

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

Troop 31 is 80+ 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, there is a \$1 transfer fee. If he is new to Scouts, dues are \$36/year or \$3/month depending upon the month he is joining. In addition, Scouts need to purchase a Troop 31 neckerchief (\$9) and a Boy Scout handbook (\$9). Our Troop also charges a one-time equipment fee of \$25 per family. This fee is used to purchase/upgrade Troop supplies on an ongoing basis, to ensure that your son is using proper working equipment when on Troop campouts or events. Lastly, 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 the Scouts can wear a Class-B Troop 31 t-shirt during the summer.

Our Troop is sponsored by the Oswego Presbyterian Church on 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. Scouts are encouraged to attend summer camp, which usually takes place the second week of July, and there is usually a campout the first weekend of August. After that campout, the Troop takes a break from meetings until after Labor Day.

Active Scouts earn merit badges and rank advancements as they progress through the Troop. The Troop holds a Court of Awards once or twice a year where parents and friends are invited to watch as Scouts receive their advancements.

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 of pop per Scout. 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, usually in March. 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 dues.

Our Troop usually participates in a monthly campout. Fees are \$10 per campout, not including summer camp, which covers the cost of the food. Permission slips and information are handed out as soon as available. Drivers are always needed for these events, and parents are welcome to attend. The Troop usually leaves for campouts on Friday evening at 5pm from Oswego Presbyterian Church and returns Sunday at 11am to Traugber Junior High School.

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

George Webber  
Scoutmaster  
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