

Troop 212

General Information

Welcome to Troop 3212,

In Scouting, troops are made out of patrols of 6-8 scouts who plan out what the troop and their patrol will be doing at meetings and outings. Our troop has two patrols, the Ace of Spades and the Flaming Scorpions, at the end of this document your assigned patrol and youth leaders are marked. Currently, because of our troop size, we merged patrols and formed the Flaming Spades patrol. As we continue to get more youth members, we will reestablish the two separated patrols.

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Coon Rapids VFW. Parents are welcome to attend and encouraged to take a position within the troop and help the Troop Committee, see the Committee Chair if this interests you. Scouts will be notified at each meeting of upcoming events. Parents are also able to join the troop leader/parent group text chat or receive text messages from the Scoutmaster regarding upcoming events. All events may also be seen on the Troop calendar located at www.troop212mn.com/calendar.

During the meetings we strive to work on rank advancements and merit badges. You will need to bring your Scout Handbook, paper, and a writing utensil to every meeting. Be prepared to write down announcements (and pass them on to your parents). You and your fellow troop and patrol members will plan the activities you do over the year.

Rank Advancement

The scouting ranks in order are: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle.

You may work on the requirements of each of these ranks at the same time, but can only advance in the proper ranking order. Some of the requirements are done at the meetings, which is why it's important for you to bring your Scout Handbook to each meeting.

When you have completed all of the requirements of your next rank, you are ready for your Board of Review. Notify the Committee Advancement Chair that you are ready to advance in rank and would like to schedule a Board of Review. To earn your next rank, be prepared to talk about the things you learned, did, and would like to improve.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges are usually worked on during troop meetings and at the various troop outings, and are often led by the parents/guardians or other volunteers of the troop. It's important for you to attend as many meetings as possible to take advantage of merit badge activities. If you would like to work on a merit badge outside of troop meetings, let the Scoutmaster know and they will work to connect you to a merit badge counselor.

Merit badges are required for the Star, Life and Eagle ranks and can be done anytime during your scouting years. To earn your Eagle rank, there are 13 specific merit badges you must earn plus eight additional merits of your choosing. A total of 21 merit badges are required for your Eagle rank. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, you must complete your 21 minimum merit badges and all other requirements(with exceptions) before you turn 18 years old.

From time to time there are scouts who are working on their Eagle projects. This is a troop effort and scouts are needed to help, so please volunteer when asked.

Everyone helps each other so don't be afraid to ask questions, help others and give your opinions. A scout is helpful, friendly, and kind.

Troop 212

Court of Honor

The achievements of all troop members are officially recognized at the Court of Honor.

Court of Honors are typically held once every three months (quarterly) at the Coon Rapids VFW and includes a potluck meal. You, your parents/guardian, and any other guests you would like to attend are welcome. Each troop family will be notified on what to bring to each potluck. Plates, eating and serving utensils are always appreciated.

Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

Patrol Leaders Council meetings are held every 2-3 months and will usually occur on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. The location of the meeting may be at the Scoutmaster's house, the VFW, or at the Senior Patrol Leader's house. The location will be announced at a preceding meeting and reminded again the night before. At the PLC Meetings, youth leaders discuss what scouts would like to do as a troop and as a patrol and make a plan on when and how to make that happen. They will also discuss any issues or other topics of discussion brought to them and find a solution to them.

Patrol Leaders Council meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader and include the five major youth positions (Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Patrol Leaders, Quartermaster, and Scribe). Please see the attached handout "Positions of Responsibility - Youth". If you are interested in any of these positions, please tell any of the leaders in your troop. Holding a troop position is a requirement for Star rank and after. The troop will hold elections once per year, generally at Summer Camp or in August/September.

Committee Meetings

The purpose of the committee is to provide continued support to the scout-led program of Troop 212. The troop sets the goals and plans the activities, and the committee works to ensure that the goals and plans can be carried out in a supportive and safe manner. Committee Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Monday of every other month and are held at the Coon Rapids VFW. From time to time, the date and location of the committee meeting is moved, which will be announced at a preceding meeting or via email/phone.

Committee meetings are an excellent forum to share your ideas, give feedback on the program, and keep up to date on the happenings of the troop. All parents and volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend. There are also many positions in a troop that involve parents, please see the document "Positions of Responsibility - Adult" to learn what the different positions are and let the Committee Chair know if you are interested.

Troop Communication

Each week, a troop leader (usually the scoutmaster) will send out in a group text to parents/guardians details for any upcoming meeting, usually the day prior with any additional details or items to bring to the meeting/campout. The youth leaders will also text/call the other youth so they are aware as well. Parents are welcome to join the troop Facebook group to share any fun photos or other items. You may request to join at bit.ly/212facebook.

Any documents listed above may be found on the troop website under Resources: **troop212mn.com**

Below is your patrol assignment and contact information for key troop leaders:

Your Patrol: Flaming Spades

Senior Patrol Leader: Tony Lepore

Scoutmaster: Dave Fink, 763-439-3887

Committee Chair: Iain Hansen, 763-656-7570