

FYI: Troop 199

Leadership: Tom Barnum, Scoutmaster
Tom Mapes, Asst. Scoutmaster
Daniel Barnum, Asst. Scoutmaster
Nancy O'Dacre, Committee Chair
Ed Seutter, Treasurer
Myron Bries, Advancement Chair
Pat McLaughlin, Chartered Organization Rep.
Brian Rolf: Eagle Advisor
Committee Members: Brian Heyer, Mary Gogel, Paul Starr.

*Troop 199 is chartered by Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Bettendorf.

Meetings: Troop 199 meets on Monday evenings from 7-8 pm in the library of Lourdes Catholic School. We enter and exit the building from the door nearest the parking lot. Generally, we do not meet on days when there is no school (Monday holidays), or on the Monday following a campout. We do meet during the summer months, and usually change our meeting place to the Middle Park Lagoon shelter during the summer. We traditionally take one month off from meetings following summer camp. Activity calendars are provided to all families monthly showing meeting dates and upcoming activities.

Attendance: Boys should make every effort to attend as many meetings as possible. We understand that schoolwork is always the first priority, and other conflicts inevitably occur. However, your son will gain the most by attending regularly, and he will most likely advance at a rate that will sustain his interest if he does so.

Uniform/Supplies: Each boy should have a brown Scout shirt (Class A) with the appropriate emblems, and a merit badge sash. The Boy Scout handbook shows the proper placement of all patches. Boys should have their council emblem, troop numerals, patrol patch (once determined), and the purple World Scouting patch. Additionally, Webelos will be given their scarf at the time of the Blue & Gold transition, and one of two shoulder loops – the second will be given when they attend their first meeting. We have also ordered Class B shirts periodically for the boys – any casual t-shirt, long or short sleeved which has the Scout logo on it, qualifies for Class B wear. The boys wear these during the summer. Families are asked to purchase the Boy Scout Handbook for each boy. For campouts, boys should have a mess kit, sleeping bag and appropriate outdoor wear. After earning their Totin' Chip, they will be allowed to carry a pocket knife. Trip permission slips will list any additional items needed.

Structure: Boy Scout troops are organized into patrols. In Troop 199, patrols are organized largely by age, and there are currently four patrols. Transitioning

Webelos will form their own patrol, and will choose their patrol emblem. Boy Scout troops are led by the boys themselves, with Scouts holding the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, etc. These positions are elected/assigned after a minimum 6 month term. In addition, patrols also have leaders and sometimes assistant patrol leaders – these positions may change more frequently. Serving in leadership is a requirement for advancement in rank. Adults are present to provide guidance, but Boy Scouts learn by leading!

Rank: Boy Scouts advance through the program by completing requirements for rank. The ranks for Scouting are, in order, Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Boys may remain as Scouts until they reach their 18th birthday. At that time, they may transition to leadership. The requirements for rank advancement vary, and are all outlined in the Boy Scout handbook. As a boy completes the requirements for each rank, he will meet with the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference, and he will undergo a Board of Review. Generally, boys move as a group through the requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd and 1st Class – we work on many of these requirements during meetings and on campouts.

Merit Badges: In addition to rank advancement, boys will work on merit badges. We encourage boys to begin working on these shortly after getting settled into the troop. Merit badge work is overseen by merit badge counselors, individuals over the age of 18 that have an interest or vocation related to the badge. We have many merit badge counselors among the leaders/parents in our group, but we're always looking for more! Merit badges can be earned individually, while working in groups organized on the troop or council level, or at Scout camp. There are over 120 different merit badges available to boys, and everyone can find something that interests them. The completion of twenty-one badges is required for advancement to the rank of Eagle – twelve are required badges that all boys must complete, and the remainder are electives. The website www.meritbadge.org is a great resource for merit badge info. We often use the worksheets from this site to keep track of progress. Advancement to both Star and Life Scout require completion of some required and some optional badges.

Service: Troop 199 has taken on an ongoing service project, the clean up and maintenance of a small cemetery in Princeton township. We have been working on clearing out and burning brush from the site, and we even discovered a Civil War-era grave marker that had been unseen by the township trustees! We head up to Princeton several times a year to work on this project. We are also called upon to complete other service activities throughout the year at the school and parish. Service is required for rank advancement.

Campouts: Outdoor activities are a regular part of our Troop 199 calendar. We camp at a variety of places, from Scott County Park to the Maquoketa Cave area. We are always looking for new areas to camp. Signed permission slips are required for

all activities outside of regular meetings. The troop charges \$12 for most campouts, to cover the cost of food and supplies for the trips. When special activities are planned, the cost may be higher. Most often, we leave LCS on Saturday mornings, and return by noon on Sundays. Hopefully this will allow most boys to participate and still have time for church, homework, and family activities on the weekend. In years past, boys from Troop 199 have traveled to Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Morris and Lowden, Illinois, Yankton and the Black Hills of South Dakota for summer camp. In 2011, we attended summer camp at Ingersoll Scout Camp near London Mills, IL. In 2012, we'll head to Bloomington, Indiana and Camp Ransburg. The cost for one week of camp varies, but was approximately \$220 this year.

Fundraising: Each year, beginning in the fall, Troop 199 sells Christmas wreaths and greenery. This is our fundraiser for the troop, and for the boys individually. Boys receive a portion of the money (money held by the troop in an account in their name) for each item they sell. Boys may use money from their account to purchase any type of Scout or camping equipment, or to pay for Scout activities. Many boys pay a portion of their summer camp fees with wreath money.

Parental Involvement: Parents are always welcome at all troop meetings, campouts and other Scout activities. Beyond the troop leadership, adults are always needed to help with transportation and supervision at activities. You can be involved as a merit badge counselor, a committee member, or a leader – speak up, and we'll find a place for you! Parents who attend campouts, or plan to be involved as Merit Badge counselors, need to complete Youth Protection Training required by the BSA and VIRTUS training as directed by the Diocese of Davenport.

For more information: Contact: Scoutmaster Tom Barnum 344-0857
Committee Chair Nancy O'Dacre 940-1505