

Adventure!

Learning!

Fun!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 150

DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS



SPONSOR:
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 150!



Boy Scout Troop 150, chartered by the Zion Lutheran Church in Deerfield, is for boys 11-17 years old. Primarily serving those living in Deerfield, Highland Park, and Riverwoods, all boys in the area are welcome to join the troop. There have been 25-35 boys in the troop in recent years. The troop, which has been serving the community for over 45 years, is in the



Aptakistic District of the Northeast Illinois Council of the Boy Scouts of America. We support the ideals of Scouting, most importantly in helping boys become leaders and good citizens of fine character in an atmosphere of fellowship, adventure, learning, and fun.

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held every Thursday in the lower level of the Zion Lutheran Church on the north side of Deerfield Road at the Deerfield/Highland Park border. Meetings run from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM. Meeting topics vary from instruction on Scouting skills, preparation for outings, and just plain fun and games! On occasion we have meetings around a campfire at the fire ring located behind the Church.

Troop Organization and Boy Leadership

The entire group of boys is called a *troop* with smaller *patrols* of 8-12 boys. For those new scouts coming over from Cub Scouts this is like the *pack/den* relationship, however patrols meet and function during weekly troop meetings and on outings, rather than in separate weekly meetings. We carry on the tradition of being a *boy led troop*. Boys hold elections twice a year to determine their leadership. The top Scout leader in the troop is the *Senior Patrol Leader* elected in a troop-wide election. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints his assistants and other troop level officers. *Patrol leaders* are elected by members for each patrol. The patrol leader appoints other positions within the patrol, such as assistant patrol leader and quartermaster.



The "Patrol Method"

The *patrol method* allows Scouts to interact in a small group outside the larger troop context, working together as a team and sharing the responsibility of making their patrol a success. Patrols will sometimes join with other patrols to learn skills and complete advancement requirements. At other times they will compete against those same patrols in Scout skills and athletic competitions. **The patrol method relies on boys respecting and following leaders that they have chosen from among themselves.**

Monthly Campouts

The troop plans a monthly weekend event, typically camping trips, at various locations, usually within 3 hours of Deerfield. Many campouts have adventurous activities such as mountain biking, backpacking, or pioneering. We take pride in camping year round, and look forward to the unique thrills of winter camping. Most camping trips meet at the church on Friday evenings at 6:45PM and return to the church the following Sunday at noon. Ideas for troop outings are discussed within patrols and then voted on by troop and patrol Scout leaders at a patrol leader conference (PLC).



Summer Camp

The troop spends two weeks in late July at our Council's Camp MaKaJaWan located in northern Wisconsin. This is a favorite of boys and also an excellent opportunity for boys to work on merit badges and advancement of rank.

Advancement

During the year, boys master various skills to achieve higher ranks within Scouting. Boys advance at their own pace from the initial rank of *Scout* to *Tenderfoot*, *Second Class*, *First Class*, *Star*, *Life* and *Eagle*. Advancement through First Class is a natural outgrowth of patrol and troop experiences. When boys begin working on the higher ranks, they are much more on their own, including work on merit badges, which help boys get exposure and expertise to a wide array of specialized topics. Parents should encourage their sons to stay focused on advancement within Scouting. Twice a year, the troop hosts a Court of Honor to recognize all the advancements earned since the previous Court of Honor. Parents and families are encouraged to attend the Courts of Honor.

Parent Leadership and Involvement

The troop cannot survive without parental support. You provide additional leadership on camping trips, assist with fundraisers, and provide expertise with special knowledge gained from hobbies or work experience and overall guidance at the committee level. *Your participation is critical* to the survival of the Troop!!! There is an opportunity for ALL parents to participate. There are many tasks and duties to choose from. There IS one just right for you.

The troop's top adult operational leader is the *Scoutmaster*. The Scoutmaster helps coordinate all troop activities and is assisted by a group of *Assistant Scoutmasters*. Scoutmasters wear uniforms and serve as role models for the boys. A troop committee oversees all troop activity. The committee is lead by a committee chair and meets every 6-8 weeks to review how the troop is functioning, review finances and approve funding, discuss planning, etc.

You will cherish the time you spend with your son in Scouting so don't hold back!

Uniforms and the Boy Scout Manual

Boys are expected to look neat and to wear their uniform to all troop meetings. Neckerchiefs, presented to the boys by the troop when they join, are expected for special ceremonies such as Courts of Honor and Eagle Scout ceremonies. Each boy should purchase a Boy Scout Handbook.



Camping Equipment Needed

Equipment that boys will need to camp with the troop is minimal. Most importantly they are expected to have a warm sleeping bag, a ground pad, a mess kit, and eating utensils. If they do not have these items, the troop has some loaner equipment that they can borrow for their first few outings. All other camping equipment is provided, including tents, cook kits, stove, lanterns, etc. These are checked out to patrols who camp as a unit on outings.

Annual Cost of Membership

The annual cost to participate in Troop 150 is \$170, however, only \$50 per year must be paid in cash. Most boys earn the balance by participating in troop fundraisers. The family will be billed for the difference if boys do not meet their individual fundraising goals.

Troop Communications

Much communication is through the Scouts themselves but the troop also has a weekly email notification system to provide written detail about meetings, troop outings, and other troop news. You should be sure that we get you signed up to receive this by sending an email to T150News-subscribe@yahoo.com. A printed calendar of events is available in the Troop office.

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2005/2006 Troop Monthly Activity Calendar	
September 16 th -18 th	STRATEGY GAMES Camp Oakarrow Popcorn sales start 9/30
October 21 st -23 rd	BACKPACKING - Kettle Moraine North
November 18 th -20 th	SHOOTING SPORTS Camping at Bong Recreation Area
December 9 th -10 th	UNCAMPOUT (<i>Webelos IIs and their parent invited for first night</i>) TBD
January 13 th -15 th	WINTER SPORTS Campout At Kettle Moraine North-Mauthe Lake, WI OR Chain O'Lakes State Park, IL
28 th	DOWNHILL SKI OUTING , <i>Webelos II & families invited, Alpine Valley</i>
February 3 rd -4 th	KLONDIKE DERBY At Camp Oakarro, Wadsworth, IL
March 17 th -19 th	PIONEERING
April 21 st -23 rd	BIKING
May 19 th -21 st	CANOEING On Kishwaukee River near Belvedere, IL
June 9 th -11 th	ROCK CLIMBING/KAYAKING at Devil's Lake State Park, WI
14 th -28 th	Troop 150 PHILMONT DOUBLE H Scout Ranch Trip , New Mex. (min. age 14)
July Date TBD	WATER SKIING & TUBING (Saturday only)
July 23rd - Aug. 6th	SUMMER CAMP at MAKAJAWAN!
August	<i>No Troop outing or meetings during the month of August</i>



TROOP 150 CONTACTS

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