

Welcome To BSA SCOUT TROOP 149

*Sponsored by Mariemont Community Church
A Guide for New Scouts and Parents*

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law,
to help other people at all times,
to keep myself physically strong, mentally
awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout Motto
Be Prepared.

Scout Slogan
Do a Good Turn Daily.

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

Welcome to the adventure of Scouting! This information packet has been prepared by Boy Scout Troop 149 to introduce new Scouts and their parents to the Boy Scouts of America and to Troop 149.

This packet is intended to provide some basic information about joining Scouts and about the activities and organization of Troop 149. A parent interested in Scouting for their child should read the following chapters of the Boy Scout Handbook (13th ed.):

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

Even if you have previous experience in Scouting, 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 Boy Scout Troop 149 and of its chartering organization, Mariemont Community Church, are committed to the principles of Scouting. That same commitment is necessary from each and every 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.mcc149.com. General Troop information, meeting and outing calendars, forms, and useful links are available here. Additionally, Troop 149 utilizes *Troop Track* to collect and maintain records for advancement and training and as its primary communication tool. **Troop leadership will primarily communicate via email using *Troop Track*. It is vitally important that families and read and respond as requested, to these emails.**

Please review the following sections and attachments. For more information, please call our Scoutmaster, one of our Assistant Scoutmasters, or the Troop Committee Chair.

As you review this material, please let us know what we could add to this introduction to better familiarize you with Scouting in general, and with Troop 149 in particular.

2.0 BECOMING A SCOUT

In order to become a Scout, you must

- Youth can **join a Scout** troop who have earned the Arrow of Light rank and are at least 10 years old, or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10, or who are 11, but not yet 18 years old.
- complete the Scout joining requirements, as follows:
 - submit a completed BSA Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian
 - with your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse
 - complete the following (usually at your first Scout meeting)
 - repeat the Pledge of Allegiance
 - demonstrate the Scout salute, sign and handclasp
 - show how to tie the square knot
 - describe the Scout badge
 - understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, Scout slogan and the Outdoor Code
 - participate in a Scoutmaster conference

Troop 149 also requires that parent(s) and Scout review and sign the Troop Code of Conduct in addition to the Boy Scout application.

3.0 TROOP ORGANIZATION

3.1 The Troop

A Scout troop is organized by patrols. A patrol is a team of 5 to 8 Scouts led by a Patrol Leader elected from its members. The Senior Patrol Leader is an experienced Scout who is elected by all the Scouts in the troop. The 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 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.

3.2 The Troop's Youth Leaders

The objective of the patrol method is that the troop is actually 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.

Some of our current Scout leader positions include:

- **Senior Patrol Leader:** top leader in the troop. They 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:** 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 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.
- **Troop Guide:** adviser and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- **Den Chief:** works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- **Quartermaster:** responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- **Scribe:** the troop secretary.

3.3 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 Boy 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

3.4 Relationship to BSA

The Boy Scouts of America provide a national program. BSA is further organized into regions (we are in the Central region), and councils (Dan Beard Council), and districts (Blue Jacket). BSA councils provide Scouting programs through chartering organizations. Mariemont Community Church has been Troop 149's chartering partner since its inception, over 80 years ago.

3.5 Troop Communications

Troop 149 maintains an up-to-date website, which is www.mcc149.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. The Troop also utilizes *Troop Track* 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 *Troop Track*, and respond as requested. It is also critical that families advise if their email address (or other contact information) has changed. Please send your updated information to the Troop Webmaster at mitch.gilbertson@gmail.com**

4.0 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 and Disciplinary Policy consist of the following sixteen points of the Policy and Standards for Units of the Boy Scouts of America chartered by Mariemont Community Church (MCC), supplemented by troop policy regarding Adult Leadership, and Uniforms.

Policies and Standards

- 1) In general, 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 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 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, 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) We do not require participants to become members of MCC. But we do encourage them to worship regularly at a church of their choice.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) When transporting Scouts, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.

- 8) 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
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) The MCC Elder Council (or a representative) will meet with the Committee Chairman and the Scoutmaster twice per year to discuss the progress of the Troop.
- 12) A Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy appropriate to the Troop will be developed by the Committee, agreed with the MCC Elder Council, 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 the Church 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.
- 13) 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
- 14) **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 absolutely 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 Truddie 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.

15) 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 Boy Scout activities are just that, Boy 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 parent 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 in order to attend, then siblings may not attend. After all, why join scouts if you can just hop on a trip that the other guys have to 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.

4.2 Adult Leadership

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. Scout leaders **are required to maintain current BSA Youth Protection Training certification** for registration in Troop 149. Additional trainings (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.

4.3 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.**

5.0 MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

5.1 Scout Meetings Troop meetings are as follows (exceptions due to holidays, etc., are announced), and are posted on the Troop 149 calendar at Troop Track and www.mcc149.com.

Troop meetings for all Scouts: Sunday, 7:30 PM, at the Parish Center

PLC meetings are the last Tuesday of each month, also at 7:30 PM at the Parish Center.
Remember, PLC meetings are only for the Scouts in leadership positions.

5.2 Outings/Other Events

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.

- A weekend outdoor outing is generally scheduled for each month. A typical annual schedule might be:

September: Camping*

October: Camping*, Court of Honor

November: Camping*

December: Day Trip, Christmas Tree Sale

January: Ski Trip

February: Cabin Camping*, Scout Sunday, Merit Badge Challenge

March: Camping*, Webelos Crossover, Merit Badge Challenge

April: Camping*

May: Camping*, Memorial Day Parade, Court of Honor

June: Camping*

July: Summer Camp

June-August (dates vary): High Adventure

**A weekend campout may feature an activity such as canoeing, climbing, backpacking, caving, mountain biking, Camporee, advancement theme, etc.*

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

- The Troop participates in a BSA summer camp for a week each summer.
- 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.

Previous high adventure trips have been:

- 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 Seabase, 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

A training session for Scout leaders (referred to as ILST) is conducted by the Scoutmaster and Assistants each year. Additional training sessions provided by council are available periodically.

5.3 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).

6.0 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

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

- Scout handbook (provided by Troop 149 at time of joining)
- Full Scout uniform (see Section 4.3)
- Sleeping bag, reasonably lightweight and rated for 20° 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.

7.0 ADVANCEMENT

Learn the ranks of Scouting:

- * Scout
- * Tenderfoot
- * 2nd Class
- * 1st Class
- * Star
- * Life
- * Eagle

7.1 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.

Each requirement is initialed and dated in the Scout's handbook as they completes 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, **or BY A PARENT.**

2. The Boy 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.
3. 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 the Columbia District.
4. The Scout is **RECOGNIZED**. When a Board has certified a Scout's advancements, 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.

7.2 The Merit Badge Program and Star, Life and Eagle Ranks

The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require that a Scout earn a certain number of merit badges.

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 and the name and telephone number of a counselor from a list provided by Council. 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 the access the Dan Beard Council list of merit badge counselors.

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.

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

- leadership
- merit badges
- service to the community
- participating at meetings and on outings

Consult the Scout handbook for detailed requirements.

7.3 Other Awards

Scout 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.

8.0 SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What should I do as a parent?

- 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.
- Review your Scout's progress through the first three ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class).

2. What can I do in the Troop?

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 fund raiser (Christmas tree sale).
- Fill at least one of the following positions:
 - Scoutmaster
 - Assistant Scoutmaster: New Scouts, Equipment, Various Assignments by Scoutmaster
 - Merit Badge Counselor
 - Committee Member: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Coordinator, Outdoor Coordinator, Webmaster
 - Boards of Review
 - 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 potluck events)
 - Christmas Tree Committee
 - Medical Forms/Training Recordkeeping

Please complete and submit the T149 Resource Survey and to identify ways you can help.

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

Yes, yes, yes, yes!

4. How much does Scouting cost?

In recent years, the Troop's financial resources have made it possible to pay registration, Boy's Life, advancement, and most of the 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.

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)	~ \$35	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 unit numerals provided free at time of joining. Additional T149 Neckerchiefs are available at a nominal cost.

** Consult your Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster for recommended types. (Also discussed at relevant Parents' Meetings.)

***Can be assembled from common household items.

Summer Camp Fee (In 2013, actual camp fee is \$235)	\$75
High Adventure Fee (typical; varies depending on trip)	\$100
Food for outings (\$15 x 8 outings)	\$96
Ski Trip, Horseback Trip Fees	\$100
Merit Badge Books (~\$5 x 4 books) (books often available free from Troop library)	\$16

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.

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.

5. 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.

6. It sounds like the Troop has a busy schedule of meetings and other activities. How can we keep track of everything?

Our Troop calendar and various resources (permission slips, annual health forms, etc.) are maintained on the Troop’s Troop Track site:, and general information is available on the public website: www.mcc149.com

Emails from Troop leadership will be sent from *Troop Track*; 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 Troop Track or www.mcc149.com.

Also, please be sure to let us know of any changes in address or telephone number so we can keep our Troop roster up to date.

At each Troop meeting and PLC, Scouts are given information about upcoming activities. Be sure to ask your Scout what was announced at each Tuesday 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 the Tuesday prior to a weekend outing.

7. 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!

8. 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 example) are more challenging than others. Personal Management and Family Life each require a minimum of 90 days to complete. A reasonably attainable advancement schedule is:

End of Year	Rank	Number of Merit Badges	Leadership Position	Scout Spirit
1	1 st Class	2	Y	Y
2	Star	7	Y	Y
3	Life	13	Y	Y
4	Life	19	Y	Y
5	Eagle	21	Y	Y

This is just a suggested target.

Each Scout is encouraged to work at a reasonable pace.