

## Troop 60 FAQ – Frequently asked Questions & Responses

- Q. When and where are the Troop Meetings?
- R. They are on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. until around 8:30 p.m. with some wrap-up activities, individual meetings, or game playing until 9 p.m. The Troop meetings are held at the Koenig Center on E. Maple Ave. by St. Joseph Catholic Church. Check out the calendar and read other detailed information about Troop 60 at [www.Troop60.com](http://www.Troop60.com). On the website you can also find contact information and names of adult leaders.
- Q. What does my son need to wear to Troop meetings? How about other Troop events?
- R. The Boy Scout uniform is required for all Troop meetings, is to be worn for the trip to a campout, and for any other official Troop activities. When we are away on the campout or are doing any activities where we may get very dirty, a Boy Scout T-shirt or other casual clothing is appropriate.
- Q. What if my son has other activities that conflict with Scouting activities or events?
- R. Many of the boys in the Troop participate in sports, church activities, play in the band or orchestra, perform in shows, and more. Come to all the Scouting events you can. There are many opportunities each month to do service projects, attend merit badge clinics, go on camping trips, and come to Troop meetings.
- Q. How quickly will my son advance? Will other Scouts his age be behind or ahead of him in rank or earning merit badges?
- R. Boy Scouts is different than Cub Scouts. Each boy works at his own pace. Many of the adult volunteers, the older Scouts, and the Scoutmaster, Mr. Jim Nardelli, will encourage your son to participate in activities to advance in rank and earn merit badges. Unlike Cub Scouts, he will not be pushed along and the boys are not required to work as a group to do advancements or merit badges. These opportunities are up to the Scout to choose to participate in. At every camp out, time is dedicated to work on advancements and merit badges but progress will be up to your son. If you feel like he's not advancing, you should discuss this with your son. If you still have questions, please speak to the Scoutmaster or one of the other adult leaders.
- Q. Who does my son talk to if he wants to earn a merit badge?
- R. The Advancement Coordinator is Mr. David Boes. If your son wants to work on a merit badge, he should get a blue card from Mr. Boes. Your son will use this to confirm with the Scoutmaster that he can begin working on the merit badge. Then he should talk to the individual merit badge counselor to arrange to work on the badge. If your son needs to look up the counselors, the list is available on [www.troop60.com](http://www.troop60.com). Part of the benefit of working on a merit badge is interaction with an adult volunteer so the Scout should initiate the conversation with the counselor. Mindful of safe Scouting, a merit badge counselor will never meet alone with a Scout.
- Q. Who does my son talk to if he wants to advance in rank?
- R. Your son should meet with an older Scout who is at least First Class in rank and go through the requirements in his Boy Scout handbook. If or as requirements are completed, the older Scout will date and initial the newer Scout's book. Parents do not sign off in a Boy Scout's book --- another difference between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Once the requirements are all signed off, the Scout should talk to the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster's conference and then talk to Mr. Boes to arrange for a Board of Review (BOR). The other way to advance in rank up to First Class is to attend Boy Scout summer camp at Camp MaKaJaWan.
- Q. What do we do if we've never been camping before? What basic equipment does my son need?

- R. Your son will need a sleeping bag that's comfortable to 30 degrees and a sleeping pad for under his bag. Your son would also benefit from having a well-made pair of hiking boots or trail shoes plus good hiking socks. Cotton socks and sneakers could result in blisters and twisted ankles on a hike. The Troop provides tents when we go tent camping, although some boys and adults choose to bring their own. Please contact Dianne Russo, Troop 60's Outdoor Coordinator, if you have any questions about camping.
- Q. What do I do if my son has certain disabilities, health issues, allergies, or behavioral challenges?
- R. Please let the Scoutmaster or other adult leader know about any of the above. Before your son goes on an overnight trip, he will need to submit a health form including information regarding any medication he takes or allergies he has. Please give as much information as possible about your son, what his challenges might be, and talk with another adult leader about how these can best be handled. As a parent, you are always welcome to attend any outings until everyone is familiar and comfortable with each other. The adult leaders are volunteers so the more you can assist with any special circumstances will be greatly appreciated.
- Q. How can I help as an adult?
- R. You can drive boys to meetings, you can come on campouts, you can drive Scouts to or from camp, you can join the adult committee, you can help with a community service event, you can train to be an adult Leader, you can use your skills to be a merit badge counselor, and much more. Please be sure to complete a Troop Survey so we can learn about you and your skills and talents and then we can discuss how you might get involved and what would fit your schedule. Another key first step is to learn about Scouting. Please take some time to read through your son's scout handbook and to take advantage of basic online training available on the Northeast Illinois Council website: [www.neic.org](http://www.neic.org)
- Q. Can I go on a camp out?
- R. Yes – by all means, come and have fun with your son! Or if your son would prefer some distance, come and assist the other adults as we guide the campout activities.
- Q. Do I need to go to church at St. Joseph to belong to Troop 60?
- R. No – everyone is welcome in Troop 60 who wants to be a Boy Scout. You and your family can be of any faith. We have boys and families of many faiths in Troop 60.
- Q. What do I do if my son doesn't seem happy with the Troop, with an adult leader, with another boy, or with Boy Scouts?
- R. Please talk to the Scoutmaster, Jim Nardelli, the Committee chair, Jim Martucci, or any of the adult leaders about your observations or concerns.
- Q. How much are dues?
- R. Our Treasurer, Mr. Bill Burrows, can give you the latest information on the amount of your son's dues and whether the amount may be pro-rated depending on when you join. Your son will also get opportunities to do fundraising that can result in money being put aside in a fund for him. This money can be used to pay for dues and/or camping fees.
- Q. Does the Troop go to summer camp? How often does the Troop go camping?
- R. The Troop reserves a campsite each summer at Council's camp called Camp MaKaJaWan. It's in Northern Wisconsin in a town called Pearson. It's a wonderful place for the boys to explore the outdoors, advance in rank, earn merit badges, and have loads of fun. See Dianne Russo with any questions regarding camping in general or summer camp. Adults are also needed to help at camp so consider joining us as well.