

Boy Scout Troop 313



Parent Guide

Cradle of Liberty Council





All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

--Aristotle

*"Scouting is a game with a purpose"
Lord Baden-Powell*

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I -- To build character
- Aim II --To foster citizenship
- Aim III -- To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement they represent the long term outcomes we want for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Law

**A Scout is:
Trustworthy
Loyal
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent**

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.**

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men, who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

- James Lovell Eagle Scout
Commander of Apollo 13
- Justice Anton Scalia Eagle Scout
Supreme Court Justice
- President John F. Kennedy Boy Scout

- Neil A. Armstrong Eagle Scout
The first person to set foot on the moon.
- President Gerald Ford Eagle Scout
- J. Willard Marriott, Jr. Eagle Scout
President of Marriott Corporation
- William C. Devries, M.D. Eagle Scout
Transplanted First Artificial Heart
- Sam M. Walton Eagle Scout
Chairman / CEO, Wal-Mart
- Barber B. Conable, Jr. Eagle Scout
President, World

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with; Boy Scouting is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their resumes and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches Citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read the introduction of your son's Boy Scout Handbook with him.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 313 is a participating member of the Cradle of Liberty Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 313 is the Lions Club. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee Functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership and Troop coordination and advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets regularly. The meetings are informal but open to all concerned parents and other interested adults.

Troop 313 Meetings

Troop 313 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Thursday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. Troop 313 will meet at Green Tree Church in Oaks.

Adult Leadership

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age are required for all Troop 313 meetings, trips or outings

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of patrols. Each Patrol consists of a Patrol Leader and no more than 10 Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or Leaders. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader are held in twice each year.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 313 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges; Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks -- and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout Learns
- The Boy Scout is *tested*.
- The Boy Scout is *reviewed*.
- The Boy Scout is *recognized*

Advancement through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself.

The goal of this Troop is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences. Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. The Council chooses people to council Merit Badges on superior expertise in a given subject. This gives the Scouts a chance to speak to an expert in a field they find interesting. Many adults today have found their careers while earning a particular Merit Badge. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's Court of Honor.

Boards of review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement. It is important that the scout is in full uniform at the time of his review or he will be asked to reschedule it.

Courts of Honor

Troop 313 will conduct a Court of Honor regularly. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Troop Courts of Honor. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Annual Dues:

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual non-refundable dues of \$130.00 (the equivalent of only \$10.84 Dollars per month) are due by no later than the last week-day of September of each scouting year. If a scout and/or his parent(s) have a financial hardship with regard to the annual dues, the parent and/or scout should discuss the financial hardship directly and confidentially with the Scout Master at least one week prior to the last week-day of September. The Scout Master shall consult with the Troop Committee with regard to the approval of any financial hardships experienced by the scout and/or the scout's family. Any information provided by the Scout Master to the Committee related to financial hardships experienced by a scout and/or his family and the identity of the scout shall be confidential.

Fees for Outings / Activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, the parents will be notified. We like to keep our camping weekend total to about \$25.00 a person. The costs of the week long summer camp, including transportation are approximately \$450.00 (Dollars) per scout.

Troop Fundraising and Scout Activity Accounts

To promote the three aims of scouting, growth of moral strength and character, citizenship, and development of physical, mental and emotional fitness, Troop 313 encourages each scout to participate in fund raising projects through-out the year. Although all proceeds raised during Troop 313 fund raising activities are the property of Troop 313, each scout will be permitted to maintain a maximum of \$500.00 from the proceeds raised by the Scout during the fund raising activities in the Scout's Activity Account to offset the fees for camping and summer camp. Any residual and/or unused amounts remaining in the scout's activity account at the end of the scouting year, shall revert back to Troop 313's General Account. During the Scouting year, siblings shall be permitted to transfer and/or exchange proceeds in the siblings' Scout Activity Accounts. Written permission from the Scout's parent is required to transfer and/or exchange proceeds between the siblings' Scout Activity Accounts.

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself can not make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

Field or "Class A" Uniform

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches.
- Troop number
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Boy Scout Hat (Optional).
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Sensible shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- A neckerchief is part of the scout's uniform and is encouraged.

Activity or "Class B" Uniform (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).

- Scout Appropriate shirt
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Sensible Shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement.

Our Local Scout Shop is located at:

Valley Forge Scout Shop
1485 Valley Forge Rd.
Wayne PA, 19087

My Contact Information

Scoutmaster.....David Cimini
Home Phone.....610-666-0977
Cell Number.....610-506-3669
Text.....610-506-3669
E mail.....dceminitroop313@gmail.com

BSA Policy on Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Use

The dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drug use are well known. In making Scouting a suitable environment for young people, adults and adult leaders have the duty to keep these substances out of their troops. Adults can be especially effective as role models by setting healthy examples in their attitudes toward tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcohol beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and *may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.*

All Scouting functions, meetings and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

SCOUTS WITH PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Prescription medication is the responsibility of the Scout taking the medication and/or his parent or guardian. A Scout leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but BSA policy does not mandate nor necessarily encourage the Scout leader to do so.

