

Introduction to BSA Troop 255: How to Get Involved and Learn More

Boy Scouts can provide boys with great opportunities for learning practical life skills and having fun outdoors. This is done in the context of a program that builds character and moral strength, and fosters leadership and citizenship. But when it comes to whether to join or not, the decision for both boys and their parents is usually based on intangibles, such as the composition of the troop, the influence of friends, the adult leadership and other time commitments. T-255 invites prospective Scouts and their families to come and observe our troop in action, both at regular meetings and on selected campouts. This flyer identifies activities you are welcome to join and a guideline to transition into a Boy Scout.

Who are we? T-255, at 65 years, is one of the oldest Boy Scout troops in Montgomery County. It is chartered by the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church at 7001 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, but is open to all boys interested in the outdoors, adventure, great friendships, service to the community, independence, learning new skills and leadership. Members of various Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths are members of the troop.

What do we do? Every troop has its own focus and character. T-255's focus is on outdoor camping and hiking and fun. Our monthly campouts vary every year, depending on what the Scouts decide. Past trips include hiking, biking and camping on the C&O Canal, hiking and camping on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland and Virginia, hiking and camping Dolly Sods and Old Rag Mountain in glorious sunshine, ice storms and snow, attending Pumpkin Chunk'n, spelunking caves, and ski trips. Younger Scouts, as they acquire the necessary skills and maturity, can look forward to participating in week-long High Adventure camps. Recent High Adventures include 70+-mile hikes at Philmont, New Mexico, 50+-mile canoe trips in Manitoba, Canada, kayaking the Florida Keys, and hiking Zion Canyon's slot canyons and crossing the Grand Canyon. Weekly meetings are focused on acquiring the skills to participate on the trips, planning their responsibilities for the next month's trip, and rank advancement.

Who is eligible? All boys who will be 11 or older, or in 6th grade by Fall 2006, are eligible. The joining fee is \$128.50, for 2006 through December 2007.

How do boys and parents know T-255 is for them? Joining the Boy Scouts is a decision that the boy should make for himself. To help boys (and parents) who may be interested, T-255 has a program to introduce boys to the troop.

► Every Tuesday School Night 7:30 to 9:00 pm: Visit T-255 during a troop meeting. Every troop has its own character. T-255 is fairly relaxed and unstructured. Notwithstanding, Scouts make progress on skills and rank advancement. We meet in the Church's Phillips's Hall. Contact Ruth Robbins at Ruth@dral.us (301) 907-9451 for joining requirements, participation requirements, and costs, and answers to other questions.

Further information:

The Troop website has a wealth of information: www.t255.com

Ms. Ruth Robbins, Outreach
Ruth@dral.us, 301-907-9451

Mr. Keith Pierce, Scoutmaster
keith.pierce@ferc.gov, 301-951-5290

Mr. Rob Klein, Assistant Scoutmaster
rob.klein@montgomerycountymd.gov,
301-657-3327

Mr. Tom Rose, Assistant Scoutmaster
thomas.rose@starpower.net,
301-585-3334

Mr. Joe Tillman, Assistant Scoutmaster
joe.tillman@fhwa.dot.gov,
301-589-0538