

## Welcome to Troop 411

All boys over 11 yrs. of age, or boys over 10 yrs. of age who have earned the Cub Scout Webelo Arrow Of Light, are eligible to join the Boy Scouts of America.

### Boy Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America were started in 1910 and are based on the English Boy Guides. The Scouting movement was an idea of Lord Baden-Powell, an English military General who had developed the idea of Scouting from his experiences as a youngster and his time spent in the military, usually on far away assignments in India and Africa. Baden-Powell had supposed that it would be beneficial to young city boys to be exposed to the great outdoors and learn how to manage themselves in the wilds. He also had developed his theory that boys would benefit from operating as a cohesive group to which they all would contribute their talents. He had first developed this "patrol method" while as a young military officer and he had refined it over the years.

At the age of 50, Baden-Powell was made a General and had a great future as a military leader ahead of him. He chose instead to retire from the military and devote himself to promoting the peaceful intention of working with boys instead of warfare. In 1907, he decided to test his theories of getting city boys to the outdoors and making use of the patrol method. He chose Brown Sea Island off the south coast of England and got together a group of boys and some adult leaders. They stayed on the island for two weeks living in tents, cooking their meals over fires and learning the outdoor skills which Baden-Powell taught to them. It was a grand success. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the camping trip and Baden-Powell was satisfied that his ideas had worked. From this point, he started the Boy Guides in England and started the Scouting movement.

### Troop 411

In Troop 411, we are committed to following the traditions established by Lord Baden-Powell at Brown Sea Island. Scout troops are supposed to run by the boys themselves, not the adults. This is a departure from what many are used to in the Cub Scouts. Troop 411 is a fairly new troop, so we aren't completely there yet. However, by the fall of 2005 the troop should be boy run for the most part.

We urge boys and their parents who are considering Troop 411 as a home to look us over closely and consider some other troops in the local area as well. We want everyone to feel comfortable and happy in the Troop and to be satisfied with what we are doing. Every single Boy Scout troop is different from the next and each has it's priorities and philosophy. Troop 411 is committed to helping each boy learn the basic Boy Scout skills which he will take forward throughout his life. We aren't the fastest troop to attain rank advancements in, there are troops that are oriented in making fast rank advancement. We want the boys to have a good skill base and be very good at camping in the outdoors.

### Costs

The troop doesn't have a lot of money in the bank and we rely on fund-raisers for troop expenses. Campout expenses such as food costs are paid directly by each Scout for their share. Annual recharter fees are \$11.00 and are due in January of each year. Joining after that date, the fee will be pro-rated to the current date. We urge each family to buy a subscription to Boy's Life, the Boy Scout magazine, which is \$10.80 annually, pro-rated to joining date.

Summer Camp is \$185.00 this year and is paid in three installments. New boys can take advantage of the prepayment price (until May 25th) to save \$10.00 and receive a free camp T-shirt.

### Our Expectations

We are a small, new troop. As such we have some expectations of each Scout and his parent(s). The troop has been a comfortable group where boys don't have to feel pressured, harrassed, bullied, etc. The boys all kid around, but we do not accept any boy being picked on or ridiculed. The troop has a great bunch of boys and we intend to keep it that way. Rough-housing is not accepted either, too many things can go wrong if left unchecked.

We have had an understanding in this troop that Boy Scouts should wear their Scout uniform on all Scouting events. A uniform binds a troop together and is an outward sign that the wearer is a Boy Scout. Boy Scouts stand for higher standards than are typically required of other boys. A troop where the uniform is a required is a more stable troop and achieves more for the boys than a troop without a uniform requirement standard.

Parents are necessary to this troop's success or failure. We need the help of every boy's parent(s). BSA does not stand for Baby Sitters of America. We urge you to stay for the meetings, we have a coffee pot and we aren't afraid to use it. The parents get to talk among themselves and plan out things such as the drivers for the next outing, etc. Your help will be needed for the fundraising activities, also, but we really need help with some of the weekly organizational areas. There is free training available through the local Council and District. Your help is appreciated.

The BSA also practices "Two-Deep Leadership", which means that we always need to have two registered adults at all functions. This is a safety and security issue and is taken seriously. We always have room for fathers on campouts and hikes.

### The Scoutmaster

Please feel free to call me at any time to discuss the troop or your boy's experience in it.

Andy Havens, 969-9337  
bsa411@emailias.com

Please visit our Troop web site at [www.geocities.com/fortwaynetroop411](http://www.geocities.com/fortwaynetroop411)