge. The handbook is a special book. It contains everything your son needs to know to begin his advancement and become a real outdoorsman and a first-class citizen.

Ranks and Advancement



We schedule a lot of activities throughout the year, both in and outside of troop meetings. Each activity is a chance for your son to work toward earning his ranks and awards. As they grow, participate, and learn new skills, boys progress through the Scout ranks—from Scout, to Tenderfoot, to Second Class, and then to First Class. He'll work on merit badges and service projects to earn his Star, then Life, and finally the Eagle Scout Award.

Activities and Service Projects

We try to schedule special events each month, with a focus on camping and outdoor adventure. Each August, Troop 455 Scouts go to Boy Scout camp for a week. We also schedule service projects during the year. Encourage your son to attend these events, and let him prepare for them on his own as much as possible. If he is going on a campout, let him collect and pack his own gear. He might forget something, but learning from mistakes is part of the Scouting experience.

Merit Badges

Scouts can work on a wide range of merit badges in a variety of ways—in troop meetings, by appointment, at merit badge fairs, and at summer camp. See the *Boy Scout Handbook* and www.bsa455.org for more details on badge requirements and available resources.

Court of Honor

The troop holds these formal ceremonies a few times a year to recognize scouts who have advanced in rank, earned merit badges, or deserve other recognition. An Eagle Scout gets a separate Court of Honor.



Troop, District, & Council Websites

www.bsa455.org
east.northernstarbsa.org/chiefblackdog/
www.northernstarbsa.org/



Boy Scout Troop 455

www.bsa455.org

We invite all young men qualified to be a Boy Scout to investigate our troop and to see where their abilities and goals can take them. Parents are welcome at our meetings and encouraged to take part in troop activities. Parents, if you wish to become a Troop 455 adult leader, we'll train you!

Steve Kreitz, Scoutmaster
stevek@bsa455.org

For more detailed information on Scouting and Troop 455, see the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the *Troop 455 Information Guide* located on the troop's website (www.bsa455.org).

About Scouting

Since the early 20th century, Scouting has been a worldwide adventure for personal growth and experiences through community service, hiking, camping, nature activities, learning, teaching, and much more. Boy Scouts differs from Cub Scouts in that the meetings are run and activities planned by the Scouts themselves with supervision by adults. The scouting program is well developed. Learn all about it in the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

Two Ways of Looking at Scouting

If your son has just joined our troop, welcome! If he is still considering it, we're glad he is interested. In either case, this brochure answers some questions you might have about Boy Scouting and Troop 455.

There are two ways of looking at Scouting. The boy sees it as a game that gets him outdoors for hiking and camping and helps him learn new skills. Boy Scouting also provides plenty of fun with old and new friends.



From a parent's viewpoint, Scouting is all that and more. It aims to strengthen a boy's character; to make him an aware, participating citizen; and to help him develop physically, mentally, and morally.

Does this sound like a tall order? It is, but Boy Scouting has proven over time that it can fill that order by exposing your son to new, wholesome experiences as he works and plays with his fellow Scouts.

Introduction to Troop 455

Our troop was founded in February 2005 and is chartered by the Eagan Lions. We are in the BSA's Northern Star Council, Chief Black Dog District. We work on merit badges and advancement, as well as community service projects, fundraisers, and outdoor adventures.



The troop's adult leaders are the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee. All are unpaid volunteers. Most are parents of boys in the troop.

The troop meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm at Red Pine Elementary School in Eagan. The Troop Committee and parents meet each 2nd Tuesday at the same time/place.

Your son will be assigned to a patrol -- a group of 6 to 10 boys who will be his team for games and contests, his buddies in camp, and his helpmates as he works on advancement. The Patrol Leader, elected by the other scouts in the patrol to represent them, leads his patrol.

Troop meetings are planned and run by the Patrol Leaders and the Senior Patrol Leader, a boy elected by the troop at large. Your son will have a role to play at each meeting, either in setting up, in ceremonies, in cleaning up, or just participating in an activity.

Adult leaders actively coach and guide the boy leaders, but the goal is for the boys to run the troop program while growing, making decisions, and learning from their mistakes.

Joining Troop 455

To be a Boy Scout, your son must be 11 years old, have earned the Arrow of Light in Webelos, or have finished the fifth grade. You and he will complete the application form and return it to our Scoutmaster along with the national membership fee. On the application, you may also subscribe to *Boys' Life*, Scouting's official magazine for boys.

While you are completing the application for your son, why not complete one for yourself? Troop 455 enjoys strong parental involvement. Parents work behind the scenes helping the boys get the best possible results from their scouting experience. We need the special skills and qualities that you can bring to the troop. Troop 455 offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

When we receive his application, your son will become a Candidate Scout, and Troop 455 will present him with the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the red uniform epaulets that show he is a Boy Scout. When he has repeated the Pledge of Allegiance, shown that he understands the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and other symbols and principles of Scouting, he'll be a full-fledged Scout. He'll receive his badge at the troop's next Court of Honor award ceremony.



BSA Youth Protection Policy

All adult leaders must be trained in the BSA Youth Protection Policy. This training can be taken on-line and must be renewed every two years.