

## **Thinking About Joining Oswego Boy Scout Troop 31?**

Troop 31 is over 90 years old and has a long successful history. We have many active Scouts of all ages, ranks, and abilities in our Troop, led by adults who enjoy participating in Scouts. All of the Troop's adult leaders are volunteers and new adult leaders are welcome.

If your son is crossing over from Cub Scouts, you will need to complete a Scout application. If he is new to Scouts, dues are \$48/year or \$4/month depending upon the month he is joining. In addition, Scouts need to purchase a Troop 31 neckerchief (\$5) and a Boy Scout handbook. Last, your son should have at least one Class-A Boy Scout shirt with proper insignia/patches. Proper attire (Class-A shirt, belt, neckerchief/slide) is to be worn to meetings during the school year, while during the summer Scouts are able to wear a Class-B Troop 31 t-shirt or other scout t-shirt.

Our Troop is sponsored by the Oswego Presbyterian Church at 1976 Route 25 in Oswego and meets on Monday evenings from 7pm – 8:30pm. The Troop meets year-round except on those Mondays when there is no school, unless noted. During the summer, the Troop may not meet every Monday.

Active Scouts earn merit badges and rank advancements as they progress through the Troop. The Troop holds Courts of Awards and parents and friends are invited to watch as Scouts receive their advancements, merit badges and other patches/awards.

Troop 31 holds Troop and Scout fundraisers during the year. The Troop fundraiser, raising money for Troop needs, is held during Oswego's PrairieFest, over Father's Day weekend, selling hotdogs, chips, water and pop. We rely on Scouts and their parents to volunteer a few hours this weekend and we ask for a donation of two (2) cases (48 cans) of name-brand pop or water per Scout. This fundraiser is used to purchase/upgrade Troop supplies on an ongoing basis and to ensure that your son is using proper working equipment when on Troop campouts or events. Scouts can earn money for their Scout Account by participating in the BSA popcorn sale held in the fall or by participating in the Troop Spaghetti Supper in spring. Scout Accounts can be used to pay for monthly camping fees, summer camp fees, to purchase needed camping supplies or for other approved Troop expenses including yearly re-charter fees.

Our Troop usually participates in a monthly campout. Fees are around \$10 for a Troop campout which only covers the cost of the food. Council campouts and summer camp are more expensive. Permission slips and information are handed out as soon as available. Drivers are always needed for these events, and parents are asked to help in this way. Families are allowed to participate in certain campouts; ask if you have an interest. The Troop usually leaves for campouts on Friday evening by 5:30pm from Oswego Presbyterian Church and returns Sunday around 11am to the Oswego YMCA or our home in order to put away gear, although return times vary based on the campout.

The Boy Scouts of America requires that all Scouts have an annual medical form on hand. This information will be kept confidential, but is necessary so if care needs to be given to a Scout, pertinent information is available as to allergies or medicines.

We hope you and your son enjoy visiting Troop 31. Do not hesitate to ask questions should you have any.

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