



TROOP 608

<http://www.t608bsa.org>

Chartered to
The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
Pensacola, Florida



Welcome to Troop 608!

Thank you for considering Troop 608. We're glad you're interested. This flyer will answer both your and your son's questions about Boy Scouting and about Troop 608. There are two ways of looking at Boy Scouting. From the boy's viewpoint, it's a game. It takes him outdoors for camping and hiking, and it gives him a chance to learn new skills and to be recognized for doing so. It also provides plenty of fun with old -- and new -- friends. From a parent's viewpoint, Scouting is all of that and more. It aims to strengthen the boy's character through precept and example, to make him an aware, participating citizen, and to enhance his physical, mental, and moral development.

Eligibility Requirements

To join Troop 608, your son must have done one of the following:

- (1) Completed the 5th Grade and be at least 10 years old, OR
- (2) Earned the Arrow of Light award in Cub Scouts and be at least 10 years old, OR
- (3) Be at least 11 years old but not yet 18, OR
- (4) Have a valid transfer application from another Boy Scout troop.

Fees

Fees for joining Troop 608 are as follows. There is a one-time joining fee of \$40.00 (\$25.00 for transferring scouts who have a current BSA registration). Dues for the remainder of the year are collected at joining.

<p align="center">(NEW SCOUTS ONLY) ONE-TIME JOINING FEE <i>(Includes BSA Registration Fee, Boys' Life Magazine Subscription, 2 troop t-shirts, and a troop hat)</i></p>	<p>\$40.00</p>
<p align="center">(TRANSFERRING SCOUTS ONLY) ONE-TIME TRANSFER FEE <i>(Includes BSA Transfer Fee, Boys' Life Magazine Subscription, 2 troop t-shirts, and a troop hat)</i></p>	<p>\$25.00</p>
<p align="center">(ALL SCOUTS) ANNUAL DUES <i>Upon joining, pay dues for the remainder of the current calendar year, prorated at \$7.00 per month. If you join before the 15th of the month, include payment for the current month.</i></p>	<p>\$84.00 per year</p>

Joining Troop 608

In order to join Troop 608, you need to complete the forms in the joining packet. The packet contains all necessary paperwork for a scout to join the troop. In addition, there is additional paperwork for parents to complete for you to let us know how you might be able to assist the troop. While it is not mandatory, we **strongly encourage** parental involvement in Troop 608. Positions are available as an Assistant Scoutmaster or on the Troop Committee. Information about these positions is contained in the joining packet.

Please return the packet with the necessary paperwork completed, and appropriate fees. Make checks payable to "Troop 608 BSA." Complete instructions for filling out the paperwork are included in the packet.

Equipment Needs

OK... You're going to sign up your son for Scouts. DON'T PANIC... you don't need to buy all the fancy camping equipment in sight. As you'll see here, the initial requirements are not much. The first thing your boy needs is a Boy Scout Handbook. It contains everything he needs to know to earn his badges and to become a real outdoorsman as well as a first class citizen. All the requirements for rank advancement are contained in the handbook and it is his personal record of what badges he has earned. He must present his handbook to be signed for each rank advancement.

Troop 608 strives to have at least one overnight camping outing per month. Initially, your son will need a sleeping bag and a personal eating kit (including a plate, silverware, and cup). A scout or military mess kit, while suitable, is not necessary. A good start would be a plastic Tupperware bowl or plate, some Lexan or plastic silverware, and a durable plastic cup with a handle. As your son advances in Scouting, he will use additional camping gear. Please do not make any large (expensive) gear purchases without first consulting an adult leader, since many items that might be necessary for an outing can often be borrowed, and because scouts rapidly outgrow items such as backpacks.

The complete BSA uniform, with the exception of hat and neckerchief, is required in Troop 608. The troop has its own hat and its own distinctive neckerchief, which are provided at joining. The Troop runs a Trading Post where used ("experienced") uniform parts are available for purchase.

Troop Meetings

Regular weekly troop meetings are held on Monday evenings from 7:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. at Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Hall, located at 1212 East Moreno Street, on the corner of North 12th Avenue and Moreno Street in East Hill. Quarterly Courts of Honor (recognition of Scout and leader awards), where parents and families are invited and encouraged to attend with their Scout(s), may be held in a different location to be announced. Courts of Honor typically start at 6:30 PM. Being "*On Time*" and "*In Uniform*" for all troop meetings and Courts of Honor is very important!

Thanks for your Interest!

Thank you for taking a few moments to read over this flyer. If you have any questions about Troop 608, please contact Daniel Akerman, Scoutmaster, at (850) 232-5964 (or via email at scoutmaster@t608bsa.org), or Kelly Verge, Troop Committee Chairman, at (850) 308-5631 (or via email at chairman@t608bsa.org). We are looking forward to working with you and your son!