



A Guide for New Scouts and Parents



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Welcome to the adventure of Scouting!

This information packet has been prepared by Scout Troops 149 & 1149 to introduce new Scouts (and their parents) to the Scouts BSA and to Troops 149 and 1149. This document contains basic information about Who We Are, What We Do, When and Where, How and Why. It also contains the details you need regarding joining Scouts, and the organization of Troops 149 and 1149.

Parents:

- A parent interested in Scouting for their child should read the following chapters of the Scout Handbook:
 - Inset before Chapter 1: Youth Protection Guide
 - Chapter 1: The Adventure Begins
 - Chapter 2: Your Patrol and Troop
 - Chapter 19: The History of Boy Scouts of America
- All parent volunteers are required to take Youth Protection Training, and additional BSA training that matches your Troop responsibility. These trainings are available online at www.my.scouting.org

Please take the time to review the principles of The Scout Oath and Law as they define our objectives; provide guidelines to grow into strong, confident adults; and set Scouting apart from other organizations.

The leadership of Scout Troops 149 and 1149 of its chartering organization, are committed to the principles of Scouting. That same commitment is necessary from each parent -- in reinforcing these ideals with your child, in encouraging your child through their Scouting trail, and in sharing your talents and enthusiasm with Troop 149.

To assist in keeping families informed and up-to-date about Troop activities, as well as BSA news and information, Troop 149 established a website, www.troop149.org as our public communication tool. Troop leadership will primarily communicate via email using Troop Track. It is vitally important that families read and respond as requested, to these emails as they contain pertinent details about ongoings and upcoming events.

For more information, please call our Scoutmasters, our Assistant Scoutmasters, or the Troop Committee Chair.





About our Troops

Troop 149 was first chartered in 1927 and has operated continuously since that time. We operate under the Aims and Methods of Scouting introduced by Baden Powell, with the mission to utilize the program to build youth of character.

We are proud to have 153 Eagle Scouts in our alumni, and the number grows each year. Following the national transition of Boy Scouts of America to Scouts BSA in 2019, our female Troop 1149 was founded, and has produced several Eagle Scouts as well. While Troops 149 and 1149 are independent, we operate in a co-ed fashion as linked troops with both troops attending the same meetings, outings, and High Adventure.

When and where

Troop 149 strives to maintain a busy and exciting outdoor program. Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Regular meetings & outings: We put the OUTING in ScOUTING

- Service Hours: Scouts will have multiple opportunities to perform service work throughout the year.
- Meetings Scout Meetings Troop meetings are Sunday, 7:00 PM, at the Parish Center, and are posted on the calendar at Troop Track and www.troop149.com. (exceptions due to holidays, etc., are announced)
- PLC Meetings: PLC meetings are the last Tuesday of each month, also at 7:00 PM at the Parish Center. Remember, PLC meetings are only for the Scouts in leadership positions.
- Outings: A weekend campout may feature an activity such as canoeing, climbing, backpacking, caving, mountain biking, Camporee, advancement theme, etc.
- Camp: The Troop participates in a BSA summer camp for a week each summer.
- * High Adventure We attend High Adventure annually. See the High Adventure section of this document for more details.

* The Troop plans a "high adventure" trip each summer, provided that adequate funds and adult leadership are available. As high adventure trips are very costly and subsidized by the Troop, A Scout must have worked the Tree Sale Fundraiser to be eligible to take part in that year's high adventure trip.

In addition, a Scout's patrol may organize additional outings and meetings. Patrol functions are highly encouraged.

A typical annual schedule might be:

August:	Cookout	February:	Cabin Camping*, Scout Sunday, Merit Badge Challenge March: Camping*, Webelos Crossover, Merit Badge Challenge April: Camping*
September: *	Camping	May:	Camping*, Memorial Day Parade, Court of Honor
October:	Camping*, Court of Honor	June:	Camping* July: Scout Summer Camp
November: *	Camping	June-August	(dates vary): High Adventure
December:	Day Trip, Christmas Tree Sale		
January:	Ski Trip		





Why we do it

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

VISION STATEMENT: The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

How we work: A Game with a purpose

THE AIMS AND METHODS OF SCOUTING

The Scouting program has specific objectives, commonly referred to as the “Aims of Scouting.” They are character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Leadership development is also one of Scouting’s eight methods contributing to both good character and good citizenship.

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

1. **Ideals** – The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Scout measures themselves against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as they reach for them, they have some control over what and who they become.
2. **Patrols** – The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches Scouts how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.
3. **Outdoor Programs** – Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God’s handiwork and humankind’s place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature’s resources.
4. **Advancement** – Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans their advancement and progresses at their own pace as they meet each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.
5. **Association with Adults** – Scouts learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of their troops. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to the Scouts, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.
6. **Personal Growth** – As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Young people grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with their Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine their growth toward Scouting’s aims.
7. **Leadership Development** – The Scouting program encourages Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership and becoming a servant leader helps a Scout accept the leadership role of others and guides them towards participating citizenship and character development.
8. **Uniform** – The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout’s commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.





Joining

Eligible youth meet either of the eligibility criteria below, and complete joining requirements:

Eligibility:

1. Youth who have earned the Arrow of Light rank and are at least 10 years old
2. Have completed the fifth grade, are at least 10 years old, or who are 11, but not yet 18.

Joining requirements:

1. Submit a completed BSA Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian
2. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse
3. Complete the following (usually at your first Scout meeting)
4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance
5. Demonstrate the Scout salute, sign, and handclasp
6. Show how to tie the square knot
7. Describe the Scout badge
8. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, Scout slogan and the Outdoor Code
9. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference
10. Troop 149 also requires that parent(s) and Scout review and sign the Troop Code of Conduct in addition to the Boy Scout application

What is required - The Troop is fully equipped. While most Scouts have their own personal gear, the Troop will provide temporary outdoor gear for those who do not have their own equipment. Please contact the Scoutmaster for details or to arrange equipment.

<p style="text-align: center;">Scout Oath</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On my honor, I will do my best To do my duty To God and my country To obey the Scout Law, To help other people at all times, To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scout Law</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scout Motto: Be Prepared.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scout Slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily</p>

Costs

How much does Scouting cost?

In recent years, the Troop's financial resources have made it possible to pay registration, Scout's Life magazine (at an additional fee), advancement awards, and most costs for outings and high adventure. The Troop (preferably, mostly the Scouts themselves) currently earn money through an annual Christmas tree sale. 100% of the funds are allocated to the program for the Scouts.





A Scout family who cannot afford these costs should consult confidentially with the Scoutmaster. The Troop will make every effort to provide a Scout with the opportunity to earn a uniform or fees. Again, requests will be kept confidential and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Current funding from the Troop for outings, advancement, camp, high adventure, and equipment adds up to much more than this. At present, for each dollar you are spending, the Troop finances are paying another approximately \$2-\$3.

The two primary costs to a Scout and their parent(s) are a one-time investment in some personal gear, and the first-time and replacement costs for uniforms.

<u>Uniform</u>		<u>Gear**</u>
Short-sleeved shirt (Supplex Nylon)	~ \$45	Boots
Shorts (Supplex Nylon)	\$20	Backpack
Socks	\$6	Sleeping bag (lightweight)
Cotton web belt	\$12	Compass
Shoulder loops	\$2	Flashlight
Patrol emblem	\$2	Poncho
Council patch	~ \$5	First aid, utensils ***
Troop 149 neckerchief	*	
Neckerchief slide	*	
Troop unit numerals	*	

*One Troop neckerchief and slide and handbook included with joining fee at time of joining. Additional T149 Neckerchiefs are available at a nominal cost.

** Consult your Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster for recommendations (Also discussed at relevant Parent Meetings.)

***Can be assembled from common household items.





Fees & "Other" Costs (prices are estimated)

Summer Camp Fee (In 2021, actual camp fee is \$320)	\$150
High Adventure Fee (typical; varies depending on trip)	\$300
Food for outings (\$25 x 8 outings)	\$200
Ski Trip, Horseback Trip Fees	\$100
Merit Badge Books (~\$5 x 4 books)	\$20
(books often available free from Troop library)	

How much does it cost adult leaders?

The Troop objective is to pay fees for the adults to participate on outings, and summer camp. Adults pay a share in high adventure trips.

Adults, like Scouts, need to provide their own personal gear. Generally, adults share the costs of food on weekend outings. Parents generally "donate" driving expenses when participating on weekend outings or summer camp. For long trips, such as High Adventure, the Troop Committee may provide advance approval of reimbursement for gasoline expenses. Please consider paying for gas for other parents who provide their time and vehicles for weekend trips.

In other years, our fundraisers may or may not allow us this level of Troop funding. The Scouts and parents who earn the funds see them cover direct expenses for our outings and equipment.

Uniforms & Gear

Uniforms: The Scout uniform should be obtained as soon as you register as a Scout. The uniform consists of:

- Scout shirt with shoulder loops, council insignia, Troop numerals, patrol medallion and rank patch
- Scout belt
- Scout trousers or Scout shorts
- Scout socks
- Shoes or hiking boots
- Troop neckerchief and slide

The full Scout uniform is required attire at all Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, designated uniform inspection nights at Troop 149 meetings, and community functions.

The Troop field uniform consisting of Scout shirt (and proper insignia), tucked neatly into dark, clean trousers, is minimum-required attire for any Troop meeting or outing. (A Scout is encouraged to wear their full uniform.) The full uniform will be required for certain meetings, outings, and activities.

A "Class B" uniform may be designated by the Scoutmaster, for long-term camp activities, such as summer camp.





The appropriate uniform is not just encouraged, it is required.
Consider the Scout uniform a "ticket" for admittance to a Scout function.
No ticket, no admittance.

Gear: Refer to the BSA Scout Handbook for a listing of equipment your Scout needs. The primary items are:

- Scout handbook (provided by Troop 149 and 1149 at time of joining)
- Full Scout uniform (see Section 4.3)
- Sleeping bag, reasonably lightweight and rated for 20 degrees (or colder)
- Hiking boots
- Backpack with hip belt
- Raingear
- Compass, personal first aid kit, personal utensils
- Merit badge books (many are available on loan from the Troop Librarian)

The Troop provides group gear -- tents, dining fly, cookware, water purification, camp stoves, canoes, paddles, life jackets, etc.

Other Financial Assistance

Camperships: Dan Beard Council offers a limited number of "Camperships" to enable Scouts in need to attend Scout Summer Camp. Contact the Scoutmaster for details.

Communications

- **Verbal Communications:** At each Troop Meeting and PLC, Scouts are given information about upcoming activities. Be sure to ask your Scout what was announced at each meeting to keep up to date. The permission slip for the month's outing is an attachment to an email from the Troop and is also posted on the Troop website. Please note: a signed, completed permission slip is required for all Scouts for all outings, as is an up-to-date BSA health and medical form. Permission slips must be turned in no later than Tuesday prior to a weekend outing.
- **Website:** Both troops (149 and 1149) maintain an up-to-date website, which is www.troop149.com. At this website, families can check the Troop calendar for meeting and outing dates; obtain important information (example, sign-up information for Summer Camp); obtain the Permission Slips for the monthly outing; see photographs taken during outings, at Summer Camp, and High Adventure; and access links to Scouting and related resources and respond as requested.
- **Newsletter:** We disseminate a monthly newsletter via TroopTrack that contains updates and details relevant to your scout and the troop activities.
- **Annual Calendar:** Our Troop calendar and various resources (permission slips, annual health forms, etc.) are maintained on the Troop's TroopTrack site: and general information is available on the public website: www.troop149.com
- **Regular email:** We utilize TroopTrack as our primary method of communicating. Watch for those emails as they contain critical information to keep you and your scout engaged and up to date on the latest news. TroopTrack: The Troop also utilizes TroopTrack to communicate via email with families, and to collect and maintain advancement and training records. It is extremely important that families read emails received from TroopTrack,
- **Family Contact Information:** It is critical that families advise if their email address, home addresses (or other contact information) has changed. Please send your updated information to the Troop Webmaster at www.troop149.com.





- **TroopTrack:** Troop leadership email from TroopTrack; this is also where you can check your Scout's advancement progress. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in email or mailing address, or telephone number so we can keep our Troop roster and lists up to date. Send updates to the Webmaster using the link on either Trooptrack or www.troop149.com.

Expectations

Expectations of Scouts:

- Show up
- Be prepared
- Be engaged
- Do your best
- Live the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- Scout Spirit
- Follow the code of conduct
- Participate in annual fundraiser

Expectations of Families:

- Ask questions
- Be supportive of your Scout & the troop
- Volunteer if you would like, we'd love to have you
- Turn in updated medical forms for outings.
- Be sure your Scout attends Troop and patrol meetings, in uniform, with their BSA handbook.
- Encourage advancement and participation.
- Come on some outings.
- Get involved in the Troop; it is the Troop's expectation that each family will help in some capacity.

Expectations of the Troop:

- Safety
- Fun
- Consistency
- Communication
- Quality programming
- Tremendous opportunity
- Oversight of Troop Operations and outings





Parent Guide to Webelos to Scout Transition

The table below gives an overview and comparison between the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA programs

		
Units and groups	Pack is the overall unit. Packs are divided into smaller groups of youth called Dens based upon the age.	Troop is the overall unit. Troops are further divided into smaller groups of youth called Patrols. Patrols are led by experienced scouts.
Program Delivery	Programs are planned and directed by adults.	Adult leaders advise but planning and directing comes from the youth leaders.
Learning & Advancement	Learning is "failure proof" on accomplishments.	Learning takes place by demonstration and hands-on experiences. Advancements are dependent upon demonstrating proficiency in a certain skill. Once learned, the scout can teach others the skill.
Skill verification	Parents and Den Leaders sign off on accomplishments.	Only the BSA trained Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, approved Merit Badge counselor or older experienced scout can sign off on accomplishments.
Planning & Leadership	Adults plan and lead all outings and programs.	Adults advise and enable the older scouts to plan, organize, and develop their own programs according to their own interests.
Camping	Camping is a minor part of overall programming.	Camping is a major component of most Troop programming.
Summer	Cub Scouts offer summer day camp or week-long overnight summer camp.	Scouts BSA offers week-long Day Camp and overnight Summer Camp and extended stay high adventure camping at certain national locations.
Skill Advancement	Cub Scouts work as a Den on group projects which focus on certain skills.	Scouts advance in rank by working on merit badges which are self-selected according to the youth's interest areas and work individually.
Leadership	Youth follow the lead of the trained adult leader.	Youth initially follow the lead of older scouts with adults guiding & coaching. Youth will develop enough skill and experience to lead other youth. Youth members vote their own youth leaders into important troop leadership positions.





Troops 149 & 1149

www.troop149.com

Fundraising	Cub Scouts offset the cost of programs by participating in group fundraising through popcorn sales.	Our troops utilize funds from a single fundraiser each year, Christmas Tree Sales. All Scouts are expected to work several shifts. Parents are highly encouraged to help.
Communications	Communication is directed from adult leader to parent or guardian	Communication is handled via general announcements at Troop Meetings. We disseminate a yearly calendar and send a monthly email via TroopTrack.
Parent involvement	Parents may be called upon to help at certain events and volunteers are recruited from the pool of parents to lead Dens.	Opportunities for parent involvement on the troop level abound. A volunteer can make a large impact in 1 hour per week. Ask the Scoutmaster what opportunities exist and what you might enjoy.

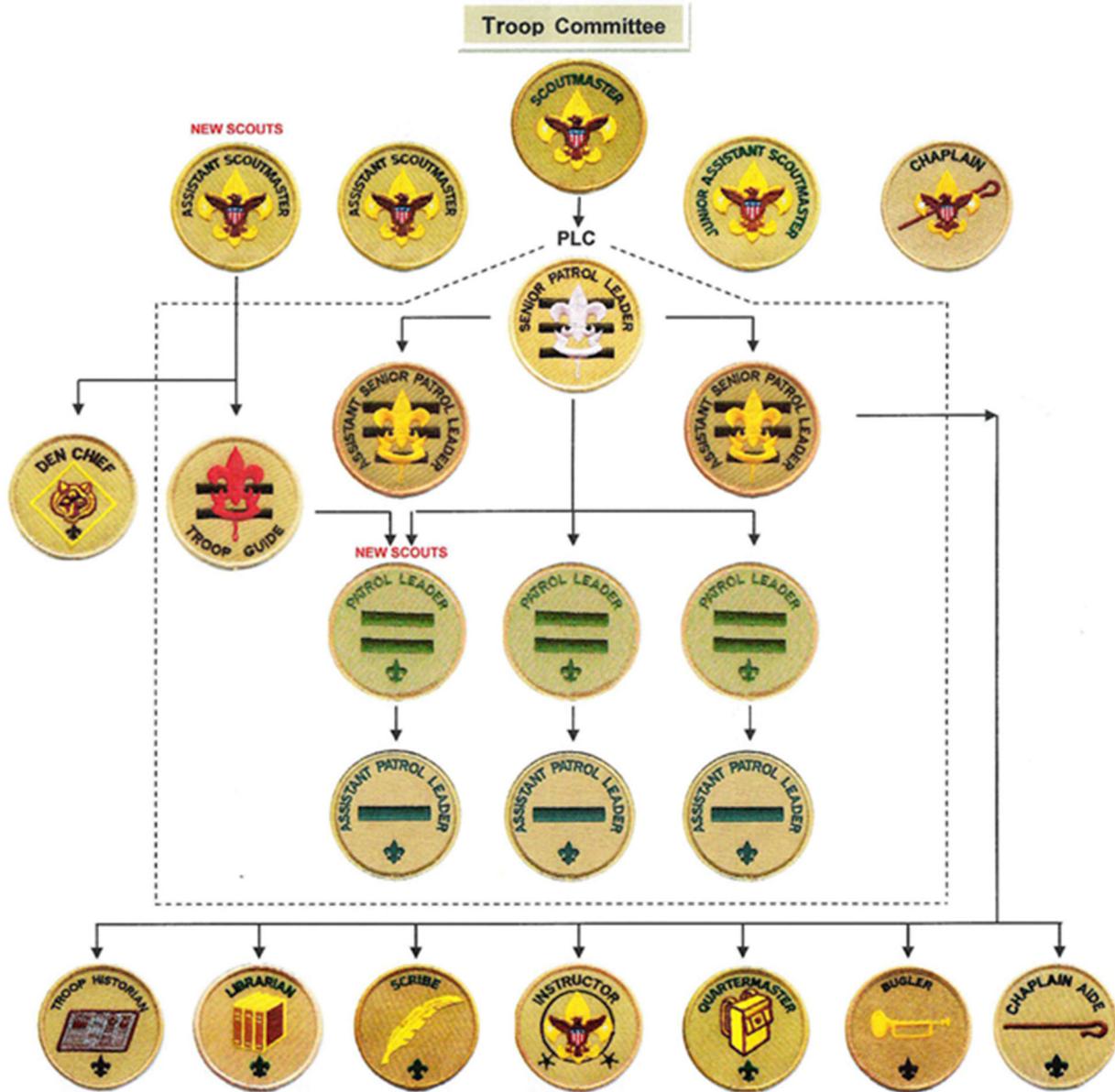




Troops 149 & 1149

www.troop149.com

Troop Operations





Youth Leadership

What is a Youth Led Troop?

The activities of the troop are planned by a Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) made up of the patrol leaders, senior patrol leader and Scoutmaster. Other troop leaders may attend if their help is needed. The PLC meets each month to discuss upcoming meetings and activities for the whole troop. Your patrol leader shares with the PLC ideas that come from you and other Scouts in your patrol. Together the members of the PLC come up with a troop plan for the next four weeks and the rest of the year.

Scout troops are comprised of Patrols, which are sub-groups of 8-10 scouts, originally developed by Lord Baden-Powell. Each patrol has their own identity and leadership positions. A new Scout joining the Troop will join a patrol, usually with Scouts of similar age or rank. Alternately, a group of Cub Scouts crossing over from the Pack to the Troop are often already operating as a patrol, and that Patrol is adopted into the Troop. Each Patrol will elect their own Patrol Leader.

All Scouts attend a training session for Scout Leaders (referred to as ILST) conducted by the Scoutmaster and Assistants each year. Additional training sessions provided by Dan Beard Council and Blue Jacket District are available periodically.

The Troop is led by a Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader is an experienced Scout who is elected by all the Scouts in the troop. The

All leadership positions are filled during youth led elections every six months to fill a variety of positions. Those Youth Leaders meet at an extra meeting each month called the PLC (Patrol Leader Council) meeting.

The PLC plans the yearly troop program at the annual planning conference. It then meets monthly to fine-tune the plans for the upcoming month. The PLC is made up of the Senior Patrol Leader, who presides over the meetings, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, all Patrol Leaders, and the Troop Guides.

Scoutmaster is the adult leader of a troop. Patrol leaders look to him/her for guidance. Assistant Scoutmasters are adults who help the Scoutmaster, and are often assigned specific functions, such as assisting the new Scout patrol. They may conduct the troop meetings.

The objective of the patrol method is that the troop is run by its youth leaders. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants, they plan the program, conduct the meetings, and provide leadership among their peers.

Youth Leadership Posts

Some of our current Scout leader positions include:

- Senior Patrol Leader (SPL): top youth leader in the troop. The SPL lead the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other Scout leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL): fills in for Senior Patrol Leader in their absence. They are also responsible for training and giving direction to the Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Historian, Librarian, and instructors.
- Troop Guide: adviser and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- Den Chief: works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- Troop Historian: collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- Librarian: keeps troop's books, pamphlets, magazines, and audiovisuals for use by troop members.
- Chaplain's Aide: assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems programs.
- Patrol Leader: gives leadership to members of their patrol and represents them on Patrol Leaders' Council.
- Assistant Patrol Leader: fills in for the Patrol Leader in his absence.
- Quartermaster: responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- Scribe: the troop secretary.





Adult Leadership

Adult Leadership in the Troop occurs at the Troop Committee level, which comprises the Charter Organization Representative, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and operational positions, such as Treasurer, Outdoors Planning, etc.

Two-Deep Leadership: A minimum of two Troop adults will participate in all Troop activities as prescribed in BSA policy. In addition, a registered BSA Female Adult Leader must be present at all activities where female Scouts are participating.

Scout leaders are required to maintain current BSA Youth Protection Training certification for registration in Troop 149. Additional training (such as, for example, WFA, CPR and BSA Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat) may be required, from time-to-time, for Troop High Adventures and other events.

Scoutmaster-In-Charge (SIC): The Scoutmaster, or a registered Troop 149 Scout leader approved by the Troop committee for that outing, will direct each Troop or Patrol outing and each Troop meeting.

Troop Committee

Backing up all these Scouts and adult leaders is the Troop Committee. The committee is a group of adults who meet monthly (and in smaller subcommittees for special needs or events) to support the troop program. The committee:

- Provides adequate meeting facilities
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Scouting and the chartered organization
- Carries out the policies of the BSA
- Encourages leaders in carrying out the program
- Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan
- Obtains, maintains troop property
- Provides camping and outdoor program
- Sees to it that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained and assigns a qualified
- Substitute in cases where the Scoutmaster is absent or unable to serve
- Meets on 1st Wednesday of each month

Adult Meetings

- The Troop committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Parish Center. All parents are welcome.
- Parents' meetings are scheduled periodically, at least one in preparation for summer camp and/or high adventure and one in the spring for orienting new Scouts' parents.
- Ad hoc subcommittee meetings are scheduled occasionally (e.g., the Outdoor Committee planning high adventure, a summer camp committee, the Scoutmaster meeting with Assistant Scoutmasters).

Rank Advancement

Another difference between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA is that Cub Scouts advance each year as a Den. In the Troop, Scouts advance individually, based on their efforts and skills. It is entirely possible, in fact likely, that two scouts of the same age, who have different ambitions, will have different rank levels.

The first four ranks, Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class, must be awarded sequentially, but they can be worked on concurrently. For example, a Scout of Tenderfoot Rank can work on the First Aid requirements for 2nd Class and 1st Class at the same





time. However, they must be awarded 2nd Class rank prior to being awarded 1st Class. There is no minimum time in rank requirement between the first four ranks.

The Merit Badge Program

Merit badges are awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interest and cover such areas as hobbies, careers, sports, science, and Scouting skills. There are over 130 merit badges.

A Scout, along with another Scout, works closely with a council-approved merit badge counselor to complete the requirements for that badge. Each counselor is a registered adult member of BSA and qualified in the subject by vocation or by avocation. When a Scout wants to earn a merit badge, they go to the Scoutmaster to get a blue merit badge card (aka: Blue Card) and the name and telephone number of a counselor. The Scout will present this merit badge card to the counselor when they begin to work on the badge. Many counselors are right here in Mariemont and have present or past ties to our Troop. There is a link on our public website to access the Dan Beard Council list of merit badge counselors.

Through dedicated adult volunteers, Troops 149 and 1149 have merit badge counselors for virtually all Eagle required merit badges and many elective badges. If our troops do not have a merit badge counselor, the scoutmaster will help the scout locate a Merit Badge Counselor in Dan Beard Council, using this link: <https://danbeard.org/find-a-merit-badge-counselor/>

Many merit badges can be earned at summer camp through structured programming, but with the same requirements. As of January 1, 2016, the Eagle rank requires completion of 13 specific merit badges ("Eagle-required" badges), plus 8 more ("elective badges") chosen by the Scout.

Can Scouts work on merit badges before they reach their First-Class rank?

Yes. Encourage your Scout to become familiar with and enthused about the merit badge program. They should be completing First Aid at meetings. Swimming can be earned at the Mariemont pool...call one of the counselors!

The Path to Eagle (a summary)





Rank	 Scout	 Tenderfoot	 2nd Class	 1st Class	 Star	 Life	 Eagle
Age Required	10 yrs. completed 5 th grade, or 11 yrs. old	These ranks must be awarded sequentially, beginning with Scout rank, and culminating with Eagle.					Prior to 18 yrs. old
Recommended Time to Completion	It is recommended that a Scout complete the first four ranks (through 1 st Class) within 12 – 18 months. Our Troops have a special program in place to facilitate this progression, but advancement is up to the effort put forth by the Scout.				24 – 36 months after joining		
Performance Requirements	The focus of these ranks is to learn and demonstrate basic Scout skills and knowledge.				These ranks focus on Leadership, Service Work, and Merit Badge completion.		
Merit Badges	Scouts in these ranks are allowed, but are not required, to complete Merit Badges. They will have opportunities available to do so if they are interested.				6 total (including 4 from Eagle Required list)	11 total (including 3 additional from Eagle Required list)	21 (including 13 required)
Time in Rank/Troop		Participation in 5 Troop/Patrol Activities. 3 must be outdoors. 2 must include overnight camping.	Participation in 10 Troop/Patrol Activities. 6 must be outdoors. 3 must include overnight camping.	4 months as a First-Class Scout in a Leadership Role	6 months as a Star Scout in a Leadership Role	6 months as a Life Scout in a Leadership Role	
Service Hours		2 Service Hours	3 Service Hours	6 Service Hours	6 Service Hours	Approved Eagle Project	

The First 4 Ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class

A Scout advances through the first three ranks by learning Scout skills, some of which require overnight camping. Each rank is earned in a four-step process.

1. A Scout LEARNS the skills - at Troop meetings, patrol meetings, or outings, at home, at camp. A Scout learns by doing. As they learn, they grow in their ability to do their part as a member of the patrol and the Troop. As they develop knowledge and skill, they are asked to teach others. In this way, they begin to develop leadership.
2. Each requirement is initialed and dated in the Scout's handbook as they complete it. For these first three ranks, the requirement can be signed by an adult leader, another Scout in the Troop who is 1st Class or above.





3. The Scout is TESTED. A Scout may be tested on rank requirements by their Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee member. The Scoutmaster maintains the list of those qualified to give tests and to pass candidates. The Scout participates in a SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE. The Scoutmaster ensures that the Scout is ready for their board of review, reviews the Scout's personal growth and sets goals for further advancement.

4. The Scout is REVIEWED. After completing requirements for a rank, the Scout receives a Board of Review. For Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the Boards are conducted by members of the Troop Committee and Troop parents. The Eagle Board of Review includes a representative from our District.

5. The Scout is RECOGNIZED. When a Board has certified a Scouts advancement, they deserve to receive recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next Troop meeting. The certificate for their new rank may be presented later at a formal Court of Honor.

Star, Life and Eagle Ranks

Each rank - Star, Life and Eagle - requires a combination of:

- Leadership
- Merit badges: The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require that a Scout earn a certain number of merit badges.
- Service to the community
- Participating at meetings and on outings

What are reasonable advancement objectives?

An active Scout can obtain their First-Class rank in their first year of Scouting. An industrious Scout can earn three to five merit badges at summer camp. Some badges (Environmental Science, for an example) are more challenging than others. Personal Management and Family Life each require a minimum of 90 days to complete and may be more age appropriate for an older scout.

Consult the Scout handbook for detailed requirements.

Other Awards

- Scouts can earn numerous patches and awards from outings, camp, District Camporees, etc. These include:
- Honor Camper
- Mile Swim (earned at summer camp)
- 50-Miler Award
- Polar Bear Award
- Religious Awards (earned through MCC or another church of your choice)
- The Order of the Arrow is an honorary fraternity of campers dedicated to service in Scouting. Elections are held annually at the Troop level for Scouts and adult leaders who meet specific requirements and are elected by their peers.

Opportunities for Parents:

Every Troop is a dynamic organization that reflects the leadership provided by the youth leaders, the chartering organization, and supportive parents.





- We need plenty of adults on each monthly outing, at summer camp and on high adventure.
- You and your Scout will be scheduled to help with our annual fundraiser (Christmas tree sale).
- Fill at least one of the following positions:
 - **I have occasional spare time and would like to help:**
 - Boards of Review
 - Merit Badge Counselor
 - **I have significant spare time and would like to get involved or support the Troops:**
 - Summer Camp Coordinator
 - High Adventure Committee
 - New Membership Coordinator
 - Friends of Scouting Coordinator
 - Uniform Exchange Coordinator
 - Class B T-Shirts and Troop Neckerchiefs
 - Hospitality (primarily coordinating potlucks, or refreshments at Court of Honor events)
 - Christmas Tree Committee
 - Medical Forms/Training Recordkeeping
 - **I LOVE Scouting and want to be engaged**
 - Committee Member: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement or Outdoor Coordinator, Webmaster
 - Assistant Scoutmaster: New Scouts, Equipment, Various Assignments by Scoutmaster
 - Scoutmaster

*Please complete and submit the Resource Survey and identify ways you can help. Ask the Scoutmaster for details.

Can Moms come on outings? Summer camp? High adventure? Serve as Assistant Scoutmaster?

Yes, yes, yes, yes!





Policies and Standards

TROOP 149 CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY POLICY

"It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetimes in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

Troop 149's Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Policy consist of the following sixteen points of the Policy and Standards for Units of the Boy Scouts of America chartered by Mariemont Kiwanis, supplemented by troop policy regarding Adult Leadership, and Uniforms.

1) The Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan are vital in all respects for measuring and building character, moral and otherwise. We expect all leaders and participants to commit themselves to both the letter and the spirit of these ideals.

2) We intend and expect that full effort will be given to the spiritual and moral development of all participants. The specifics of "duty to God" and "reverence" will be central to the program of our units, to the example set by leaders, and to the advancement of individual Scouts.

3) Within this, activities and programs should be planned with appropriate focus:

We will dedicate one Sunday per year as Scout Sunday (Sunday closest to Scouts founding, Feb. 8th) and invite Units to participate in our worship services at MCC.

Outings scheduled for Sundays will include devotional or worship services on the outing.

Mealtimes should normally be accompanied by a time of thanksgiving.

4) The Scout uniform will be the normal attire at all Scout functions. If this is a financial burden for some participants, we expect the Troop Committee to provide an expedient way for the Scout to earn a uniform.

5) Legal and safe behavior are vital to the long-term health of the program and to the confidence the community at large deserves to have in Scouting and the Church. We will hold the program to the highest possible standards.

6) When transporting Scouts, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.

7) Scouts and Adults will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies:

Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana

Concealed or unconcealed firearms, fireworks, or explosives

Pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values





8) We expect the adult leadership of the Troop to meet rigorous standards. All registered adults will be evaluated by the Committee Chairman and/or the MCC Elder Council on the highest standards recommended by the BSA and shall undergo recommended training commensurate with their duties with the Troop.

9) Adult leaders are to act responsibly and with authority when required by the situation. Any

Scout who endangers themselves or others will be removed from the Scout meeting or activity

to the custody of parents or other legal authority. If specific instructions or standards have been given to a Scout who is endangering themselves or others, and the activity or behavior continues, then the Scout is to be immediately dismissed from the program.

10) The Chartering Organization (or a representative) will meet with the Committee

Chairman and the Scoutmaster twice per year to discuss the progress of the Troop.

11) A Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy appropriate to the Troop will be developed by the Committee, agreed with the Chartering Organization, shared with, and signed by each Scout and Parent or Guardian.

It is the responsibility of the Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster to ensure these standards are established and maintained by the Troop. These leaders are to be informed immediately of any events or behaviors which appear to be inconsistent with these policies and standards, or with the Guide to Safe Scouting Serious matters may be brought directly to leadership at any time.

These policies and standards may be changed from time to time by the MCC Elder Council of MCC. They will be reviewed by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman with each family who considers joining the MCC Scouting program and reviewed annually with the Committee.

12) All Scouts and Adults will respect and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA policies, and BSA-provided training, including but not limited to those relating to:

Bullying, hazing, harassment, and unlawful discrimination of any kind

Hazing and Initiation of any kind are strictly prohibited

13) Coed Behavior on outings (both genders at the same activity) All Scouts will be aware that both genders can be present for all functions and activities. Coed behavior expectations for Troop members includes the following:

All volunteers and adults attending Scout outings are expected to conform to behavior that reflects Scouting's high standards and traditional values laid out in the Scout Oath & the Scout Law.

Sleeping and housing arrangements:

- Male and female youth participants must not share the same sleeping facilities. A clear delineation and separation of the male and female sleeping areas should be established. This includes tent, cabin, and hammock areas for example.
- No Scout will stay in a tent of an adult unless necessary and then only with their parent or legal guardian.
- Adult male leaders are responsible for the male participants, and the adult female leaders are responsible for the female participants.
- Adult Male and Female leaders require separate sleeping facilities unless they are married, and appropriate facilities are available.
- No entering the domiciles (tents, cabins, rooms etc.) of the opposite gender.





- Bathroom/Restroom arrangements:
- Bathrooms and shower facilities should be identified by either: Youth Male, Youth Female, Adult male or Adult female
- If separate bathrooms are not available, when females are using the bathroom facilities, males are not allowed, and vice versa.
- Adult leaders need to respect the privacy of the youth member in situations where they are changing clothes or taking showers and intrude only to the extent that the health and safety require (note: 2 deep leadership must be maintained). Adults need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Buddy System:

When using the buddy system, buddies must be of the same gender or follow the below system:

- adult male, adult male, male youth
- adult male, adult female, female youth
- adult female, adult female, female youth
- adult female, adult male, male youth
- male youth, male youth
- female youth, female youth
- female youth, male youth, plus 1(female or male youth)

No public display of affection. This includes kissing, hugging, and hand holding. Clinging to one another instead of participating in activity or interacting with others is also not acceptable.

Use common sense. Be respectful and considerate of each other.

14) Siblings on outings:

As Scouting is a volunteer organization it will at times be necessary for an adult volunteer leader to bring along the sibling of a registered Scout to an event or activity due to not having anyone available to watch them. This allows the adult volunteer to be able to contribute and for the event or activity to take place with full adult oversight. To that end our Troop utilizes the following

Sibling guidelines:

- Youth protection & This Troop 149 Code of Conduct applies to guests.
- All Scout activities are just that, Scout activities. They are executed for the sole benefit of the active registered Scouts in the troop. All decisions will be made to that end.
- Non-Scouts must be in the presence of their parents or legal guardian ONLY.
- Parents or legal guardians are solely liable for the conduct and safety of their child.
- Sibling participation is dependent on availability. If we have room for 20 and only 19 Scouts sign up, then that 1 slot can be filled by a sibling.
- If this is an activity that scouts need to qualify for to attend, then siblings may not attend. After all, why join scouts if you can just hop on a trip that the other guys must work for?
- Siblings join the adult patrol for their meals and camp with the adult patrol.
- If any non-scout causes problems that person will be sent home from the activity at the first available opportunity.





High Adventures of the Past

2022: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (planned)

2021: Philmont Scout Ranch & Summit Bechtel Reserve

2020: High Adventure canceled due to Covid

2019: Florida Sea Base - Out Island Adventure - Big Munson Island!

2018: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2017: Isle Royale

2016: Philmont Scout Ranch (1 crew), Badlands/Custer State Park, ND

2015: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2014: Philmont Scout Ranch (1 crew) and Summit Bechtel Reserve (2 crews)

2013: Combination: Gettysburg-camping/hiking & Shenandoah NF: backpacking

2012: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2011: Backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch (1 crew of older scouts); Backpacking in the Adirondacks (younger scouts)

2010: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2009: Camp Miniwanca, Michigan

2008: Canoeing on the Green River in Utah

2007: Backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch (2 trail crews) (older Scouts); Gettysburg/Washington DC trip for younger Scouts

2006: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2005: Backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico (older Scouts)

- Troop Summer camp – Waterloo, Michigan (younger Scouts)

2004: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness—7 crews (51 participants)

2003: Backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch (older Scouts)

- Gettysburg Battlefield/Washington, DC (younger Scouts)

2002: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

2001: Antietam National Battlefield/Rafting/Washington, DC Backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico (older Scouts)

2000: Pennsylvania camping trip with American Heritage, Orienteering, Geology themes

- New River Adventure - caving rafting, camping, rappelling (older Scouts)

1999: Canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota

1998: Gettysburg/Washington, DC

- Backpacking in Washington State (older Scouts)

1997: BSA Sea Base, Florida Keys

1996: Backpacking in canyonlands of southern Utah





1995: Backpacking at BSA's Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico

1994: Touring Antietam Battlefield, Washington, D.C./Baltimore

- Canoeing in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Minnesota (older Scouts)

1993: Backpacking/Canoeing in Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina

- Sailing from BSA Seabase, Florida (older Scouts)

1992: Backpacking in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

