

Scouts BSA Troop 42 – New Fairfield



Dear Parents:

Welcome back to the start of a new Scouting year! It was an exciting summer for the youth of Troop 42. We had scouts working on their Eagle projects, working as counselors at Summer Camp and of course spending a week at Camp Sequassen.

As with every Scouting year, our youth leadership is excited about the opportunity and the long tradition of Troop 42 moving forward. The boys, with guidance from the adult leadership, have put together a plan that will lead to an exciting and fun year for everyone. Our goals are to continue the year round camping tradition, have fun, 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 programs. Baden Powell once commented, "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room."

This year our Troop is organized into three 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 also have a patrol of senior Scouts which comprise the Senior Patrol.

The Troop Committee is dedicated to following the guidelines set forth by our local 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 Chair, 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.

Visit the Troop's website at <http://nftroop42.org> for updates and other information as the year progresses.

Yours in Scouting,

Faith Ficarra
Scoutmaster

Peter Schretzenmayer
Troop Committee Chair

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Parent Handbook

The current version 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 prior to the campout. Check calendar for submittal deadline.

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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 14 and 15	Camp Bullowa
Oct 18-20	Camp Sequassen
Nov 16-17	Camp Bullowa
Dec 14-15	Sturges

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.