



PARENT'S HANDBOOK BOY SCOUT TROOP 902

**Cornerstone United Methodist Church
Bear, Delaware 19701**

TROOP 902 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Boy Scout Troop 902 of Bear, Delaware is to help young men to fulfill their duty to God and country and to obey the Scout law.

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.*

Purpose of Scouting

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is, his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

The second aim is *participating citizenship*. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.

The third aim is *development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness*. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

To accomplish these aims, Boy Scouting has developed its program using eight methods.

1. **IDEALS.** The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.
2. **PATROLS.** The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it.
3. **OUTDOORS.** Boy 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.
4. **ADVANCEMENT.** Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.
5. **ADULT ASSOCIATION.** Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.
6. **PERSONAL GROWTH.** As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method.
7. **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.** Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared leadership and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.
8. **UNIFORM.** The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

Leadership of the Troop

The Troop has three levels of leadership:

The first level of leadership comes from the Chartered Organization (Cornerstone United Methodist Church) sponsoring the Troop. The Elders of the church, the Pastor and the Chartered Organization Representative, along with the BSA Council's unit commissioner, ensures that a good wholesome program is be provided to all members of the organization, regardless of age, religious denomination and ability to learn the skills in Boy Scouts to advance in Rank.

The second level is the Troop Committee. It is comprised of the Committee Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and other members to handle the business of the Troop and ensure that a program has been approved and is being administered by the Scoutmaster.

The third level involves initiating the Troop program. The Troop Scoutmaster, Assistants and Senior Patrol Leaders set the standard for the youth. These folks handle the weekly Scout meetings and camping trips. They get their direction from the Scout Committee.

Parents of New and Prospective Scouts

We have prepared this booklet to help you and your Scout enjoy the benefits of being in Boy Scouts. We hope that this booklet will answer some of your questions about Troop 902 and Boy Scouting.

When does Troop 902 meet?

The Troop meets every Thursday evening at Cornerstone United Methodist Church in the Recreation Room from 7 PM – 8:30 PM from September thru June. During the summer months the troop will continue to meet, but on a limited basis.

How long has Troop 902 been chartered?

Troop 902 was established in 1993 and has produced 19 Eagle Scouts. The troop provides a positive scouting experience for young men in our community.

How often does the Troop campout?

The troop schedules some type of camping trip, hike or outdoor event every month throughout the scouting year except in the summer, when the troop attends a BSA Camp for our annual week long summer camp. There are special camping activities, such as, horseback riding, skiing in the Pocono's, our annual Pancake Breakfast in February for the church, as well as other activities for the scouts to enjoy.

How can your Scout help to pay for scouting expenses?

Troop 902 will have a few fundraisers to help the scouts defray some of the scouting costs. Monies earned by the scouts through fundraisers will be placed in an individual account for each scout. Monies in the scout's individual account can be used to pay for various scout activities or reimbursement of scout related items.

Where can I purchase a Scout uniform and Scout supplies?

Scout uniforms and supplies can be purchased from Delmarva Council located at the Wilmington Scout Shop at 912 Justison Street Wilmington, DE 19801 (next to Frawley Stadium). A Class "A" scout uniform consists of BSA pants, BSA shirt, neckerchief and slide (supplied by the Troop), BSA belt, and BSA socks.

Troop 902 also has a Trading Post where the scouts can exchange items. The items in the Trading Post are used items from various donations and exchanges.

An excellent place to purchase camping equipment or camping supplies is Wal-Mart. Their selection and pricing is very reasonable for sleeping bags and other camping gear. Any questions on what supplies are needed; feel free to contact your Scoutmaster.

What is the cost to join Troop 902?

Troop 902 charges each scout a yearly fee of \$100, payable by November 1st. This fee goes to help run the troop expenses for equipment, awards, ceremonies, gas, etc. This yearly dues can be paid from the scout's individual account, by check or by cash. Failure to pay dues by November 1st may result in loss of scouting privileges until dues are paid.

Troop 902 will not decline any scout due to hardship or financial cases. These cases should be discussed with the Chartered Organization Representative.

Is there a cost for campouts and activities?

Each month Troop 902 participates in some sort of scouting activity. The fees for these outings can range from \$35 to \$90. Most campouts will fall in the \$35 range, but campouts like the Ski Trip and Whitewater Rafting Trip usually run around \$90. These activity fees may be paid in cash, check or by the Scout's Account. Monies are due for all activities by the specified due date. Failure to pay fees by the due date may result in loss of scouting privileges.

Does Troop 902 have a Website?

Troop 902 Website contains a lot of important links and contact information. You can access the Website at <http://detroop902.org>. We also have a Facebook Page at BSA Troop 902 which will have up to the minute changes and announcements.

What can your Scout expect from the scouting experience?

Your son can expect to have fun with old and new friends. He can expect to travel to new places for adventure, camping and hiking. He will learn new skills, such as reading a map and using a compass. He will receive recognition for his accomplishments by earning Merit Badges which shows off his newly obtained skills achieved during his time in scouting.

As parents, you can expect your scout to develop in character through precept and example. He will enhance his physical, mental, and moral development and acquire leadership skills through experience. Most of all, your son will become an aware, participating citizen to his community.

The scout's success depends on the success of the Troop. If the troop is strong and active, he will have a better chance of realizing these expectations and receiving a worthwhile experience in scouting which may follow him up the scout trail to reach the highest of the achievable rank... the Eagle Scout.

What can I do as a parent to show support for the troop and the scouting program?

The most important way you can help is to support your son's and fellow scout's activities by participating in those scout events to which the families have been invited. This helps the troop and shows your son that you support him and hope that he enjoys scouting. Keep aware of the activities on the Monthly Troop calendar. Help out with transportation, special events and encourage participation in the weekly troop meetings, weekend outings and service projects. Don't forget Summer Camp – this is where the Scout earns most of his Merit Badges.

How does my Scout advance? And what are Merit Badges?

A Scout advances in Rank through motivation and learning of new skills necessary for a rewarding scout experience. The trail to Eagle Scout is not easy, here is the trail:

Advancement:

He starts off as a Scout, earns Tenderfoot, onward to Second Class, then to First Class and the beginning to developing those leadership skills which he will use throughout the rest of his life. Now the trail gets much harder, Star Scout and a higher level of leadership experience is taught, Life Scout – performing a service project, working with your peers guiding and leading them in a project for the community. Finally – the Eagle Scout Badge – performing a full blown Service Project led by you, getting your troop involved to complete a community project – your leadership skills becoming more apparent.

Merit Badges:

The scout has over 120 Merit Badges that can be earned. He is required to complete 21 Badges in order to become an Eagle Scout. Certain badges must be earned at summer camp, such as participation in the aquatic events. Swimming Merit Badge must be earned before the Scout can use a boat, go water-skiing and swim on his own. His scout leaders will assist him earning the badges needed for rank advancement.

Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review:

When a scout has completed all the requirements to advance to the next rank, he must participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. During this conference the scout is asked many questions by the Scoutmaster and/or Assistant Scoutmasters to assure that he has learned all the necessary requirements to advance. Once the scout passes his Scoutmaster Conference, he must participate in a Board of Review. The Board consists of Committee Members and/or Church Representatives which will ask questions about the Scout's experiences, attitudes, and relationship with Scouting and the troop.

Troop Committee Organization and Responsibilities

The troop committee is the troop's board of directors and supports the troop program. But you ask, "What does the troop committee do?" The troop committee does the following:

- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained. In case the Scoutmaster is absent, a qualified assistant Scoutmaster is assigned. If the Scoutmaster is unable to serve, a replacement is recruited.
- Provides adequate meeting facilities.
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization.
- Supports leaders in carrying out the program.
- Is responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan.
- Obtains, maintains, and properly cares for troop property.
- Ensures the troop has an outdoor program (minimum 10 days and nights per year).
- Serves on boards of review and courts of honor.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in working with individual boys and problems that may affect the overall troop program.
- Provides for the special needs and assistance some boys may require.
- Helps with the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with handling boy behavioral problems.

Committee Chairperson ensures that the Troop committee members meet on a regular basis to discuss the health and welfare of the program and handles the administrative tasks of the troop. He/She is responsible to recruit other members of various positions within the committee. It is also significant that he/she maintain a close relationship with the Charter Organization Representative and the Scoutmaster.

Secretary records the minutes of each monthly committee meeting and publishes them for the Scout families. He/she also report the minutes of the previous meeting at each meeting.

Treasurer keeps accurate records of the Troop's cash flow and establishes individual Scout accounts. He/She is responsible for the safe guard of the entire Troop's money. He/she signs all checks for Troop purchases that have been approved by the committee. He/She provides a report of the Troop's finances at each committee meeting.

Chaplain provides a spiritual tone for Troop meetings and activities. He/She promotes regular participation of each member in their spiritual journey and encourages them to earn their appropriate religious emblems.

Advancement Coordinator plays a significant role in encouraging the Scout's to advance in rank. He/She keeps track of each Scout's progress in Rank and Merit Badge Advancement. He/She also ensures that accurate records are kept and leadership and camping events are properly entered in each Scout's records. He/She will assist the Committee chairperson with the information needed

during the Troop's yearly re-chartering process. He/She is responsible for scheduling the Court-of-Honor ceremonies as needed throughout the year to award the Scouts their Rank advancements and Merit Badges and other awards earned.

Transportation Coordinator works with the Scoutmaster to ensure that there is enough transportation for Camp-outs, field trips and others events as scheduled. He/She is responsible for driver insurance information and picture of drivers' license. These will be kept on record and available to the camping chairperson.

Camping Coordinator works with the Scoutmaster with a committee approved program to arrange reservations and confirmation of camp sites. He/She is responsible for obtaining and filing Individual Scout Medical Forms, adult driver insurance information, filing Tour Permits to BSA council two weeks prior to each scouting event and have completed permission slips available to the Scoutmaster for each scouting event. This individual must work with coordinating activities with the transportation chairperson.

Activities Coordinator plans and coordinates special activities such as our Annual Pancake Breakfast for the church members, fundraising activities and assists in the Court-of-Honor events.

Membership/Recruitment Coordinator is responsible for planning, initiating and the continuation of activities that support expansion of the Boy base of the Troop. He/She is responsible for recruitment from the various Cub Scout Packs in the area and act as a welcoming committee for new members of the Troop. It is important that he/she work closely with the Cubmaster and Webelos den leader to provide a smooth transition from pack to troop. Other activities would include meeting with the other youth programs of the church to provide information of the Boy Scouts of America program, serve as greeter at events and assist with hospitality.

Church Member at Large will not have any youth in the Troop. He/She will serve on the Troop Committee as a representative of the church and are responsible to attend Troop Committee meetings. His/Her service will be to support the functions of the Covenant. He/She may also work with the Chaplain on the God and Country program.

Fund Raising Coordinator assists in raising funds necessary for the Troop's activities.

Equipment Coordinator is responsible for all the equipment and the trailer. He/She keeps an accurate record of all the equipment, assists in the repair of damaged items and reports to the committee on a monthly basis the need to purchase replacement or new equipment as deemed necessary by the Scoutmaster. All new equipment must be approved by the committee prior to purchasing.

Scoutmaster is responsible for implementing a program geared to the Scouts needs and desires as determined by the Troop Committee. He/She will submit a yearly program, based on the determined needs and desires of the Troop, for approval by the Committee and the Chartered Organization Representative. Also submitted is a yearly budget of items needed and money necessary to purchase them, which must be approved by the committee and the Chartered Organization Representative. The Scoutmaster is responsible for the health and welfare of the Troop, and works with his assistant Scoutmasters to provide leadership and guidance for the Troop.

NOTE: All Troop Committee and Scoutmaster Positions in BSA Troop 902 must be approved through the following process: The Church Elders will interview and select the Charter Organization Representative, the Scout Troop Committee Chairperson and the Scoutmaster. Qualifications of potential members for the Troop Committee will be considered and acted on by the Committee Chairperson and the Charter Organization Representative. It is then the responsibility of the Committee Chairperson and Charter Organization Representative to select the Troop Committee with final blessings from the Church Elders.

Scout Parent's Challenge

The Scouts and Troop Committee of BSA Troop 902 encourage your support with Scout functions and the camping program. We welcome your participation.

To provide our scouts with a safe, educational and ecologically courteous environment on scout camping functions, the Troop Committee has adopted these rules for adult leaders, parents and guests who may attend any of the Scout functions offered. These rules are in compliance with the regulations handed down by the Delmarva Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The members of the committee request that all leaders or parents who have questions about or who are offended by any regulation to please contact a committee member for a responsible explanation.

The Scoutmaster or assigned leader is responsible for all members and guests at Scout function and he is in charge until the function ends or a Scout is released to his parents.

The following rules must be adhered to:

1. Abusive or foul language, cursing, coarse jokes or sexual innuendoes will not be tolerated at any time. This includes adult or pornographic material.
2. No alcohol, illegal substances or intoxicated individuals will be permitted at any Scout function.
3. Tobacco use of any kind is not permitted within sight of any Scout. This must include while at the Scout function, in or around the camp site, or while transporting the scouts to and from the scout function. We must set a good example for the Scouts and its BSA policy. No smoking near the Scouts at any time – No exceptions.
4. Only registered scout leaders will participate in discipline of any Scout at all times. This is where two deep leadership is needed – no single adult/leader is permitted with a Scout. Physical contact discipline is prohibited. Only under extreme measures when restraint is required can physical contact be applied.
5. Please be part of the Scout team. Parents and guests are urged to participate in all the scout's activities for the full enjoyment of everyone involved. It can be a lot of fun and rewarding to both the parent and his scout.
6. Adults are not allowed to be in a 1 on 1 association with another scout not his own. And must be in sight of another Scout leader or adult at all times.
7. Any adult who wishes to attend troop camping trips must notify the Scoutmaster and have any camping fees paid to the Treasurer prior to the departure date.
8. BSA Troop 902 is a full functioning camping troop with all the necessary camping equipment needed for a great camping experience. Please bring only equipment as described under the "personal equipment" section of the Scout Handbook unless otherwise requested by the Scoutmaster. Please do not bring along family camping equipment (Examples: Stoves, Axes, Lanterns, liquid fuels, hunting equipment is prohibited.)

9. Adults are not permitted to stay in a tent with any Boy Scout on Scout camping trips. Tents for adults and leaders are provided. The parent of a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout may stay in the tent with their child when members of Troop 902 invite them to the Troop campouts.
10. While it is understood that an adult's freedom and rights are his/her own, it must also be understood that Scouters in Troop 902 are doing their best through these regulations to promote a quality scouting environment for all scouts.
11. We invite you to participate in the challenge of providing our scouts with an exciting, quality program. If you possess a special talent, hobby or profession that will add value to the Scout program and to the educational experiences we try to provide to the scouts, please let us know. Thank you for your interest and participation in our Scouting program.

BSA Troop 902

Policy on reimbursement of funds used for Scout purposes

1. All monies in the checking account of BSA Troop 902 are the property of Troop 902.
2. Monies and points earned by the individual Scouts may be used to pay for Scout functions, Summer Camps, special events and Scout related supplies and clothing.
3. Scouts will be reimbursed for Scout related supplies and clothing only when proper receipts are hand delivered to the treasurer. Under no circumstances will monies be reimbursed for non-scout related items or events or spending money.
4. Monies and points earned by an individual Scout are not transferable to other Scouts in the Troop.
5. If the Scout transfers to another Troop, a check for the balance remaining in his personal account will be sent to the new Troop only after a signed letter from that Troop's Treasurer is delivered to the Committee. This transaction must be approved by the committee members at the next scheduled Committee Meeting.
6. Persons using their personal vehicle to pull the BSA Troop 902 trailer to and from scouting events will be reimbursed gasoline and oil expenses when proper receipts are hand delivered to the treasurer at the next committee meeting. The Troop will authorize the use of Scout funds to pay for emergency repairs to vehicles towing the trailer up to a limit of \$100.00 in order to get them safely back to the church.
7. All checks will be written and signed by authorized stewards at regular committee meeting after review and approval by the committee members present. No checks will be written at any other time, except prior to scout functions for the sole purpose of securing food and camping site.
8. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate records of the Troop funds and disbursements. Conformance to this policy will make the position of Treasurer easier to manage.