



PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

Welcome

Boy Scout Troop 566 is happy to have you and your Scout as part of the Troop. We hope that you will find this information useful in understanding how the Troop operates and how you can help.

Who We Are

Troop 566 is a unit of the Fireball District, South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop was organized in July, 1999, and is chartered to the Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Miami Lakes, Florida. We are a young Troop in the South Florida Council and look forward to continuing growth and success in the Miami Lakes community by welcoming boys to Scouting from Our Lady of the Lakes and the Miami Lakes area.

At the present time, we have about 20 active Scouts in three patrols. The Scoutmaster, six Assistant Scoutmasters and the Troop Committee provide the adult leadership. The Troop Committee is made up of the Committee Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement and Membership and other Committee Members who provide the overall support and overview of the Troop and its leaders.

Meetings

Troop meetings are held every Tuesday evening (with the exception of some holidays or special occasions) from 7:30pm to approximately 9:00pm in the West Room of the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Lakes. These meetings are held from September through August with two meetings per month held during the months of July and August. Four times per year, a Parent Night and Court of Honor is held to award rank advancements and merit badges signifying a Scout's progress. These ceremonies are held in the East and Center Halls of the Parish Center. Family members and guests are always welcome to these Court of Honor ceremonies.

See the attached **ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES** for more details.

Parent Involvement

Parent participation is both fundamental and essential to the operation of an active Troop. It is no different in Troop 566. Your assistance is needed in one or more of several ways:

- ✍ Assisting in fundraising activities
- ✍ Working with Scouts on their advancements and merit badge requirements
- ✍ Assisting in the planning and execution of Troop activities
- ✍ Assisting in transportation to and from Troop activities and events
- ✍ Attending BSA leadership training
- ✍ Assisting with Summer Camp
- ✍ Serving in an adult leadership or Committee role

Fees and Fundraising

Each Scout is required to pay an annual registration fee in the amount determined by the Troop Committee to cover the basic operational costs of the Troop such as BSA registration fees, insurance, Boys Life subscriptions and various awards and badges. Following the payment of the initial joining fee, which includes the cost of the Troop neckerchief, Troop Class “B” T-shirt and Troop cap, the annual fee is due each October 1st and is nonrefundable.

In addition to the annual fee, the Troop currently charges \$5 per month in dues from each Scout for the full Scouting year from September through August. These dues may be paid monthly, quarterly or annually and are a requirement for continued attendance at Troop events or activities and for the receipt of awards and advancements.

Fundraising activities are decided upon by the Troop Committee and handled in accordance with BSA policies and procedures. These fundraising activities are a necessary source of funds for the Troop’s operations and for capital expenditures. Each Scout and Scout family are expected and obligated to participate in the Troop’s fundraising activities to the level determined by the Troop Committee. Failure to participate at the minimum level determined by the Troop Committee will result in the Scout being dismissed from the Troop.

See the attached **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES** for more details.

Scout Uniform and Handbook

Scout uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Store in the Tatham Center in Miami Lakes. Each Scout should have the proper official uniform and are expected to wear the uniform to all Troop meetings, Parent Nights/Courts of Honor, special Troop and civic activities, etc.

See the attached **UNIFORM GUIDELINES** for more details.

The Troop maintains a supply of Class “B” tee-shirts, neckerchiefs and caps, all especially designed for Troop 566. These items are part of the official uniform of the Troop and shall be worn as directed by the Troop leadership. These items are available for purchase from the Troop Committee or from the Adult Leaders.

Each new Scout is also required to have the official BSA Handbook as soon as possible after joining the Troop . The Boy Scout Handbook contains critical information that each Scout needs to participate in the program. The Scout Handbook can also be purchased at the Scout Store in the Tatham Center.

Advancement

Recognition and advancement are a very important part of the Scouting program. The advancement requirements are designed such that the Scout will learn new skills and build self confidence and leadership abilities. The Scout himself is responsible for understanding what the requirements are and working to get them completed. The Troop leadership is responsible for providing assistance and guidance, but it is up to the Scout to set the goal and then to work to achieve it. All of the rank advancements require that the Scout be active in the Troop and show “Scout Spirit”. Scouts that do not regularly attend Troop meetings or activities will not be eligible for advancement.

See the attached **ADVANCEMENT GUIDELINES** for more details.

Troop Activities

The Troop leadership tries to provide an opportunity for the Scouts to participate in a variety of Scouting experiences including camping, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, fishing, snorkeling, boating, swimming and a number of community service projects. The outdoor activities are essential, since this is where the Scouts develop and practice most of the skills required for the first three rank advancements. The service projects are also important for the Scouts to develop a greater sense of caring for others. A Troop calendar listing the planned activities for the Troop's Scouting year is developed by the Scout leadership each August for the year and is presented to each Scout. Additions, deletions or changes are immediately communicated to the Scouts who are responsible for maintaining their calendar. The Troop tries to arrange for a campout each month. Most campouts leave from Our Lady of the Lakes parking lot on Friday afternoon and return back to OLL on Sunday afternoon. All campouts and activities are advertised well in advance and permission slips are required for all outings.

Troop activities are run in accordance with BSA policies and procedures and require at least two adult leaders. When travelling to and from Troop activities, all Scouts are to be in seat belts at all times and in full uniform.

The costs for most of the activities are paid for by the Scout and may be shared by the Troop. As the Troop's Treasury will allow, outings may be paid partially or entirely by the Troop.

The following items are not permitted at any Troop 566 activity or event:

- ✘ Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco
- ✘ Fireworks
- ✘ Firearms, BB Guns, etc.
- ✘ Laser Pointers
- ✘ Radios, Stereos, etc.(Walkman with headphones with permission only)
- ✘ Cellular Telephones

Summer Camp

The Summer Camp program is an important part of the Scouting experience. The Troop will schedule a minimum of one week at a Summer Camp to be determined by the Scout leadership and approved by the Committee. The cost of one week of summer camp will vary depending upon the distance and location but will generally cost about \$140 plus a transportation fee of about \$50.

The week of Summer Camp requires the full time leadership of at least two adults. Reservations and initial deposits for Summer Camp are made in January with final rosters and merit badge course selections turned in by April. An early commitment by parents to provide transportation and the required leadership is essential.

Discipline

All Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Law, the Scout Oath and the Outdoor Code. Behavior that goes against those ideals brings disgrace upon the Scout, his parents and family, the adult leaders and the Troop itself. The primary responsibility of the adult leaders is to ensure the safety of the Scouts and others. Scouts are expected to follow the directions of the adult leaders. Conduct that is disrespectful or unsafe will not be tolerated. Problems that occur while on a Troop activity may result in a phone call to the parent asking you to pick up your Scout. Continued problems in this area can result on a dismissal recommendation by the Troop Committee.

See the attached **BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES** for more details.