



33rd St. Matthias Scout Troop

Information for Youth and Parents 2005-2006

1. Meeting Time

Every Saturday from 2:00pm to 4:30 p.m. at St. Matthias Church (our sponsor) on 49th Avenue and Tisdale.

Duty Patrol – if your child's patrol is duty patrol for the week, s/he is to arrive at 1:30pm to set up the flag pole and leave at 5:00pm to dismantle the flag pole and clean up.

There will be some weekends where we camp from Friday night to Sunday afternoon.

Also there will be a few Saturdays where we may extend the meeting time to meet the program's needs. We will do our best to minimize these occasions.

Refer to the 2005-2006 calendar attached for specific events.

2. Uniform

The uniform shall consist of the brown shirt, blue pants, dark blue or black socks, shiny black shoes (no running shoes), green belt, blue shorts (for June-August months), beret, neckerchief and woggle. Uniforms are worn at all Scouting events; exceptions can only be made by the leaders.

3. Badges

Badge testing time is from 1:30pm to 2:15pm every Saturday. To ensure a spot, Scout must make an appointment with one of the Scout leaders a week prior. All Scout leaders are qualified to badge test.

Make sure all necessary materials/documents to complete the badge requirement are available for the leaders to see.

Earned badges will be presented at the following meeting.

The ultimate goal for the Scouts is to earn the Chief Scout Award. Start early and attend all the events because our Scout program is structured to help earn the Award.

4. Dues

Dues are \$5.00 per month, due in two installments. Notices will be sent out when the installments are due. The Scout's dues pay for badges, supplies, materials, equipment and some activities.

5. Scout Book

The Scout program is based on badge work and it is important that each Scout have a Scout Handbook as the program is based on that book. It would also be helpful if each

Scout had a "Field Book". Scouts should bring their books to every meeting. Both books are available at Scout House located on 664 W. Broadway, Vancouver BC.

6. Scout Binder

All Scouts are to bring to the meeting each week a three ring 1" binder to keep all notices, handouts and notes. All notices should be placed in this binder for camps, field trips and monthly calendars. If you have any questions about our upcoming program or events, please check the binder first. Spot checks will be made throughout the year with surprise awards for those with complete binders.

7. Scout Staff

To practice pioneering skills, all Scouts are to have a 5'6" staff and bring it to our weekly meetings and standing (drive-in) camps. The cost of the staff is about \$15 plus taxes. The leaders can show you a sample and they can be purchased from Home Depot.

8. Items to Bring to Weekly Meetings

Scout Handbook, Field Book, binder, pen, pencil, 10' rope, 25' rope, filled water bottle and scout staff.

9. Troop Rules

Our troop operates by the Scout Law and Promise. The scout must at all times be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Specific rules adopted by the troop are:

- There will be no profanity at any troop meetings or activities.
- We do not throw things at one another: rocks, pine cones, snowballs, water, anything.
- Decisions in the troop and patrol are made by majority vote.
- We discourage roughhousing between scouts. Roughhousing between a large scout and a small one, or more than one against one is not allowed.
- There will be no hazing or initiations of new scouts.
- There will be no use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs on any scout activity. Parents who smoke must do so in designated areas, and not in the presence of scouts.
- Each week by Thursday, scout is to contact the Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader for specific instruction for the upcoming meeting.

Rule violations will be handled by the Junior Leader Corp (JLC). In extreme cases, or when the JLC is not able to resolve the issue, Troop Leaders will become involved.

10. Activities

Our troop schedules a number of activities each year, including hikes, and camping. Times, meeting places and uniforms will be announced in advance of each activity.

Costs of the activity will be announced before the activity, and it is the scout's responsibility to pay them. Troop charges will be split among all scouts attending the activity. Scouts who commit to attending an activity, but do not attend, will be responsible for their share of the prorated cost.

11. Attendance

In order to have a successful experience in the Troop, all scouts are expected to have at least 85% attendance record. Where a scout does not achieve this, s/he may not be invited back next year.

12. Troop Organization

Our Troop is currently run by four full-time leaders (2 adults and 2 junior leaders) and the Junior Leader Corp made up of Scouts appointed to hold the position of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Scribe, the Patrol Leaders and the Assistant Patrol Leaders. They meet annually to plan the yearly calendar, and monthly to make detailed plans for the following month's meetings.

The scouts are divided into patrols of 6-8 members. Each patrol is appointed a Patrol Leader (PL) and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) to run the patrol. The PL appoints other positions as s/he sees fit to help run his patrol.

13. Fundraisers

In order to supplement the cost of the camps to keep them affordable, buy/repair camp equipment, the Group has many fundraising events planned. We must ask that all parents and scouts participate in the fundraisers.

14. Parent Resources

We need your help in numerous ways, badge testing, car pools, transportation to and from camp (or even stay at camp with us), or if you have any special hobbies, skills (such as fishing, woodworking, etc.) or an interesting occupation where tours are encouraged, please let us know. Any assistance, no matter how small is always needed and appreciated.

15. Website

Check out our website www.scout33.org and our forum <http://forum.scout33.org/>.

33rd St. Matthias Scout Troop Troop Equipment

The troop owns some equipment: tents, first-aid kit, cook kits, stoves, and lanterns. Each scout should have his own personal equipment that is not supplied by the Troop (as listed above).

For every outdoor activity:

The scout needs the outdoor essentials. These are:

- Water bottle – a wide mouth 1 litre Nalgene bottle is recommended
- Pocket knife
- Personal first aid kit containing
 - Band-Aids
 - moleskin
 - adhesive tape
 - gauze pads
 - Tylenol
 - change for phone
- Extra clothing
- Rain Gear – Jacket and Pants
- Flashlight
- Trail Food
- Matches and Fire Starters

- Sunscreen
- Compass and map
- Whistle - Plastic
- Emergency blanket

We recommend a day pack to carry these items.

Camping:

For camps, the scout needs:

- Sleeping bag (good to -10 degrees)
- Sleeping pad – self inflated ones are good as they are light weight and transports well.
- Extra clothes
- Eating Utensils – bowl, mug, fork and spoon – buy light weight plastic ones. Check with leaders for sample.
- Toilet kit – toothbrush, tooth paste, face towel, soap, toilet paper
- Compression Sack – optional to make more room in the backpack

These need to be carried in a backpack – 60 litre pack is good size; anything bigger than this is too heavy for backing camps. **A pack that fits the youth is very important.**

Backpacking:

On a backpacking trip, a good, well-fitting backpack is essential. The scout should be able to carry his personal gear, as well as his share of the patrol equipment. A good sleeping bag is important, too.

Cold-weather Camping:

The troop camps year-round. For cold-weather camping, additional equipment is necessary. The list here is the best for the job, but cheaper substitutes are available.

With proper equipment, cold-weather camping does not mean being cold. The sleeping bag should be rated for about -20 degrees. A liner or cover for the regular bag can work.

Warm footgear is essential. Good insulated boots (Sorels or equivalent) are best. Buy boots that are ½ size bigger than normal. Socks should have no cotton content. Wool or synthetic pile is the socks of choice. Polypropylene or silk sock liners help a lot. Bring plenty of extra socks.

Clothing should consist of three layers. None of the layers should be cotton if possible. The inner layer should wick moisture away from the skin (polypropylene underwear works well). The second layer should trap an air layer (pile and fleece work well). The outer layer should stop the wind (Nylon is good).

A good hat and gloves finish the outfit. Wind-resistance is a good feature. Bring extra hats and gloves, since with scouts, these tend to get wet and/or lost.