

September 1, 2019

Dear Scouts and Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Scout Year with Troop 5!

The first scout meeting of the year will be held on Monday, September 9 from 7-8 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage all scouts and parents to attend this first meeting as a year-in-review and expectations will be shared and questions can be answered. Scouts will meet each Monday night throughout the scout year, except for Mondays when there is no school. Class A's are required for all scout meetings unless specified for a particular meeting.

The Scoutmaster met with the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and the older Patrol Leaders this summer to plan the upcoming scout year. They have planned the Monday scout meetings and activities for the campouts for the year. They had some great ideas, which will make for a fun, learning year.

This year, the Monday night meetings will involve many activities. Most months will include one night to work on merit badges. We will try to have most counselors at those designated meetings, and they will be ready to work with scouts on merit badges. Scouts should use the time between these meetings to work on their merit badges in preparation for those meetings. Other activities during Monday night meetings will include planning for campouts (meal planning, activity prep, etc.), patrol planned activities, a tour, and other related activities.

The camping weekends planned throughout the year are an important part of scouts. Every scout needs to have camping nights recorded to meet some of the merit badge requirements. A typical weekend campout costs each scout about \$25-30. We will be encouraging scouts to attend the weekend campouts through the year to maximize their scouting experience.

Scout accounts will continue to be used to track funds available for each scout. Scouts will not be able to attend weekend campouts if the proper amount of funds are not available to cover the trip. A minimum of \$50 needs to be available in scout accounts to be eligible for campouts. Account balances can be viewed on the troop's website at <https://www.troop5bsa.org/>. All scouts will have the opportunity to sell wreaths to earn money to fund their scout account. It is possible for a scout to earn money for their entire year of scouting. Wreath information will be given to the scouts at the September 16th meeting with sales beginning after that meeting.

Scoutbook will be used to track merit badge and rank advancement. Scoutbook is available at <https://www.scoutbook.com/>. In the next few days, we will be adding adults who are not yet connected to their scouts in Scoutbook. When adding new adults to Scoutbook, an invitation will be sent to you to join Scoutbook. Throughout the scout year, you will want to check Scoutbook to see your scout's progress with their merit badges and rank advancement. Parents will not be marking merit badge requirements or rank requirements as complete or entering camping nights and service hours. The Scoutmaster or Merit Badge Counselors will do this as appropriate.

Troop 5 Committee Meetings are also scheduled monthly during the school year. These meetings are typically the 2nd Monday of the month starting at 8 pm after the regular Monday scout meeting. However, the September committee meeting will be held on September 16th due to scheduling conflicts. The date of each of the committee meetings will be publicized. All parents are encouraged to attend the committee meetings.

Parents are also encouraged to be active in Scouts. Parents can volunteer as Merit Badge Counselors or Committee Members. The current Committee positions that are available include: Equipment Coordinator, Training Coordinator (Youth and Adults), and New Parent Coordinator. If you are interested in filling any of these positions, contact Tim Kenyon. Parents are also invited to attend the weekend campouts. To attend these campouts, adults must be registered and complete youth protection training. Adults must be considered active to participate in Troop 5 High Adventure Trips (Colorado, Maui, Boundary Waters, etc.). You should begin to be active now, not when the next trip is announced.

We are looking forward to the upcoming scout year. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Yours in Scouting,

Paul Ersland
Troop 5 Scoutmaster
Scoutmaster@troop5bsa.org

Tim Kenyon
Troop 5 Committee Chair
Committeechairman@troop5bsa.org

Planned Weekend Campouts

- October 25-27, 2019 – Isaac Walton, Madison, SD (tent camping)
- November 22-24, 2019 – Shetek – Currie, MN (indoor camping)
- January 3-5, 2020 – Lewis & Clark – Tabor, SD (indoor camping)
- January 31 – February 2, 2020 – Shetek – Currie, MN (indoor camping)
- February 8, 2020 – Klondike Derby – day event only
- March 6-8, 2020 – Lewis & Clark – Tabor, SD (indoor camping)
- April 3-5, 2020 – Spring Camporee
- May 1-3, 2020 – Newton Hills – Canton, SD (tent camping)

Other Scout Year Important Dates

- October 26, 2019 – Court of Honor at Ike's campout
- January 27, 2020 – Court of Honor, Friends of Scouting
- February 9, 2020 – Pancake Feed
- May 18, 2020 – Court of Honor

Summer Camp 2020

- June 21-27, 2020 – Lewis & Clark Camp – Tabor, SD