

Troop 62 Parents FAQ for New Scouts – Getting Started!

When and where do you meet?

Troop 62 meets every Tuesday night from 7pm to 8:30pm-ish at the Meridian United Methodist Church Family Life Center on the corner of 3rd and Pine in Meridian. Sometimes the troop will meet at a different time and location for an activity such as bike riding or an activity night at Grinker's Arcade or Wahooz / Pinz Family Fun Center – details are sent out via ScoutLander.

What are the requirements for joining your troop?

We are a community troop in the Gem State District, and most of our scouts attend middle and high schools in Meridian. Every young man is welcome!

What are the costs?

There are \$25 quarterly dues that go towards troop supplies (mainly badges for advancement). Camping has a cost per campout to help cover food and site activities, usually around \$20 per campout, but this varies. Summer camp & float trips cost extra. There are other, optional, out-of-pocket costs such as an occasional troop visit to an arcade, corn maze, etc.

Are there fundraising events?

Yes. We participate in the Ore Ida Council popcorn sale as well as other smaller-scale troop-oriented events, such as cookie dough, or Christmas wreaths in the fall. Most fundraising goes towards the individual Scout accounts & can be used to pay for troop activities.

What sort of activities do you do?

The troop keeps an active schedule all year long.

Weekly meetings: The troop meets each Tuesday. One meeting a month is the PLC meeting (more on these later). The 3rd Tuesday in March, June, September, and December are reserved for Courts of Honor where we present awards earned.

Campouts: Campouts are planned once a month, generally the first or second weekend, depending on holidays.

Summer Camp: Besides Camp Morrison in McCall, the troop has attended camps at Camp Grizzly (Northern Idaho), Camp Easton (Northern Idaho), Camp Meriwether (Oregon Coast), and Camp Buffalo Bill (Cody, Wyoming). Fun side trips are usually planned in conjunction with summer camp, like the Trail of the Hiawatha, Silverwood Theme Park, Yellowstone National Park, Buck Knife factory tours, touring the Bennett Lumber Mill, etc.

Lock-In: An indoor event where Scouts play games, watch movies, eat snacks, and just have fun.

Merit Badge Clinic: Troop merit badge clinics help provide advancement opportunities.

Service projects: Service projects can take place at campouts or other outings, as part of an Eagle project, or for advancement. For several years the Troop has cut all the firewood for winter use at Camp Morrison in McCall, and receiving Scouting for Food donations at Meridian Food Bank.

Other activities: These include outings like bike rides on the greenbelt, helping serve goodies after a church service, representing BSA at events in the area, Klondike Derby, helping with Webelos Woods at Camp Morison, and events with other troops.

What are some examples of campouts?

In no particular order: Digging ice caves at Camp Morrison, Givens Hot Springs in the winter, hiking the Bruneau Sand Dunes, paddling on Sage Hen Reservoir, Greyback Gulch in Idaho City, rock climbing at City of Rocks, Indian lore at Celebration Park, Hells Canyon, Weiser River Trail ride, 20 mile bike ride around Payette Lake, backpacking to Blue Lake, and many more.

What sort of camping gear does my Scout need?

The troop has cooking gear for the Scouts. The troop also provides tents, but Scouts often like to bring their own. Your Scout should have weather/activity appropriate clothing, a sleeping bag and mattress/pad, pillow, a meal kit (plate, cup, bowl, fork, spoon, knife), and a duffle or backpack to carry things in. If you need help or suggestions, please ask. We know where to get bargains & often have good hand-me downs within the troop!

How does advancement work?

Each Scout rank has requirements that must be met. Part of each requirement may include an amount of time in that rank, service hours, along with a Scoutmaster conference, and being interviewed by an advancement committee. Earlier ranks focus on Scouting skills; later ranks focus on leadership, service hours, and merit badges. The program includes advancement activities on campout as well as during meetings. The biggest part of Scouting is the outing!

How does the Troop meeting work?

Troop 62 activities are led by Scouts. A typical meeting will have an opening session which includes the flag ceremony and announcements and reviewing the scout oath, law, etc., a skills time where a merit badge or other skill might be taught, a patrol time for advancement activities, a fun, leadership-oriented game or activity for the whole troop, and a closing ceremony. Each meeting is followed by a PLC leadership review to see what went well and what could improve. Sometimes there are special meetings with outside guests, such as a police officer discussing personal safety, or a person with a hobby that relates to a merit badge or skill.

What is the PLC?

The PLC is the Patrol Leader Council and is made up of Scouts in leadership positions. They meet once a month in lieu of a regular meeting night. Once a year, the PLC plans the activities for the next year. Scouts have PLC elections twice a year and there is training for PLC members to learn & review their responsibilities.

What do you expect from me as a parent?

The more activities a Scout participates in, the more likely they will have a fun and fulfilling Scouting experience. Parents can help as leaders, in the parent committee, and as merit badge counselors. Scouting is a good way for parents to learn new skills as well, including many adult training opportunities. There are always opportunities for a parent to help, but getting Scouts to meetings and activities, and promoting participation is the most important.

What percentage of Scouts in your troop earn Eagle rank?

The percentage varies from year to year, but is higher than the national average. Troop adult leaders help provide many opportunities to advance, but the process really depends on the Scout to advance in a timely manner. Even Scouts who don't earn Eagle rank will have learned a lot about leadership, personal skills, and working with others. Troop 62 follows the "boy led" patrol method, with support and guidance from the adult leaders.