Indian Nations Council, Boy Scouts of America

Tradition • Heritage • Vision

Troop 26 Visitor Information Packet

troop26.org **Spring – Summer 2014**

Boy Scout Troop 26
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Welcome to Troop 26 . . .

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! A great reward awaits you and your son. Scouting is a grand adventure full of exciting and interesting experiences. Interwoven with these experiences are life lessons taught to build character, foster citizenship, and develop fitness. Your son will experience many things. He will have the opportunity to learn and appreciate things that most others will never have the opportunity to learn and appreciate. All the while, he will be having fun. Your reward? The joys of seeing your son develop self-reliance, self-confidence, initiative, resourcefulness, moral character, and courage. Watching as he matures into a principled leader with quality values and good judgement. And finally, remembering him as a new Boy Scout while watching the Eagle Scout Award being pinned to his chest. This is what lies ahead.

The purpose of this package is to invite you, both scouts and parents, into the wonderful world of Scouting with Troop 26. We hope you have a truly rewarding experience as you advance through the ranks of Scouting from Tenderfoot to Eagle. We, the parents and adult leaders of Troop 26, pledge to help each Scout learn the scouting skills and ideals that will serve him every day for the rest of his life.

Troop 26 has been continuously sponsored as a Boy Scout Troop in Tulsa, Oklahoma since 1954. Since 1969, Troop 26 has been honored to present the Eagle Scout Award (the highest rank in Scouting) to over 670 of its members. Nationally, only about 4% of all Boy Scouts attain the Eagle rank. In Troop 26 that percentage is over 60%.

Troop 26 is a “scout run” troop. The Senior Patrol Leader, Leadership Corps, Patrol Leaders, and Assistant Patrol Leaders, are all scouts within the troop. These young men run the Troop using the principles of the Scout Law, the Scout Oath, the Scout Slogan, and the Scout Motto. The Scoutmaster provides direct guidance to the scouts and is the link between scouts and parents. The troop has a Troop Committee to provide administrative guidance and financial support to the troop. All parents are welcome to attend Troop Committee meetings, and are encouraged to become a member of the committee.

Please contact us with any questions. Again, we invite you to join the Troop 26 family. We look forward to meeting and working with you and your son on his path to Eagle.

Boy Scout Troop 26
Tulsa, Oklahoma

NEW SCOUT INFORMATION

Every visiting Scout is encouraged to complete this portion of the "Visitor Packet" before he leaves his first meeting. We know there will be questions that come up during the next week or so and this is a great way to get some quick answers.

The Troop 26

SENIOR PATROL LEADER is_____

His Phone Number is_____

His email address is_____

SCOUTMASTER is Bill Shaffer.

Work: 918 493-3213
Home: 918 492-1864
Home: eaglefactory@sbcglobal.com
Work e-mail: bill.shaffer@uhsinc.com

TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN is Ted Dubie.

Home: 918-481-1901
e-mail: tdubie@dubieproperties@cox.net

TROOP TREASURER is Randy McGuire.

Cell: 918-607-5255
e-mail: randymcguire@dentsply.com

ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN is Rick Hayes.

Home: 918-279-6126
e-mail: rhayes@bokf.com

Boy Scout Troop 26
Tulsa, Oklahoma

TROOP 26 AT A GLANCE

Scoutmaster: Bill Shaffer

Troop Committee Chairman: Ted Dubie

Sponsoring Institution: The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Meetings: Monday nights, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
8730 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74129

Campouts: Monthly; dates vary from month to month, check the master calendar on the troop website troop26.org .

Troop Committee Meeting: Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, normally on the 4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM, all adults invited and encouraged to attend.

In Council Summer Camp: Tom Hale Scout Reservation, Talihina, OK, normally during the second week in June

Dues: Scouts - $84.00, payable in two $42.00 installments,
one in May and one in November
Adults - $10, payable in November

Adult Leader Dues: $20.00 annually, payable in November

Website: troop26.org

Boy Scout Troop 26
Tulsa, Oklahoma

From the Senior Patrol Leader . . .

Dear New Scouts of Troop 26,

Welcome! I am glad you are considering joining the Troop 26 family. I am the current Senior Patrol Leader and I'm glad you decided to come here. I know you had the choice to go to many other troops in Tulsa.

Joining a new troop as large as Troop 26 can seem a bit overwhelming and your parents may be a bit apprehensive believing you will "fall between the cracks." I can tell you that is not the case with Troop 26. As soon as you join the Troop 26, you make over 200 new friends, scouts and adults. A large troop provides more opportunities; we go camping every month, we go to summer camp every year, and National Jamborees every four years. After your make Eagle, a whole new set of opportunities are opened; like Northern Tier Canoe trips in Canada, Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and Florida's Sea Base.

The troop currently has ten patrols, each with eight to fourteen members. Scouts may join any patrol they wish, but the Viking patrol is a good place for new members to start. The Vikings are focused on the Tenderfoot requirements. Viking members are all new scouts, and they learn basic camping skills and how the troop works from two of the troop's senior scouts who serve as their patrol leaders. When they earn their Tenderfoot rank, they move to a different patrol.

When joining, you are expected to sign the Troop Constitution and adhere to the rules that have been agreed upon by scouts in the troop for many years. You will also be given a plain red neckerchief. This neckerchief is part of the uniform and will be worn at all Class A functions. It will be traded for one with the Troop 26 logo embroidered on it and the white striping around the edge, when you earn Tenderfoot.

You will be taught by a group of Eagle Scouts known as the LC or Leadership Corps. These are not adults; they are scouts themselves who have achieved the rank of Eagle and are now giving back some of what they received from the troop. The LC Chairman leads them, and makes sure the younger scouts have every opportunity to advance in rank.

The SPL or Senior Patrol Leader (that's me) runs the troop and leads the meetings. The First Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is my second in command, and six or seven other ASPLs serve under him. The Head Quartermaster takes care of the equipment. These four scouts (SPL, 1st ASPL, LC Chairman, and Head Quartermaster) make up "The Stickmen." All four have carved hiking sticks that give the group its name. The Stickmen advise the Scoutmaster on all issues concerning the troop operation. We truly are a boy run troop.

You will meet a lot of new people and go many places. This troop is very fortunate to have a large number of Eagle Scouts and active Assistant Scoutmasters to help and guide you on your journey to Eagle.

Again, I am excited you are here. I look forward to getting to know you, and I applaud you on making the decision to visit Troop 26.

Nicholas Bieser
Senior Patrol Leader

Boy Scout Troop 26
Tulsa, Oklahoma

From the Scoutmaster . . .

Dear New Scout,

I am excited that you have chosen to visit Troop 26. There are many excellent troops in and around Tulsa, so we feel especially honored and privileged to be selected by you and your parents.

As the Scoutmaster of Troop 26, I want to introduce you to our troop family. This booklet contains answers to many questions that you or your parents might have. If you don't find answers to your questions, please feel free to call me or our Committee Chairman Ted Dubie, and we will be glad to help. Our numbers are in this package.

We offer much in Troop 26 for those who are focused and dedicated to achieving all they can while in scouting. We set the table, but no one will make you sit down and eat. We encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities that come up; campouts, merit badge classes, Jamborees, Philmont, Sommers Canoe Base, and, most importantly, the Eagle Scout Award. It's waiting for you at the top of the trail. All of us here in Troop 26 are available to help you get there.

Once again, we will be very proud to have you as a member of Troop 26.

Bill Shaffer
Scoutmaster

Adult Staff

Scoutmaster: Bill Shaffer
Troop Committee Chairman: Ted Dubie
Vice Committee Chairman: Ray Yarroll
Committee Chairman Emeritus: Bert Shelby
Chartering Organization (Good Shepherd Lutheran) Representative: Bud Kunze
Troop Treasurer: Randy McGuire
Assistant Troop Treasurer: Jim Gonders
Advancement Chairman: Rick Hayes
Advancement Vice Chairman: Dick Shelton
Arrow of Light Adult Team: Bill Shaffer, Donalyn & Dennis Zvacek, Rick Hayes, Randy McGuire
Special Christmas Party Coordinators: Tony and Terri Duncan, and Dick Shelton
Court of Honor Coordinators: Bill Shaffer, Rick Hayes, Dennis Zvacek
Eagle Project Review: JJ Jorishie, Ray Yarroll
Eagle Board of Review Coordinator: Ray Yarroll
Assistant Scoutmaster - Equipment & Adult Quartermaster: Dennis Zvacek
Adult Quartermaster: JJ Jorishie, Frank Parks, Tom Steele, Ken Martin, Mac Lowe
Fund Raising Coordinator: Ted Dubie
Honor Court Advisors: Rick Hayes, Dennis Zvacek
Leadership Corps Coordinator: Don Hull Jr.
Medical Criteria Coordinators: Dr. Frank Parks, Dennis Keilbarth
Merit Badge Coordinator: Rick Bieser
Museum Curator: Bill Shaffer
OA Advisor: John Points
Pine Tree Coordinator: Bill Shaffer
Venture Crew 26 Advisors: Ray Yarroll, John Points, Don Hull Jr.
Troop 26 Leadership Course "White Stag" Coordinators: Eric Kingery, Bill Fournet
Uniform Exchange Coordinator: Kathy Parks, Kristin Gurley
Webmaster: Christopher Smith
Blue & Gold Sausage Sales: Brenda Weigt
Garage Sale Coordinator: Steve Smith
BSA Popcorn Sales Coordinator: Mike Sturm

Troop 26 Constitution

WHEREAS the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 26 since 1954; and

WHEREAS Boy Scout Troop 26 has a long history of excellence in scouting; and

WHEREAS over 640 members of Boy Scout Troop 26 have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting; and

WHEREAS Boy Scout Troop 26 goes camping as a troop at least once each month, year round, attends summer camp as a troop every year, attends every National Jamboree as a troop, and has a high adventure program for Eagle Scouts; and

WHEREAS Boy Scout Troop 26 is a large troop which provides many leadership opportunities and consistent leadership training for all its members;

I hereby join Boy Scout Troop 26 believing that it is the best Boy Scout Troop for me, that I will have many adventures while a member, that Boy Scout Troop 26 will give me the opportunity to achieve the highest goals in scouting, and that I will contribute my skill and enthusiasm to make Troop 26 better for all its members, both past, present, and future.

As a member of Boy Scout Troop 26, I agree to:

Work toward the rank of Eagle Scout;

Participate in Troop 26 activities;

Learn everything I can in Boy Scouts;

Support Troop 26 fund raisers; and

Obey the Troop 26 Rules of Conduct.

(This is a copy for the visitor's packet; scouts will sign an original when he reaches Tenderfoot Rank)

Troop 26 Rules of Conduct

Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are forbidden. Possession will result in automatic suspension from the Troop. Giving or selling alcohol, drugs, or tobacco to another scout will result in automatic dismissal from the Troop.

Guns and other firearms are forbidden. Possession of a gun or other firearm by a scout at a scout activity will result in immediate dismissal from the Troop.

Foul and offensive language will not be tolerated. At a minimum this means profanity, racial and religious slurs, and other forms of hateful talk.

Clothing bearing offensive content is forbidden. At a minimum this includes any clothing which makes reference to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or sexual content.

Vandalism of any sort is forbidden. Defacing, destroying, or damaging Church property, Troop property, camp property, or another individual's property will not be tolerated.

Stealing will not be tolerated. Do not take, use, or borrow anyone's personal property without their permission. You are not allowed in another scout's tent without his permission. Raiding tents is forbidden for any reason. You may be in another patrol's campsite only with their permission. If asked to leave, do so.

Aerosol cans, cigarette lighters, fireworks, radios, tape players, and walkmans are forbidden on campouts. They will be confiscated for the duration of the campout and returned to the scout's parents.

Fixed blade knives, hatchets, axes, machetes, and other unapproved cutting or puncturing devices are forbidden. Knives with folding blades no longer than 4" in length may be taken and used on campouts by Tote-n-Chip members in good standing. Any non-conforming or unapproved knife, tool, or cutting device will be confiscated by an adult and returned to the scout's parents.

Confiscation of property Any personal or Troop property can be taken away from a scout by an adult leader, a Leadership Corps member, or the Senior or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, if it is determined that the item is being abused, misused, or is endangering the safety of person or property.

Chemicals and petroleum products are forbidden, even as fire starters. Fires must be enclosed in a ring of rocks or dirt. Only firewood and paper products may be placed in the fire. Nothing may be removed from a fire once it has been placed in the fire. This applies whether all or only a part of the item has been placed in the fire, and is especially applicable to burning sticks. There must be two buckets filled with water near every fire.

Use the Buddy System. A scout may not go anywhere by himself or with just one other person; there must be a minimum of three scouts in a group. You may not leave the boundaries of the camp in which the Troop is camping unless you are in a group led by an adult leader.

Lights out is mandatory. The time for lights out on a campout will be announced by the Senior Patrol Leader. You must be in your tent by that time. Talking after lights out should be done quietly, so as not to be heard outside your tent. In the morning, do not wake other scouts or start a fire by yourself, unless instructed to do so by an adult leader, the Leadership Corp, or the Senior or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Running, ball throwing, wrestling, and horse play in the camping area is prohibited. Do this away from the tents, fire pits, and gear.

Transporting Scouts Any driver with scouts in a vehicle must be at least 21 years of age. Scouts of driving age may drive to campouts only when circumstances prevent normal car pooling. If a scout must drive himself to a campout, he must park his vehicle for the duration of the campout and leave by himself at the end of the campout. He may not use the vehicle during the campout and may not lend the car to anyone else.

THIS LIST IS NOT INCLUSIVE. WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK YOUR ACTIONS AGAINST THE SCOUT LAW.

WE HAVE READ, DISCUSSED, AND AGREE WITH THE TROOP 26 CONSTITUTION AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE TROOP 26 RULES OF CONDUCT.

_____
Signature of Scout

_____
Signature of Parent

_____
Signature of Scoutmaster

(This is a copy for the visitor's packet; scouts will sign an original when he reaches Tenderfoot Rank)

Boy Scout Troop 26 Tulsa, Oklahoma

PARENT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET

We always need new leaders, new merit badge counselors and instructors, new committee members, and chairpersons for various committees within the Troop. We certainly need all the help we can get, but we don't always ask. To make up for this shortcoming we ask that you complete the following questionnaire and return it to Ted Dubie, our Troop Committee Chairman, Rick Bieser, our Merit Badge Coordinator, or Randy McGuire, our Troop Treasurer.

Would you like to hear more about becoming a uniformed leader of the Troop? _____
See ASM Dennis Zvacek

Could you provide transportation on one or more monthly campouts? _____
Talk to your scout's Patrol Leader

Would you be able to camp with the troop during the summer when many of our adult leaders are away on high adventure outings with older scouts? _____

Could you teach a merit badge class? _____ See ASM Rick Bieser

Do you have any special interests or hobbies that you would be willing to include in our merit badge program? If so, please list them. _____

_____

_____

Would you be able to sit on one or more Eagle Boards of Review (four or five nights per year and you don't have to sit on all of them)? _____

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: Home _____

Work _____

e-mail address: Home _____

Work _____

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND INFORMATION

Troop 26 has been sponsored by the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd since 1954. This partnership has benefited both the sponsoring institution and Troop 26 for years. The Troop, through the church, has provided a rock solid commitment to the community through a succession of Scoutmasters culminating in the Troop leadership of today. Scouting is a game with a purpose. Character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness, are the aims of the Scouting program. In the following pages you will find information about how Troop 26 endeavors to achieve this goal.

TROOP MEETINGS

Troop 26 meets each Monday night from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8730 E. Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74129. The phone number at the church is (918) 622-2905. *(There is not a phone in our meeting area so we will not hear it ring if you call during a meeting)* The meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader and begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. with the opening flag ceremony and announcements. The basic schedule is as follows, though it is subject to some variation based upon the needs of the particular meeting:

- 7:30 p.m. – Opening Flag Ceremony, Scout Oath, Scout Law
- 7:40 p.m. – Announcements & Patrol Corners
- 8:00 p.m. – Advancement and Merit Badge Classes
- 8:30 p.m. – Advancement Recognition and Announcements
- 8:50 p.m. – Scoutmaster's Minute
- 9:00 p.m. – Closing

The Opening and Closing - Regular Troop meetings always open and close with a flag ceremony. Respect for our country and its flag are cornerstones for the citizenship we teach in Troop 26. Appropriate participation in these ceremonies and respect for the American Flag are basic to our program.

Patrol Corners - During the Monday meeting one or two weeks before a campout and usually at one other meeting during the month, the Troop breaks into smaller groups, called *patrols*, for patrol corners. During the pre-campout meeting patrol members plan meals for the campout, collect money for food, and discuss other issues pertinent to the campout.

Advancement and Merit Badge Classes – Typically, scouts will spend approximately thirty minutes at each meeting working on rank advancement and merit badges. Accordingly, attendance at Troop meetings is important to a scout's advancement and development. You may wish to discuss with your Scout after each meeting the advancement and merit badges he is working on. Often your encouragement to prepare for advancement and merit badge work during the week will help your Scout accomplish more during the advancement and merit badge portion of the meeting.

The Scoutmaster's Minute - The Scoutmaster's Minute is a short (some of them are not so short) talk at the close of the meeting that is intended to give the boys something positive to think about on their way home. The Scoutmaster spends a lot of time developing the content of the Scoutmaster's Minute. He has touched on many issues, some of them pretty heavy. We have had scouts in our Troop that have passed away and some that have committed suicide. These issues, while not pleasant to talk about, have been discussed in the Scoutmaster's Minute in a positive way. Drugs, peer pressure, goal setting, the value of grades, and classroom behavior have all been discussed. We believe Scouting should be a teaching vehicle as well as a fun activity. The Scoutmaster uses the Scoutmaster's Minute to teach valuable life lessons. Parents are welcome to come early when picking up their scout and listen to the Scoutmaster's Minute. Many parents have used the subject covered by the Scoutmaster's Minute to open discussions with their sons about important issues. *"What did you think of Bill's minute?"* is a good way to initiate a conversation that might be difficult to initiate otherwise. The Scoutmaster's Minute is one of the most important parts of our program and we hope that every scout will take his favorite Scoutmaster's Minute with him and repeat it someday to his own children. The topics are timeless.

WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER

Scouts will never be left unattended after Troop meetings. We try to end the meetings at 9:00 p.m. Sometimes they run a little past this time. Adult leaders will always stay until the last scout has been picked up – no exceptions. In that regard, we require that all scouts remain at the church during meetings. This comes up every now and then with older scouts, some with cars, who come to the meeting and then leave to go somewhere else. That IS NOT permitted. If a parent thinks their son is at our Scout meeting, that's where he better be. Eagle Scouts who drive are especially expected to set a good example by staying at the Troop meeting from start to finish. Scouts who drive are prohibited from providing rides to other scouts, whether to or from meetings, or to or from campouts.

UNIFORMS

Troop 26 has always been a uniformed troop. Sometimes kids resist uniformity. They will try wearing to the meetings the same stuff they or their friends wear at school. We believe the scout uniform instills pride in their troop, gives them a sense of belonging to something that cares how they look, and makes them conscious of the awards and advancement opportunities displayed on the uniform. Our Troop has a variety of uniforms. Class "A" (meetings); Class "A+" (Court of Honor); Class "B" (summer camp and some summer activities and meetings); Class "C" (any time when Class "A" or "B" is not required, but it is still a scout activity); Class. "D" (at times when uniforming is not expected).

Please remember that clothing containing inappropriate or offensive content, including, but not limited to, marketing tools for drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, is not permitted.

DUES

Dues are $84.00 per year, payable semi annually. The first installment is due on May 1. The second installment is due on November 1. It is important to pay your dues on time. Membership in the Troop is dependent upon it. The list of dues paying members is also used for Troop registration, insurance and recharter purposes, Boy's Life magazine subscription orders, advancement materials, equipment replacement, and other Troop expenses. The operation of a large troop is dependent on getting dues paid on time. Boys who join after the above due dates are prorated accordingly. Adult registration dues are $10 per year, payable in November. Adult leader equipment fund dues are $20.00 annually, and are payable in January.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

The used uniform exchange is provided as a service to Troop 26 because of the troop's desire to properly uniform ALL Scouts, and the realization that new uniforms are expensive. The Exchange tries to have available a wide a selection of sizes. This is made possible with the help from the parents of Troop 26 Scouts, by recycling the uniforms that the scouts have outgrown. The one thing the Exchange requests is that the uniforms are clean.

Uniforms can be traded or purchased. Uniform parts, shirts, pants and shorts, are traded 1 for 1, but not necessarily even. In other words, shirts can be traded for shirt, pants, or shorts, etc. The Exchange does not trade T-shirts, socks or belts, but does keep these items in stock for purchase at a very nominal price. Class A uniform parts are $5.00 each and accessories and T-shirts are priced from $1.00 - $5.00 depending on condition. To assist in keeping the supply of uniforms as high as possible, there is a voucher system available for those times when there is not anything to trade with you.

The Uniform Exchange is normally open on the first Monday meeting of each month, check the troop calendar at www.troop26.org to verify.

HEALTH INFORMATION & MEDICAL FORMS

Troop 26 follows the recommended BSA guidelines for medical exams and uses the official BSA Annual Health and Medical form. Because most activities require a physical exam every 12 months, Troop 26 requires completion of the first four pages of the medical form for all scouts and adult leaders. A physician's visit is required for completion. Copies of the blank form are available at www.troop26.org or the national BSA website. After the visit to your doctor, make a copy of the completed form for your records. It is good for year-to-year records and vaccination tracking. Bring the completed original to ASM Dennis Keilbarth or one of the other adult leaders at a troop meeting. Keep the troop up to date on any new diagnoses that may affect scouting activities. Examples would be asthma, diabetes, and allergies. Also please keep the troop up to date on all medications or medication changes. If you have any questions or concerns about health or medical issues, please contact ASM and Dr. Frank Parks, at doktrhog@cox.net or 918-629-3403.

The BSA and Troop 26 require that all medications be controlled by and administered by an adult leader. This includes over the counter medications as well as prescription meds. When your son is attending a troop activity while on medication, please bring the medication in an original, labeled container, containing just enough medication for the event. Please place the meds in a zip lock bag with a 3X5 index card noting the scouts name, parent's emergency contact numbers and the names and dosages of all medications. The parent should give this medication packet to a designated adult leader (usually one of the troop physicians) prior to leaving for the event.

The following web site will refer you to the medical exam section of The Guide to Safe Scouting and explains BSA policy in detail:
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx

EXPENSES

Scouting can be expensive. Troop 26, however, tries to make Scouting affordable for everyone. With uniforms, equipment, monthly campout fees, summer camp registration, dues, and special trips like Jamborees, Camporees, etc., expenses can be high. For that reason, Troop 26 engages in several fund raising projects that help the boys earn part or all, of their expenses. Your son is encouraged to participate in these activities, and you are encouraged to help with them if possible. The money your son earns through these projects ultimately helps you by lowering the cost of participating in the program, activities, and events Scouting has to offer. You will be notified of these projects in advance and we strongly urge you to take advantage of them. The money your son earns is placed in an "individual" scout account in your son's name. These funds are then available for your son's use in defraying the cost of any Scouting expense. The boys may apply these funds to the scout activity of their choice. Funds in scout accounts are not redeemable for purposes other than scout activities and are not transferable outside the Troop.

FUNDRAISING

Troop 26 is aware of the cost of everything that is done, from campouts, trips, Jamborees, Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base, Uniforms, etc. To help with the cost of scouting there are several fundraisers that happen each year. The profit from most of the fundraisers goes directly into the scout's Scout Account.

POPCORN SALES
GARAGE SALES
BLUE AND GOLD SAUSAGE SALES
CAMP CARD SALES

There are other fundraisers over the years. If any parent has an idea of a fundraiser for the troop or would like to be in charge of a fundraiser, please see the Committee Chairman.

TROOP 26 CAMPING, TRIPS AND JAMOBOREE

CAMPOUTS

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities learned and practiced at the Troop meetings come alive with purpose. It is here that a Scout gains confidence in himself and develops an appreciation for the world around us.

To foster these ideals, Troop campouts are held monthly and the dates are usually set in advance. We try to have the exact dates announced six months prior to the event, but sometimes things come up that cause us to change dates. There is no way to keep this from being inconvenient, but we do try to keep changes to a minimum. Parents are expected to occasionally provide transportation for their son's patrol to and from campouts. We traditionally meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. on the Friday night of the campout. We leave the church at 6:30 p.m. Maps are provided. We break camp on Sunday morning at approximately 10:00 a.m. and are back at the church by approximately 11:00 a.m. Scouts are expected to do their share of clean-up, tent folding, dish washing, and chapel, before the Troop is dismissed from the campout. Parents providing transportation from the campout should try to arrive at the camp site no later than 9:30 a.m. so they can load gear and scouts and be ready to depart for home at 10:00 a.m. Parents picking up their scouts at the church should plan to be at the church no later than 11:00 a.m. Most campouts are within a one hour drive of Tulsa. In fairness to everyone, including the adult leaders transporting your scout to and from a campout, it is essential that you, as a parent, be prompt in picking up your scout after the campout.

Troop 26 expects all scouts to wear the full Class A uniform to and from campouts. Troop 26 discourages scouts from bringing special items, antiques, heirlooms, and that sort of thing on a campout. *"Bill, I lost the knife my great, great grandfather gave me . . . what am I gonna do???"* Bill's answer . . . *"Don't bring it on the campout in the first place."* General rule, don't bring anything on the campout that can't be easily replaced. Mark everything with your son's name. If your son wears glasses, plan on them being broken. It doesn't happen often, but when it does, it pays to have an extra set. The same applies to contact lenses. When you lose a contact lens on a campout, **it's gone.** Prepare for that. There are some things that Troop 26 prohibits on campouts. We use saws. We never allow hatchets or axes. Sheath knives are also not allowed. A small pocketknife will handle anything your son ever needs to do. There are several other things that are prohibited on campouts. Please consult the Troop Rules of Conduct section for specifics.

The Scout Motto is *"Be Prepared."* This Motto is never truer than in the camping program. It is essential that your Scout be properly prepared for camping. Please consult with our troop leaders as well as the Boy Scout Handbook for a suggested list of equipment that will promote an enjoyable camping experience.

To conclude this section on campouts, we want to make it clear that camping and the outdoor program are essential components to the Eagle Scout Award. It is difficult to achieve this honor if you don't participate in the camping program. It counts towards active service.

ANNUAL CANOE TRIP

The Troop conducts an Illinois River canoe trip each year. Since the canoe trip is an immediate safety concern for the Troop leaders, extra adult participation is not only requested, but almost necessary. Attendance by dads is solicited. It should be mentioned at this point, however, that any dad who participates is subject to all the same rules and regulations that apply to Troop leaders. In over 44 years as a Scoutmaster, Bill has only had to send one adult home. It was from a canoe trip and it was for an ice chest full of beer. A scout function has a higher set of expectations and dads are expected to honor those.

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 26 has attended summer camp every summer since forever. The Troop differs, however, from many other troops in that we don't go to the same summer camp over and over and over. In the last 30 years, we have attended Camp Garland near Locust Grove, Camp Tom Hale near Talihina, Camp Will Rogers near Cleveland, Camp George W. Pirtle near Tyler, Texas, Camp Quivera near Sedan, Kansas, Camp Ben Delatour near Red Feather Lake, Colorado, Camp Frank Rand in New Mexico, in 2003 the troop went to Camp Gorsuch near Anchorage, Alaska, and in 2011 Camp Alexander in Colorado.

NATIONAL JAMBOREE TRADITION

The National Jamboree is a worldwide gathering of Boy Scouts that is conducted every four years at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Troop 26 attended its first National Jamboree in 1973. We have also attended the Jamborees held in 1981, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2013. Transportation and sightseeing are always a part of the trip and, as a result, increase the length of the trip by a few days before and after the actual Jamboree. The trip will be expensive, but the Troop will have many money making activities that will significantly reduce the cost per boy. It is one of the most memorable events in a Scout's career. A Troop 26 contingent of 85 scouts and scouters was part of the 2013 Jamboree, the first one held at "The Summit", the new Boy Scout Jamboree site and High Adventure base in West Virginia.

THE TROOP 26 PLEDGE PROGRAM

At every Jamboree attended by Troop 26 with the exception of the very first the troop went to in 1973, the troop has conducted a special pledge program. In this pledge ceremony, each individual scout is asked to make a promise to himself to graduate, from High School and earn the Eagle Scout Award. The success rate for these programs is phenomenal. They have been held on the field at Gettysburg, at the Statue of Liberty, at Fort McHenry, at the Jefferson Memorial, at the Roosevelt Memorial, at Arlington Cemetery, and near the Twin Towers Memorial in New York. All the ceremonies have been written by the Scoutmaster and have provided some of the most lasting memories of our Jamboree trips.

TROOP 26 ORGANIZATION

Chartering Organization – Troop 26 is chartered to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Tulsa, Oklahoma. It provides us with a place to meet and a place in which to store most of our equipment. The church is represented by our Chartered Organization Representative; Bud Kunze is a member of the church and a registered Scouter in Troop 26.

Troop Committee – The Troop Committee is charged with making sure a high quality Scouting program is provided by the Troop. It is made up of parents of boys in the Troop and/or other interested adults. It is one of the Troop's greatest assets. Many of our committee members are parents of scouts who have already received from the Scouting movement the ideals and leadership tools necessary to face today's demanding society. These moms and dads think so much of Troop 26 that they devote many hours to help the current scouts advance and develop. They know first hand the many benefits their sons have received from Scouting and the exceptional program provided by Troop 26. The Troop Committee is led by the Troop Committee Chairman, Ted Dubie. All adults and parents are welcome at Troop committee meetings. They begin at 7:00 p.m., and are normally held on the forth Thursday of each month at Kirk of the Hills Church on 61st Street between Harvard and Yale.

Adult Troop Leaders – The adult leadership of Troop 26 consists of the Scoutmaster and many Assistant Scoutmasters that report to the Scoutmaster. While the emphasis of Troop planning is placed on the boys, the adult leadership plays a very important role in Boy Scouting. Adults provide opportunity, advice, supervision, and guidance to the scouts. Probably the most difficult part of being an adult leader is allowing the boys to lead. Often this includes allowing them to make mistakes in a controlled environment. The vast majority of our adult leaders have completed Boy Scout Leader Training, and many have completed Wood Badge Training, the highest level of training a Scouter can obtain. Though training involves a significant time commitment, the leaders of Troop 26 believe your boys deserve the best program available. We strive to provide it for them.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) - Troop 26 is a boy-led troop. Meetings, campouts, and other troop activities are directed by boy leaders within the Troop. Aside from the guidance and oversight provided by adult leaders, the day-to-day operation of the Troop is done by the scouts. The Troop is under the direction of a Senior Patrol Leader and his staff. The SPL is elected by the scouts every six months. Elections are normally held in February and August each year. Once elected, the SPL appoints his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and staff. The SPL reports to the Scoutmaster.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASL) – The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader assists the Senior Patrol Leader in conducting meetings, and acts as the Senior Patrol Leader in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader.

Patrol Method - To promote development of leadership skills throughout the Troop, each new scout is invited to join an existing patrol. The Viking Patrol, which has been existence since 1969 is also available for new scouts until reach the rank of Tenderfoot. Patrols are smaller groups of scouts within the overall framework of the Troop. The patrol method gives scouts an experience in group living and citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches scouts how to accept it. After joining a patrol, scouts are encouraged to remain in the chosen patrol for at least six months.

Patrol Leaders - From among their membership, patrol members elect a patrol leader. The patrol leader serves as leader of the patrol for six months. He presides at patrol meetings, represents the patrol at the Patrol Leaders' Council, and has charge of his patrol during Troop functions. The Patrol Leader reports to the Senior Patrol Leader regarding all matters involving his patrol. Scouts must have completed, or be very near completion of the cooking merit badge and have attained the First Class rank, to be eligible for election as patrol leader. For this reason new scouts ordinarily join an existing patrol containing several older scouts. Each patrol works together as a group to achieve various objectives. For example, patrol members camp and eat together as a group within the Troop 26 campsite. As a result, the patrol is responsible for pitching and taking down their own tents, erecting and taking down their own dining fly, and packing and unpacking their own patrol box (cooking gear). The patrol is also responsible for planning their own meals, collecting enough money to cover the expense of buying food for their meals, buying and properly storing the food for their meals, preparing their own meals, cleaning up after their meals, and securing transportation for all patrol members to and from campouts. Adult leaders, Leadership Corps members, and the SPL and his staff, are available to assist and advise patrols as needed or appropriate.

Troop Leaders Council - Another element of Troop organization is the Troop Leaders Council (TLC). The TLC meets once each month. The TLC plans the Troop program. The TLC is attended by the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Quartermaster, the Patrol Leaders of each patrol, and the Troop Scribe. The Leadership Corps and other scouts are often invited to the PLC. The Scoutmaster and selected Assistant Scoutmasters also attend as advisors. The Senior Patrol Leader plans the agenda for the PLC, using the Scoutmaster as an advisor.

Leadership Corps - The Troop is also led by a strong Leadership Corps comprised of Troop 26 Eagle Scouts. The Leadership Corp is responsible for mentoring and training younger scouts, and providing general leadership to all Troop members.

Thanks for coming to visit!! We hope you join up!!

If you have any questions please contact **Scoutmaster Bill Shaffer** at:

Work: 918-493-3213 bill.shaffer@uhsinc.com
Home: 918-492-1864 eaglefactory@sbcglobal.net