



The Boy Scouts of America

A New Parent's Introduction to



Troop 29

**DelMarVa Council
Powder Mill District**

**Chartering Organization
Red Clay Creek
Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE 19808**

Winter 2012 Edition

www.bsa-troop29.org

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“COME GROW WITH US”

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Getting Started

The Outdoor Program:

Ask any scout, young or old, what he remembers most about his scouting experience and the answer will be Camping and Hikes! The rougher the terrain or the cold winds were not cause for alarm because as the motto states Boy Scouts will always “Be Prepared”. And...the harder the journey, the better the camp story. A Scout will embrace the worst conditions (usually after the trip) just to say I survived the two feet of snow or the mud slides or the wild creatures (usually squirrels, deer or an adult that snores) in the camp.

The BSA and Troop 29 program uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls, as scouts learn new skills, make new friends, and experience places different from home. Scouts learn and utilize skills like swimming, hiking, cooking, canoeing, fire building, camping and so much more. Scouts learn how to plan for a trip, find out what works and what doesn't, how to make the best of the situation when the plan isn't perfect (like rain!), and what knowledge gained can be used to make the next outing better. Different hikes might have different leaders. Scouts learn personal and group responsibility as they take their turn at the head of outing.

The best part of the outdoor program is that it is tons of fun!!

HOW DO I JOIN AND WHAT DO I DO NEXT????

First...

As an adult, we urge you to **read through this document** if your son is considering joining Troop 29. Inside you will find the information you are seeking to understand the Boy Scout program, how Troop 29 executes the BSA vision, and what your son can expect during his first year as a newly minted Boy Scout.

Then....

You can help your son and us by explaining how the troop operates and how Boys Scouts is different from Cub Scouts. Finally, sit down with your son and together read the pamphlet found in the front of his new Boy Scout Handbook.

If your Webelos Scout / son believes that Troop 29 is the place for him here are the next steps:

1. Complete the BSA registration paperwork (BSA application & BSA Health Form)
2. Read and complete the Troop 29 Behavior Policy included in this document.
3. Pay the annual dues discussed in the finance section of this document.

Your son is then ready to participate in Troop 29's scouting program.

Please visit the troop website often. Updates on the calendar and activities are posted on the troop website which is <http://www.bsa-troop29.org>

The First Year Experience

The BSA and troop's goal is to provide the first year scout with a fun and enriching experience so the scout will enjoy his entire scouting tenure and increase his lifelong learning. To accomplish this, our troop follows the national program of First Year First Class. This program presents opportunities and encourages the scout to progress to the rank of First Class during the first year of scouting. The program's purpose is to ensure that by the end of the first year the scout is "first class" in all the basic scouting skills and ready to participate fully in all activities of the troop, an ideal initially articulated by Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting.

When the scout joins the troop he becomes a member of a new scout patrol, which concentrates on the basic skill requirements for earning First Class rank. The patrol may hold special trips and events during the year just for the purpose of working on these items. The jobs within the patrol rotate each month so that each scout gets to experience each job position and responsibility.

During this important first year of scouting, the new scouts are led by the Troop Guide(s). A Troop Guide is an experienced scout whose job it is to guide the new scouts, creating an environment in which they can learn. He may schedule camping trips, call special meetings, and direct both the instructors and adult leaders toward what the boys need to learn. The Guide reports to the Assistant Scoutmaster for New Scouts and is appointed by and serves with the permission of the Scoutmaster. Questions from parents about activities should be directed first to the Troop Guide, who is usually in the best position to answer them. The Troop Guide may also refer parents to the appropriate adult leader. In addition to the Troop Guide, our troop usually arranges for a special Summer Camp Guide to help with Summer Camp instructions and shepherd the new scouts at Summer Camp.

At Summer Camp the first year scout will continue participating in experiences concentrating on earning his First Class rank, experience many Summer Camp activities and sample a few key merit badges that will position him for a successful second year at Summer Camp. The recommended first year merit badges are:

- **Swimming**, so that the scout will be ready for lifesaving and boating merit badges the next year.
- **Nature**, so that the scout can explore and understand the exciting and beautiful Summer Camps that our troop goes to great lengths to select.
- And a handicraft merit badges for fun in the evening and during break periods.

The highlight and reward of the first year of Summer Camp is an overnight hike and camp to a remote outpost where the new scouts can practice and celebrate all that they have learned.

A successful first year can be measured by how much progress the scout has made towards First Class, with the understanding that each scout is unique and thus, although many scouts will earn First Class in their first year, new scouts may need different lengths of time to complete First Class requirements. First Class in year one is a GOAL, not a requirement.

For 2010-2011, the New Scout Program has several opportunities for Webelos Scouts to share in the activities of Troop 29 so that they will know what we do and thus consider joining our troop when they cross over.

January has been designated as Visitation time for Webelos Scouts to come and visit Troop 29 during a regularly scheduled meeting. They may participate with the scouts for part of the meeting, after which there will be a special program for them while the troop members are having their patrol meetings. Both scouts and Webelos Scouts will then participate in the closing ceremony.

Our annual Pancake Breakfast held on Scout Sunday on February 6th is a great way for the Webelos Scout families to meet the scout families. As part of the program for the breakfast, some of our boys who have digital editing equipment will give an exciting digital presentation of our year in review, showing many of our activities.

March will feature a Webelos Weekend at Camp Horseshoe, attended by Webelos Scouts, the PLC, and the New Scout Program leaders. This will give the Webelos Scouts a chance to get to know some of the older boys who are or will be running the troop. A special program designed around Webelos Scouts is planned specifically for the older boys to support the new scouts in learning and practicing their camping skills.

Summer Camp for First Year Scouts

Summer camp is a highlight of the First Year scouting experience. **We strongly urge ALL scouts to attend Summer camp**, but this activity is of special importance to First Year Scouts

The troop conducts a special program for first year scouts, utilizing the program in place at the camp of choice. Some of these programs are known as Dan Beard programs, others as Brownsea programs. These programs have been planned to supplement the regular troop's program, not replace it. The scouts of the first year program will still be with their units during meals and also during the evenings when they are not on outpost.

The objectives of any first-year program are to:

1. Help make the first year camper successful
2. Develop camping and some hiking and cooking skills
3. Put the scout with his own peer group.
4. Provide a support group to share all the new experiences of the first year camper
5. Teach the patrol method and develop leadership qualities in the scout.
6. Give the new scout a fun and enriching experience so he will enjoy his entire scouting tenure and increase his life-long learning

At Summer Camp the first year scout will participate in experiences concentrating on earning his First Class rank, experience many Summer Camp activities and sample a few key merit badges that will position him for a successful second year at Summer Camp. The recommended first year merit badges are:

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The highlight and reward of the first year of Summer Camp is an overnight hike and camp to a remote outpost where the new scouts can practice and celebrate all that they have learned.

A successful first year can be measured by how much progress the scout has made towards First Class, with the understanding that each scout is unique and thus new scouts may need different lengths of time to complete First Class requirements. Some may earn First Class in a few months. Others may need more time than the first year.

About Troop 29

Troop 29 has a long and distinguished history. Having originally been founded back in 1919 Troop 29 ranks among the oldest Boy Scout troops in the United States. Unfortunately, we can only lay claim to a continued existence since 1953 since the troop went dark during the time periods of the First and Second World Wars. But a 55 year continuous history is still something very respectable. We are all very proud to be among the oldest troops the Boy Scouts can boast.

But there's more to a Boy Scout Troop than longevity. It's also about the quality of the program. Troop 29 has been awarded the Boy Scouts of America's Quality Unit award for over 25 consecutive years. And although it isn't really entirely fair to judge a troop by the number of Eagle Scouts it graduates it is an often quoted statistic when you compare troops. Troop 29's track record is a good one. In our 55 year existence we have produced 84 Eagle Scouts. But this doesn't begin to tell the story of the hundreds of other scouts who have worked their way through Troop 29's program but never made it to Eagle. Although these scouts may not have made it to scouting's ultimate goal we can definitively say that each and every scout benefited from the leadership skills, the outdoor skills, the civic understanding, and the moral training he received.

There are other key measurements of a Boy Scout troop's success. Attendance, retention, advancement, service hours, nights under canvas, frostbite nights, Order of the Arrow members, adult participation. All of these are keys to a healthy and dynamic troop. Troop 29 has consistently scored well in all categories and we would be happy to discuss our metrics at any time. Or, better yet ask any scout if he advanced last year, or how many merit badges he earned!

Troop 29 is considered a "Large" troop. With 70 active scouts in all ranks and ages we are a troop that offers scouts a unique opportunity to lead others. One of the strongest assets a troop the size of 29 possesses is the opportunity it offers Scouts to lead more than two or three other scouts during activities and outings. As a boy led troop we emphasize leadership skills through training, mentoring, and adult role modeling.

Troop 29 is also considered an "Active" troop. We meet 51 weeks of the year (usually taking a break around Christmas/New Year) and conduct at least one outdoor activity EVERY month. We believe strongly that scouts belong 'outdoors' and think that there is no better place to be than communing with nature with our friends.

It takes a great deal of support by our adult Scouters – adults both with and without scouts in the troop – to provide the level of program Troop 29 offers. We are fortunate to have over 35 BSA registered adults supporting our scouts and providing the mentoring and modeling we believe is important to make the scout oath and law a visible reality. The Troop 29 Committee has also committed itself to insuring that all of Troop 29's adult leaders are 100% trained under the BSA's training guidelines.

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian church is proud to welcome and support the families of Troop 29 and embrace the aims of scouting.



Scouting

Moving Up to Boy Scouts

The transition from Cub Scout to Boy Scout can be confusing, both to parents and new scouts.

Cub Scouts are led by adults, with the adult leaders managing the program.

The main difference is that the Boy Scouts is a youth led organization, with adult supervision and guidance.

Scouting Spirit

It is easy to join a scout troop, but it is not easy to live up to the ideals of scouting. For that a boy needs courage and determination.

In some ways, scouting is like a game with rules that you must follow to be a member of the team. The rules of scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto and Scout Slogan. It is by following these rules that a boy can become a true scout.

Boy Scout Aims

Beyond the scout level point of view there are three adult level aims that form the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. These are:

- To build character
- To foster citizenship
- To develop fitness

Boy Scout Methods:

It's fairly safe to assume that no boy joins a troop specifically to work on any one of these three aims. But through the methods of scouting and an activities program using the scouting methods a boy can achieve these aims.

These eight methods define what scouting is and is about. They are:

Ideals	Oath – Law – Motto – Slogan
Patrols	Peer groups – Elected representation – Activities
Outdoors	All outdoor programs
Advancement	Self reliance – Ability to help others – Challenge
Adult Association	Image – Role model – Example
Personal Growth	Good Turn – Service Projects – Religious emblems
Leadership Development	Leadership skills and practice – Citizenship
Uniform	Commitment to aims - Identity

The ideals of scouting are defined by the motto “Be Prepared”, the slogan “Do a Good Turn Daily”, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.

No troop meeting or outdoor activity should be planned or carried out without working on one of more of these ideals.

Every Boy Scout troop is composed of patrols. Each patrol typically has four to ten boys who work together as a team. Sooner or later every scout will have a chance for leadership within the patrol, and this is why the patrol system is one of the most strategic methods of scouting.

They do not put up tents or build campfires in church fellowship halls or activity rooms. The place for that is outdoors. The place for almost any scouting activity is out of doors. For scouting, the outdoors is not just a place, it is a method.

The Boy Scout Advancement Program provides a ladder of skills that a scout climbs at his own pace. From Tenderfoot through Eagle, the higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks and the more rewarding. The purpose of the advancement program is to spur a scout to learn, achieve, and mature. That advancement does this so consistently makes it an important method that reinforces the aims.

All of the scouting methods help a boy grow as the result of scouting experience, but personal growth is itself a method. In striving in different ways to help scouts grow, the striving itself becomes a way of continuous education and improvement.

Scouts learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is critical at this stage of a scout's development.

More than one of the scouting methods has proved effective in developing leadership in scouts. Leadership opportunities at both the patrol and troop levels are real, action-oriented jobs that can provide motivation and build confidence to lead successfully and take on more responsibility. Leadership development is not only for the scouts who are leaders — but for the scouts who are not.

The Boy Scout uniform is a tool with many edges. Whenever scouts wear a uniform it reminds them that they are scouts and people expect them to act like scouts. The uniform is an outward symbol that they believe in certain values and are willing to stand up for them.

Using the methods to achieve the aims is the challenge of adult leadership that the Scoutmasters and their assistants undertake in order to deliver the promise of scouting to each boy in the troop.

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
Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

As an American
I will do my best to...
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation minded.

Scout Behavior and Participation

The Boy Scouts of Troop 29 swear “On their Honor” to behave in accordance with the tenets spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code. Recognizing that situations do arise in which scouts do not act according to the Oath and Law Troop 29 has adopted a specific Discipline Policy which every scout participating with the troop is expected to review, understand, and operate under.

Discipline Policy

Guide to Safe Scouting:

Troop 29 follows BSA rules and policies in the Guide to Safe Scouting, available online at:

<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>. This *Troop 29 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is designed to further clarify conduct and discipline at the troop level.

Scout Conduct:

Good behavior is essential to any program and will be strongly supported by Troop 29’s youth leaders (scouts) and adult leaders (Scouters). Good behavior is a primary element of showing Scout Spirit, and is a requirement for advancement. The troop’s level of authority is as follows:

Troop Committee

Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

Patrol Leader (PL)

Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)

In each instance, the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any adult will have the final authority. The purpose of the authority structure is not to remove authority from the scouts, but to augment and uphold their responsibility. It is not to be construed as bossing other Scouts around or making some Scouts do more than their fair share. However, fellow Scouts must recognize this structure and be willing to participate and assist others as requested.

Scouts will not participate in any activity that could be considered dangerous to their fellow Scout. These include but are not limited to bullying, hazing, harassing, abuse of fire or flammable materials, or abuse of sharp instruments.

Scouts will conduct themselves properly during all Troop 29 activities. If the behavior isn’t allowed at school or church, it’s not acceptable behavior. During all meetings and activities, when the Scout sign is held up, all Scouts and adults shall immediately cease talk and movement, and display the same sign.

The Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is to be worn at all Troop 29 events from September –May. From June – August Scouts may wear any BSA endorsed shirt (Class B). Field uniforms are also permitted during the summer. Scouts are required to wear their Field Uniform (Class A) while traveling to and from any event related to BSA. Scouts must wear their uniforms in a manor that will reflect credit upon themselves, the Troop, the Charter Organization, and BSA. This means: Clean, neat, tucked-in, buttoned, and with appropriate insignia.

During the patrol activity session of the troop meetings, Scouts will be with their assigned patrol unless given permission by their Patrol Leader to meet with the Scoutmaster, go to the restroom, etc. It is necessary for the Patrol Leader to know the whereabouts of his Scouts.

Visitors are always welcome to attend troop meetings; however, approval from the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters is required one week prior to the meeting.

No Scout will leave the campsite without the permission of the Patrol Leader or his designate. Patrol Leaders will get permission from the Senior Patrol Leader in order to leave the area. Disciplinary problems on campouts and activities will not be tolerated. Scouts who cannot behave themselves will be sent home.

Buddy System:

Scouts will follow BSA's Buddy System whenever appropriate. Examples include water activities, whenever a Scout is to go beyond visual range of a campsite, instances where Scouts are interacting with large groups of people not known by the troop, and whenever the Scoutmaster declares the Buddy System is in effect.

Discipline:

General: The approach to discipline in Scouting is simple and the doors of Scouting are always open to those who strive to follow the ideals of Scouting. Adherence to the *Troop 29 Conduct and Discipline Policy* is required to maintain safety, preclude property damage, and avoid disrupting other organizations activities.

Obedience: Obedience in Troop 29 means to follow the *Scout Oath* and the *Scout Law*. The *Oath* and *Law* make being a good citizen of the troop, camp, or community possible. Obedience to the Scout Law includes respect for Scout (youth) leaders and adult leaders and all members and guests of the troop. Respect for adult and Scout leadership is expected. Under NO circumstances will adult or Scout Leaders administer physical punishment for any reason. Hazing, of any type, will not be tolerated. Scouts or adults observing such activity will take immediate measures to stop such activity.

Enforcing Discipline:

1. Scout leaders, (SPL,ASPL,PL) are responsible for maintaining troop discipline.
2. Discipline in patrols will be handled by the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leaders have the authority to ask any patrol member to shape up and/or leave a patrol meeting and report to the SPL (Senior Patrol Leader). An adult leader must be notified of actions taken.
3. When the Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain help from the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader has the authority to ask a Scout to leave the meeting area and report to the Scoutmaster.
4. When the Senior Patrol Leader cannot handle the problem, he must obtain the help of the Scoutmaster.
5. When the Scoutmaster determines that a Scout requires discipline, the following actions are taken:
 - a. First Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. All such conferences should be attended by an appropriate Boy Scout Leader and by another adult leader.
 - b. Second Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster and a phone call to parents explaining the problem and stating that one more complaint may result in suspension for a period of time established by the severity of the offense. A written explanation of the offense will also be prepared to back-up the phone call. One copy will be given to the parents, another to the Troop Committee Chair (in case further action is necessary). Parents may be requested to attend meetings to help supervise their Scout. The Scout may be assigned to appear before a board of Committee members or the PLC as a lesser disciplinary action prior to suspension from troop activities.
 - c. Third Instance – Conference with the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and parents. Based on the Scoutmaster's recommendation, the Scout may be suspended from all Troop activities for a period of time as established by the Scoutmaster.
 - d. Fourth Instance – The issue is referred to the full Troop Committee by the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair with a recommendation of action and the circumstances for the referral.

The Troop Committee may proceed immediately with any level of discipline without conducting previous lower levels of discipline, if the Committee deems the severity of the circumstances warrant such action.

6. The above steps are not meant to discourage either the Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol leader from seeking advice from the Scoutmaster or any adult leader when they are having leadership challenges, but are intended to state discipline options in advance.

7. In extreme cases, a Scout may be recommended for dismissal from the Troop. This action means that only by agreement from the Troop Committee will the Scout be permitted to return to the troop. Dismissal will only be carried out by the Troop Committee. In the case of a dismissal, a letter to the Scout's parents will be sent outlining the reasons for the dismissal and the alternatives for returning to the troop.
8. If a Scout is disruptive during any event (meeting, camping trip, day trip, etc.) and it is determined by the adult leader of the event that the Scout's continued presence will continue to be disruptive, the parents of the scout will be called (anytime; day or night) to come and get the Scout.
9. If a Scout feels he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by another scout, he may seek help from the Senior Patrol Leader. A Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Senior Patrol Leader may seek help from the Scoutmaster, and a Scout who feels that he has been subjected to inappropriate discipline by the Scoutmaster may seek help from the Troop Committee Chair.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco:

No Scout shall use, possess, and/or distribute tobacco or any controlled substance (drugs and alcohol). Parents of a Scout found to have used, possessed, or distributed a controlled substance at a Scouting function will be subject to immediate disciplinary action. Parents of Scouts required to take prescription medication over the period of a troop event are required to present the medications required during the event to the Activity coordinator along with a troop medication form indicating medication type, dose, frequency and emergency contact information prior to any Scout leaving with the Troop on an event. Serious medical requirements may require a parent to attend an event and administer medication.

Fighting:

Troop 29 has a zero tolerance policy for fighting. Fighting is not permitted and is grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Parents will be called and asked to take their Scout home.

Language and Respect:

Foul language, swearing, cursing and abusive/suggestive/offensive gestures are not in keeping with the ideals of Scouting and will not be allowed. A Scout is *Reverent, Courteous, and Clean*.

Disrespectful language to any Scout or to any adult is not allowed.

Adult Leader Conduct:

Adult leaders shall exhibit the ideals of Scouting when working with the boys. They will strive to set a good example in their handling of all situations. Standards of conduct in personal habits, language, hygiene, and interaction with Scouts will be in accordance with the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The Committee Chair is responsible for the conduct of adult leaders. Conduct befitting a Scout is expected of adult participants as well, especially in regards to the Do's and Don'ts.

Do's and Don'ts: Selected Examples:

The Boy Scouts of America prohibit the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunctions with programs and activities, except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert. Scouts of Troop 29 are prohibited from possessing or using fireworks on any Troop 29 activity.

Scouts are not permitted to possess firearms. Firearms will be permitted at troop meetings only if the troop program calls for such activities. Any such activity must have prior approval of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee.

Sheath knives are not permitted. Lock-blade and pocket-knives are permitted, but the blade may not exceed 3 inches. Scouts carrying pocket-knives must have their *Totin' Chip* card in their possession as prescribed by the BSA training requirements. If the *Totin' Chip* is to be on the Scout's person, the knife will be confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.

Sexually explicit materials in ANY media format shall not be brought to Scout activities. If found, such materials will be confiscated and returned to the parents of any scout involved.

Troop 29 policies prohibit Scouts from bringing electronic devices on activities. Examples include but are not limited to: radios, televisions, CD players, cassette players, cell phones, PDA's, iPod's, video games. For long trips, arrangements can be made for the use of the above equipment during travel to and from the activity. Equipment will be held by the Scoutmaster or adult leader during the activity and will be returned to the Scout for traveling.

The Scoutmaster or adult leader has the authority to confiscate all items deemed inappropriate or dangerous. Personal items confiscated may be returned to the Scout's parents.

Troop Discipline Policy Acknowledgement Statement

Both parents/guardians (unless the Scout is living with a single, separated, or widowed parent/guardian) and the Scout must sign the page below and return it to the Troop Committee Chair. Full agreement, legible signing, and returning of this sheet are a condition of registration and participation in Troop 29.

Parent/Guardian #1 Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Scout Name Printed: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

The Scouting Organization

The promise of scouting is more than skills and advancement. The promise is the opportunity to develop leadership through learning and doing. Developing the leadership from within the scouts in the troop takes several years of continuous effort.

Troop Organization

In a scout-led troop there are two scouts who report directly to the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster — the Senior Patrol Leader, who is elected by the Scouts, and the Troop Guide, who is appointed by the Scoutmaster.

The following are the job descriptions and responsibilities of five of the scout officers, two of whom are elected by the scouts and the other three appointed.

The **Senior Patrol Leader** is elected by the scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop. He reports to the Scoutmaster. His duties consist of:

- Running all troop meetings, events, activities and the annual program planning conference
- Running the Patrol Leaders' council meeting
- Appointing other Troop junior leaders, with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster
- Assigning duties and responsibilities to junior leaders
- Assisting the Scoutmaster with junior leader training
- Setting a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout spirit
- Enthusiastically wearing the Scout uniform correctly

The Senior Patrol Leader's sidekick is the **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**. He is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. He reports to the Senior Patrol Leader and acts as Senior Patrol Leader in that officer's absence or whenever called upon. He also provides leadership to other junior leaders. His duties consist of:

- Helping the SPL lead meetings and activities
- Running the troop in the absence of the SPL
- Helping train and supervise the Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Instructor, Librarian, and Chaplain Aide
- Serving as a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Setting a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wearing the Scout Uniform correctly

These two officers work as a team, sharing ideas and responsibilities for planning activities, involving the patrols in them and providing necessary coaching.

Each patrol has a **Patrol Leader**, elected by his patrol, except perhaps the new scout patrol where it may be rotated. He represents his patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council. He reports to the SPL, and if his patrol is a new one, he also works with the Troop Guide assigned to his patrol. The Patrol Leader:

- Appoints his Assistant Patrol Leader
- Represents his patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Plans and steers patrol meetings
- Helps scouts advance
- Acts as the chief recruiter of new scouts
- Keeps patrol members informed
- Knows what his patrol members and other leaders can do
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout Uniform correctly

Like the Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leader also has a sidekick on whom he can depend to back him up. This is the **Assistant Patrol Leader**, who is appointed by the Patrol Leader, reports to him and leads the patrol in his absence. The Assistant Patrol Leader:

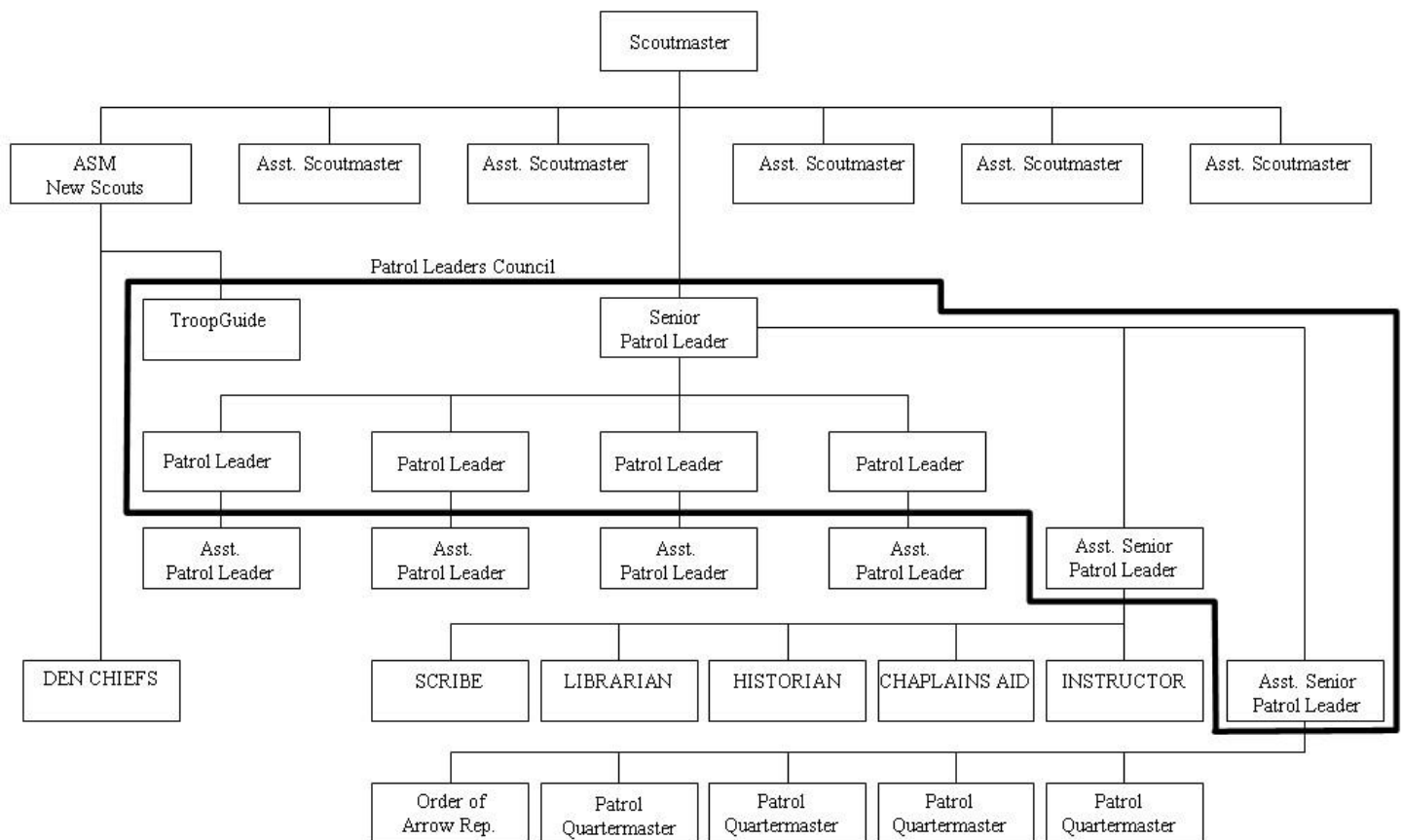
- Helps the Patrol Leader plan and steer patrol meetings and activities
- Helps him keep the patrol informed
- Helps the patrol get ready for all troop activities

- Represents the patrol at Patrol Leaders' Council meetings when the Patrol Leader cannot attend
- Lends a hand controlling the patrol and building patrol spirit
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout Uniform correctly

The **Troop Guide** is appointed by the Scoutmaster to work with new Scouts. He helps them feel comfortable and earn their First Class rank during their first year in Scouting. He reports to the Assistant Scoutmaster for new Scouts. The Troop Guide:

- Introduces new scouts to troop operations
- Guides new scouts through early scouting activities
- Shields new scouts from harassment by older scouts
- Helps new scouts earn First Class rank
- Teaches basic scout skills
- Coaches Patrol Leaders of new patrols on their duties
- Works with the Patrol Leader at Patrol Leaders' Council meetings
- Attends Patrol Leaders' Council meetings with Patrol Leaders of new patrols
- Assists the Assistant Scoutmaster with training
- Counsels individual scouts on scouting challenges
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly

Troop 29 Organization



The Patrol Method

Troop Organization & Scout Leadership

The promise of scouting is the opportunity for scouts to learn a variety of skills including leadership by experience. A troop is organized to enable as many scouts as possible to be in a series of graduated leadership positions that will test their skills as they grow in knowledge. There is some variation in how troops organize and the details are left to the Scoutmaster of each troop.

Troop as Patrols

The basic organizational unit of the troop is the patrol. The sum of all the patrols makes up the troop. In scouting there are three types of patrols; senior, regular and new scout. The Scoutmaster in consultation with the Assistant Scoutmasters assigns all scouts to patrols. Troop-wide officers, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide, will be assigned to patrols as ex-officio patrol members. These scouts in troop-wide positions will be assigned to a specific patrol for their term of office for inclusion in patrol functions such as meals, etc. Ex-officio members cannot hold any office in that patrol or be included in duty rosters.

Senior patrols typically have 4 to 8 scouts but may have 12 or more. Older scouts in troop leadership positions, while not official members of the senior patrol during their term of office, will join with the senior patrol for patrol-based events. Membership in the senior patrol requires Life Rank or higher and age 14 years or above, and is granted upon approval of the scoutmaster. Typically, transition from a regular patrol to the senior patrol occurs during the 9th or 10th grade, or upon attaining the rank of Eagle. Scouts usually stay in the senior patrol until they age out or become Junior Assistant Scoutmasters (JASM's)..

Regular patrols typically have six to eight scouts but may have as few as four or as many as twelve. The new scout patrols typically have six to seven scouts but may have as few as five and as many as ten. Regular patrols should have scouts of different experience and capability levels. Ideally, each patrol would have some scouts at each level, grades 7, 8, and 9.

Regular scout patrols will be realigned twice a year, in March and September, preceding troop elections. The intent is realignment, not wholesale reorganization. Scouts entering regular patrols need to be distributed to create an equal distribution by age, stage of development, rank, and other characteristics to make the patrol method work for the troop. Scouts may request a reassignment to a different patrol at any time by completing a patrol transfer request and turning it into the Scoutmaster at or before the last troop meeting in February or August. Patrol leaders will be asked for input to assist the Scoutmasters in avoiding patrol assignments that would have a detrimental effect on individual or overall troop effectiveness. Parents and uniformed leaders should also provide input to the Scoutmaster, who is responsible for the ultimate decision with the alignment of the assignment of scouts to patrols.

During February and August the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters will review all requests and input from the patrol leaders and others and make all patrol assignments. Individual scout preferences will be considered first when making patrol assignments but the Scoutmaster may reassign scouts from one patrol to another to achieve either numerical or rank balance within a patrol to facilitate the patrol method. New patrol assignments will be posted at the next to last troop meetings in February and August.

Patrol Organization

Each regular patrol shall have a patrol leader who is selected by election after being nominated by another member of the patrol and approved by the Scoutmaster and accepted by the nominee's parent or guardian. Patrol Leaders must be Second Class or above, and have at least a 60% attendance during the previous 6 month period. They assume office at the start of their term and serve a six-month term until the next patrol elections.

Nomination forms will be available at the last two troop meetings in January and July. They must be complete with all approvals by the beginning of the first troop meeting in February and August. Patrol elections will be held in the months of March and September. The scout in each patrol who has held the highest rank for the longest time will conduct the elections.

Each regular patrol will also have an Assistant Patrol Leader who is appointed by the Patrol Leader with approval of the Senior Patrol Leader and acceptance of the appointee's parent or guardian. The Assistant Patrol Leader will appoint the Patrol Scribe, Patrol Grubmaster, Patrol Quartermaster, Patrol Cheermaster, and Chief Cook. All appointments must be approved by the Patrol Leader and accepted by the appointee's parent or guardian.

Scouts in all elected and appointed patrol positions may serve only two consecutive terms in one position.

The new scout patrol will have the same positions as a regular patrol, but positions will rotate monthly in a sequence established by the Troop Guide during the second quarter of the year. There is no particular order to the rotation other than a scout will be an Assistant Patrol Leader the month prior to becoming the Patrol Leader. All scouts will have the opportunity to serve in each assignment for one month, preferably two, but not sequentially.

Troop Officers

To be nominated as a candidate for Senior Patrol Leader the scout must be at least 13 years of age and First Class in rank. He must have previously served as either an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader, and must have a minimum of 75% attendance during the previous 12 months. His nomination must be seconded by at least two scouts, approved by the Scoutmaster and agreed to by the parents or legal guardian.

Troop elections will be held at the third regularly scheduled troop meeting in the months of March and September. The Scoutmaster will conduct the elections. The six-month terms of office will begin April 1st and October 1st.

The troop will also have an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader who is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with approval of his parent or guardian and the approval of the Scoutmaster. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader will appoint the Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian and Chaplain's Aide. All appointments must be seconded by the Senior Patrol Leader, agreed to by the appointee's parent or guardian and approved by the Scoutmaster.

Scouts in all elected troop positions may serve only two consecutive terms in one position.

Scoutmaster Appointments

The Scoutmaster will appoint Instructors at the first meeting in April and October. The Scoutmaster will also appoint Den Chiefs as needed to serve the needs of the Packs and the scouts.

In January, the Scoutmaster announces the appointment of the new Troop Guide(s), who will serve a one-year term beginning March 1st and continuing through the end of February. He will spend the period between the announcement of his appointment and the actual beginning of his term (overlapping the term of the previous Guide) in training and development. Each Guide serves one class of new scouts. The Troop Guide must have previous experience either as a Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or an Instructor.

New Scout Patrol

New scout patrols are for scouts just joining the troop and who have not yet entered seventh grade. Although new scouts may join the troop earlier in the year, the new scout patrol is formed in March. Based upon the number of new scouts, it may later be divided into two or more patrols. Boys joining scouting who are in or beyond seventh grade may be assigned to a regular patrol or the new scout patrol based on discussions with the Scoutmaster.

New scout patrols stay together for one year and receive help from the Troop Guide, who works with their patrol leader(s). The new scout patrol operates pretty much like a regular patrol but a few things are done differently so scouts will have a chance to do all the jobs in a patrol while working on advancement toward First Class. Each member of the patrol has a job. The jobs are Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Grubmaster, Chief Cook and Cheerleader (optional). In the new scout patrol, these jobs are rotated monthly so everyone gets to learn all the jobs.

In the new scout patrol, the new scouts will have the opportunity to earn Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks during their first year. They can also go on fun trips, camping, and the highlight, Summer Camp. They need 10 activities outside of troop and patrol meetings to earn First Class. The ideal is for them to reach First Class in late February or early March.

At the end of their first year, the new scouts are ready to move into one of the established patrols. This takes place at the beginning of April, thus giving the boys a chance to meld with their new patrols before Summer Camp. A transition prior to April would cut their “new scout” year a little short and may reduce their chances of making First Class by the end of their first year. The transition into regular patrols begins with a review in January with parents of the new scouts and a reminder to the patrol leaders what will happen when the new boys come into their patrols. In February the boys in the new scout patrol fill out forms indicating what friends they would like to be with (new scouts or older scouts) when assigned to their new patrols – good friends are kept together as much as possible. At this time, the first year scouts may also start spending some time, such as during games, with the regular patrols. In March the scoutmaster decides on patrol assignments and informs the patrol leaders who the transferring scouts are, so that the patrol leaders can get to know the new boys and introduce them to the rest of the patrol. For the first 3 months after the transition, the ASM for New Scouts will continue to be a friend/mentor to them and check to see how they are doing.

Every Scout Has a Job

Every scout has a job. Some jobs are patrol jobs just for their patrol.

- Patrol Leader leads the patrol, organizes patrol meetings and represents the patrol on the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC).
- Assistant Patrol Leader assists the Patrol Leader and fills in when the Patrol Leader is absent
- Patrol Scribe keeps a log of the patrol meetings, keeps attendance, collects dues and turns in dues and a newsletter article about the monthly patrol activities to the Troop Scribe
- Patrol Quartermaster keeps track of patrol equipment and assigns clearing duties after trips
- Patrol Grubmaster is responsible for keeping food staples box (food that keeps from trip to trip, oatmeal, salt, etc) and purchasing the food
- Chief Cook is in charge of cooking meals and picking two assistants to help cook
- Cheerleader leads cheers and patrol skits

Equipment Needed

Boy Scout Handbook (Provided by Troop)

During the first year of scouting the only book that each scout must own is the most recent edition of The Boy Scout Handbook. It contains general information as well as requirement sign-off sheets that are used to officially record scout advancement. The scout will need to keep this book with him. Representatives from the Advancement Committee will record in the troop records advancement information by borrowing the book occasionally during a troop meeting. It is important that the scout not lose the book, as it is his copy of his advancement record.

Uniform(Provided by Scout)

The uniform helps a scout show who he is, what he stands for, his position in the troop, and what he has accomplished. It is a means of demonstrating that he is a part of the troop. However, we do not want the uniform to be a barrier to attendance or participation in troop activities. *We are sensitive to the cost and the challenges of keeping a uniform clean. If anyone wishes assistance in uniform matters, contact the Scoutmaster.*

Different events and activities lend themselves to different uniforms. We use two, the Field Uniform and the Activity Uniform. The Field Uniform is more formal and is used for special ceremonies and when in public. The Activity Uniform is more relaxed and is suitable for greater physical activity.

Boy Scout Field Uniform

1. Scout shirt — long or short sleeve tan shirt with green epaulets
2. Scout trousers — pants or shorts
3. Scout socks
4. Scout belt
5. Scout hat (optional)
6. Troop Neckerchief and BSA slide (Provided by Troop)
7. Insignias for scout shirt
 - Council Patch (left sleeve)
 - Troop ID — #29 (left sleeve provided by Troop)
 - Purple World Scouting Crest (left chest)
 - Patrol Medallion (right sleeve provided by Troop)

Boy Scout Activity Uniform

1. Any BSA t-shirt or Troop shirt (Troop t-shirts are available for purchase – optional)
2. Scout pants or shorts
3. Socks
4. Scout belt
5. Scout hat (optional)

Uniform Expectations

Uniform expectations differ for different events and activities. For special cases, we will deviate from this policy and we will announce these situations.

1. Standard Troop meetings —
 - Field Uniform from October through May -- Activity Uniform June through September.
2. Patrol Leaders Council — Activity Uniform
3. Scoutmaster's Conference — Field Uniform with neckerchief
4. Board of Review — Field Uniform with neckerchief
5. Court of Honor — Field Uniform with neckerchief
6. Travel — Uniform required, type to be announced, but typically the Field uniform
7. Service Projects —Field Uniform
8. **Exceptions:**
 - The Monday after campouts
 - In case of conflict with a team sport or other activity requiring a different uniform

Personal Items (Provided by Scout required for camping)

We do not wish to see the lack of camping gear become an impediment to permitting a scout from participating. Troop 29 provides all shared equipment for use by patrols including such gear as: tents, camp stoves, cooking gear.

Personal gear – gear used exclusively by an individual scout is not provided. We recognize that many folks may not have the expertise to select gear and the adult leaders are always available to assist scouts/parents in the decision making process

Equipment required is minimal but we urge you to consider carefully and discuss a potential purchase with an Assistant Scoutmaster instead of buying these items immediately. Scouts are urged to discuss with the Troop Guide.

1. Good sleeping bag (if any extra money, spend it here “0 Degree” or better suggested)
2. Foam pad for comfort and insulation
3. Plate and cup — heavy plastic best
4. Utensil kit: knife, fork and spoon – plastic are best.
5. Non-leaking water bottle preferred, or canteen
6. Small pocket knife (no sheath knives)
7. Hiking shoes or boots
8. Rain suit
9. Compass

Financing

Initial Fee (Due at Registration)

\$25.00 -- This amount covers:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Transfer or registration | 6. Neckerchief Slide |
| 2. Subscription to <i>Boys' Life</i> magazine | 7. Green Loops |
| 3. Insurance | 8. Scout Handbook |
| 4. New Scout program costs and awards | 9. First Year Scout Booklet |
| 5. Neckerchief | |

Dues

\$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year

1. For re-registration and program costs

The total amount due at Registration, if paid in full, is \$85.00 (initial fee + first year's dues). Please see the Troop New Member form for other payment options.

Monthly Campout or Activity Fee

Costs vary per activity planned and typically range from \$20-40. Only attending Scouts and adult leaders pay. The fee covers:

1. Food cost for weekend trips
2. Camp/Park fees for weekend trips

"Doing Business with Troop 29"

❖ **Troop Funding**

- Dues cover registration & insurance with Council, Boys Life Magazine, and awards that your Scout will earn.
- Camping event activity fees are designed to just cover costs (break-even).
- Fundraising enables equipment purchases and scout savings for activities.

❖ **Activity sheets & account charges must be signed by an adult (18 or older).**

- Activity sheet financially commits the Scout for the full cost of trip. Additional amounts will be billed prior to the due dates on the activity sheet.
- **Refunds are approved by the tour leader.** Any amounts that have not been spent may be refunded until the Monday Troop meeting the week of the trip. Summer Camp and High Adventure are not refundable unless a substitution can be made.

❖ **Methods of Payment**

- Preferred Method: by Check with Activity Sheet – Checks Payable to: BSA Troop 29

❖ **Some Scout families keep a credit balance in their Scout Accounts**

- Families may charge Activity Fees to their Scout Account - but should settle/pay that outstanding balance at the next weekly Troop meeting.

❖ **Each Scout and Adult Leader has a QuickBooks Scout Account**

- Invoices & Statements will be delivered via email.
- **Any "balance due" (positive amount) is due at the next Troop meeting.**
- A negative "balance due" represents a credit balance – nothing due.
- An "invoice" is a bill to be paid (unless it reflects a credit balance)
- A "statement" summarizes recent activity & should be considered a bill if there is a positive balance due.
- A "sales receipt" reflects payment for an activity; is informational and does not affect account balance
- **Please review statements and discuss any questions immediately**
- Terms are "Due in full in 7 days" - Balances due must be resolved with 30 days of billing, and may affect advancement.

❖ **Scout fundraising**

- Earnings credited to the Scout Account can be used for any activity
- **Scouts are encouraged to save earnings for High Adventure camping**
- Fundraising earnings are owned by the Troop & may not be withdrawn.

- ❖ **Spending Control:**
 - Tour Leader authorizes spending for outdoor activities. Grub and other expenses are generally incurred by scouts/adults and reimbursed afterward.
 - Fundraiser Chair controls fundraising expenditures.
 - Equipment purchases authorized by approval of Committee Chair.
- ❖ **Reimbursements should be requested as incurred at next Troop meeting**
 - Reimbursements can be credited to your Scout Account
 - All reimbursements due in 30 days; will not be reimbursed after 90 days.
 - **Submit reimbursements in full** – do not “net out” personal activity fees.
- ❖ **All checks require two signatures – All money handling should be counted by two people, sealed and initialed, prior to submitting to Treasurer.**
- ❖ **Chartering Organization:** Troop 29 is a part of Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, a 503(1)(b) charity.
 - Red Clay’s Tax ID is 51-0098188. Gifts should be tax deductible. Please check with the COR if you wish to make a special contribution designated for the Boy Scouts.
 - Consider applying for corporate gift matching and volunteer grants. Several firms will allow you to direct
- ❖ Email questions to finance@bsa-troop29.org
 - Jim Mariner - Finance Committee Chair
 - Bob Foreman – Treasurer

Summer Camp

The troop’s summer camp program is traditionally announced at the annual dinner on the first Saturday in February. At that time, current members of the troop are invited to pre-register by paying a small deposit, typically 25-40% of the total estimated cost. This reserves a space at summer camp. These deposits are usually due by late February or early March. Scouts currently registered with the troop may make a deposit and be placed on a waiting list for summer camp but they will be assigned slots on a space-available basis after any new scouts joining the troop have been provided available slots. Boy Scout policy lets us generally guarantee that all new scouts joining the troop in the spring will be assured of a spot for summer camp if they are able to make full payment, or make other arrangements through the scoutmaster, by late April or early May, when the payments are due into the Boy Scout camp.

Please note that the troop considers the deposits nonrefundable, because in most cases the deposits are paid directly to the Scout Councils, who have a nonrefundable policy.

For scouts on waiting lists, deposits may be refunded if the troop has not already had to prepay deposits and the slots have not been used by other scouts in other positions on the waiting list. The refund policy is simple. If the troop has not paid the money to a Council to hold a slot and the slot is not filled, the troop will refund the deposit. If the troop has had to pay the deposit out of pocket, and there is no replacement to cover that through another scout, the deposit cannot be refunded.

Fund Raising Projects

The troop raises money for its general program and equipment and also provides opportunities for the scouts to earn individual money to be placed in their scout savings accounts for use on High Adventure and to defer the cost of regular outings. It should be understood that the intent of the scout savings account is to help the scouts pay for major scouting events that may include fees such as airline tickets and other expenses over \$1,000. Currently the troop’s major fundraising event for troop operational support is a Pasta and Meatball Dinner, held in the early spring. The troop currently has significant fund raising needs and will be providing a number of opportunities for Scouts to add money to their savings accounts while at the same time helping raise money for troop equipment and supplies. Historically we have raised money through Boy Scout Popcorn Sales, Pancake Breakfasts, Wreath Sales, Poinsettia Sales, and others, as determined on an annual basis by the PLC and the finance committee.

Parents' Role in Scout Program

As scouts develop the skills necessary for functioning in a goal-oriented group and a sense of responsibility to fellow troop members, it is important that they have plenty of committed adult guidance and backing along the way. The more adult participation we have in troop activities, the better the workload can be distributed, thus ensuring success of the troop programs. This is particularly important for a troop that is growing as fast as Troop 29.

Parents are encouraged to assist in the function of the troop in some capacity during the time their scout (or scouts) is active in the troop. A parent's commitment depends on time available and interests in specific parts of the troop programs. Whatever the level of commitment, it shows support for scouting activities and helps distribute the adult workload into reasonable chunks. By participating in troop activities, parents also get a chance to share in the fun of scouting and build relationships both with scouts other than their own sons and with interested and interesting adults. Parent volunteers are particularly valuable in such areas as transportation and planning for special events, and in the fundraising which helps keep the cost of scouting within the reach of the average family budget.

How can you help? What are your special interests? A parent who volunteers for the Troop Committee may choose from several areas in which to assist the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Patrol Advisors and Scouting Coordinator:

- Camping; Access to Camping Property
- Contacts for Special Trips and Activities
- Storage of Equipment
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Transportation of Scouts and Equipment
- Troop Committee
- Committee Officers
- Troop Meetings; Boards of Review
- Program Planning
- Outdoor Activities
- Webelos Den Resource
- Publicity for Special Events
- Religious Award Programs
- Record-Keeping

There are several opportunities available through which parent volunteers could contribute important service to the Troop Committee of Troop 29. Positions that are often open and need to be filled are:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activity Coordination
- Fund Raising Coordinator
- Webelos Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Training Coordinator
- Merit Badge Coordinator
- Assistant Scoutmaster
- Scheduling Chair
- Staffing Chair
- Advancement
- Property and Equipment
- Membership
- Patrol Advisors

Please consider volunteering for one or more of the areas or positions mentioned in this article, and let the Troop Committee Chair know of your interests. You will be amply rewarded by the satisfaction you receive from knowing that you have contributed to the success of an organization which has a lasting impact on your son's development into a responsible, caring adult. Your own personal growth will be stimulated by the contacts you have with the scouts and the other adult leaders and helpers.

Participation Expectations of a Scout and His Parents in Troop 29 Activities

Part of the scout training is the development of the skills needed to function in a group and to meet the goals of the group. This requires team effort. Each scout will have a part to play in the troop activities; therefore, each scout is expected to develop a sense of responsibility to his fellow troop members, for the part that he will play in the troop's activities.

To assist the scout in developing these skills, the following guidelines are provided.

2. **Troop Meetings** — It is expected that all scouts will plan to attend each meeting. Occasional absence due to homework, illness, or required school events is understood, but chronic absenteeism is a concern. Seasonal sports conflicts or other causes of absence should be discussed with the Scoutmaster in advance.
3. **Communication** — The Troop Committee publishes a website <http://www.bsa-troop29.org> that should be read by both scouts and parents. The website has a public area, and a private area that is password-protected. Scouts and parents will receive a username & password to access restricted areas of the website. Credentials are good for one year.

Email has become the preferred means of communication for most of us. Troop 29 maintains email lists for the purpose of communicating important activity information. Parents are welcome to sign up to receive troop communications at multiple email destinations (i.e. Home, work, mobile). There is also a specific scout email list for scouts that have their own email address which the boys use to communicate among themselves. This is a monitored activity.

To sign up to for Troop 29 email updates send a message to t29parents-subscribe@rccpc.org from each account you wish to receive troop messages.

Unsubscribe works the same way. Send an email to: t29parents-unsubscribe@rccpc.org

Additional communication between Scouts and adult leaders is in the form of mailboxes (file folders) that are kept at the registration desk at each troop meeting.

The troop may also send letters and postcards from time to time. (becoming VERY rare)

4. **Special Events** — Scouts are expected to participate in the planning and preparation of special troop activities. The preparation for troop activities is an important part of a scout's training for these activities. A minimum level of participation may be set for some events. Written schedules for these programs will be supplied to the scouts. Failure to meet the above preparation meeting requirements may result in disqualification of the scout for the activity.
5. **Fund Raising** — Fund raising is necessary to keep the cost of scouting within reach of the average family budget. Both the parent and the scout are expected to participate (in some capacity) in the troop's efforts in making scouting more affordable.
6. **Parental Participation** — It is expected that the parents of the scouts will assist in the function of the troop in some capacity. If each parent can devote some time during the time that their scout is active in the troop, the adult individual workload for the troop's activities can be held to reasonable levels.

Activity Forms

Each event or activity in which a scout may elect to participate will be communicated via a series of Activity Sheets, and Scout Sign up sheets. Activity Sheets will briefly outline the details of a trip/activity and the related costs and logistics. Completed Sign up sheets are required from each Scout planning on attending an individual trip/activity.

Sample Activity Form:



Boy Scouts of America Troop 29 Activity Sheet

Activity Title: [Activity Title]
 Activity Location: [Activity Location]
 Activity Dates: [Activity Date]
 Cost per Person: [Activity Cost]
 Gathering/Returning Location: Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
 Gathering Date & Time: Friday, [Gathering Time]
 Returning Date & Time: Sunday, [Return Time]

Contacts	Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Tour Coordinator			
Adult Tour Leader			
Scout Program Leader			

Logistics & Registration Information

Program and Activity Information

Sample Activity Sheet – Scout



Boy Scouts of America Troop 29 Scout Activity Registration Form

Scout Name: _____

Activity Title: [Activity Title]
 Activity Location: [Activity Location]
 Activity Dates: [Date]
 Cost per Person: \$??/Scout
 Gathering/Returning Location: Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
 Gathering Date & Time: [Gathering Time/Date]
 Returning Date & Time: [Returning Time/Date]
 DEADLINE TO REGISTER: [Registration Deadline]

Be sure to read the Activity Sheet for program details, logistics information, and more.

Medical Information: TO BE SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN
 (check applicable boxes and provide information where requested)

There have been NO CHANGES in this Scout's medical facts, history or insurance since the last health forms submitted.
 There HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES in this Scout's health form information; I have noted those changes on this form.
 This Scout will need medications during this activity and I grant permission to the Tour Leader (or designee) to administer the medications as instructed on the Troop Medication Form which I will provide prior to departure.

I hereby grant permission, as the parent or guardian of this Scout, for him to (a) attend and participate in this troop activity; and (b) travel to / from the activity with the troop's volunteer parents or adult leaders. I also grant permission to these adult leaders to provide this Scout with the non-prescription medications which are checked on the list below as symptoms arise during the activity.

Non-prescription list: Tylenol Advil Motrin Aspirin
 (check all that apply) Pepto Bismol Tums Immodium A.D. Benadryl

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ **Print name:** _____

Travel Information:

Will this Scout be traveling with the group? (If "no", provide Special Arrangements Information below)
 From gathering point to Activity? Yes No Returning from Activity back to gathering point? Yes No

Special Departure Arrangements: (only complete this section if applicable)
 This Scout will not travel to the activity with the group — he will go directly to the activity as follows:
 Scout travel arrangements (include name of adult): _____
 Scout will arrive at the activity on (day) _____ at (time) _____

Special Return Arrangements:
 Scout will not travel back from the activity with the group — he will depart from the activity as follows:
 Scout travel arrangements (include name of adult): _____
 Scout will leave the activity on (day) _____ at (time) _____

As a parent or guardian I will volunteer to help transport Scouts to / from this activity; please contact me if needed.
 I have provided my contact information on this form where I can be reached while this activity is under way.

Parent / Guardian Contact Information: _____

Financial Direction: Please indicate preferred payment method for this trip below.

Check Attached Cash Provided Invoice Scout Billing Account Withdraw Scout Savings Parent Initials: _____

Troop 29 Goals

Advancement

- Scouts achieve First Class during first year in troop
- All Scouts average advancing 1 rank/year
- Merit Badge promotion
 - Promote / introduce 1 merit badge per month
 - Assure promotion of required merit badges in 3 year cycle
 - Introductory presentations at Troop meetings
- Balanced Program: Advancement / Challenge / Fun

Service

- Troop sponsors 6 Service projects per year for Community, Chartering Organization, etc. — All
- Scouts participate in at least 2 per year
- Examples: Emmanuel Dining Room, Exceptional Care for Children
- Promote Order of the Arrow
- Fundraising participation — Every Scout participate in at least 1 of the major Troop fundraisers

Activities

- At least 1 camping trip per month — at least two months per year by patrol
- Designate each Patrol to plan, execute and lead a monthly camping trip.
- Summer Camp — attend yearly
- Regional High Adventure —1 per year
- Rotate 1 National High Adventure per year:
 - Sea Base, Philmont, Northern Tier and Alaska when open to Troops

Membership

- Encourage active membership, PLC must seek excused absences from meetings
- Patrol Leaders / Advisors will follow-up on more than 1 week inactivity
- Support Cub Scout Packs with Camping for Webelos and more Den Chief Support

Training

- All PLC members will complete Troop Leadership Training within 60 days of becoming a member of the PLC.
- All uniformed leaders will be BSA Trained within their 90 days of registration.
- All Committee heads will be BSA Trained within their 30 days of registration.
- The opportunity for Scouts to attend Youth Leadership Training will be offered annually.
- Advanced training will be actively encouraged adult leaders.

Troop 29 Leadership: Key 3 Staff Biographies

Randall K. Spencer, Troop 29 Scoutmaster:

As the Scoutmaster of Troop 29, Randy's job begins with the BSA Mission Statement:

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

Using that guide, it is Randy's job to help boys grow into great men. He does this by offering responsibility, fun, adventure, values-based character education, and training in citizenship, service, and leadership to all of the scouts under his care.

Randy serves as the executive officer of the troop. He leads his staff in training. For over 100 years the Boy Scouts have been training young boys to become fine young gentlemen that we can all be proud of. Randy is responsible for the health, safety, and morale of the troop by his example, serves as a role model for others to follow.

Randy is 46 years old and has been married to his wife Karen for 20+ years. They have two sons, Brandon age 18 who is an Eagle Scout and an alumni of Troop 29, and Austin age 14 who is a Star Scout. Buster, an abandoned and rescued two year old Golden Retriever completes the family and Buster serves as the unofficial troop mascot.

Randy has been a Scoutmaster for over 8 years and he came to the role of Scoutmaster having served scouting in several capacities – as Troop Committee Chair, Membership Chair, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Assistant Cubmaster.

Mr. Spencer was a Cub Scout as a boy and earned the rank of Life Scout as member of Troop 70 in northern Delaware. He is committed to the values that Scouting instills as boys become young men.

Early in his 20s, Mr. Spencer served as Junior and Senior High School Youth Director at Christ Church Christiana Hundred. Over 200 kids were involved in the program. At the Bishop's request Mr. Spencer went onto serve as the Executive Director for Youth Programs for the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. He was responsible for implementing training for church youth director's state wide along with organizing and executing youth events throughout the diocese.

By trade Mr. Spencer is a Certified Executive Chef earning both a B.S. Degree in Hotel/Restaurant Management from Widener University and an A.S. degree in Culinary Arts from the Philadelphia Restaurant School. Currently, Mr. Spencer serves as the Vice President of Sales for Baltimore-based Phillips Foods.

Wendy Owen, Troop 29 Committee Chair:

As the Troop Committee Chair, Wendy guides activity-planning and adult-staffing toward serving the Aims of Scouting – character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. She ensures that the Committee executes the “background business” of the troop to enable troop programs. Key roles of the Committee include activity planning/coordination, troop finances, equipment purchases and maintenance, and volunteer recruiting/training. Wendy is also active at the Powder Mill District level and currently serves as the Area 1 Activities Director.

Wendy has extensive Scout experience with both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts. She served as Den Leader for Pack 230 during the five years of her son's Cub Scout experience and has worked with the Girl Scouts in many capacities.

She currently is the Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble in Newark, a position she assumed after retiring from a corporate communications position in 2008. In addition to working with Troop 29, Wendy also volunteers with the Good Samaritan Shelter, WXPB Radio, Penn State's Campaign for the Future of the University, Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, and the Tatnall School's Marketing and Development Committee. A graduate of Penn State, Wendy was named an Alumni Fellow in 2004.

Her favorite “job” however is being Mom to her son Christopher and wife to her husband Jon. The three of them live in Greenville, DE with their cat Mrs. Pickles, who secretly runs the house when the three humans living there aren’t paying attention.

John McNamara, Troop 29 Chartered Organizational Representative:

The chartered organization representative is the liaison with the unit's sponsor. In the case of Troop 29, John represents Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church. John is a member of Red Clay and as such he knows the most effective ways to get the organization's assistance and maintain a mutually satisfactory working relationship with the chartered organization.

John’s specific duties include identifying the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. He also represents RCCPC to the Boy Scout Council as a voting charter organization member and is the Powder Mill District’s Nominating Committee Chair.

John reluctantly acknowledges that he is 50 years old chronologically but likes to think he can keep up with teenage scouts despite this handicap. The jury’s out...

Married to his high school sweetheart for over 24 years John and his wife Leslie have one son, Luke age 17, who is currently a Life Scout in the troop and working on his Eagle project which he will hopefully complete this spring. And, because John’s wife Leslie thinks that roughing it might mean having to make do without room service John maintains his position as an Assistant Scoutmaster so he can get out camping!

John came to Troop 29 having been an Assistant Scoutmaster at Troop 959 for 3 years prior to which he was the Cubmaster of The Tatnall School’s Pack 230 for 4 years. While he may initially have been drafted into his leadership role in scouting he has grown in his appreciation and regard for the BSA and the Scouting program. And, although his wife may occasionally lament at being left a “scout widow” she will readily agree that scouting has made a positive difference in the lives of their family through the friends they have met, the places they have visited, and the influence the program has had on them all.

John is retired and when he isn’t Scouting he divides his time between Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church where he is an Elder and The Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, a local nonprofit devoted to preserving historic steam power, Mr. McNamara sits on their board of directors but prefers sitting on their 1/8 size steam locomotive pretending to be a “real” engineer.

BSA Troop 29
www.bsa-troop29.org

Receive email: **t29parents-subscribe@rccpc.org**

**DelMarVa Council
Powder Mill District
Red Clay Creek
Presbyterian Church
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