

Troop 221 Blue and Gold – Cross Over: Scoutmaster's Comments

There are certain characteristics of boys which have existed from the beginning of time and which apply in all cultures. Boys are curious, energetic, competitive, reckless. They have a drive to overcome obstacles, to control their environments, to defeat their adversaries. They dream of power and prestige. Boys want to make things happen!

Left undirected, these youthful traits can lead to foolish and dangerous behavior – ranging from wasted time and undeveloped talents to drugs, gangs, violence and immorality. Properly guided and disciplined, the tendencies of boys become the virtues of manhood – manhood characterized by humane strength, courageous service, and sacrificial leadership.

Parents recognize this need of their boys for structured development. They have many options to choose from, the most common being sports, music and Scouts. All these programs will instill in boys certain desirable traits, but among them, Scouting is unique. In sports, boys learn to follow the orders of their coach and to play the chosen game and that game only. In band or orchestra, boys learn to follow the conductor and to play the music exactly as the composer wrote it.

In Scouts, boys learn to govern themselves. At first, the new Scout learns to follow the directives of the Troop's elected leaders and to undertake challenges and activities which their own Patrol Leaders Council have adopted. As they advance through their skills and ranks, boys learn to be self-reliant. And as their wisdom matures, they too will serve the Troop as leaders themselves.

The Scoutmaster and other adult leaders are always present to assure safety, usefulness and order of all Troop activities. We have the Scouts continually refine the long-range plans of the Troop and the short-term program that follows that plan. But when the Scouts fill in the details, they end up with activities that are meaningful, memorable and fun for them. We

Fitness: physical fitness; self-reliance; ability to help others.

Citizenship: following rules; obeying officers; working for the good of the group; electing good leaders.

Leadership: following rules, setting goals, planning to reach those goals; organizing, delegating, motivating, coaching; service.

Troop 221 welcomes you boys and your parents to the Troop.