

Welcome to Troop 713

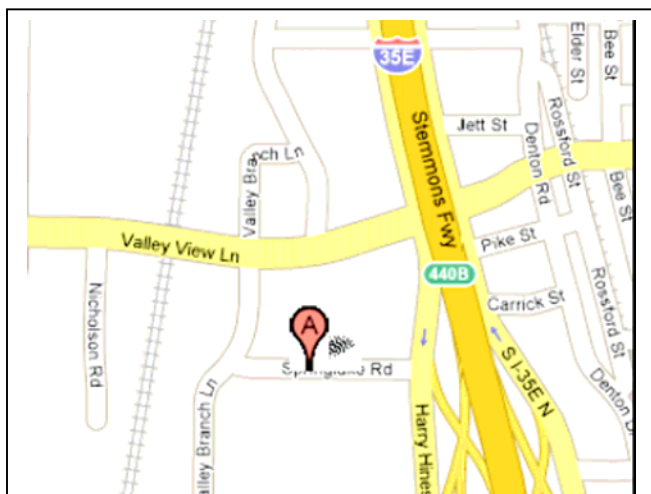
Attached are some lists and explanations that will take the guesswork out of your first few months in our troop.

We are a Scout-run troop, and we expect our Scouts to ask their Senior Patrol Leader for any information pertaining to program, directions, schedule, uniform, etc., but it helps to have the pages that follow handy for quick reference.

The troop meets on Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, the first, second, fourth (sometimes fifth) Mondays. The third Monday is usually a leadership meeting known as the Patrol Leaders Council. But check the troop calendar for specifics each week because holidays and other nuisances can change the routine.

The troop meets and travels in Class A uniform, which consists of the BSA shirt, pants, belt and socks plus the Troop 713 red neckerchief. The troop also has uniform caps and T-shirts unique to our unit.

Many of the information items found in this packet are available online at www.troop713.org. The troop calendar is there as well along with photos of the troop at work and play.



Knights of Columbus Hall
2280 Springlake Road

Parents' Role in Troop 713

There are many jobs for parents to fill in the operation of our troop. A parent's participation is not a condition of membership for the Scout. However, there are many ways that parents can help a Scout-run troop be more successful. The individual Scout benefits as well from the interest or efforts of one or both parents for the troop.

Troop 713 has lots of jobs to fill:

- Chartered Partner Representative*
- Committee Chairman
- Committee Member
- Committee Treasurer
- Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmaster**
- Advancement Chairman
- Religious Award coordinator
- Popcorn coordinator
- Dog Show coordinator
- Fertilizer Sales coordinator
- Outdoor Program coordinator
- Indoor Program coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Equipment Manager
- Uniform Manager****
- Reservations coordinator
- Training coordinator
- Merit Badge Counselor coordinator
- Merit Badge Counselor***

*Member of Knights of Columbus appointed by Council 5052

**Troop policy requires Wood Badge training for Assistant Scoutmasters

***Many counselors are needed at all times

****Sewing skill needed

Scout Leader Training

Boy Scout leader training comes in a series of advancing steps.

Youth Protection Training

Under BSA policy, Youth Protection Training is required for all adults who work with youth in BSA programs.

It is available monthly in North District and online at

<http://www.scouting.org/nav/enter.jsp?s=xx&c=ds&terms=youth+protection>

Boy Scout Leader Fast-Start Training

Provides some basic information about how the troop operates. It can be completed online at <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/faststart/>

The following three courses are required training for adults who participate in the Outdoor Program with Troop 713

New Leader Essentials

is available several times a year in North District and in neighboring districts. New Leader Essentials is an introductory session that highlights the values, aims, history, funding, and methods of Scouting. It addresses how these aims and methods are reached in an age-appropriate style within Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing. Videos, discussions, and hands-on reinforcement are presented during the 90-minute training session. Ideally, all unit-based volunteers—Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing leaders—take this session at the same time, so they understand that they are all striving for the same results with the youth they serve. Each leader completes New Leader Essentials training only once.

Scoutmaster (and Assistant Scoutmaster) Leader Specific Training

For Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters, this training is divided into four parts. The first three parts concentrate on troop operation and can be completed in one full day or three evenings. The fourth part is Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

which focuses on outdoor skills, lasts approximately a day and a half, and covers the skills Scouts learn in their first year or so on the Trail to First Class, including first aid, map-and-compass, cooking, camping.

For troop committee members, Leader Specific training includes the Troop Committee Challenge. By following the *Troop Committee Training Syllabus*, participants can complete the challenge in three hours.

Wood Badge

Wood Badge involves several weekends or a week at camp as well as an ongoing commitment to some projects. It is the premier adult leader training program in BSA. Those who have completed both phases wear Wood Badge beads on a thong necklace with their uniforms.

As a result of attending Wood Badge, participants will be able to

- View Scouting globally, as a family of interrelated, values-based programs that provide age-appropriate activities for youth.
- Recognize the contemporary leadership concepts utilized in corporate America and leading government organizations that are relevant to our values-based movement.
- Apply the skills they learn from their participation as a member of a successful working team.
- Revitalize their commitment by sharing in an overall inspirational experience that helps provide Scouting with the leadership it needs to accomplish its mission on an ongoing basis.

How Our Troop is Organized

Scouts are organized in Patrols and then in Troops.

The typical patrol has 7-9 Scouts and this group functions with some autonomy when it comes to their mutual wellbeing. They choose and arrange their campsite; they plan, purchase, and prepare their own food and they work together to be on time for various activities. Each patrol has a patrol leader and an assistant patrol leader who are responsible for seeing that the patrol's checklist of responsibilities is completed. In addition, a patrol has a temporary grubmaster who is responsible for bringing and managing food for the campout.

Patrol integrity and loyalty are important, and competitions are often conducted so that the patrols have an opportunity to develop their teamwork in structured situations. The patrol mascot (Bear, Scorpion, Antelope, Eagle, and many more) is a form of identity that can be carried out with a Scout-made patrol flag, patrol yell, and other spirit-building activities.

Our troop has a hierarchy of Scouts with responsibility for just about every aspect of our operations. We are a Scout-run troop, so for instance when a new Scout asks an adult for operational information, the adult typically should respond, "Ask your Senior Patrol Leader." That is because the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) has responsibility for all operations – patrol assignments, schedules, procedures, etc. Our SPL is a Scout who has had extensive formal training at the Council level and understands leadership principles and a great deal of procedural information pertaining to troop operations.

There are other troop roles as well, including the

- Chaplain's Assistant, who leads prayers and keeps us mindful that a Scout is reverent
- Scribe, who preserves photos and notes from major activities,
- Quartermaster, who gets the proper troop gear assembled and loaded for each outing.

Advancement

Troop 713 commits to each new Scout that he will achieve Eagle rank if he chooses. In return, the Scout renews his commitment to achieve Eagle at the time he qualifies for each rank on the way.

Each rank has requirements, and it is the responsibility of the Scout to fulfill all requirements. The troop for its part provides all the opportunities the Scout will need to fulfill the requirements, which include attendance, participation in the outdoor program, intervals of troop leadership, merit badges, Scout Spirit, and the progressive acquisition of Scouting skills. Formal testing on Scout skills is conducted at each rank advancement, with specific emphasis on first aid, knots and cooking.

To track and demonstrate his advancement to fulfillment, the Scout acquires a new copy of the Troop Advancement Form for each rank. The form states the required participation, level of skills, and other items in a checklist format that includes required signatures. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure that all the necessary requirements are documented with signatures, dates, and other marks on the form.

Our troop, Circle Ten Council and the Boy Scouts of America require carefully kept records detailing all the ranks each Scout achieves. By clearly stating these requirements for each rank, the troop declares its unwavering commitment to uphold the standards set for Scouts who came before and those who will follow this generation.

The advancement form for all ranks can be downloaded from the Troop 713 Web site at www.troop713.org.

Equipment

Some things your son will need as a Boy Scout – but not all right away! Scouts, put your name in or on everything you have.

Needs now: Full uniform. Shirt, shorts, socks, belt. Troop T-shirt, Troop cap.
Boy Scout Handbook

Needs for outdoor program

- Pack or duffle to carry his stuff in
- Sleeping bag (One he can roll or stuff tightly enough to carry it all day strapped to a pack)
- Rain jacket (pants, too, if possible) no ponchos (not a rule, but good advice)
- Pad for sleeping (same roll-up-and-carry advice as for sleeping bag)
- Unbreakable drinking cup (Trademark Lexan products are good)
- 2 one-liter water bottles (Nalgene or other safe, unbreakable personal drinking bottles. Research indicates bottles in which water and soft drinks are packaged are not safe for re-use because they release chemicals.) ((Canteens are not practical!))
- Plate or bowl (some of us use a Frisbee) and spoon (or spoon and fork – or spork – or foon)
- Footwear that is completely broken in and very likely to keep his feet dry if it rains all day!

Outdoor program equipment that will be needed and will make good presents

- Good backpack. (Go to the outdoor equipment store with a budget in mind and ask a knowledgeable clerk to help you.) A backpack needs a good adjustable, padded belt that will actually bear about 90% of the pack weight on the hips.
- Backpack cover. Makes a backpack rainproof. (Without one, they aren't.)
- Compass. Silva, Suunto and some others make great compasses. The compass sold at the Scout Shop is a good choice. The Scouts learn how to use the see-through flat one with a bezel that turns, a ruler along the edge and the needle sealed in a liquid capsule (the “army style” compass that folds in half does not work as well for us).
- Flashlight. Less is more. Small lights with LEDs are bright and easy on batteries. The idea is to have a light and still have two hands free, so those LED headlamps are great!
- Personal first aid kit
- Socks for hiking (wicking liners and bulky wool or synthetic outers)
- Hiking shoes that are made for that purpose and big enough to fit the feet as well as two pairs of socks mentioned above.
- Pocket knife. Belt pouch for same is good, too.

The troop provides tents, stoves, dining flies, lanterns, ropes, water coolers, and a lot of other equipment and supplies.

Individual Equipment List for Outdoor Program

- _ Scout Uniform (shirt, pants or shorts, socks, belt, cap, scarf and slide if in season)
- _ Class B Troop 713 T-shirt
- _ Boots / T-shoes (with ankle support)
- _ Underwear, one set per day
- _ Towel
- _ Toiletries (soap, toothbrush, comb, etc.)
- _ *Scout Handbook*
- _ Cup
- _ Spoon
- _ Bowl or plate
- _ Water bottles 2 each 20 fl. oz. (total 40)
- _ Sun tan lotion
- _ Insect repellent
- _ Rain gear
- _ Sleeping bag or blanket
- _ Sleeping pad
- _ Pillow (optional)
- _ Flashlight
- _ Pocket knife (if you have earned the Totin' Chip), 3-1/2" max blade length
- _ Day pack or duffle bag
- _ Cash (grubmaster, gasoline, convenience store stops)

Other items depending on the activity planned

- _ Swimming suit
- _ Extra socks for hiking
- _ Long pants
- _ Spiral note book
- _ Pen and pencil and eraser
- _ Compass
- _ Merit badge books
- _ Pillow, sheets, sleeping bag or blanket
- _ Flashlight, extra batteries, extra bulb
- _ Camera
- _ Fishing gear and tackle
- _ Board games
- _ Cards
- _ Book of interest
- _ Guitar

What not to bring (no exceptions)

- Any electronic components (CD players, video games of any type, radios)
- Sheath knives
- Open-toed shoes, sandals, etc.

Oh great! I'm Grubmaster!

(What's that mean?)

So you have Grubmaster duty for the next weekend?
 Or it's your turn to cook a rank meal for the patrol?
 Let's see what that means!

First, the patrol prepares a menu. Then the grubmaster takes responsibility for carrying out the patrol's plan as faithfully as possible.
 Once you have the answers to the following questions, the shopping will be easy.

<i>QUESTION</i>	<i>ANSWER</i>
Is this a nutritional plan?	Scouts should understand and apply some of the principles of human nutrition (food groups, calories, etc.)
What will it cost ?	We budget \$10 per person for two breakfasts, a lunch and an evening meal.
How will we keep it safe ?	The troop has ice chests and drink coolers, but the Scout should include bagged ice in the budget as needed.
What will we need to prepare it?	Troop cook kits include standard pots and pans, utensils, dutch ovens, aluminum foil, paper towels, seasoning, cooking oil and cleanup soap and pads.
How much time will cooking take?	It is a good idea to have a general understanding of the schedule. For instance, if Saturday lunch will be on the trail, hot dogs would be a real hassle.
Is there something I can do at home to prepare ?	Scouts are encouraged to do some of the peeling, chopping and other procedures in the comfort of the home kitchen. Meat can be browned and frozen, seasonings can be combined, etc. Just make sure the Scout does all the preparation and that the procedures at the campsite will fulfill the requirements for the rank meal, if applicable.
If it's a RANK MEAL, then you should PRACTICE AT HOME!!	
What will cleanup require?	The basic mixing bowl these days is a freezer-type Ziploc bag or generic equivalent. You can transport ingredients, mix in the moist components, even cook in a Ziploc and there is no bowl, mixing spoon or other equipment to clean up after. But there are plenty of traditional preparation tools in each patrol's cooking kit.

Make sure your plans are written down on the official Troop 713 Menu Planner, which can be downloaded from www.troop713.com.

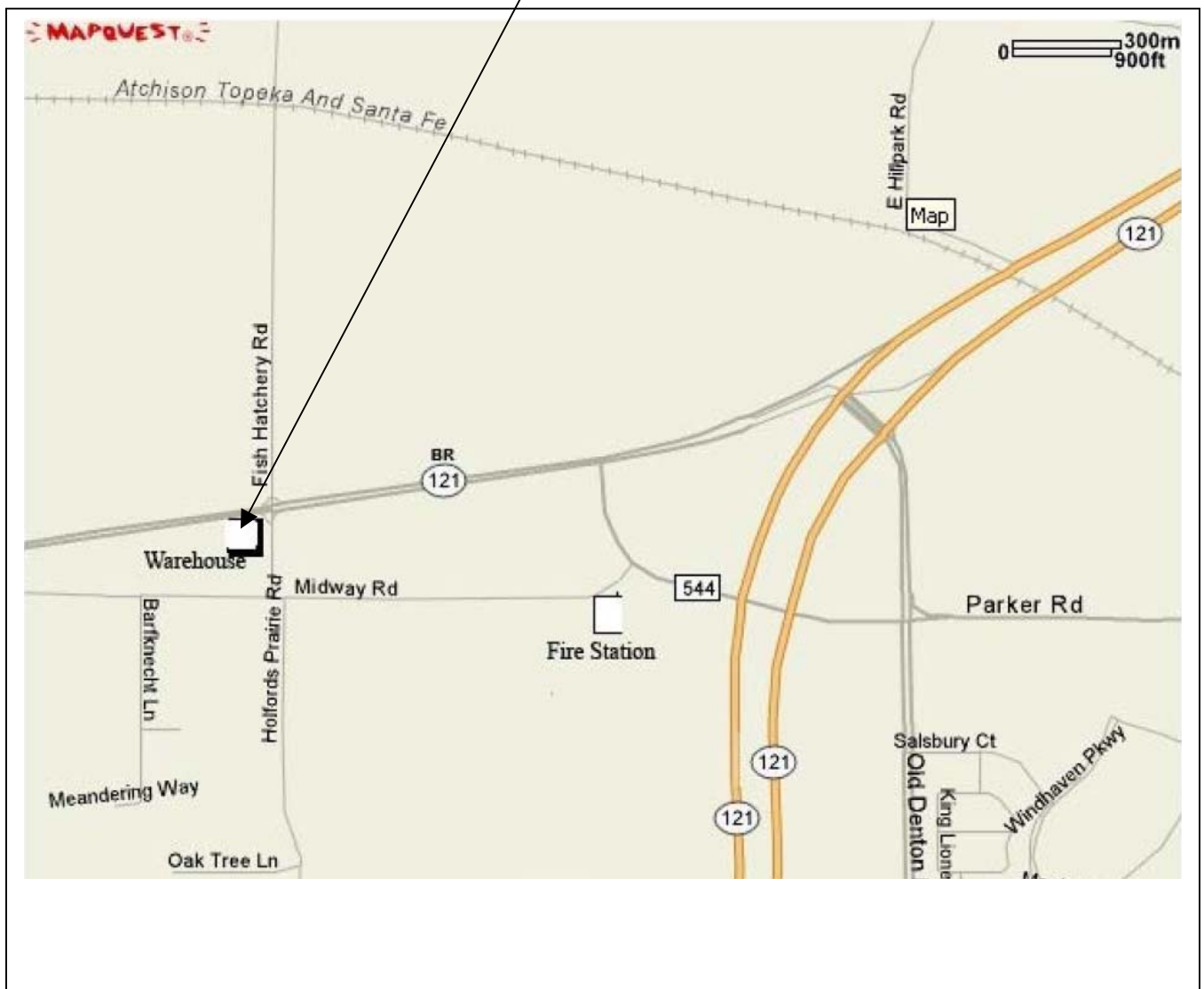
The warehouse

You will hear frequent reference around Troop 713 to “the warehouse.”

That is the place, north parking lot of Bill’s Bo-Tel, where we usually assemble for departure on our weekend outings.

Warehouse assembly time is 5:30 p.m. Friday.

Here is where the warehouse can be found:



After crossing the SB lanes of 121, you will travel about two blocks to a left turn. When you turn left, you will see a Lewisville Fire Station on your left. Proceed west past the fire station until you come to a stop sign (about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) Turn right at the stop sign and left immediately into the

warehouse property. Inside the gate turn right and then turn left at the corner of the fence. The Troop 713 storage unit faces the highway.

Youth Protection in Scouting

How does the BSA prevent child abuse in Scouting?

The Boy Scouts of America has adopted a number of policies aimed at eliminating opportunities for abuse within the Scouting program. These policies focus on leadership selection and on placing barriers to abuse within the program.

Leadership

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, we can reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

Note: Bold type denotes rules and policies.

- **Two-deep leadership.**
Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.
- **No one-on-one contact.**
One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.
- **Respect of privacy.**
Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

- **Separate accommodations.**
When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers.
- **Proper preparation for high-adventure activities.**
Activities with elements of risk should never be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, and safety measures.
- **No secret organizations.**
The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
- **Appropriate attire.**
Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate as part of Scouting.
- **Constructive discipline.**
Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- **Hazing prohibited.**
Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
- **Junior leader training and supervision.**
Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

Learn more at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/gss01.html>

Going Green

Troop 713 has adopted some non-traditional practices in an effort to help the environment and to explore all the ways we can enjoy the outdoors without USING precious resources.

Some of the adult leaders have taken short courses as well as advanced studies in the national movement known as Leave No Trace (LNT). The principles of LNT are:

- Plan ahead and prepare for outdoor experiences
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimize impact of campfires
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors in the outdoors

Some will say, “Those sound a lot like the four points of the BSA Outdoor Code.”

That’s right, and it’s no coincidence!

Boy Scouts of America is a principal partner in the LNT movement.

How does LNT fit in our operations as a troop?

Our Scouts will learn and apply the principles of LNT in our activities on campouts. That may mean campfires are not routine but reserved for special occasions. It will mean we will carry less equipment on outings in order to reduce fuel consumption and to keep vehicle impact on parks to a minimum.

As we replace equipment, we will acquire smaller tents, smaller stoves and lighter cooking utensils and carriers.

We expect to set a good example for others who share the outdoors with us. We expect to learn and experience more of what nature has to offer because our activities will be more in harmony with the environment we share with the rest of God’s creation.

Best of all, practicing LNT will help our Scouts grow up conscious of our impact on the environment and ways to make that impact as slight as possible.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about outdoor ethics is encouraged to visit www.lnt.org.