



Troop 321 Fact Sheet

Where do we meet? - Smithfield United Methodist Church, 6701 Smithfield Rd, North Richland Hills, TX 76182

When do we meet? - Troop Meetings are on Mondays, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM in the Family Life Center, year round.

What do we do? – Weekly Troop meetings are times to work on Advancement, learn new skills, have some fun and plan & get information on upcoming activities. Over the course of a year, we will have 6-7 weekend campouts (2 nights or less, leaving on Friday), one extended campout (3-5 days over Spring Break) and Summer Camp (7-8 days). We also average 2-5 Service Projects annually (including Eagle Scout projects) which are often scheduled on a Troop Meeting night, as well as Lock-ins, a Holiday party, Courts of Honor (where advancement is recognized), BSA Events (Trout Fishing Tournaments, Canoe Races, Festivals) and other events of the Scouts choosing as well as fund raising events. While the Troop Adults can provide suggestions and recommend activities, the Scouts ultimately choose what they want to do. While there will be certain activities that the Troop Committee or Scoutmaster may decide are 'mandatory' (e.g. Recruiting, Fundraisers or Service Projects for our sponsoring church), all participation is voluntary and the Scout Troop leaders make the decisions on where and when events will be held.

How much does it cost? : Probably @ \$104 – \$150 / year (Plus @ \$60 for the 1st year for uniform costs). It will be more depending on your Scouts participation in events, activities, Summer Camp, Campouts, etc.

Annual Dues: \$104.00 (Includes \$33.00 BSA National Dues and required insurance plus Boys Life Subscription). This is payable in 2 installments of \$52.00 in December of the prior year and May.

Uniform Costs (every 2-3 years depending on 'growth spurts'!) \$60.00: Troop 321 is a 'belt up' Troop, meaning our official uniform is the BSA Shirt, Neckerchief and all shirt insignia.

The Scout pays for:

"Class A" BSA Shirt - \$ 30 - \$45
Class B Troop 321 T-shirt: @ \$15
Longhorn Council Shoulder Patch: \$3
Total Uniform Cost: \$48 - \$63

The Troop pays for:

Neckerchief & Slide
Troop Unit Numbers
Leadership Position Patches
Merit Badge Emblems
Rank Insignia
Epaulets
BS Handbook

Campouts: \$50 - \$180/ year (@ \$10-\$20 / campout x 9 max per year).

Other: Activity fees: \$ 40 - \$60 (lock-ins, bowling, Merit Badge Colleges, etc. Cost varies by event. Usually around \$5 - \$10 each).

Summer Camp: \$260 – \$400 (Depending on location of Camp Selection & Transportation costs).

What other equipment will I need to buy?

The troop provides Tents, Camp Stoves, Cookware, campsite equipment, First Aid supplies, etc. The bare bones that a Scout needs who wants to go on campouts and other events is below. Most other items they will need they should already have – they just need to remember to bring them! I.E. a hat, bug spray, sunscreen, toiletries, jackets – light & heavy, etc.:

- Sleeping bag or blanket (depending on the season) and sleeping pad
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Raingear (Poncho, rain coat, rain-suit).

Other items that you may want to acquire as soon as practical would be:

- Good hiking shoes
- Mess kit
- Camp Cup
- Pocket Knife
- Camping Chair
- Backpack

How do I pay for this?

Troop 321 has an Annual Fundraiser selling Mulch. A portion of the proceeds for individual scouts sales are credited directly to the Scouts troop account. The rest goes to fund troop expenses. Some scouts are able to fund their entire year's costs through this fundraiser. Other fundraisers may also occur from time to time.

Scholarships for Summer Camp are often available, usually on a need basis. These come from Smithfield United Methodist Church organizations or interested individuals.

Payment schedules for any scouts balances can be arranged through the Troop Treasurer or Summer Camp Coordinator.

How much time does my son need to devote to this?

The more events they attend, the more they get out of it! Plan on anywhere from 4 – 8 days a month, depending on activities planned. Advancement and awards almost always require attending events on a regular basis (50 – 75%). That would be 4 troop meetings, a 2 night campout and 1 or 2 one day activities.

How much time to I have to invest in this?

Although Parent involvement is not “*required*” for a scout to join, we encourage parents to volunteer in Troop Positions. The Troop is not able to function without adult participation at various levels. Of course regardless of your ‘official’ involvement, parents (and siblings as appropriate) are welcome to attend meetings, campouts or other events depending on the activity. Due to liability & BSA policy, participation may require an Adult Membership application be filled out or certain online training courses completed.

History shows us that Rank advancement past First Class to Eagle Scout is rarely achieved without Parent involvement in the Troop! Without Parent participation on a regular basis, a Scout rarely stays with the Troop more than a year or two. If you want your son to get the full benefit of Scouting, you *will want to be* involved at some level.

What can I do?

We have positions available on the Troop Committee (meets once per month), a need for Assistant Scoutmasters and Activity coordinators (Summer Camp, Fundraising, Event planning) or sometimes just need an extra set of hands and eyes.

Troop 321 Standard Calendar Events:

Troop Campout	September
Score-O Campout	October
Longhorn Council Camporee	November in alternating years
Troop Lock-In	November or December
Troop Holiday Party & Gift Exchange	December
Trout-O-Ree Campout	January
Brazos Valley Merit Badge College	January
Troop Campout (various)	February
Spring Break Campout	March
Trailblazer District Camporee	April
Troop Campout (Local)	May
Summer Camp (Tentative - TBD)	3rd or 4th week of June

Due to Family Vacations and Texas summers, we usually don't have campouts in July or August but have a lock-in or other events.