

Welcome to



10525 Cliffwood
Houston, Texas 77035
Chartered by: Willow Parent's Club
Scoutmaster: Dave Coughlen
www.troop740.com

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Welcome!

The Scouts and Leaders of Troop 740 welcome you into our Troop and into the fun-filled world of Boy Scouts. Whether you are coming from a Cub Scout Pack or joining Scouts for the first time, you will find Boy Scouts to be a dynamic and engaging program, whose sole purpose is to provide fun and meaningful activities for boys.



Brazos Bend State Park

Overview: The Boy Scout Program

Web sites

www.troop740.com

www.goldenarrow.org

www.shac.org



Learning about Geo-caching

The Boy Scouts of America is part of the worldwide Scouting Program. It is an organization dedicated to furthering the development of boys, ages 11 to 21.

Troop 740 is part of the:

- Golden Arrow District (GAD),

in the southwest portion of the:

- Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) of Scouting.

The goals of the Boy Scout Program are to:

- Instill strong moral values.
- Teach the principles of good citizenship.
- Provide a structure in which boys can learn leadership skills.
- Promote self-confidence and accomplishment through the Advancement Program.
- Encourage Teamwork through the Patrol Method.
- Create an awareness of and respect for the outdoors and the environment.
- Be a place where boys can find lifelong friends and lifelong memories.
- Provide a Program that is both fun and directed to fulfilling these goals.

Just read and think about the Boy Scout Law:

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

These 12 points of the Scout Law sum up an expression of high morals and good citizenship that we should all strive for. They are our guiding principles and our primary purpose in providing this program for the boys.

Troop Organization



New Patrol Leaders being sworn in.

The Troop & Patrols

A chartered Boy Scout group is known as a Troop.

Each Troop has a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster(s), and a Troop Committee.

A Troop consists of several Patrols.

A Patrol consists of a group of scouts, usually not exceeding 10 scouts.

Each Troop has a Senior Patrol Leader and an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, who are elected by members of the Troop.

Each Patrol has a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and a Quartermaster, who are selected by members of the Patrol.

The patrol leaders and adult leaders make up the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) who plan meetings and activities for the Troop.

For those crossing over from Cub Scouts, the following table lists some of the differences between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts:

Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Pack	Troop
Dens	Patrols
Adult Leader	Boy Leader, Adult Guide
By Grade Level	Various grade levels, ages
Ranks by Grade	Ranks independent of grade
Activity Pins, Belt Loops	Merit Badges

Troop 740 Adult Leadership

**All adult
leaders are
volunteers!**



Summer Camp 2006

A troop's adult leadership generally consists of a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster(s), and a Troop Committee including a Chairman, Advancement Chair, and Adult Training representative, just to name a few.

Troop 740 has a number of fine adult leaders who have committed their time and efforts to helping our Scouts have a rewarding experience. We encourage all parents of our Scouts to register as Committee Members with each Patrol represented by one adult as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Our current (2008-2009) leadership consists of:

Scoutmaster: David Coughlen
(h) 713-885-0737
(w) 832-366-2345
(c) 832-594-0318
david.coughlen@hexion.com

Assistant Scout Masters: Adam Dougherty
(h) 281-993-8058
adam.dougherty@ihg.com

Dave Hamilton
(c) 713-206-7240
scmdeh@hotmail.com

Bill Brown
(713) 728-5639
brownws48@gmail.com

Kevin Douglass
k.douglass@earthlink.net

Committee Chairperson: Melissa Aguilar
(c) 713-882-4505
Melissa.Aguilar@chron.com

Advancement Chair: Mary Hamilton
mhamilton103@austin.rr.com

Training Chairman: Rich Koehler
RTKoehler@aol.com

Troop Meetings



Troop 740 Scout House

Meeting Details

Location

10525 Cliffwood

How to find it?

- Back corner of Red Elementary School property
- 2 blocks North of Willowbend
- 4 blocks east of South Post Oak
- Across from Willow Pool

Time

7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Days

Every Monday except for Monday immediately after Campout which is reserved for PLC.

Troop 740 meets weekly on Mondays at the troop's Scout House. The Scout year mostly follows the HISD school year, including major holidays and other breaks. Meetings start the last Monday in August through the Monday before Summer Camp, which is usually in June.

Meetings are boy led with adult guidance. A topic is designated for each month and covered at the weekly meetings either through hands-on events or guest presentations. The Monday immediately following a campout is reserved for a Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) meeting. PLC meetings are attended by the Patrol Leader of each patrol and the Troop leadership. At the PLC meeting the patrol leaders plan the next month's activities.

Following is a timeline for a regular weekly meeting:

7:30 pm: open meeting and announcements

7:35 pm: adult announcements

7:40 pm: program / skills instructions

(hands-on activities or guest presenter)

8:15 pm: interpatrol activity (game)

8:30 pm: closing

While the goal is to follow this timeline, the chaotic nature of boy-led meetings doesn't always result in exact adherence to the timeline, nor is it expected. However, with adult guidance, along with patience and understanding by parents, most goals are accomplished.



Christmas Party Chaos

Scout Participation

Trail to Eagle



Eagle



Life



Star



First Class



Second Class



Tenderfoot



Scout

Scouting is a serious youth activity that requires time and commitment in order for Scouts to achieve success. It should be thought of no differently than extra-curricular school activities, or sports activities such as football, baseball, or soccer.

Consistent participation is central to realizing the full potential of the program.

Scouts are expected to:

- Advance in Rank
- Earn Merit Badges
- Hold Leadership Roles
- Regularly Participate in Meetings and Activities

Advancement in Rank

There are 7 ranks in Boy Scouts:

- 1) Scout
- 2) Tenderfoot
- 3) Second Class
- 4) First Class
- 5) Star
- 6) Life
- 7) Eagle

Scouts have the opportunity to complete requirements for these ranks at campouts and weekly meetings. Unlike Cub Scouts, ranks are not tied to a grade level. A scout does not have to complete one rank before working on requirements in another rank unless specified. For example, a requirement for Star Rank states a scout must complete 6 hours of service work while a 1st Class Scout.

In general, a Scout should be able to achieve First Class within the first year to year-and-one-half in the Troop. Active and consistent participation is key to success in advancement.

Set your Goal to earning Eagle Scout!



Sample Merit Badges Pamphlets

Two Local Scout Shops

Houston Service Center
2225 North Loop West,
Suite A
Houston, TX 77008
(713) 865-5190

Stafford Service Center
10435 Greenbough Dr.,
Suite #125
Stafford, TX 77477-5034
(281) 207-2340



Completing Leatherwork Merit Badge project at Summer Camp

Earning Merit Badges

Merit Badges are a key component of the Boy Scout program. Merit Badges offer the opportunity for more in-depth learning of certain required areas, such as Citizenship, or areas of individual interest, from Archery to Woodworking, and everything in between.

Each Merit Badge has a corresponding Merit Badge pamphlet listing both requirements and support information. The Troop has a library of Merit Badge pamphlets. You can look up the requirements at www.meritbadge.com/mb/. You can also purchase the pamphlets at a Scout Shop.

Scouts are required to earn merit badges starting with the Star Rank although they can start working on merit badges right away. Many scouts choose to work on Merit Badges at Summer Camp, or at one of the two Merit Badge Fairs organized by the Golden Arrow District. The Merit Badge Fairs are usually held on a Saturday in October and April. The most recent cost has been \$12 for the day, which covers courses and a lunch.

Some Merit Badges can be completed in a short period of time during a Merit Badge Fair or at Summer Camp. Others, like the Personal Fitness Merit Badge, require an extended period of time to complete. The only deadline for completing a Merit Badge is a Scout's 18th birthday.

You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less.

A scout is expected to complete a requirement exactly as stated. If a requirement states "show or demonstrate," the Scout must do that, not just tell or describe the requirement.

Before starting on a Merit Badge, a Scout must obtain a Merit Badge Application card from the Scoutmaster and have a meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor. Troop 740 has several adults registered as Merit Badge Counselors. See the Boy Scout Handbook for more information.



Leaders do more than fulfill the requirements of leader positions, leaders are role models for younger scouts.

Leadership

A Boy Scout Troop is a boy-led organization.

Boy leadership positions include:

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- Instructor
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Troop Guide
- Order of the Arrow Troop Representative
- Quartermaster
- Den Chief
- Bugler
- Troop Historian
- Chaplain Aide
- Scribe
- Librarian

Regular Participation in Meetings and Activities

Weekly meetings, campouts, Merit Badge Fairs, service projects, all provide opportunities for completing requirements and learning skills.

Each campout provides different opportunities such as:

- Learning how to use GPS units and finding geocaches
- Identifying poisonous plants
- Learning fire building and fire safety
- Tying knots for various applications



Meetings provide additional opportunities such as First Aid instruction, physical fitness importance, and additional knot tying.

Adult Participation



Who threw that paper ball?



Whittin' the time away . . .



Iron Chef Judges tasting contest entries.



Hmmm, these are definitely rocks!



"Diggin'" that Eagle Project.

Adults are strongly encouraged to participate with their sons throughout the Scouting experience. Adults serve in a support and guidance capacity, for example, providing transportation for campouts.

Parent support helps the Troop succeed.

Parents can also provide support by:

- Attending meetings
- Sitting on Boards of Review
- Camping with the Troop
- Registering as Merit Badge Counselors
- Serving on the Troop Committee
- Becoming a Trained Leader

Your participation will show your son you believe his participation is important. If nothing else, **it's FUN.**

Annual, national adult registration for B.S.A. is \$11 and includes the Sam Houston Area Council *Scouter* newspaper and the national *Scouting* magazine.

For information contact the Scoutmaster or the Training Chairman:

Dave Coughlen, Scoutmaster
david.coughlen@hexion.com

Rich Koehler, Training Chairman
RTKoehler@aol.com

Uniforms



Class A uniforms are worn to official meetings such as Court of Honors.

Boy Scouts of America define two categories of uniforms:

- Class A
- Class B

Class A uniforms consist of:

- Khaki Scout uniform shirt with patches properly attached
- Neckerchief
- Pants or shorts (typically blue jeans)
- Belt

Tuck in your shirttail.

All patches (U.S. Flag, Sam Houston Area Council, Troop numerals, rank, office, and other miscellaneous) should be properly placed and securely attached. Boy Scouts are identified with red shoulder loops.



Class B uniforms are worn during physical activities like the fitness tests and campouts.

Class A uniforms are worn to and from campouts, at Court of Honors, to dinner and specific activities during Summer Camp, at Scout Fair, at Merit Badge Fairs, and other special events during the year. For normal troop meetings, the uniform shirt and solid-color pants are sufficient.

Class B uniforms are Boy Scout t-shirts, preferably the Troop t-shirt, or from a Scout activity or organization. Class B uniforms can be worn after arriving at a campout, or during meetings when fitness tests are held.

Weekend Campouts and other Activities



Cooking at Lake Somerville

The Troop plans a weekend campout or overnight lock-in once a month from October through May and plans a week-long Summer Camp during the month of June or July (see next section for Summer Camp information). Additionally, the Troop participates in the Annual Scout Fair held at Reliant Center, attends Merit Badge Fairs, assists with service projects, and schedules tours.

Weekend Campouts and Lock-ins

Campsite costs are covered by the annual dues. Other charges incurred at campout include:

- Costs for meals (\$15 per weekend)
- Special fees for special activities, such as kayak rentals
- Facility fees for overnight lock-ins, for example, Rock Gym Lock In, Laser Tag Lock In

Scouts are grouped by Patrols. Parents and adult leaders comprise a separate Adult Patrol. Each Scout Patrol and the Adult Patrol separately plan their menus and purchase their own supplies.

If you were in Cub Scouts, you are probably used to camping in a family size tent with your Cub Scout in a group setting with other families and their Cub Scout. In Boy Scouts, Scouts share and sleep in 2 to 3 person tents. Scouts camp away from adults, but close enough for safety issues.

Individuals (Scouts and adults) supply their own tents, clothes, sleeping bags, camping chairs, and rain gear. The Troop provides gear boxes, also known as Patrol Boxes, which contain cooking equipment.

High Adventure Camps

Older scouts are eligible to participate in High Adventure Camps. In 2003, 17 Scouts and 7 Leaders attended the Florida Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys.

A continuing effort is made to include High Adventure activities for eligible scouts during Summer Camp and through the Troop's Venture Crew program.

Contact the Scoutmaster for additional information.



Loading the vehicles

Campout Procedures

The weekend campouts:

- start Friday evening at 6 pm, and
- end Sunday between 11 am and 1 pm.

Drop off procedures

- Drop off is at the Scout House.
- Scouts must pay their share of meal costs (\$15) at drop off before leaving for the campout.
- Parent(s) must sign a Trip Permission Slip for their Scout and give it to the Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster, otherwise the Scout cannot go on the weekend campout.
- Scouts and adult leaders load camping gear into vehicles from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Departure time is 6:30 p.m.

Pick up procedures

- Scouts arrive between 11 am and 1 p.m. per time stated on Trip Permission form. If arrival time cannot be met by returning Scouts within +/- 15 minutes, phone calls will be made to inform parents.
- Scouts and adult leaders will unload vehicles upon arrival.
- Parents need to be on time for pick up or make other arrangements for their Scout. Returning adults and adult leaders should not be made to wait for a pick up. All camp attendees will be tired and ready to go home.



Breaking Camp

Summer Camp



Target shooting

2009 Summer Camp

Where:

Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch near Fort Davis, Texas

When: June 6-13, 2009

Who:

Current Scouts, adults, and Webelos joining the Troop during Spring

Registration Deadline:

April 1 (\$10 add'l charge after April 1)

Payment Schedule:

Ends April 20; new Scouts need to catch up with payments to date:

Scouts:

Due to date: \$200
Due March 23: \$100
Due April 20th: \$100

Adults:

Due to date: \$50
Due March 23: \$50

See attached Summer Camp Flyer or contact the Scoutmaster for additional information.

A Summer Camp is scheduled each year for either June or July. Summer Camps are generally week-long camps with additional travel days.

Scouts have the opportunity to earn Merit Badges and/or complete requirements towards rank advancement depending on the Camp's program.

Adults are welcome to attend Summer Camp.

Fees and Payment Schedule

Summer Camp registration fees are in addition to annual dues. A 6-month payment plan is usually started in November, ending in April.

Scouts can earn credit towards Summer Camp costs through the sale of popcorn, coffee, and Scout Fair tickets. A percentage of money a Scout raises through these fundraisers is credited to a camping account assigned to that Scout.



For example, Troop 740 sells gourmet coffee at \$10 a pound. The Troop receives 50% of the sale price: \$5. The Scout receives credit for 40% of the \$5: \$2 per bag he sells.

The Summer Camp fee covers the Camp fee, going-to-lunch, coming-from lunch, and transportation rental including gas.

Merit Badge fees, Special Program fees, and spending money are extra and not included in the Summer Camp fee.

Medical Forms

Every Scout and Adult participating in Troop activities must have a Medical Form on file with the Troop. This form provides Right to Treat authorization in case of emergency.

Summer camps require the physician portion of the form to be completed on a biannual or annual basis depending on the activities planned.

Medical forms are available from the Scoutmaster.

Scout Registration Fees

Initial \$30 fee

This fee covers cost of Scout book, red shoulder loops, Troop 740 neckerchief, and neckerchief slide.

Annual \$75 dues*

Covers registration including National fees, Boy's Life and troop dues (prorated at joining based on Troop/Pack recharter dates and registration date).

* For transferring Webelos who registered with their Pack, the prorated Annual Dues is \$55.

Total Registration Cost

Fee	New Scout	Transferring Webelos
Initial	\$30	\$30
Annual	\$75	\$55
Total	\$105	\$85

Attachments

- Scout Personal Data form
- Adult Personal Data form
- Troop Calendar (2008-2009)
- Summer Camp 2009 Brochure
- Medical Form (covers both Scout and Adult)



Successful Geocache hunt!