

## **Boy Scout Troop 398**

**Welcome to Troop 398! This information sheet has been prepared to help you understand how Troop 398 operates. We hope you enjoy your visit and we welcome your questions.**

**General.** Troop 398 has been serving youth for over 40 years. It has been chartered by St. Mark's United Methodist Men's Club since 1984. Our troop welcomes all youth regardless of church affiliation. We always have prayers before meals and a Sunday morning devotional during camp outs. Historically, we have been one of the largest troops in the Trail of Tears District, averaging 30 – 45 active youth members. Currently, we average 20-25 youth. We are rebounding from the loss of membership during COVID. We recently celebrated our 169<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout. We average 2-4 new Eagle Scouts each year. Our troop draws its members from all over the Rutherford County area. As a result, our scouts attend a variety of local schools. In September 2013, St. Mark's formed Cub Scout Pack 398 which has now grown to over 50 Cub Scouts.

**Meeting place and time.** The troop meets every Monday night from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the "Eagle's Nest", which is our scout building located behind St. Mark's UMC at 1267 N. Rutherford Blvd. We do not meet on major holidays or if severe weather causes cancellation of Murfreesboro City Schools. We schedule a 7:00 PM Leaders' meeting on one Monday night approximately every quarter as a planning meeting night for Patrol Leader Council, Adult Committee or Leader meetings. Only youth leaders and adult leaders are expected to attend. We designate one meeting night per quarter as a Troop Court of Honor where scouts formally receive the awards they've earned. Families are encouraged to attend and we often take this opportunity to put out information and answer questions on upcoming events.

### **Adult Leadership**

Perhaps the most important part of the Scouting Program is the interaction of the scouts with adult role models. Troop 398 has a wealth of experienced adult leaders. Our Scoutmaster, Mike Warren, has over 70 years' experience in scouting. He is an Eagle Scout, Wood Badge trained and has been scoutmaster for over 24 years. Our Troop Committee Chairman, Dane Carey, has been an advisor on several Philmont High Adventure treks and has an Eagle Scout son. We have eight adult leaders who are Eagle Scouts, three of whom have been Assistant Scoutmasters for over 20 years. We currently have four Wood Badge trained adult leaders. Many of our adult leaders have served as advisors on our high adventure trips. We welcome and encourage the participation of parents who want to share the scouting experience with their sons.

### **Boy-Led Program**

Our goal is to continuously work toward the ideal of a boy-led troop. Our youth leaders serve for a period of six months. Troop planning for meetings and activities takes place at the Patrol Leader Council meetings. Troop meetings are run as much as possible by our scouts. Adults serve as advisors. Scout meetings will often appear disorganized when compared to adult-run Cub Scout meetings, but look closely and you will see scouts practicing leadership and learning to run an organization.

### **New Scouts**

New scouts joining our troop are initially placed in the Greenhorn Patrol under the supervision of an experienced Scout who serves as a Troop Guide. An Assistant Scoutmaster is also designated to work with the new scouts. The goal is to get them ready for Summer Camp and work on Scout and Tenderfoot Rank requirements. When the new scout attains the rank of Tenderfoot, he and at least one buddy are transferred to one of our permanent patrols.

### **Outdoor Activities.**

Most activities are scheduled at least 3 months in advance. We are a very active outdoor troop “We put the ‘outing’ in ‘Sc-outing’”! We plan a weekend camp out at least 11 months out of the year. These monthly campouts include a variety of activities: fishing, hiking, backpacking, flat water and white water canoeing, rappelling to mention a few. Parents are not required to accompany their Boy Scout on camp outs, but parents are welcome to attend. We encourage parents who want to be an active participant to register as an adult so that they will be covered by BSA insurance. We discourage the participation of unregistered younger and older siblings because they are not covered by our insurance. However, siblings are welcome to accompany their parents on our August Whitewater Camp Out which is designated a family campout. We float the Hiwassee Scenic River in a variety of watercraft. Each year, we attend a week-long Summer Camp at Camp Stahlman on Boxwell Reservation near Gallatin the second week of June every year. Each year, in late June to early July, we plan a high adventure trip. These trips are designed to provide a once in a lifetime experience for scouts 13 years and older. For over 20 years, we have rotated trips between backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, sailing at Seabase in the Florida Keys and canoeing at the Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Ely Minnesota.

### **Other Activities**

Scouts participate in a variety of other activities: the SportsCom Polar Bear Plunge, Greenway Clean-up, Scouting for Food, Scout Sunday, three different Merit Badge Universities and various service projects that benefit our community.

### **Funding**

We are self-funded through annual dues (\$60/scout), several fund raisers and camp out fees (\$10 - \$20/weekend to cover food and expenses). Most of our operating funds come from our Super Bowl Barbeque Fund Raiser in February. High adventure trips are supplemented by barbeque sales for Thanksgiving. Scouts and adults are expected to participate as they are able. Several additional fund raising activities are provided to give scouts an opportunity to earn money for their Scout Account. All of the profit from annual popcorn sales goes into the scouts’ accounts. We do not want to leave anyone behind because of money, so we provide financial assistance to needy scouts who participate fully in the troop’s activities.

### **For more information**

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