

Troop 452

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Contact Information:

Scoutmaster Jack Stevens -

jmstevens2@yahoo.com

Assistant Scoutmaster Lee Stegmann-

lee@stegmanns.com

Charter Organization Representative (COR) Troop Committee Chair Dee Archer -

archerdj@yahoo.com

Website: <https://troopmasterweb1.com/068937T>

General Email:

Troop452sec.@yahoo.com

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Scoutmaster Moment

If you look in the Boy Scout Handbook at the rank requirements, most of them are pretty straight forward - demonstrate first aid for serious burns, tie a bowline, earn 6 merit badges, etc. However, beginning with the Second Class rank there is an added, more indefinite requirement: **Show Scout Spirit**.

The Scoutmasters have had a lot of questions over the years about what exactly "**Show Scout Spirit**" means. NO it doesn't mean that on Halloween night you dress up as the ghost of Baden-Powell (or any other famous Scout Spirit).

National BSA must have had a lot of questions too, because they changed the requirement recently to read "**Demonstrate Scout Spirit** by living the Scout Oath and the Scout Law in your everyday life." That's a little better, but still... what does it mean?

The first thing you need to understand about **Scout Spirit** is that even though the requirement looks the same for each rank, it's really different - **Scout Spirit** for Life Scout is very different (and much harder) than **Scout Spirit** for Second Class. You'll discover that

the scoutmasters will only sign you off for one "Scout Spirit" requirement at a time, because each one is harder than the next.

The other thing that you will notice is that unlike almost all the other requirements, you can never convince a Scoutmaster to sign off the **Scout Spirit** requirement on the spot. Tie a bowline, and he'll sign that off; show him your merit badge card and he'll sign off that requirement for Star, but he'll never just up and sign off that pesky **Scout Spirit** one. That's because you must demonstrate **Scout Spirit** in your everyday life, not in the five minutes you're talking to the Scoutmaster. What happens is that at meetings and especially on campouts, the Scoutmasters are like Santa Claus - they're always watching you, to see when you are naughty or nice.

Scout Spirit should be shown at all times, and generally this requirement is one of the last ones signed off for any rank. For Second Class that may only be for a campout and the last few meetings, but for Eagle it may be for several months.

What are they looking for?



Believe it or not, there's a "Scoutmaster's cheat sheet" that the Scoutmaster and his friends all have to give some idea, which may be shared with the boys, if they ask. By the way, we expect Scouts to not only follow the items listed for that rank, but also all the items for the previous ranks too.

~ Mr. Stevens

A Boy Scout is:

Friendly

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs are different from their own.

Chaplain's Corner

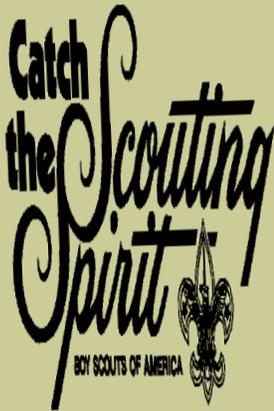
Today is the first day of autumn. Our forests and hills burst forth in vibrant colors. As the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, in his poem, *God's Grandeur*, "the world is charged with the grandeur of God."

We as scouts have the privilege of spending a lot of our time outdoors and in the midst of the beautiful world God has given us to care for and protect. Along with our beautiful world, he has given us each a family and friends to care about. And just like the trees we also, as well as our family and friends experience change. As we advance in the scouting program

we see ourselves changing. Sometimes the change is good. Sometimes the change we experience isn't a good one. This is when we need our family friends, scout leaders to help us get back on the right path. Sort of like when the leaves fall from the trees, winter comes and then spring returns with new foliage. This is also the time of the year when we celebrate the harvest. We also do this in our churches, as we read about the end times. It is a good time for us to look back on the past months and ask ourselves how we have grown. It is also a good time to ask how we are growing as a

scout troop. Have we made new friends? What new skills have we learned? And with all of the new things we have learned are we better members of our families, of our churches, of our schools? This autumn let us all take time, to enjoy the beauty of the earth and of all the good gifts our God has given to us. And like the seasons of the year are charged with the grandeur of God, as we grow better each day, showing God's love to all whose lives touch ours.

~Deacon Michael Thomas.



"An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual."

*~ Robert Baden
-Powell*



Treasurer Information

It is time once again for our annual Re-Charter registration and Troop Dues collection.

Dues and Re-Charter fees have been set through the Troop Committee and help pay for registration fees to Dan Beard Council, as well as, supplemental insurance during Scouting Events. A small amount stays with the Troop.

Dues and re-charter fees are \$50.00 and must be paid to Mr. Feist (checks payable to Troop 452), by November 22, 2011.

For each Scout who sold \$350 or more in popcorn, the Scout's fee will be paid by the troop.

As a reminder, popcorn pickup is November 19, 2011 at 2pm. Prompt

pickup of popcorn is appreciated.

~ Mr. Feist



Advancement News

I'm pleased to say that our boys continue to advance in rank. Most of the first year scouts should be Second Class by the end of October. As a parent, you can help by asking your son about his progress.

If you have questions about requirements, please ask Mr. Stevens or myself, as we try to "gently push" the boys. Some of the boys may not have experience in taking the initiative in approaching others to get the necessary help or infor-

mation to attain rank. This process is critically important in the scouting program, as it teaches skills in leadership and self dependency.

Merit Badge Challenge registration is currently open to the scouts. Merit Badges fill up quickly - so get signed up now. Scouts have a chance to earn up to three merit badges at this event, which will be held at STM. I recommend that the boys work on at least one Eagle Required Merit Badge during this

event. Pre-Requisites will be required...so the boys need to ask me how to sign up and what pre-requisites they may need.

Finally, if your son is interested in any merit badge, have him contact me. Many merit badge requirements can be met simply by doing the things your son does every day., and I'll help him find a counselor. So let's earn some badges!

~ Mr. Duff

Troop Committee and Calendar Notes

One of the requirements by Boy Scouts of America indicate that all individuals who will have contact with the boys must be "trained" within the next year.

Not only do we need to make sure we all have the Catholic Church Youth Protection Training and the BSA Youth Protection Training, we are encouraged to also become CPR trained. Mr. Stevens will be conducting this training for our parents in October/November. Look for more information soon.

Additionally, there have been changes requiring adults becoming NRA (National Rifle Association) trained for the boys to attend archery or shooting events. If you would be willing to serve in this role, please contact Mr. Stevens or Mr. Stegmann for training opportunities.

Awesome opportunities to get training happens throughout the year. Please see Mr. Stegmann for more information.

Looking Ahead:

November 5 - University of Scouting
November 15 - Troop Committee Meeting - 7pm
November 18-20 - Thanksgiving Campout
November 19 - Family Dinner at Stonelick Park Campgrounds
November 19 - 2pm - Popcorn Pickup

~ Troop Committee