

Craig,

Reed and I are on year 2 at Troop 107. He has continued to enjoy and stay involved. I have seen him take on responsibility among his peers, which I probably would not see if he was not involved in scouting. I have accepted the responsibility of doing popcorn again and help interview scouts for rank advancements (board of review). This is my way to get feedback on what works and what does not work from the scout perspective.

Other comments include:

- The troop is boy led. Scout oath, motto, etc are recited at the beginning of each meeting by all scouts attending.
- The troop looks for opportunities to get boys involved in leadership positions – Reed is currently a patrol leader. Here is a list of positions of responsibility. The scouts rotate positions every quarter (especially patrol leaders)

Leadership Position
Senior Patrol Leader
Asst Senior Patrol Leader
Asst Senior Patrol Leader
Asst Senior Patrol Leader
Asst Senior Patrol Leader
Patrol Leader – Autobots
Asst PL - Autobots
Patrol Leader - Badgers
Asst PL – Badgers
Patrol Leader – Bobwhites
Asst PL – Bobwhites
Patrol Leader – TMNT
Asst PL – TMNT
Patrol Leader – Mutant Squirrels
Asst PL – Mutant Squirrels
Patrol Leader – Swarming Piranhas
Asst PL – Swarming Piranhas
Patrol Leader – Demon Muffins
Asst PL – Demon Muffins
Patrol Leader - Scorpions
Asst PL – Scorpions
Quartermaster (1)
Quartermaster (2)
Quartermaster (3)
Troop Guide (New Boy Patrol)
Troop Guide (New Boy Patrol)
Troop Guide (New Boy Patrol)
Instructor – Knife & Axe
Instructor – Knife & Axe

Instructor – Firemanship
Instructor – Cooking
Instructor – Maps & Compass
Instructor – Knots
Instructor – First Aid
Instructor – Leave Not Trace
Librarian
Chaplain's Aide
O/A Rep
Bugler
Historian
Scribe
Junior Asst Scoutmaster

- Weekly meetings – focused on advancements, merit badge classes, camping preparations (meal planning, etc). There is also free time available at some of the meetings for the scouts. When this happens, the scoutmaster tries to have the older scouts with free time work with the younger scouts to complete advancements
- Monthly committee meetings – all adults welcome.
- Spring and fall court of honor advancements and program. There is also a social picnic every June .
- Eagle project involvement from all scouts – all are invited to help. I know of at least two scouts each year who have reached Eagle.
- Opportunities to earn service hours – spring grounds clean up at Our Saviors Church, help with Rib Fest clean up, food bank help,
- Monthly camping trips (Devils Lake (Wisconsin), Mississippi Palisades (Illinois), Silver Springs State Park (shotgun shooting in Yorkville, IL), Turkey Run (Indiana), Rock Climbing (Bloomington, IL), every January is an indoor electronic camp out, water park or ski trip in the past during February –Note each camping trip is a pay as you go. If you don't go, you don't need to pay. Fees vary by the distance of the camp out. Drivers receive reimbursements. Scouts are responsible to clean their gear upon return. We leave Friday at 6:00 and return on Sunday noon.
- Summer camp is at Owassippi Scout camp in Whitehall , MI . All the scouts in our troop are very excited about this. Reed went last year and I will join him for part of the week this year.
- Costs are covered by troop dues (\$50 annually), Christmas wreath/trim sales (mandatory few items to sell), popcorn sales (not much emphasis but looking to grow),

The ages range from 10 years old to high school. No one is picked on. Like any group of Jr. High and HS boys, a few need to be kept in close watch. Their peers do a good job of that and when it goes too far, an adult will step in.

Camping gets a big emphasis – we have enjoyed!

We only have two meetings left this school year. The next camping trip is up to Devils Lake June 6, 7, and 8. Friday night will be used for set up, Saturday agenda is cook breakfast, pack lunches

for a hike, hike around the lake, prepare dinner upon return, skits and free time on Saturday night, Sunday morning break camp. No one eats Sunday breakfast until camp is completely packed up.

Look forward to seeing you in the Troop!

Ken