# Boy Scout Troop 26

***Big Bend Wisconsin*** ***Since 1934***

www.pacunits.org/t26

Potawatomi Area Console, Boy Scouts of America

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BOY SCOUT TROOP 26

### History:

- Year Established: 1934 (2nd oldest troop in Waukesha!)
- Chartered Organization: Village of Vernon Volunteer Fire Department
- Some of our recent adult leaders were one-time Boy Scouts in this troop!

### Meetings:

- Scouts should bring their Boy Scout Handbook (every meeting).
- Verify meeting dates and times in Scoutbook or the current troop calendar.
- General Troop Meetings: Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 8:30 throughout the year including the summer.
- Youth PLC (Patrol Leaders Council) Planning Meetings: First Tuesday of each month 7:00pm - ~ 7:45pm.
- Adult Troop Committee Meetings: First Tuesday of each month ~7:45pm - 8:30pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.
- Meeting Location: Big Bend/Vernon Lion's Clubhouse, Big Bend.

### Scout Uniforms:

#### Class A:

- Is worn at Troop meetings during school months, Scout related travel, outings, activities, and events unless otherwise directed by the Scoutmaster.
- Official BSA tan button up Scout shirt with appropriate patches affixed.
- Official BSA green shorts or pants, socks, belt, and hat are preferred.
- Denim or solid color shorts, pants, socks, and belt in good taste are acceptable.
- At special events and award ceremonies such as Courts of Honor, Scouts should also wear their Troop neckerchief with slide, religious medals, and merit badge sash.

#### Class B:

- Either the “official” troop t-shirt (available at troop meetings - $10), troop “spirit-wear” or a t-shirt attained through scouting events such as Eagles Nest, Swamp Fox, Summer Camp, etc. T-shirt wording must reference Scouting.

- May be worn to Troop meetings during non-school summer months or as directed by the Scoutmaster.

- The “official” t-shirt and “spirit-wear” are available for purchase through the Troop.

## Scoutbook:

The troop uses Scoutbook (https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/article-categories/scoutbook) for tracking your scout’s rank advancements and merit badges, for planning troop meetings and outings, for communicating with troop members (both parents and their scouts), and for training as needed. It is our on-line repository of information for tracking “Troop 26” and used on a weekly basis. To best stay connected, it is highly recommended both you and your scout create an account and leverage this tool.

Scoutbook Tutorial for Parents

https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-tutorial-for-parents/#:~:text=scouting%20before%20go%20to%20http,happened%2C%20please%20contact%20your%20unit

## Troop Website:

The Troop 26 website is used to share troop information, news, pictures and calendar events with troop scouts as well as a tool for recruiting prospective scouts and leaders.

Website address: www.pacunits.org/t26

## Scout Advancement:

- Scouts advance at their own pace in the scouting programs. Scouts must earn ranks in order, but they may work on any requirement for Tenderfoot through First Class at any time.

- Older Scouts teach skills under the supervision of adult leaders using the EDGE method (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable).

- When a Scout sufficiently masters the skill, he is tested by either an adult leader (not a parent, as in Cub Scouts) or First Class or higher ranked Scout who then signs off in their handbook.

- When a Scout completes rank advancement requirements, he must then request review process whereby the Scout participates (first) in a Scoutmaster Conference followed by a Board of Review where he meets with (minimally) 3 adult leaders.

- A Scoutmaster Conference is not a test, it is an opportunity for open dialogue between the Scoutmaster and the Scout to discuss the youth’s progress and set goals for the future. It is also a chance for the Scoutmaster to get feedback on how the Troop is operating.

- Similarly, the Board of Review allows a Scout to practice his communication and interviewing skills. It also provides feedback for Troop leaders regarding the Scout's Troop experiences his recommendations for improvements.
- Requests for testing and advancement come from a Scout, not a parent. This encourages personal responsibility and ownership of achievement. Note for parents: It is ok to encourage your son, but please remember these are opportunities for him to advance his skill in communicating with adults.

- There is a 4-step path to advancing in rank:

    1. The Scout learns a skill.
    2. The Scout is tested on what he learns.
    3. The Scout is reviewed.
    4. 4. The Scout is recognized.

## Merit Badges:

- Merit Badges are a crucial part of advancing in the scouting program and are a requirement for advancing past the rank of First Class.

- Merit Badges may be worked on at any time and they are awarded at a Court of Honor.

- Some Merit Badges are offered through merit badge clinics. Most clinics have a fee, and the price varies depending on the materials needed and if a lunch is served. In this case it is the Scout's responsibility to sign up for the clinic and make travel arrangements.

- Alternatively, some Troop supported outings offer merit badges. Scouts must sign up for the outing and select their merit badge(s) to work on during the outing. The Troop coordinates travel.

- Finally, a Scout may pursue any merit badge that interests him by first asking the Scoutmaster for a list of merit badge counselors for that badge. A scout then contacts a merit badge counselor by **phone or in person.** The process of speaking with adults teaches a Scout communication skills that are not necessarily present through either email or texting.

- In all cases a Scouts must first request to obtain a signed 'Blue Card' from either the Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster Designee which signifies his eligibility to earn the merit badge and tracks his progress. He is then to proceed as the counselor instructs.

- **A parent's participation may be required in meeting(s) with a lone counselor to ensure "Two Deep Leadership".**

- Once merit badge work is completed and a corresponding Blue Card completely signed off, the Scout is then responsible for turning in the Blue Card to the Advancement Chair so that the badge may be awarded at a subsequent (next) Court of Honor.

## Court(s) of Honor:

- A Scout is recognized at a Court of Honor for each advancement in rank. The Scout is also then recognized for any recent merit badge or special award completion.
- Courts of Honor are held 3-4 times each year. These are formal troop activities and all Scouts, parents, and family members are encouraged to attend. Food is usually served.

## Fees:

- There is a yearly, nominal registration fee paid to the Boy Scouts of America by each Scout (currently $72).
- There is a yearly, nominal troop fee paid to Troop 26 by each Scout (currently $28).
- There is also a small additional fee to maintain a Scout's Order of the Arrow membership or to receive "Boys Life" magazine.
- All fees are collected annually and coincide with a BSA chartering obligations typically during an October – November timeframe.
- Family participation in the Boy Scouts of America yearly Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign is encouraged.
- Outings, events, camps etc. may have additional participation fees. These may be paid either directly or through a Scout account voucher (See Scout Account Information below).
- Parents should be aware of the activities their scout has signed up for to ensure that the Scout can financially commit to attend.
- Participation in scouting is encouraged and there are monies available from different organizations for Scouts in financial need. If you have a financial need please talk to the Scoutmaster or the Potawatomi Area Council.

## Scout Accounts:

- Scout Account policy is governed by BSA policy and IRS rules.
- Each Scout has their own Scout account. Scouts who transfer to the Troop from a Pack (Crossover Scouts) or another Troop and maintained Scout Accounts with their former unit may be able to carry those forward to the Troop.
- Scout earned fundraising profits are automatically put into their account.
- Scout account funds may not be used for individual product purchases (sleeping bag, etc.). They may be applied to fees for a weekend or high adventure outing, summer camp registration, annual BSA charter (see **Fees** above) or Eagle Court of Honor costs.
- Scout Account vouchers are downloaded from troop website.

- Any other usage not listed in this document must be approved by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair.

- Scout accounts are administered by the Troop Treasurer.

- Any money left in an account belonging to an exiting (or "aged out") Scout is placed in the general troop account. A Scout is provided time beyond the date where he exits to process reimbursement for costs associated to Eagle Court of Honor. This exception for reimbursement may not exceed one (1) year.

## Fundraising:

- The troop conducts fundraising activities currently in the Fall and Spring.

- Scouts are expected to individually sell product, pick the product up from the drop off point, deliver to customers and collect money.

- 50% of the profits from the scout's individual sales go into the scout's individual scout account and 50% goes to the troop's general operating fund. Scouts are requested to generate a minimum of $100 in to support operating expenses, to help keep annual fees low, and to help pay for Troop equipment and supplies.

- There may be additional fundraisers (e.g. popcorn, brat sales, corn stalk/ hay bale) available to help Scouts attain their Troop profit goal or for targeted additional expenses (e.g. high adventure).

## Adult Leadership:

- Troop 26 provides appropriately trained adult leaders for all activities.

- All parents are encouraged to take an active role in leadership of the troop and troop activities.

- Any parent who wishes to attend an activity is welcome (and encouraged). More parent participation means more Troop activities and more opportunities for Scouts.

- **All adult volunteers are required to complete Youth Protection annually. No exceptions. Troop 26 follows all BSA Youth Protection Guidelines and two-deep leadership requirements.**

## Medical Forms:

- Each Scout and Adult Leader needs to keep their medical form, prescription, and insurance card information up to date and on file with the Troop. Summer camp or other outings of greater than 3 days require Parts A, B and C of the BSA medical form.

- We recommend that each person provides (2) copies of the full form each year prior to summer camp and that the family retains the original. One copy will remain in the Troop medical form

binder that is taken to all outings and one is typically maintained at camp.

- The forms change often, so please download the current form from the BSA website here or Troop website here.

## Troop Obligations for Community Service:

- Road clean up (typically from Big Bend Elementary School north to the I-43 interchange); 2-3 times each year.

- Help at the Big Bend/Vernon Lions Club annual Chicken Dinner, typically in February.
- Scouting for Food, food drive in March.

- Help at the Big Bend/Vernon Lions Club BOLD (Blind Outdoor Leadership Development) canoe outing, typically in September.

- Help at the Big Bend/Vernon Lions Club Pig Roast, typically in September.

- Help at the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, typically in October.

## Eagle Projects:

- The Troop and the Potawatomi Area Council strongly encourage and support Life rank Scouts in their pursuit of the Eagle rank, which includes a requirement for an Eagle Project.

- The Eagle project provides an opportunity for the Scout to demonstrate what he has learned through rank advancement and merit badges in the areas of communication, organization, planning and leadership.

- Life Scouts seeking ideas for an Eagle Project may consult with the Troop's adult leaders for when developing and evaluating a list of alternatives. Scouts are also encouraged to choose an "Eagle Coach" from within the Troop's adult leadership.

- Life Scouts are also encouraged to attend the Council's "Life to Eagle" workshop and are required to fill out the official Eagle Project Workbook (available via the Potawatomi Area Council website).

- A Scout must develop a viable proposal and this proposal must be approved (in order) by the benefiting organization, the Troop Committee, and the Potawatomi Area Council's Eagle Advancement Coordinator.

- Upon completion of the Eagle project, the Scout must prepare and submit his Application for Eagle Rank and Eagle Project Workbook for approval by the Troop prior to requesting an Eagle Board of Review by the Potawatomi Area Council.