



BSA Troop 464

...Building tomorrow's leaders today

**Boy Scouts of America
Troop 464, Pearland, Texas**

**Parent Information Packet
www.troop-464.com**

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Troop 464, Pearland, Texas**

Sponsored by: First United Methodist Church

Meetings at: Winnie Lane Memorial Scout House, 2229 No. Houston St.

When: Every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Scoutmaster: Randy Brewer, 713-907-8449

Committee Chairman:

Charter Organization Rep: Craig Slater 281-485-9970

Troop Website: www.troop-464.com

Troop Email Coordinator: Gina Dombrosky, ginadombrosky@sbcglobal.net

Troop Advancement Chair: Leslie Powell, princessqb10@hotmail.com

Troop Webmaster: Dennis Gittens, dennis.gittens@yahoo.com

Troop 464 feels it is the premier troop in the Pearland area. Its mission is to provide a safe and fun environment for Scouts to engage in the Boy Scouting program. The troop is composed of boys, ages 11 through 18, ranking from Scout to Eagle. We also feature a very active program of high adventure including camping, hiking, canoeing, service projects, and advancement. Typical activities include:

Courts of Honor: A Court of Honor is a recognition meeting and ceremony for Scouts, Scouters (adults), and family members of the Troop. During the ceremony, Scouts will be recognized for all rank advancements they've achieved since the previous Court of Honor, and they'll be awarded their rank pins and merit badges and cards. Both Scouts and Scouters may be recognized during this formal ceremony for certain achievements in their scouting careers. A portion of the Court of Honor is dedicated to fellowship among Scouts and their families, and the Troop leadership encourages all family members to attend.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC): The Troop holds two elections per year, during which Scouts vote for members of their Troop who will lead them during the six months following the election. During this time, Scouts are elected by their peers to fill Troop-level positions (Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant SPL (ASPL), Chaplains' Aide, Scribe, Historian, Librarian, Quartermaster, and Bugler). In a separate election within each patrol, members will also select their Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant PL (APL) for the six months following the election. Scouts in these positions form the Troop's Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). Together with the adult Troop Committee members, the PLC chooses the date of the annual planning meeting, which typically occurs in August of each year.

Summer Camp: Troop 464 participates in at least one week-long summer encampment at a camp selected by the Scouts and approved by the adult leadership. This is an opportunity for all the boys to work on rank advancement, earn required merit badges, and enjoy the company of other Scouts from throughout the U.S.

Fall Camp: Typically scheduled during the Thanksgiving holiday break, Troop members have the opportunity to attend a Fall encampment at Bay Area Council's Camp Karankawa. Located

near West Columbia, Texas, this camp is approximately one hour from Pearland and provides and excellent opportunity for Scouts to earn or complete their merit badges.

Winter Camp: Typically scheduled during the Christmas-New Year's Day break, winter camp is yet another opportunity for our Scouts to camp and advance their skills without worrying about mosquitoes!

Order of the Arrow (OA): Troop 464's camping program provides ample opportunity for Scouts to qualify for OA; an honorary camping and service society dedicated to service to others.

Camporee: The Northern Star District sponsors an annual Camporee, also known as a Troop Invitational, which is typically scheduled during the Spring months. A Camporee consists of competitive events, during which the Scouts may test their camping and Scouting skills against boys from other troops in the area.

High Adventure Camping: Our Scouts have traveled to the Northern-Tier High Adventure Canoe Base in Minnesota (1998), Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico (1999) Sea Base in Florida (2002), Philmont (2003), Sea Base in Florida (2006) and Cavalcade (2007).

International Camping: Our Scouts have participated in International Encampments at the Sam Houston Council's Camp Strake and Bay Area Council's Camp Karankawa.

Jamborees: Our Scouts have also participated in both National and International Jamborees in various locations. Jamborees are sponsored by the national organization of BSA and are held every four years.

Service Projects: Our Scouts take great pride in serving their community. Troop 464 regularly supports the "Clean Pearland" events sponsored by Keep Pearland Beautiful, assists the First United Methodist Church in it's annual Christmas Food Basket delivery, assists the First United Methodist Church in clean up after it's annual Christmas Gift Alley, and participates in the Bay Area Council's "Scouting for Food" effort. In addition, our Scouts also participate in other service projects as they are brought to the Troop Committee, which often include providing manual labor in support of Eagle Scout projects.

Other Activities: Troop 464 regularly schedules a number of weekend activities each year. At least one camping activity is scheduled for each month, which may include camping, special service projects or a specialty program such as rock climbing. The Troop's goal is to keep Scouts active by providing many engaging opportunities.

Fundraising: A part of the Scout Law addressed a Scout being thrifty. As such, our Scouts help finance their Troop and Individual Scouting activities by raising money through ticket sales for our Troop's annual Pancake Supper and Auction. Typically held in February or March of each year, Scouts pre-sell tickets, obtain donations from businesses and private citizens, and serve their guests during the actual event. All donated items are liquidated through either silent or live auctions held during the event, which draws between several hundred to approximately 1,000 people each year. Depending upon the number of tickets sold, Scouts may earn money that goes

directly into their individual Scout Accounts, which may later be used to pay for Summer and Fall camps. As an addition avenue for raising money, Scouts may also sell popcorn at specified times during the year. NOTE: If a boy wishes to join Troop 464, the troop committee encourages his participation in the Pancake Supper and Auction, even if he will not cross-over until after February or March.

Scout Sunday: Troop 464 participates in the morning worship service during Scout Sunday at our sponsoring institution (First United Methodist Church, Pearland). This event is typically held on the second Sunday of February each year.

Leadership

Troop 464 is a boy-led troop. As such, the SPL and the PLC lead the Troop patrols in a hierarchical structure under the guidance and supervision of the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. All Scouters (e.g. adult leaders) are required to obtain BSA training, the very minimum of which includes BSA Fast Start Training, Youth Protection Training, New Leader Essentials and either Scoutmaster Basic Training or Troop Committee Challenge Training. Many have a great deal of scouting experience and have taken part in advanced training such as Wood Badge (e.g. management) training. Scouts' parents may also support the Troop by joining or providing valuable input to the Troop Committee. This group addresses the often behind-the-scenes issues that are critical to the success of the Scouting program--transportation, communications, website, boards of review for Scouts' rank advancements, facilities upkeep, program assistance, fund-raising assistance, and many other tasks as needed. In addition, our sponsoring organization provides leadership assistance through its Chartered Organization Representative and the Associate Pastors of the church.

Troop 464—Scout Rules

Please refer to the Troop 464 Policy and Guidelines for Adult and Committee Rules.

I. Attendance, Meetings and Activities

A) Attendance sheet **MUST** be signed or name called out by the SPL or ASPL in order to be considered present at meetings.

B) 50% attendance at Troop meetings and activities required during the past 3 months to satisfy rank activity requirements or:

1. No Advancement

C) Missing three (3) meetings in a row or outdoor activities in row– Scouts in Leadership positions may be disciplined by:

1. Removal from office decided by PLC, Scoutmaster, and Advancement Chair;
Replacement of office decided by PLC, Scoutmaster, and Advancement Chair

D) Dues are determined by BSA and the Bay Area Council. Typically \$12.00 per year, dues are paid early each December. Troop 464 does not collect any additional dues but encourages all Scouts to participate in its annual Pancake Supper and Auction to raise much-needed funds for the Troop.

II. Uniforms

A. Uniforms will be properly worn at all meetings, during activities, and while traveling to and from camping trips. Failure to abide by this rule will result in the Scout meeting with one of the adult leaders and/or the SPL and/or ASPLs. For more information, please reference the Troop Policy and Guidelines. The Scout Uniform includes the following items:

Scout Hat (Not to be worn indoors)

Scout Shirt* (With proper accoutrements, tucked-in unless otherwise directed)

Scout Neckerchief**

Scout Pants or Shorts

Scout Belt

Scout Merit Badge Sash and Badges

Green Scout Socks

Closed-toe shoes***

* The Field Uniform (formerly Class A) includes the formal Scout uniform shirt. The Activity Uniform (formerly Class B) includes a Scouting T-shirt.

** The neckerchief will be worn for all Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, and formal activities but it is not required during regular weekly meetings

*** Open-toe shoes may only be worn in showers; they may not be worn during camping events or meetings

The formal Field Uniform is required for all travel; this is a requirement for coverage under BSA insurance. It will also be worn for Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, and any formal activities outside the Troop's Scout House.

Scout pants or shorts are required for Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review, and at any other time designated by the Scoutmaster. At other times, solid-colored pants, jeans or shorts worn in good taste are acceptable.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Activity Uniform may be worn in place of the Field Uniform during regular weekly meetings due to the warm temperatures in South Texas.

Any hats worn while in-uniform must be Scout hats—a Troop cap, Friends of Scouting cap, a hat from a Scout camp or any hat authorized by BSA is acceptable; all other hats will be confiscated.

III. Patrol Flags

A. Each patrol will have a patrol name, patrol yell, and a patrol flag. Patrol flags will be designed by each patrol as a sign of camaraderie and teamwork. The flags are to be brought to all meetings and activities.

IV. Security

A. No scout may leave a meeting or any other activity area without the direct permission from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster. If a Scout must leave early, his parent(s) must directly communicate that information with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

B. Prohibited Items: No personal food, radios, mechanical, electrical, or electronic devices are to be seen, heard, or smelled during meetings or campouts unless approved by the Scoutmaster.

V. Campouts

A. Scouts must sign-up two weeks (e.g. two Troop meetings) in advance of all camping activities, though earlier deadlines may apply for special activities. It is acceptable if the Scout contacts the Scoutmaster via e-mail two weeks in advance of an event.

B. All Scouts must have a current health insurance card and a BSA health history form on file with the Troop prior to leaving for a campout.

C. Permission Slips will be distributed during the regular Troop meeting preceding each campout/activity; however, they **MUST** be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the Scoutmaster or his representative before a Scout will be allowed to participate in that activity. Parents may download a copy of the current permission slips from the Troop website.

D. Patrol menus and food costs must be submitted to and approved by an adult leader at least two meetings before any campout. Food costs for a typical weekend campout are approximately \$10.00 per Scout, depending upon the length of the campout and the menu agreed upon by the Scouts in a patrol. Each patrol arranges for its own food, will choose a Grubmaster, and pay him the agreed upon amount during the regular Troop meeting prior to the campout. Any unused monies will be split equally and returned to the individual Scouts in the patrol. In addition, patrol will store and cook their own food (not taking food from other patrols) and will clean their own dishes and utensils.

E. Only Troop-provided Scout tents shall be used by the Scouts unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the Scoutmaster. We typically assign two, and sometimes three, Scouts per tent in age-appropriate groups. Scouts will be confined to their tents after Taps/Lights Out and remain there until Reveille; the exception would be emergency circumstances. During this time, there will be no loud talking or horseplay in the tents and all lights will be turned-off during this time (as notified by SPL or ASPLs).

F. Scouts may not leave campsite without the permission of the SPL or an adult leader.

G. Patrol chuck boxes are to be locked at all times when not in use. The Quartermaster and Scoutmaster will be given a key/combo. In addition, matches are to be used only for starting meal fires and must be stored in a locked patrol chuck box when not used for that purpose. Scouts may also bring matches with their personal gear but may not use their own matches unless approved by the SPL or an adult leader.

H. No sheath knives are to be carried at any time, including during meetings, campouts and other activities.

I. Personal scout gear, packs, etc., may be randomly searched by an adult leader at any time.

J. No backpacks (internal or external frames) are allowed in Troop tents at any time; however, soft-sided duffel bags and day packs are acceptable. In addition, cots are not allowed inside Troop tents unless, 1) the cot has rounded-bottom legs, and 2) the Scout is participating in a long-term camping event (e.g. summer or fall camp, jamboree, etc.)

K. In addition to Troop Rules, each Scout must become familiar with the BSA rules outlined in his Scout Book. If a Scout has any questions or doubts about a rule, he should address it with the SPL or an adult leader.

VI. Discipline Issues

A. Safety and health issues will be dealt with immediately by the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters or any qualified adult member of the Troop. Issues not endangering the health and safety of our Scouts will be brought to the Troop committee for discussion and disposition.

B. All disciplinary actions will be documented in the Committee meeting minutes.

C. Adult leaders should adhere to the guidelines established in the Youth Protection Training (YPT) Guidelines, with special emphasis on the concept of two-deep leadership. In addition, all adults will ensure their own YPT training is current.

VII. The "Rocking Chair" Patrol

A. Adult leaders who have completed BSA Fast Start, Youth Protection Training, New Leader Essentials and either Scoutmaster Basic Training or Troop Committee Challenge Training are eligible to wear the Rocking Chair Patrol emblem. All adult leaders must submit copies of their training cards/certificates to the Troop Secretary.

B. A current YPT card must be on-file with the Troop before an adult may participate in any troop campouts or activities. In addition, every adult who camps with the Troop may attend no more than three campouts until they have completed the BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) course. During campouts, all adults will be members of the Rocking

Chair Patrol and will use the Patrol Camping Method outlined in the Scout Handbook and used by the Scouts. In the same manner as the Scouts handle their meals, the Rocking Chair Patrol will choose a Grubmaster and share the cost of the food for the event. In addition, the Rocking Chair Patrol will check-out/-in equipment from the Troop Quartermaster in the same manner used by the Scouts' patrols and will be subject to the same rules of use.

TROOP 464 BSA ADULT TRAINING DESCRIPTIONS

Position Held	Training Required	Additional Training	Description of Training
All Adult Volunteers	Fast Start		Video introduction to the Scouting Program; watch prior to participating in any activity involving Scouts.
	Youth Protection		Classroom training to insure the safety and security of all youth must be updated every three years.
	New Leader Essentials		Classroom training that provides information essential to all adult volunteers regardless of position held; taken once during Scouting career.
		Roundtable	Monthly meeting with up-to-date information on District and council activities, and break-out sessions for every position.
		Wood Badge	Advanced Leader training; covers six days (two weekends); must be fully-training to attend.
		Safe Swim/ Safety Afloat	Classroom training required before taking youth to any water related activity. Check Guide to Safe Scouting for details.
		Merit Badge Counselor	Overview of requirements of a Counselor.
Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster	Scoutmaster/Assist Scoutmaster Fundamentals		
	Introduction to Outdoor Leader skills		Weekend campout that provides the rest of the essential information needed to perform the duties of
		Climb On Safely	Classroom and outdoor training required before taking youth on any climbing activity.
		Passport to High Adventure	Classroom training required before taking youth on high-adventure activities; prepares adults to lead group of older high-adventure Scouts.
Troop Committee Member	Troop Committee Challenge		Classroom training provides essential information needed to hold any position in a

For Training Schedules and Opportunities: www.bacbsa.org