



**Welcome!** Troop 66 Scouts and Leaders would like to welcome you to our Troop. Finding a Troop that fits your Scouts needs is an important step in the Boy Scout journey. We realize that selecting a Troop is an important choice for a Scout and his family. In order to answer some basic questions, we have prepared this general information sheet.

This document outlines some of the common questions asked by visitors. If you have questions about the details in this document or other questions about our Troop, please feel free to contact:

|                              |                    |                            |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Scoutmaster</b>           | <b>Butch Kahne</b> | <b>630-830-0275 (home)</b> |
| <b>Committee Chairperson</b> | <b>Kim Simmons</b> | <b>630-253-9819 (cell)</b> |

**Troop Meetings** – Troop meetings are held most Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Peter Damian Parish, 109 S. Crest Avenue in Bartlett. Programs vary to the point that there is no “typical” troop meeting. If there is an upcoming outing that requires planning, the Scouts will work on that during a meeting. Other times, the Scouts will work on advancements and/or merit badges or work with outside guests on special projects. At least two meetings a year are devoted to equipment maintenance. Many meetings have enough time at the end for the Scouts to play a constructive game.

Boy Scouts differs from Cub Scouts in that more responsibility is placed on the Scout for both his progress and his behavior. Therefore, troop meetings are lead by the Scouts with guidance and assistance from the adult leaders. Monthly, a Patrol Leader Council (PLC) is held. During this meeting, scouts in positions of leadership plan the upcoming weekly meetings and activities.

**Troop Activities** – Troop 66 engages in numerous activities throughout the year. The most popular is camping. The troop goes on approximately 8 weekend campouts per year plus a week of summer camp. Older scouts (14 year of age and up) are eligible to participate in high adventure trips. Other activities include community service projects, swimming outings, climbing wall and troop/family picnics. Once a year, Troop 66 hosts a merit badge fair for Scouts. Ideas for new activities are always welcome and strongly considered by the Activities Committee.

**Troop Guidelines** - Scouts are required to sign and adhere to a code of conduct, which mandates that they treat adult leaders, fellow scouts, Troop equipment and the scout program with the appropriate level of respect. Scouting helps a young man transition to adulthood by teaching him to take responsibility for his actions.

Annually, we ask Parents and Scouts to provide updates to critical paperwork including the Code of Conduct, Medical Forms, Parent Authorization, License/Insurance/Vehicle Information and Authorization to seek medical care.

Troop Advancement records are maintained within TroopMaster software. We ask that an annual verification of Troop records is completed. This helps the Troop maintain current and accurate information for each Troop member.

**Adult Leaders** – The troop currently has one Scoutmaster and five Assistant Scoutmasters. The scoutmasters work directly with the scouts and participate on a regular basis in troop activities. Each adult leader is registered with the BSA, and undergoes periodic training to work effectively with the Scouts and to assure the safety of the Scouts.

The Adult Committee is comprised of parent committee members who support the activities of the Troop. The Committee is headed by the Troop Committee Chairperson. Other adult leaders include an Advancements Coordinator, Outing/Activities Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary, Equipment Coordinator, Eagle Scout Advisor, Chartered Organization Representative and several members at large. Leaders and parents are invited to attend a monthly Committee meeting to review Troop business.

Parents are a very important part of leadership in our Troop. All parents are asked to participate in activities to help share the workload of running a successful Troop. The involvement of parents is critical to the success of the Troop, but even more to the success of the Scout.

**Troop Equipment** – Troop 66 provides all tents, cooking equipment (stoves, cookware, etc.), dining flies and first aid equipment for campouts/activities. We are fortunate to have two trailers for our Troop equipment. The scout is required to provide his own personal gear, sleeping bag and personal eating utensils. Scouts are required to participate in the care and cleaning of the equipment. Equipment is checked in and out via the Quartermaster (Scout held position). It is expected that Scouts use all Troop equipment appropriately.

**Fees and Costs** – Troop 66 dues are **\$90 per year**. For families with more than one Scout in the Troop, the fee for **each additional Scout is \$79**. When a Scout joins the Troop, he receives his Boy Scout Handbook, Scout neckerchief and neckerchief slide. Annually, each Scout family receives a subscription to Boys Life magazine.

Each Scout is responsible for purchasing his own uniform, which consists of the official BSA uniform shirt, shoulder loops and the appropriate unit numerals. Our Troop does not require uniform pants or hats, although they are acceptable if the Scout chooses.

Activities are paid for by the Scouts as they occur throughout the year. Most campouts cost \$18 to cover the cost of food and supplies. Summer camp costs are between \$250 and \$290 for a week of camp. There may be additional fees for summer camp based upon selected merit badges.

The Troop has one mandatory fundraiser each year. In past years, this has been a flower fundraiser held in the spring. Scouts do have an option of a buyout. The profits from this fundraiser are shared between the Troop and the Scout. The Scout profit is placed into individual accounts and can be used to defray the costs of outings.

Additional fundraisers may be offered throughout the year. These would be optional fundraisers and profits would be earned by the individual Scout. This is common when high adventure outings are offered as the costs for these can be significant.

**Communication** – Troop 66 has a website: [www.IRSYS.NET/TROOP66/](http://www.IRSYS.NET/TROOP66/)

In addition to our website, the Troop has a standard email distribution list. Scouts have a mailbox for any paper handouts. The mailbox is a hanging file that is available during Troop meetings. It is expected that the Scout regularly checks their mailbox. Troop meetings often close in a circle. During this time, announcements and recognition of achievements are noted. We strongly encourage parents to join us for Troop meetings, particularly the closing circle.