



Boy Scout Troop 423

Tigard, Oregon



Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 423!

Troop 423 Quick Facts

Chartered: September 1, 1997 by Tigard Christian Church

Scoutmaster	Sam Fellin	503-452-4556
Committee Chairman	Eric Schultz	503-293-8399

www.troop423bsa.org

Current Membership (as of 1/1/2011):

67 Youth in Twelve Patrols

78 Registered Adults:

(27 ASM, 26 Active of 36 registered Committee Members, 16 Associated Adults)

Troop 423 Goals

- ◆ Operate a strong, boy-led program that reinforces the principles of Scouting (building character, citizenship, and fitness)
- ◆ Conduct a well-planned, year-round program built on the outdoors (18 nights of camping each year; National Quality Unit Award; National Camping Award; community service)
- ◆ Utilize the patrol method to facilitate leadership and involvement (every patrol working toward Honor Patrol Award; active participation)
- ◆ Actively encourage advancement as key to Scout retention (e.g. all scouts to First Class within 18 months)
- ◆ Emphasize training at all levels of the scouting program ... adult Scouters, junior leaders, and new scouts (Junior Leader Training twice per year, active Troop Guide and New Scout program)
- ◆ Have Fun!

TROOP 423 ANNUAL GOALS – 2012

Membership

- Increase by at least one new boy patrol per year
- Implement a Webelos-to-Scout transition plan (Our “New Scout” Program).

Advancement

- All members to be First Class or above within 18 months of joining
- 50% of scouts First Class-to-Star or Star-to-Life within 12 months of previous rank
- Provide four structured merit badge classes during year

Program

- Plan at least 18 nights of camping, to include Summer Camp (6 nights)
- Goal to be 100 percent uniformed at all troop meetings
- All patrols represented at PLC meetings throughout year

Participation

- At least 40 percent of currently active scouts participating in each campout
- 2/3rds of scouts have an identified leadership position during the year

Program

- Achieve National Camping Award¹ and National Quality Unit Award
- At least 1 patrol whose members have not achieved the Life rank will earn the Honor Patrol Award at each Court of Honor³
- Conduct four troop community service projects during year

Training

- Conduct two Junior Leader Training sessions and one Annual Planning Conference
- At least six scouts attend Polaris and two scouts attend Sogus training per year

¹Achieve National Camping Award (twelve-month period)

- At least 50% of troop attends summer camp
- At least 33% of troop attends each campout
- Unit Award for 10 nights; Bronze Award for 20 nights per year

³All patrols earn Honor Patrol Award (during a three-month period)

- Spirit: Have a patrol flag; use your patrol yell; keep patrol records up-to-date
- Patrol Activities: Conduct one hike, outdoor activity, or other event as a patrol
- Service Projects: Complete two Patrol Leaders' Council approved service projects
- Advancement: Help two patrol members advance one rank
- Membership: Have at least six active Scouts in patrol
- Uniform: Wear the uniform correctly (at least 75% of patrol)
- Patrol Leaders' Council: represent patrol at three Patrol Leaders' Council meetings

Information on Costs of Scouting

- ◆ BSA Registration Fee (12 months; pro-rated through Dec. 31st) \$ 13.75*
(*for transferring scouts, registration fee is \$1.00 /included in troop joining fee)
 - ◆ Boys Life (\$12.00 annually, also pro-rated) \$ 11.00
 - ◆ Troop 423 Initial Joining Fee \$60.00
(Joining fee pays for a troop Activity T-shirt as well as initial items shown below as “provided by troop” and other program expenses)
 - ◆ Patrol Dues \$ 0.50 per week
(patrol dues are applied toward registration & Boys Life fees for following year)
 - ◆ Boy Scout Uniform (“Class-A”)*
 - ___ Boy Scout Shirt (Short Sleeve cotton/nylon) 24.99 - 39.99
 - ___ Green Shoulder Loops 2.49
 - ___ Boy Scout Nylon Switchback Pants (incl.belt) 39.99
 - ___ Boy Scout Canvas Convertible Pants 34.99
 - ___ Scout Belt (sml-med / med-lrg) 10.99
 - ___ Scout Socks (crew/low cut) 5.99
 - ___ Neckerchief *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Neckerchief Slide *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Troop name tag *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Merit Badge Sash 6.99
 - ___ Troop 423 personalize fleece jacket *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Troop 423 Summer Cap *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Troop 423 Winter beanie Cap *provided by Troop*
- *“Class-B” uniform substitutes Troop Activity T-Shirt for regular uniform shirt.
- ◆ Uniform Patches (estimated costs)
 - ___ Troop 423 Numeral *provided by Troop*
 - ___ Council Shoulder Patch \$ 2.80
 - ___ World Brotherhood Patch 1.49
 - ___ Wapiti District Patch 2.25
 - ___ Patrol Medallion *provided by Troop*
 - ◆ Boy Scout Handbook (12th Edition) \$ 9.99
 - Book Cover (recommended if using softbound handbook) 6.99

(*Uniform prices from www.scoutstuff.org Web Catalog).

Uniforms can be purchased at the NorWest Scout Shop, 2145 SW Naito Pkwy., Portland, 503.243.5022. The troop also maintains a uniform exchange, so don't be afraid to ask.

Other Expenses

Other expenses include occasional usage fees for campouts (e.g. Butte Creek Scout Ranch, Winter Snow Lodge) and Summer Camp fees. Also, patrols do their own meal planning for campouts. Food costs are expected to be shared equitably amongst the patrol members participating in a campout (see "T-minus" planning process).

Boys will need some camping gear too – a good pair of hiking boots, a sleeping bag, raingear (e.g., a poncho), and a backpack (you may want to consider renting or borrowing a backpack for the first outing or two). Each scout will also need a pocket knife, compass, small flashlight, water bottle (1 quart plastic), and personal first aid kit (part of his "Ten Essentials"). Every two scouts will also need to have access to a backpacking tent. The Troop provides cooking equipment for each outing.

Troop Fundraising

Troop 423's primary fundraising activity each year is Christmas Tree recycling in January. Monies raised help cover our annual operating expenses -- e.g. purchase of new troop camping equipment, awards and recognition, help with training costs, etc. Every scout and family is needed to help out during this crucial fundraising event.

In addition, the Troop also conducts two or three voluntary fundraisers for a scout to earn money to help pay for their own expenses – these have included Gold-C Coupon & Entertainment Book sales, Popcorn sales, and Candy sales. Profits earned from these activities go directly into the scout's Troop bank account, and can be used for camping fees, scout uniforms, or related camping equipment.

Families are also asked each year to participate in the "Friends of Scouting" program, an important voluntary fundraiser which supports Boy Scouting at the council level.

Troop 423 Registration Process

Once you have decided to join a Troop, each family will need to complete an application for scouting. Upon registering in Troop 423, you should receive your Troop T-shirt, Troop numeral set, Troop cap & beanie, Troop fleece, and temporary Troop neckerchief). Complete the following:

- √ Boy Scout Application Form (please include names of both parents)
- √ Review & Sign Code of Conduct Agreement
- √ Medical History
- √ Family Auto Information sheet
- √ Joining fees

Troop 423 New Family Orientation (February 21, 2012)

- √ Standards of Conduct (e.g. uniforming, behavior expectations, health & safety)
- √ Scout Advancement
- √ Troop 423 “T-Minus” planning process
- √ Web Site, Newsletters, Information Sheets, Permission Slips, and other ways of staying informed
- √ Other Scouting Activities
- √ Annual Calendar and planning process

Standards of Conduct (e.g. behavior expectations, uniforming, health & safety)

Each scout in Troop 423 is expected to behave according to the Scout Oath and Law. We also place a strong emphasis on proper uniforming, showing pride in our troop as a unit. Health and safety are paramount at all times, and Troop adult leadership will emphasize safety in all we do. Scouting policies are strictly adhered to, including rules for Youth Protection and Outdoor Safety.

Scout Advancement

The first step is of course getting a Boy Scout Handbook, which provides all the information a scout needs to advance in scouting. Families should complete the “joining requirements” in the front as soon as possible after joining the troop.

In Scouting, a scout progresses along the Trail to Eagle at his own pace. Our goal in Troop 423 is that all scouts earn the first three ranks (Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class) within eighteen months of joining the Troop. A scout should take time to review the requirements for the “Trail to First Class” and begin working on the activities as soon as possible after completing the “Scout” rank.

Rank requirements can be worked on in parallel. It is up to the scout to work with any Assistant Scoutmaster to sign-off a requirement as they learn the skill or complete the task. Once a scout has completed all the requirements for a specific rank, they are responsible for scheduling time for a Scoutmasters’ Conference (with Mr. Fellin or his designee) followed by a Board of Review (arranged by contacting our Advancement Chair, Mrs. Garcia). Rank advancements are recognized upon completion of a rank, as well at the next quarterly Troop Court of Honor.

Scouts can also work on merit badges at any time. The first step after deciding to work on a particular merit badge is to fill out an “Application for Merit Badge” card and present it to the Scoutmaster for approval. The scout will then be assigned a Merit Badge Counselor who will work with the scout to complete the requirements.

□ Troop 423 “T-Minus” Planning Process

Our Troop uses a formal planning process to prepare for an outing. It is known as the “T-Minus” process (similar to a countdown for launching a rocket) and defines planning activities during the four weeks leading up to an event. At “T-Minus-4”, the patrol leader hands out a permission slip and information sheet to each scout. These permission slips are due back with parents’ signature at “T-Minus-3”, signifying which scouts in each patrol will be participating in an upcoming outing.

It is crucial that permission slips be turned in on time in order to facilitate proper planning for an outing. During the three weeks leading up to the campout, the patrol will be planning meals and tenting arrangements, handing out assignments for securing needed food, and making certain they have all the necessary equipment for the outing. The permission slip ensures the parents are informed of our outing plans, and provides an opportunity to update any emergency/medical information that may have changed for a scout. The permission slip also represents the scout’s commitment to participate in an outing.

Patrol members who commit to an outing are responsible for bringing assigned food and equipment to the outing. If a scout fails to do so, the patrol may be missing a critical element to a successful campout!

▪ T-Minus-4	Permission slip and Information sheet distributed. Patrol Grubmaster and Quartermaster assigned.
▪ T-Minus-3	Permission slips returned. Grubmaster presents proposed menu ideas for approval. Quartermaster presents equipment requirements.
▪ T-Minus-2	Menus and equipment lists finalized and approved. Food shopping lists handed out. Troop equipment list submitted to Troop Quartermaster.
▪ T-Minus-1	Review final plans for outing.

□ Staying Informed (Website, Newsletters, Information Sheets, Permission Slips, etc.)

Troop 423 is committed to keeping families informed concerning troop activities. We post on our website a quarterly newsletter for scouts and their families, we maintain an annual calendar, we distribute an information sheet for upcoming outings at “T-minus-4”, and we have regular announcements at the end of weekly Troop meetings. Parents are encouraged to routinely ask their scouts what they learned at Troop meetings, since it is the responsibility of the scout to bring the information home to parents.

Patrol leaders play an important part of keeping scouts informed. They should be communicating regularly with each scout in their patrol, typically once a week prior to a troop meeting. They also pass on information learned from the “Patrol Leaders’ Council” meeting (a meeting of the troop junior leaders where troop meetings and other activities are planned by the scouts each month).

Scouts should use their patrol leader if they have any questions about upcoming meetings or outings. If the patrol leader is unable to answer their question, that leader would then call the troop’s Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). If the SPL is unable to

answer the question, he would then check with the Scoutmaster and pass the information back to the patrol leaders.

If a scout misses a Troop meeting, they should always check with their patrol leader to learn what they missed. Also, patrol leaders should be informed in advance if a scout is not planning on attending a meeting (e.g. getting any information that might be needed in advance of the meeting).

Parents are also more than welcome to contact the Scoutmaster if they have any concerns or questions!

Other Scouting Activities

Boy Scouting offers many opportunities to boys to help build character, promote citizenship, develop personal fitness, and provide for leadership growth. It's also a lot of fun!

Some of the other programs within scouting include the New Boy Program, our Venture Crew Program, and Order of the Arrow.

New Scout Program – this program is designed specifically for the new scout, and typically covers his first six months in scouting. An older scout, known as a Troop Guide, will be assigned to each new patrol to help teach them about scouting. New scouts learn all about how to prepare for a campout, menu planning and cooking skills, outdoor skills like knife and ax safety, and how to advance in rank.

Venture Patrol Program – this program is available to any scout who is at least thirteen (13) years old and First Class rank. Our Troop's Venture Patrol program provides a high-adventure program for our older scouts, and includes such activities as extended canoe trips, white water rafting, snow caving, rock-climbing, and 50-miler backpacking trips.

Order of the Arrow – a recognition of Honor Campers, boys can be elected by their fellow Troop members to join the Order of the Arrow. To be eligible for election, a scout must have attained the rank of First Class and participated in at least 15 nights of camping. Elections are in January of each year. The Order of the Arrow (OA) offers many exciting opportunities for older scouts.

Annual Calendar and Planning Process

Our Troop conducts annual planning at least once per year where the Troop junior leadership discusses goals and objectives for the Troop's annual program. Based on these plans, we publish a revolving annual calendar quarterly to help families plan for our events.

Refer to the attached Troop 423 Annual Calendar for more information.

□ **Advancement Tips**

Attend Weekly Troop Meetings - Advancement opportunities are scheduled regularly during Troop meetings. Always bring the Scout handbook to Troop meetings until First Class rank is earned. Scouts need to have their earned requirements verified and signed off by an Assistant Scoutmaster. Parents do not sign off requirements. This differs from Cub Scouts where parents sign the book.

Participate in Troop Outings and Service Projects - A good way to meet the service project requirement is to take part in any Eagle project. These are announced during Troop meetings. The Life Scouts who are leading these projects circulate a signup sheet at the Troop meetings. Troop outings in particular offer advancement opportunities such as water safety, cooking skills, plant and animal identification, and map and compass use which are difficult to obtain during regular Troop meetings. Parents are always welcome to attend these outings.

Track Service Hours and Troop Outings - Keep a log of participation in service projects (number of hours), overnight camping (number of nights camping), and hiking (miles hiked). Write these in a specific place in your Scout handbook. Service projects and outings are required for advancement.

Attend Trail to First Class Workshops - Usually held on Saturday mornings, these workshops offer specific advancement opportunities for Scouts working toward First Class rank. Typically these are held 2-3 times during spring.

Attend Summer Camp - Summer Camp is the best opportunity for advancement. Trail to First Class opportunities are offered daily and earning merit badges is a large portion of the program.

Ask For Assistance - Often times a boy is reluctant to ask a leader for help or to identify a specific rank advancement need. Monitor your Scout's progress and motivate him to ask for assistance in obtaining a requirement. Talk with your patrol's Assistant Scoutmaster if there is a concern in this area.

Advancement Timeline - Encourage your Scout to obtain his First Class rank within eighteen months of joining the Troop. The first rank of Scout is accomplished in the first 4 weeks after joining. As parents you have a role in this rank to review the Child Abuse section in the front of the scout handbook. Tenderfoot can be achieved in the first 4 months, followed by Second Class during the next 6 months, and First class 6 months later. A Scout may work on higher rank requirements at the same time as he is earning his next rank. For instance, Second and First Class requirements may be earned while still at Scout or Tenderfoot rank.

Sew the rank badges on your son's uniform as soon as possible. This shows the importance of his accomplishment. Once a Scout is 13 and has achieved his First Class rank, he can take part in the Troop's Venture Patrol Program.

Rank advancement and merit badge completion are key aspects of the Scouting program. A boy who is not advancing will lose interest in Boy Scouts. Help your son get the most out of scouting.