

Boy Scouts of America Troop 42 – New Fairfield



Dear Parents:

Welcome to our 2015-16 Scouting year. We finished out the 2014-15 year with a highly successful summer camp experience at Camp Waubeeka in Brant Lake, NY. The weather may have been hot but the experiences were memorable and many goals were accomplished.

As with every new Scouting year, there is a new mix of youth leadership excited about the opportunity to keep the long tradition of Troop 42 moving forward. The boys, with guidance from the adult leadership, have put together a plan that we hope will lead to an exciting and fun year for everyone. Our goals are to continue the year round camping tradition, have fun, and help every Scout learn skills, advance and develop leadership qualities in their own way. A final goal is to make memories. The best way to do this is for your son to fully participate in our outdoor and camping program.

This year our Troop is organized into four patrols led by their Patrol Leaders. The patrols are a mix of older and younger Scouts. Patrol Leaders must emphasize learning by example in a positive environment. We start our year at one of my favorite camps, Camp Sequassen from September 18th through the 20th. We are already exploring our options for our 2016 Summer Camp experience.

The Troop Committee is dedicated to following the guidelines set forth by our local Boy Scout council, Connecticut Yankee Council, and the national scout organization. As adult leaders we are committed to provide an active outdoor program for your sons with qualified supervision and structured discipline. As Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman, our goals are to oversee the safety of everyone and the general direction of the Troop's overall program as set forth by the Scout Oath and Law.

As you have probably noticed by now, some of the adult leadership has changed as well. It is our pleasure to serve as Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman for your sons in the coming year. We realize we have enormous shoes to fill and trust you will assist by providing patience and understanding but most importantly Scout Spirit as we build on the success Steve and Doug brought to Troop 42. Please visit the Troop's website at <http://nftroop42.org> for updates and other information as the year progresses.

Yours in Scouting,

Erik Zars
Scoutmaster

Michael Iadarola
Troop Committee Chair

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Parent Handbook

The updated 2015-16 Troop Family Handbook is available on the Troop Website. Please take the time to review this important document as it contains important and helpful information for both Scouts and Parents of Troop 42. The handbook is available on the Parents page of our Troop website.

Administrative Paperwork

Annual Motor Vehicle Checklist

All adults, both registered leaders and parents who attend campouts or provide transportation services are required to provide insurance and other information to our Outdoor Coordinator by completing the **Annual Motor Vehicle Checklist**. This is critical information that we must have. All of the information is kept confidential by Joe Baumgarten. We are required to maintain this as per guidelines outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Please complete and bring to the first Troop meeting and provide updates as needed during the year. This is an ANNUAL Requirement by the BSA. A copy is provided to you tonight in this packet.

Medical Records

Troop 42 requires medical forms A, B and C, the troop over the counter form and a copy of both sides of the scout's health insurance card. Annual medical forms are NOT just a requirement for those going to Summer Camp; they are REQUIRED of ALL Scouts and Scouters so that we have updated medical/insurance information. The BSA requires an ANNUAL update and the form is good for 12 months from the date signed. Our Medical Records Coordinator is Lisa Motto. It is CRITICAL that these forms be kept current and for any parents who are just occasional campers, we should at least have the basic information submitted. See Lisa or drop her a note at (medicalrecords@nftroop42.org) to check when current forms for you or your son will expire. These forms must be kept current and are NOT optional. Scouts and Scouters without current medical forms cannot be allowed to participate in any outdoor activities.

Monthly Permission Slips

Permissions slips are a requirement for both Insurance purposes as well as helping us keep track of the Scouts planning to attend the campouts. The information is also used to develop the monthly driving assignments; hence we also need to know which adults are attending. It is always easy to adjust down but if we plan for 20 scouts to attend and 30 scouts show up, we end up in a bind for several reasons. Some include insurance, drivers, equipment, and food to name a few. Please take a good close look at the camping dates. Permission slips are available online and should be turned in 3 weeks before the campout. The September permission slip is included in this packet. The PLC has elected to do a Cope Course during this campout. There is an additional fee for those who meet the age requirement and can participate.

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Program Calendar

The Troop Calendar is online at the Troop Website with permission slips and directions to each of our locations. The calendar is drafted in February of the prior Scouting year so that between then and the beginning of the next Scouting year, the leadership teams can fine tune and make any adjustments. By providing this to you in advance, our hope is that you will put these dates on your family calendar so that everyone can do their best to attend and parents are aware of when we may need help with driving to and/or from the campsites.

Dates	Activity
Sept. 18-20	Camping at Sequassen, New Hartford, CT
Oct. 16-18	Scatacook Camporee
Nov. 21-22	Camping at Deer Lake in Killingworth, CT
Dec. 12-13	Camping at Ward Pond Ridge
Jan. TBD	Klondike Derby at Hoyt Reservation, Redding, CT
Feb. 19-21	Camping at Durland / Clear Lake, Putnam Valley, NY
Mar. 19-20	Camping at Seton Scout Reservation in Greenwich, CT
Apr. 9-10	Camping Bear Mountain AT Site
May 13-15	Family Camping in Philadelphia
Jun. 10-12	Camping at Harriman State Park
Jul. 26-Aug 1	Summer Camp – Current Plan is for our own program in MD

Please remember that we encourage Scouts to take part in other activities and we understand that conflicts will come up. Another reason we stress the importance of the calendar being reviewed is so that the Scout can look at the trips where he may need to leave early or arrive late. Sometimes, they may have to miss the day program and come for dinner and the night program; sometimes it could be the other way around. We simply encourage each scout to do what they can to maximize their participation and advancement opportunities and enjoy Scouting.