

Welcome to Troop 272! In the interest of getting you acclimated to "the way we do things", we provide this brief orientation to the skeletal structure of our program. There are three parts to this introduction, Part I is on "Aims and Methods" and "Communication", Part 2 on "Meetings" and Part 3 on "Outings". Hopefully many of your questions regarding the time and financial commitment involved in joining the troop will be answered here.

Aims and Methods of Boyscouting

There are three "aims" and eight "methods" in Boyscouting.

The aims: *character development
 *citizenship training
 *mental and physical fitness

The methods: *ideals (the oath and law)
 *patrols
 *outdoors
 *advancement
 *adult association
 *personal growth
 *leadership development
 *uniform

You will hear more about each of these items, but here they are in summary for your future reference.

Communication

There is no central clearinghouse for information in a Boyscout troop. No one person or resource has all the information you will need. Leadership is shared not only among the adults involved, but also with the youth as well. Frequently these leaders (both youth and adult) are "in training". The variety and volume of information involved in operating Boyscout troop can be overwhelming. We do appreciate your patience in this area, and want to encourage you to ask for information when you find you need it. You may reach Scoutmaster John McCarthy at 699-8179 and Assistant Scoutmaster Gary Cunningham at 484-1149.

The first three places you should look for written information regarding Boyscouting in general or our troop in particular are:

- *Your boy's Handbook
- *the troop website (www.math.msu.edu/~mccarthy/troop272)

*the troop calendar

There are primarily three places where "breaking news" is published in our troop:

- *the boys' meetings
- *the adults' monthly troop committee meetings
- *email

The Chief Okemos Council (to which our troop belongs) also maintains a helpful website, a link for which appears on the troop website.

Calendar

Your boy will be given a troop calendar. If you want a copy for yourself, you may copy the one your boy has, download a copy for yourself from the website, or ask for a copy from one of the leaders. (Expect some delay if you choose this last method. The troop does not typically keep updated copies of the calendar in its supplies.) Please refer to this calendar frequently.

Each month's activities will be laid out in detail on the troop calendar. However, in general, each month the troop conducts

- *three troop meetings
- *one Patrol Leader's Council meeting
- *one outing.

Occasionally some extra opportunities for fund-raising or community service may be offered. Rest assured that your boy's status in the troop will not be affected if he needs to miss some of the meetings or outings because of scheduling conflicts.

Conclusion

We are excited about sharing the adventure of Scouting with you. We think we have a great program, and hope that you are developing a sense for the worthwhile challenges and great fun that await you and your boy in Troop 272 in the months and years ahead.