

New Scout Welcome Guide

A practical guide for new Scouts and their families

Welcome to Troop 175

The first few weeks in a Scouts BSA troop can feel unfamiliar, and that is completely normal. Troop 175 is a youth-led troop: Scouts learn to plan, communicate, lead, solve problems, and take increasing responsibility for themselves. Adult leaders provide coaching, safety, and support, and they are always happy to answer questions. This guide explains what new Scouts and their families can expect after joining the troop.

This guide focuses on life in the troop after registration. Questions about registration, dues, or transferring from another unit should be directed to Scoutmaster Robb Smith or another adult leader.

Troop 175 at a Glance

Regular meetings	Mondays, 7:00-8:15 PM. Scouts should arrive about five minutes early.
Meeting location	Timothy Lutheran Church, in the gymnasium. Enter through the front door; the gym is on the right.
Calendar	The troop calendar has the most current information. View it in Scoutbook Plus or on the Events page at scouting175.org .
Communication	Band is used for timely announcements, questions, campout details, and service opportunities.
Camping	The troop normally camps monthly. Event details and packing lists are published in advance.

Weekly Troop Meetings

Regular troop meetings begin at 7:00 PM on Mondays and usually dismiss around 8:15 PM. Scouts should arrive by approximately 6:55 PM so they are ready when the meeting begins.

Meetings are held in the gymnasium at Timothy Lutheran Church. Enter through the front door of the church; the gymnasium will be on the right. At a new Scout's first meeting, the family should seek out Scoutmaster Robb Smith.

Calendar exception after campouts

The Monday following a campout is normally a Troop Committee meeting, not a regular Scout meeting. No Scouts attend. Committee meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are normally held at Heartland Church in Blue Springs. Parents are welcome to attend and learn more about how the troop operates. Always verify the event and location on the troop calendar.

What to bring

- Scouts BSA Handbook
- Notebook and writing utensil

- Merit badge materials or other work requested for the meeting
- Any additional items announced in Band or listed on the calendar event

Strongly recommended: a dedicated Scouting backpack

Many Scouts keep their handbook, merit badge work, notebook, writing utensils, and other meeting supplies in one backpack used only for Scouting. When it is time to leave for a meeting, they can grab the backpack without having to find everything again.

Communication and Calendars

Troop communication primarily occurs through the Band app. Timely information about meetings, campouts, service projects, schedule changes, packing reminders, and other activities is posted there. Band is also an excellent place to ask questions; experienced adult leaders are usually quick to respond.

To get set up in Band, speak with any adult leader at a regular troop meeting. Families should enable notifications so time-sensitive announcements are not missed. As Scouts gain experience, they should take increasing responsibility for following troop communications themselves.

The troop calendar has the most current information. It can be viewed in Scoutbook Plus and on the Events page of scouting175.org, which receives its event information directly from Scoutbook Plus. Check each calendar item for the current time, location, RSVP deadline, and dress code.

Uniforms

Troop 175 uses two common uniform terms:

- Field uniform (commonly called “Class A”): the official Scouts BSA uniform shirt, troop neckerchief and slide, Scout belt, and either Scout pants/shorts or blue jeans.
- Activity uniform (commonly called “Class B”): a Troop 175 T-shirt with Scout pants/shorts or blue jeans.

New Scouts receive two Troop 175 T-shirts and one troop neckerchief. Families purchase the remaining uniform pieces, the neckerchief slide, and the current Scouts BSA Handbook.

When each uniform is worn

- Class A is generally worn to troop meetings during the school year and while traveling to and from campouts as a troop.
- Class B is generally worn to meetings during summer break and at most community service projects.
- The calendar event will identify the dress code for a specific meeting or activity and takes precedence over these general guidelines.
- Scout pants or shorts are optional. Scouts who do not wear them should wear blue jeans.

Uniform items and the handbook may be purchased online at ScoutShop.org or in person at the Kansas City Scout Shop:

Kansas City Scout Shop
10210 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131

The Kansas City Scout Shop offers patch-sewing services and may have shirts with several standard patches already attached. Ask the store what is included before purchasing. Store hours can change, so check the official store locator before visiting.

Camping with Troop 175

The troop normally holds a campout each month, and most campouts are planned one to two months in advance. The calendar event and Band announcements contain the current details. Packing lists for common seasons and activities are available on the Resources page of scouting175.org.

How a typical campout works

1. The campout appears on the troop calendar, usually one to two months before the event.
2. Review the calendar entry for the location, cost, dress code, schedule, packing information, and any special instructions.
3. RSVP for the Scout in Scoutbook Plus. A participating parent should RSVP separately as well.
4. To help the troop plan, submit the RSVP no later than the Monday troop meeting before the campout.
5. Campout payment is normally due at that same Monday meeting and is usually paid by cash or check.
6. The typical departure is Friday at 6:00 PM from the north parking lot of Cordill-Mason Elementary. Always check the calendar event for the confirmed time and location; changes are also usually announced in Band.

Equipment, tents, and meals

Adult leaders are happy to answer equipment questions and provide recommendations before families make purchases. Review the event-specific packing list because weather and activities may change what is needed.

- The troop provides tents for Scouts to use, although Scouts may bring an appropriate personal tent.
- Scout tents are shared by two or three Scouts.
- The troop provides cooking equipment. Scouts plan, prepare, cook, and clean up meals by patrol.
- Clearly label personal equipment, clothing, and other belongings with the Scout's name and Troop 175.
- Notify Scoutmaster Robb Smith about dietary needs, food allergies, or restrictions before the campout.

Electronics

Troop 175's electronics policy is intended to keep the focus on Scouting while allowing limited, appropriate use of technology.

At troop meetings

- Devices should be silent, in airplane mode, or turned off when they are not being used for an approved purpose.
- Phones or tablets may be used for program work or necessary communication with parents or patrol members.
- Earbuds and Bluetooth headsets should not be worn or carried for normal meeting use.
- A device may be held by a leader for the remainder of a meeting if it is used in a distracting or inappropriate way.

On ordinary weekend campouts

- Phones, tablets, and games may be used in vehicles while traveling to and from the campout.
- Devices other than phones remain in vehicles during the campout.
- Scouts may keep phones stored with their gear and may use them for photos or parent contact after receiving leader approval.
- Phones may be used after 9:30 PM when their use does not conflict with scheduled activities or disturb others.
- Special events such as Bartle may have stricter electronics rules. Follow the instructions published for that event.

Safety and Items Not to Bring

Always review the packing list and calendar entry for the specific outing. The following items are not permitted on normal troop camping trips:

- Clothing with words or symbols inconsistent with Scouting principles
- Aerosol products of any kind
- Slingshots, bows and arrows, and other weapons
- Candles and candle lanterns
- Pressurized liquid-fueled lanterns or equipment
- Fireworks
- Boomboxes, Bluetooth speakers, televisions, tablets, and electronic games during camp
- Sheath knives
- Lighters
- Heaters
- Gasoline, kerosene, and other liquid fuels
- Open-toed shoes (except shower footwear where appropriate)

Pocketknives and Totin' Chip

A Scout may bring a permitted pocketknife only after earning the Totin' Chip and must carry the valid Totin' Chip card whenever possessing or using the knife. Sheath knives are not permitted. When there is any doubt about whether a tool is appropriate, ask an adult leader before bringing it.

Advancement, Patrols, and Youth Leadership

Advancement happens at each Scout's pace. Scouts learn and demonstrate skills rather than advancing simply by attending meetings. Requirements and progress are tracked in Scoutbook Plus, while the Scouts BSA Handbook remains an important working reference at meetings and campouts.

- Scouts are assigned to a patrol, a smaller team within the troop that camps, cooks, learns, and works together.
- Youth leaders, including Patrol Leaders and the Senior Patrol Leader, lead much of the troop program.
- Adult leaders are always happy to answer questions. When appropriate, they may help a Scout connect with a Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader, or another youth leader.
- Scouts should bring their handbook and current merit badge work to meetings so they can take advantage of opportunities to learn and advance.

How Parents Can Help

A Scout's best chance for success occurs when a parent or guardian takes an active role in guiding and encouraging them. The goal is not to do the work for the Scout, but to help the Scout become increasingly prepared, responsible, and independent.

- Review Band announcements and calendar events, especially during the Scout's first months in the troop.
- Help the Scout arrive prepared and on time.
- Encourage regular attendance at meetings, campouts, and service projects.
- Let the Scout pack personal gear, then help check the packing list before departure.
- Encourage the Scout to ask questions and communicate with leaders.
- Speak privately with Scoutmaster Robb Smith about dietary needs, accessibility needs, financial barriers, or other matters affecting participation.

- Parents are welcome at Troop Committee meetings and may ask adult leaders about additional ways to support the troop.

Activity Costs

Individual campouts may have an additional fee, which will be listed in the calendar event. Summer camp is a larger annual expense, and details are shared well in advance. If cost could prevent a Scout from participating, families are encouraged to speak privately with Scoutmaster Robb Smith.

New Scout First-Month Checklist

- ☐ Attend a Monday troop meeting and introduce the family to Scoutmaster Robb Smith.
- ☐ Join the Troop 175 Band group and enable notifications.
- ☐ Confirm access to Scoutbook Plus and review the troop calendar.
- ☐ Purchase the Scouts BSA Handbook and remaining uniform items.
- ☐ Receive the troop neckerchief and two Troop 175 T-shirts.
- ☐ Set up a dedicated Scouting backpack for the handbook, merit badge work, notebook, and writing utensils.
- ☐ Learn the Scout's patrol and the names of the Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader.
- ☐ Review the packing lists on the Resources page.
- ☐ Review the electronics policy and prohibited-items list with the Scout.
- ☐ RSVP for the next appropriate campout.
- ☐ Ask questions—adult and youth leaders want new Scouts to succeed.

Questions are welcome

No new family is expected to understand everything immediately. Speak with Scoutmaster Robb Smith or any adult leader at a troop meeting, or ask through Band. Troop 175's leaders and experienced families are happy to help new Scouts get started.

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