



New Scout Family Essentials for Scouting

Troop323kwd.org

Uniform: The Webelos (tan colored) uniform becomes the Scout uniform. Nylon switchback (zip off leg) pants are good for all of our activities year round. At our crossover new green epaulettes designating Scouting will be provided. The Troop also provides a Neckerchief, Troop T-shirt, and Scout handbook.

Transition: Webelos Scouts begin Scouting after the Blue and Gold banquet January 30. At the Banquet a brief recognition of their transition to Scouting is made and they receive their green epaulettes for their uniform. At this point they begin participating in all Scout functions.

Initially they will be in one of two new scout patrols guided by senior scouts along with several Assistant Scoutmasters for new scouts. Our aim is to rapidly inculcate them into the Patrol method of Scouting, learn more about them and have them ready for participation with regular patrols within a few months.

Calendar essentials:

Highest priority for participation with Scouting:

- Crossover campout, April 1-3, Beaumont Scout reservation. This is the new Scout's official welcome to the troop. Beaumont is just 17 minutes from the Church so boys can participate in sports that weekend if needed.
 - Summer camp, June 19-25, S-F Scout Ranch in Farmington, MO.
 - Pizza sales and pizza making, beginning December. Boys make and distribute their pizza Feb 5: this is our major fundraiser and boys can earn a substantial sum toward the cost of summer camp.
- Remaining calendar enclosed.

Gear:

What gear does a Scout need? Note that most of this can be acquired over time, and substitutions of cheap stuff from around the home are encouraged where possible. Some of this is mentioned if gift ideas are needed for the next year or two. See attached standard camping gear lists for a comprehensive list of camp gear.

-Essentials:

Sleeping bag: essential for camping. Ideal temperature rating is for 0 to 10 degrees. Note that the bag's temperature rating regards keeping one alive; the zero degree bag will keep one comfortable at 20 degrees. We are an all weather troop and will camp in the cold. Synthetic fill is preferred as this maintains insulating properties better if damp and is less expensive than down. If a waterproof stuff sack is available that would be a valuable addition.

Ground pad: The ground is cold and hard. A good pad is lightweight, durable, and indispensable. Foam ones can be had for about \$20, and the backpackable inflatable ones up to \$80. A pad of either type is essential for camping with the temperature under 40 degrees.

Poncho or rain gear: Breathable rain-suits are great, but pricy and will be outgrown. A nylon poncho will do fine. Avoid cheap thin plastic ones. Protection from the elements is critical for comfort and safety.

Water bottles: We ask that youth be able to carry 3 quarts of water minimum on outings. Nalgene or similar hard bottles are useful. It is important that they seal well so as not to dampen gear in a pack. Platypus or camel back type soft containers are useful, lightweight, and pack well because they are flexible. A 2 quart apple juice bottle also works well and is cheap.

-Accessories:

Knife: folding blade less than 3 ½ inches long. Once boys earn their Totin-Chip card through demonstration of safe use practice they are clear to carry and use a knife in appropriate Scout functions. No sheath knives or axes.

Compass: Card type compass with the rectangular clear plastic base should be about \$10.

Mess kit: Plastic bowl, spoon, maybe a cup. Don't bother with the 5 piece aluminum kit; it will never be used.

Camp chair. Crazy creek or similar backpacking chair. A nice accessory, not essential.

-Stuff you don't need immediately:

Backpack. The troop has a few loaners, and packs can be borrowed from youth and adult members.

Tents. The troop has adequate tents for the activities. Boys are welcome to use their own. Boys do tent with members of their own Patrol.

Camp stoves. These may be used only by older Scouts under adult direction.

Youth protection (applies to adults):

Who – any adult who wishes to participate with the Scouting program involving any youth contact. Parents may attend some day event as parents, but taking a leadership role requires youth protection training. Camping, or day events away from the parish require youth protection training.

1) Scouting council has an on line youth protection training that will require about 30 minutes to complete (see <http://olc.scouting.org>). Sign on, create an account with your name (identical to the name on the membership application), complete the training and print a receipt. The paper receipt will serve ensure that you get credit should council not be able to track back to your account.

2) Archdiocesan “Protecting God’s Children” is available through the Archdiocese, and is the same that many have done as part of sports and other parish activities. Once this is on file with the parish you are good for life.

(<http://archstl.org/sep/page/protecting-gods-children>)

Health forms:

One medical form covers all Scouting activities for adult and youth. Part A and C are completed by the parent and are sufficient for most of our activities. Part B is completed by a health care provider and is required for more involved activities such as summer camp, Pack and Paddle and anything else longer than a weekend.

Adults who wish to participate out-doors with the troop should complete Parts A and C. Adults who wish to camp at summer camp or high adventure activities will need the physician exam also.

Forms enclosed

Membership applications:

- Youth (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406A.pdf>)
- Adult (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>)
- Health form (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34605 Letter.pdf>)
(If you complete the pdf medical form, you can save it and I can be more easily updated for subsequent years.)
- Outdoor calendar (see also troop323kwd.org for this and the next 3 forms)
- Meeting calendar (Calendar tab on the website)
- Camping gear list (Troop Resources tab on the website under *Gear Lists*)
- Permission slip (Troop Resources tab on the website under *Parents*)

Scouting Readiness Checklist; Return these forms at the next Committee meeting

Action item	Check
Youth Registration application, no fee if transferring from Webelos	
Adult Registration application, and \$15 (council fee)	
Health form, parts A and C at minimum for now Part B is necessary later for Summer camp or Pack and Paddle	
Parent finished Protecting God’s Children, on file with parish.	
Parent finished St. Louis Council youth protection Print certificate at completion.	
Permission slip	