



Meeting at Ft. Settlement Middle School, Sugar Land, TX

Meetings

Troop Meetings:

Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Ft. Settlement Middle School
5440 Elkins Rd, Sugar Land, TX

Patrol Leaders Council:

Monthly

Parent Committee Meetings:

Monthly

Troop Campouts:

Monthly

Court of Honor:

Quarterly

Camping

Both Mom and Dad are welcome to join us on our monthly campouts, but not required. Each campout has a theme with scouting skills and rank advancement as the focus.

We're always looking for new and exciting places to camp, so Troop 1631 does not have a set rotation of camping destinations. We tend to lean toward Boy Scout camps where the boys can have more freedom to explore since the area is closed to the public, but we've enjoyed plenty of state parks and area campgrounds as well. Locations are chosen by the junior leadership. A sample of recent destinations:

- Dinosaur Valley State Park, Glen Rose, TX
- McKinney Falls State Park, Austin, TX
- Tellepsen Scout Camp, Navasota, TX
- Pedernales Falls State Park, Johnson City, TX (near Austin)
- El Rancho Cima Scout Camp Wimberley, TX
- Mauritz Scout Reservation Ganado, TX (near Victoria)
- San Marcos River Retreat San Marcos, TX
- Huntsville State Park Huntsville, TX
- Goose Island State Park Rockport, TX

Welcome!

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 1631. We're a long standing, stable organization that celebrated our 34th year of fun in Sugar Land in 2016.



We're excited to introduce our troop to you, and hope you'll find the information you need here. Please don't hesitate to contact one of the leaders listed on the back page.

Troop 1631 was formed in 1982 by Clyde Jacks, former City of Sugar Land councilman. We are chartered by the Ft. Bend Optimist Club.

Boys of this age have varied interests, and scouting will be just one of your son's activities. We understand he may not make every scouting event, and that's okay.

Each scout advances at his own pace. Rank achievements are encouraged, but not mandatory.

We monitor advancements, and stand ready to support every scout who has Eagle ambitions. Our program will see him to the Eagle's Nest if he actively participates!

Registered Members, Aug 2016:

Scouts - 57, Adults – 96

Eagle's Nest, Aug 2015:

151 Eagle Scouts, and counting!

Initial Registration Dues for 2017:

\$145 – includes registration for 1 scout & 1 adult, *Boys Life*, awards, troop equipment and admin costs.

Themed Activities

Each month has a theme that we build on at troop meetings and incorporate into campouts. Of course rank requirements are addressed, but we try to do it within the context of themes that keep things fun and interesting. Recent themes include: Rock Climbing, Shooting, Boating, Zip Lining, Cycling, and SCUBA!

Annual Camps

In addition to our monthly campouts, Troop 1631 attends week long camps in summer and winter, at varied locations in- and out-of-state. Older scouts can choose to attend a high adventure camp, and are actively prepared for the physical challenge. Recent destinations are listed below.

Summer/Winter Camps

Fun activities and an opportunity to earn a variety of merit badges for scouts of all ages. Destinations have been as far ranging as Virginia and Colorado. Here's a sample of recent camps:

- 2016 Summer: Hale Scout Reservation, Talihina, Oklahoma
- 2015 Summer: Buffalo Trails, Balmorhea, Texas
- 2014 Summer: Camp Alexander, Lake George, Colorado
- 2013 Summer: Camp Constantin, Graford, Texas
- 2013 Winter: Buffalo Trails, Balmorhea, Texas
- 2012 Summer: Camp Ottari, Hiwassee, Virginia
- 2011 Summer: Camp Pioneer, Western Arkansas

High Adventure Camps

Adventurous, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for older scouts (13+) seeking a challenging, unique and rewarding experience.

- 2016: Florida Sea Base (Islamorada, FL) – snorkeling, SCUBA, boating, cabin camping
- 2015: Chilkoot High Adventure (Haines, AK) – mountaineering, sea kayaking, whitewater rafting
- 2014: Philmont Scout Ranch (Cimarron, NM) - backpacking, rock climbing, hiking, rugged camping
- 2013: Northern Tier (Minnesota and Canada) – canoeing, rugged camping, wilderness exploration
- 2012: Florida Sea Base
- 2011: Philmont Scout Ranch
- 2010: National Jamboree, VA

Boy-Led?

Boy Scouts is intended to be a program that puts boys in command of making their own decisions. Troop 1631 takes that vision seriously and we gear our program toward helping the boys learn how to lead, follow, and participate. We believe the best way to learn is by doing and teaching others and that is our guiding philosophy.

Troop 1631 is a boy-led troop with adult supervision. What exactly does that mean?

- Junior leaders are elected by the scouts. Elections are held twice a year. There is a Troop Leadership Training (TLT) weekend after every election where a 6 month plan is established.
- Junior leaders plan the monthly activities and trips in detail at a monthly Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meeting.
- Meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) or an Assistant Sr. Patrol Leader (ASPL).
- Every scout has the opportunity to lead a group of boys, whether it's a patrol or the whole troop.
- Camping meals are planned by the scouts in each patrol, who also purchase/prepare the food.
- Campouts follow the patrol method, meaning that boys in the same patrol sleep, eat, and go to cool places in groups together.

What is the adult supervision?

- Activities are supervised by adults who are properly trained, starting with the BSA's Youth Protection certification.
- When the SPL has a question, he can turn to one of the many BSA trained adult leaders in the troop.
- Meetings are supervised by the Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmasters for safety and to avoid any dangerous situations.
- Adults attend the PLC, acting as mentors/advisors. The final decision is made by the junior leaders, adults do not vote.
- Adults provide transportation, and handle all funds, insurance, advancements, and forms.

Adult Leaders

All parents are encouraged to actively support the troop, starting with simply monitoring your son's advancement, attending his Court of Honor, and reading/responding to the information that is sent to keep you informed.

When you enroll your son in Troop 1631, please give serious consideration to registering yourself as either an Assistant Scoutmaster or a Troop Committee member.

Assistant Scoutmasters focus on the "operational" aspects of the troop by assisting the Scoutmaster, advising the scouts, serving as role models, participating in campouts and troop meetings, overseeing equipment, and more.

Committee members have more of an "administrative" focus, including: secretary, treasurer, communications, training, advancements, t-shirts, records, Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, health/safety, advisors, merit badge counselors, etc.

Come Camp With Us

5th grade Webelos are invited to camp with us at Webelos Woods in Oct. Contact Justin Whitley for more details: justin.whitley@ymail.com.

Sign Me Up!

Is Troop 1631 the right place for your son to continue his scouting adventures? Then let's sign him up!

1. Complete a Youth and an Adult Application.
2. Contact: Alfred Sobrinho
4219 Monarch Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77479
713 471-3066
asobrinho@yahoo.com
We'll follow up with you and provide details about the cross-over.

Contacts

- **Scoutmaster:** Andy Ralph
taralph@gmail.com
- **Committee Chairs:**
Kevin McGonagle
k-mcgonagle@ti.com
Alfred Sobrinho
asobrinho@yahoo.com
- **Webelos Coordinator:**
Justin Whitley
justin.whitley@ymail.com
- **Recruitment Chair**
Traci Munsey
rjt99@comcast.net
- **Website:**
<https://troop1631.trooptrack.com>

Scoutmaster

Andy Ralph has been our Scoutmaster since January 2015 and an assistant Scoutmaster for three years prior. He started his Scouting career almost 40 years ago as a Cub Scout. During that tenure he has served as a Den Leader and Pack Committee Chair. A big believer in the power of scouting in teaching leadership and organizational skills, Andy is a huge proponent of the Scouting concept of boy-led troops. To quote Lord Baden-Powell, "never do what a boy can do for themselves". "I appreciate that our sons are tasked with multiple interests---from academics to school, religious, sports and social activities. To me, Scouting is the thread that connects all these through leadership and character building." In his free time, Andy enjoys endurance running, foreign travel, and making his own camping gear. Andy is proof of the truth of a quote from Troop 1631 Scoutmaster Emeritus Alan Davis. "*Scouting's hidden secret is that the adult leaders derive as much from the Scouting experience as their sons- friendship, skills, adventure, and leadership.*"

Committee Chair

Kevin McGonagle is the Committee Chair for Troop 1631 and has been an adult scouter for more than 9 years. "As Committee Chair, my key responsibility is to recruit and involve parents in our Scouting program. I am encouraged by the energy and dedication of our adult leaders in guiding our sons. The reward for me as an involved parent is to see the personal growth in our scouts after completing a week in the outdoors at camp, a high adventure trek or a service project helping others in the community. I am inspired by their confidence, mastery of outdoor skills, stewardship of the environment, and building of lifelong friendships. It is wonderful to watch our scouts learn to live the words of the Scout Oath and Law, and be assured of its influence through their future."