

Troop 52



Sponsored by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

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"A boy on joining wants to begin Scouting right away."
Sir Robert Baden-Powell

ABOUT TROOP 52

History

The rich history of the Campers has its roots in a friendly, same-town rivalry. Troop 52 earned the nickname "The Campers" while Troop 24, of Doylestown Presbyterian Church, grew into "The Pioneers".

Troop 52 was coined The Campers by merit of her camping-oriented program. The troop focused on camping-related merit badges and scheduled many hikes for her members. Also, long before the BSA earnestly encouraged monthly camping, Troop 52 had the strongest and most active camping schedule in the Lenape District. Thus, 52 became The Campers, due to her frequency of camping.

The troop maintains this same, lively policy today. The nickname "Campers" is quite well-earned, and so is "The Eagles' Nest." In our 50+ year history, we have elevated over 100 scouts to the Eagle rank.

TROOP INFORMATION AND WEBSITE

For up to date information on Troop events, activities and announcements please check **<http://www.troop52campers.com>**.

If you have any questions, in addition to asking questions of any troop leader you can also contact us at **messages@troop52campers.com** or **scoutmaster@troop52campers.com**.

THE TROOP 52 BOYSCOUT PROGRAM

"Training boy leaders to run their troop is the Scoutmaster's most important job."

"Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it."

"Never do anything a boy can do."

—Robert S. S. Baden-Powell

Mission Statement

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

What does it mean when we say "a boy-led troop"?

The BSA's definition is that "empowering boys to be leaders" is the core of Scouting. A Boy Scout troop is a small democracy. With the Scoutmaster's direction, the boys are formed into patrols, plan the troop's program, and make it a reality.

Advancements and Path to Eagle

Ranks of Boy Scouting

SCOUT

TENDERFOOT

SECOND CLASS

FIRST CLASS

STAR

LIFE

EAGLE

Scouts participate in the **Pathways Program** to earn requirements through the rank of First Class.

Pathways meet before troop meetings from 7:30-8:00pm with the Troop Guide.

Although Merit Badges can be earned at anytime during your scouting career, Scouts in the Pathways Program will work on Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements during the half-hour before the troop meeting.

Earning Merit Badges

- There are 4 Merit Badge "semesters" per year. Four to five merit badges are offered, based on scout interest, from 7:30pm until 8:00pm prior to troop meetings. Weekly emails are sent out with the schedule for the semester. The schedule is also available at each meeting.
- Scouts of any rank can earn Merit Badges at Summer Camp and Camporees.
- Scouts who have achieved First Class or have Scoutmaster's permission are encouraged to participate in the merit badge sessions each week.
- Prior to beginning a Merit badge, scouts must fill out the application section of the Merit badge card and have the Scoutmaster sign it.
- Scouts should come to the meeting prepared to discuss the merit badge/ provide proof of completion of requirements. (meritbadge.org is the best resource.)
- Troop 52 has many merit badge counselors and can accommodate all Eagle required merit badges, as well as many non-Eagle required ones. If there is not a merit badge counselor for the particular badge you want, contact the Scout office and you will be given names of counselors who offer that badge in the area.
- You choose to purchase the merit badge book from the Boy Scout store in Doylestown. Troop 52 also has an extensive Merit Badge books kept with the Troop Librarian.
- Only a registered Merit Badge Counselor can sign off for completion.
- Once the Merit Badge is completed, get signatures from merit badge counselor and from the Scoutmaster and then give the completed card to an advancement coordinator to be put into the TroopMaster software that the troop uses to keep track of each Boy Scout's advancement
- The scout's portion of the completed card should be put in a safe place for his record keeping purposes. This is your proof that you have completed the merit badge. A plastic trading card sleeve is an excellent way to keep your completed merit badge cards organized

Boy Scout Handbooks

- Scouts should have their Handbooks with them at all scouting events, unless otherwise stated by the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.
- Scoutmasters and Scouts who are Life rank or higher can sign-off on requirements in a Scout's handbook.
- If a Scout is signing a handbook, he must have been present at the outing that the requirement was completed (handbooks should be at every event) Initials and dates must be clearly noted in the proper space in the handbook.
- Any time a requirements has been met, please check in with an Advancement coordinator so the information on TroopMaster can be kept up to date.
- It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure his book matches the records on file with the Troop.

Rank Advancement

- When a Scout completes all requirements for a rank, he is to email the Scoutmaster for his Scoutmaster Conference at Scoutmaster@troopp52campers.com with the preferred date to meet during troop meeting or campouts.
- Eagle Scoutmaster Conferences will be scheduled on dates other than troop meetings or campouts.
- Once this is complete the Scoutmaster will let Advancement know that the Scout is ready for his final step of the Board of Review

Scoutmaster Conference

A Scout upon completing all the requirements for a rank (except for the Board of Review), he must then request a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of the Scoutmaster Conference is to develop, over a period of time, an increasing level of understanding and trust between the Scoutmaster and each Scout. The format of the conference is relatively casual and should allow for the following:

- Both the Scoutmaster and the Scout should try to learn a little more about each other at each successive conference. This is where the understanding and trust are developed.
- Obtaining a signature for the different rank requirements means that the work has been done satisfactory as outlined in the handbook or MB pamphlet.
- Together, the Scout and Scoutmaster chart a course for the next rank. This is a time for goal setting and planning. They work as a team, trying to set reasonable goals for the Scout's future progress.
- Upon successful completion of the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout is ready to request his Board of Review from the Troop Advancement Chair.

Board of Review

References: BSA Troop Committee Guidebook and Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures.

The National Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America establishes the basics for *advancement as: 'The Boy Scout requirements for ranks shall be the basis for the Scout's advancement. There shall be four steps in (the) Boy Scout advancement procedure: learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition.'* The Board of Review fulfills the reviewing requirement.

- A Board of Review is composed of at least three and not more than six committee members. Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, relatives or guardians may not participate in the Board of Review.
- The Board of Review is not a time to retest the Scout, but to determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting ideals. The board should make sure that a good standard of performance has been met.
- Not only is it important to review those Scouts who have learned and been tested for a rank, but also to review those Scouts who have shown little or no progress in their advancement over the past few months.
- The Scout must present himself in full Class A uniform with current rank patch and patch showing his Current Position of Responsibility.

The Board of Review has three purposes:

- To make sure that the work has been learned and completed.
- To find out what kind of experience the boy is having in his patrol and troop.
- To encourage the Scout to progress further.

Conduct of a Board of Review

The Advancement Chairperson will normally chair all Boards of Review. A certain amount of formality and meaningful questioning should be used during the review. The members should review the Scout's Handbook before the Scout is presented. After the Board has asked their questions, the Scout should be excused to permit deliberation. Advancement can be denied by the board: if the work has not been learned or completed; or, it is determined that the Scout has the wrong attitude or does not accept the ideals of Scouting. The Scout is then recalled by the Chair and the decision of the Board is given to him. (If the decision is going to be negative, discuss it with the Scoutmaster before speaking to the Scout).

Generally, questions asked require a narrative answer. Examples of questions are:

- Why is being a Boy Scout important to you?
- What do you like most in troop outdoor activities?
- What new things did you do/learn on your latest camp out/service project/troop meeting?
- What did you learn/feel in giving service to others? (Service projects should help foster a sense of personal responsibility and citizenship, applies to 2nd Class, Star & Life).
- What are your goals in Scouting?
- How did/does learning help you--- in Scouting/School/Home/be a better person etc.(use any requirement for this rank, or any previous rank, from the requirements in the Scout Handbook (state details of requirement not the requirement number)
- If you could make any changes to improve the Troop, what would you suggest/try? (This question is always asked in some form and feedback is provided to Scoutmaster & Committee Chair.)
- Any other question(s) that a Board Member feels meet the three main purposes of the review!

Troop Leadership Positions

SENIOR PATROL LEADER

Position description: The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Scouts to represent them as the top youth leader in the troop for a 6-month term.

Reports to: The Scoutmaster

Senior patrol leader duties:

- Runs all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference.
- Runs the patrol leaders' council (PLC) meeting.
- Appoints other troop youth leaders with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster.
- Assigns duties and responsibilities to youth leaders.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with youth leadership training.
- Follows up with youth leaders to ensure duties and responsibilities are completed in a timely fashion.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

ASSISTANT SENIOR PATROL LEADER

Position description: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is the second highest-ranking youth leader in the troop. He is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader acts as the Senior Patrol Leader in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader or when called upon. He also provides leadership to other youth leaders in the troop.

Reports to: The Senior Patrol Leader

Assistant senior patrol leader duties:

- Helps the Senior Patrol Leader lead meetings and activities.
- Runs the troop in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader.
- Helps train and supervise the troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Instructor, Librarian, Historian, and Chaplain's Aide.
- Serves as a member of the patrol leaders' council.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.
- Lends a hand controlling the patrol and building patrol spirit.
- Wears the uniform correctly.

PATROL LEADER

Position description: The patrol leader is the elected leader of his patrol. He is elected by scouts in his patrol. He represents his patrol on the patrol leaders' council.

Reports to: The Senior Patrol Leader

Patrol leader duties:

- Appoints the Assistant Patrol Leader.
- Represents his patrol on the patrol leaders' council and annual program planning conference.
- Plans and leads patrol meetings and activities..
- Keeps patrol members informed.
- Assign each patrol member a specific duty.
- Helps Scouts advance.
- Encourages and prepares his patrol to participate in troop trips/events/activities.
- Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.
- Knows the abilities of each patrol member.
- Sets the example.
- Wears the scout uniform correctly.
- Lives the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows and develops patrol spirit.

ASSISTANT PATROL LEADER

Position description: The Assistant Patrol Leader is appointed by the Patrol Leader and leads the patrol in his absence.

NOTE: Serving as Assistant Patrol Leader does not apply towards Positions of Responsibility requirements for Star, Life and Eagle requirements.

Reports to: The Patrol Leader

Assistant patrol leader duties:

- Helps the Patrol Leader plan and steer patrol meetings and activities.
- Helps him keep patrol members informed.
- Helps the patrol get ready for all troop activities.
- Represents his patrol at patrol leaders' council meetings when the patrol leader cannot attend.
- He is part of the Fundraising Committee.

TROOP GUIDE

Position description: The Troop Guide is appointed by the Scoutmaster.

Reports to: The assistant Scoutmaster for the new-Scout patrol in the troop

Troop guide duties:

- Introduces new Scouts to troop operations.
- Guides new Scouts from harassment by older Scouts
- Helps new Scouts earn First Class rank in their first year.
- Teaches basic Scout skills.
- Coaches the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol on his duties.

- Works with the patrol leader at patrol leaders' council meetings.
- Attends patrol leaders' council meetings with the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol.
- Assists the assistant Scoutmaster with training.
- Counsels individuals Scouts on Scouting challenges.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

TROOP QUARTERMASTER

Position description: The Quartermaster is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Quartermaster keeps track of troop equipment and sees that it is in good working order. He keeps records on patrol/troop equipment, makes sure equipment is in good working condition, and issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Quartermaster duties:

- Keeps records on patrol and troop equipment.
- Makes sure equipment is in good working condition.
- Issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition.
- Makes suggestions for new or replacement items.
- Works with the troop committee member responsible for equipment.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

TROOP SCRIBE

Position description: The Scribe is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scribe keeps the troop records. He records the activities of the patrol leaders' council and keeps a record of dues, advancement, and Scout attendance at troop meetings. He attends the patrol leaders' council but generally is not a voting member.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Scribe duties:

- Attends and keeps a log of patrol leaders' council meetings.
- Records individual Scout attendance and dues payments.
- Records individual Scout advancement progress.
- Works with the troop committee member responsible for records and finance.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

TROOP HISTORIAN

Position description: The Historian is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Historian preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Historian duties:

- Gathers pictures and facts about troop activities and keeps them in a historical file or scrapbook.
- Takes care of troop trophies, ribbons, and souvenirs of troop activities.
- Keeps information about former members of the troop.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

TROOP LIBRARIAN

Position description: The Librarian is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Librarian oversees the care and use of troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor lists.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Historian duties:

- Oversees the care and use of troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor lists.
- Checks out these materials to Scouts and leaders and maintains records to ensure that everything is returned.
- May also suggest the acquisition of new literature and report the need to repair or replace any current holdings.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

INSTRUCTOR

Position description: The Instructor is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Instructor teaches Scouting skills.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Instructor duties:

- Teaches basic Scouting skills in troop and patrols.
- Schedule/Coordinate Merit Badge Counselor(s) for troop/scout instruction.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

CHAPLAIN'S AIDE

Position description: The Chaplain's Aide is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Chaplain's Aide works with the troop chaplain to meet the religious needs of Scouts in the troop. He also works to promote the religious emblems program.

Reports to: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Chaplain's Aide qualifications:

- Be mature and sensitive, and have earned the respect and trust of his fellow Scouts.
- Be at least a First Class Scout.
- Have received or be working on the requirements leading to the age-appropriate religious emblem for his faith.

Chaplain's Aide duties:

- Assists the troop chaplain with religious services at troop activities.
- Tells Scouts about the religious emblem program for their faith.
- Encourages troop members to strengthen their own relationships with God through personal prayer and devotion and participation in religious activities appropriate to their faith.
- Tells Scouts about the Religious Emblems program for their faith at least once a year.
- Helps recognize troop members who receive their religious emblems, (such as at a court of honor).
- Makes sure religious holidays are considered during the troop program planning process.
- Helps plan for religious observance in troop activities.
- Encourages saying grace at meals while camping or at other activities.
- Helps promote annual Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath.
- Sets a good example.
- Enthusiastically and correctly wears the Scout uniform.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

DEN CHIEF

Position description: The Den Chief is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster. The Den Chief works with the Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and den leaders in the Cub Scout pack.

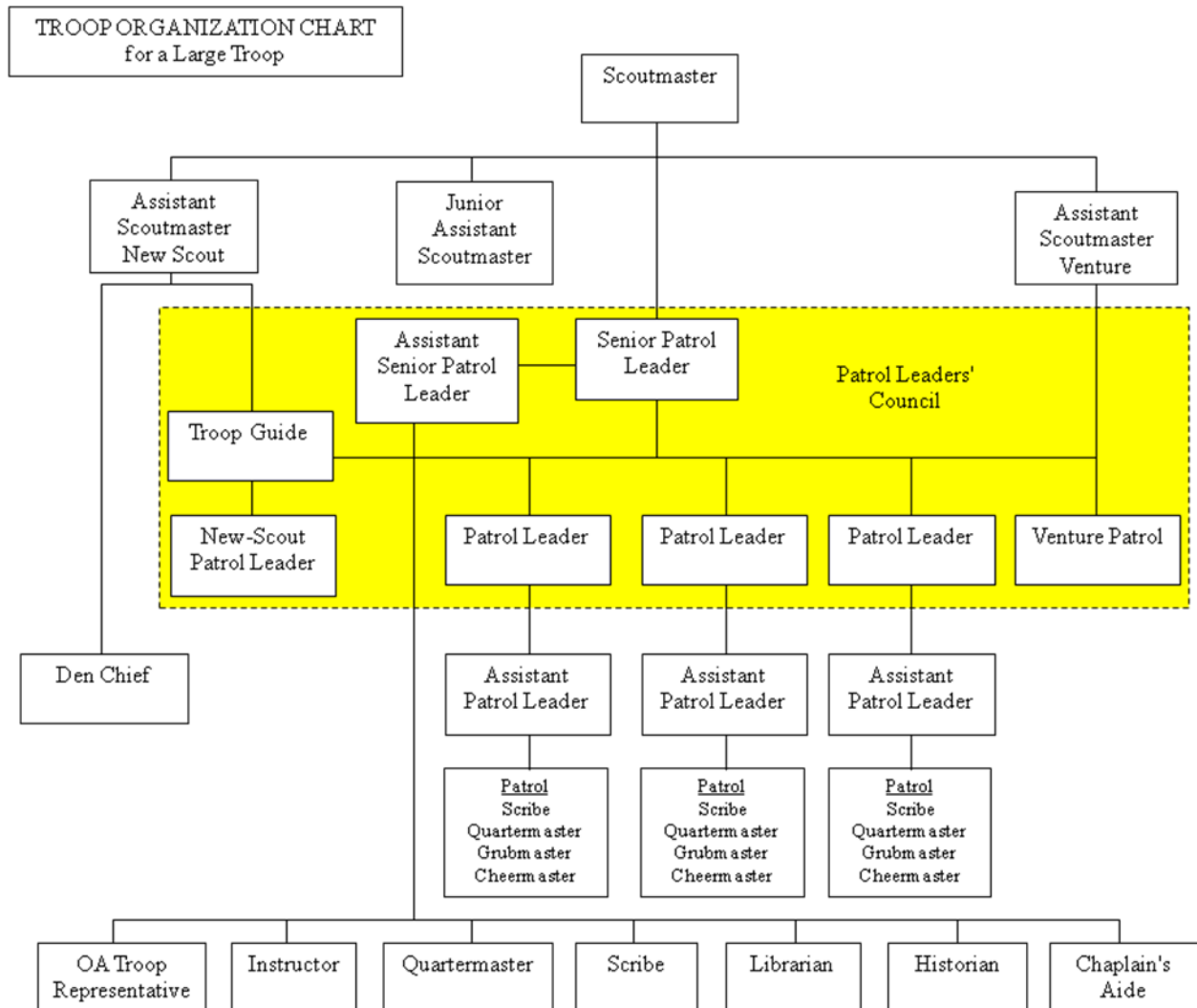
Reports to: The Cub Scout Den Leader in the pack and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Den chief duties:

- Knows the purposes of Cub Scouting.
- Helps Cub Scouts achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting.
- Assists with activities in the den meetings.
- Sets a good example through attitude and uniforming.
- Is a friend to the boys in the den.
- Encourages Cub Scouts to join a Boy Scout troop upon graduation.
- Helps the Denner and assistant denner to be leaders.
- Helps out at weekly den meetings and monthly pack meetings.
- Meets with adult members of the den, pack, and troop as necessary.
- Sets the example.

- Wears the uniform correctly.
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Shows Scout spirit.

Troop Organization Chart



Adult Leadership

Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster, with the help and support of the Assistant Scoutmasters, is responsible for the image and program of the Troop. He uses the methods of Scouting to achieve the Aims and *Methods of Scouting*, which are **growth in moral strength and character, participating citizenship, and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness.**

The Scoutmaster provides and conducts:

- Guidance and training to the Scouts and patrols.
- Conducts Scoutmaster Conferences for all rank advancements.
- Meets periodically with parents and conducts parent's sessions to share the program

- and encourage participation.
- Meets regularly with the patrol leader's council for the training and coordination in planning Troop activities.
- Participates in Committee meetings and various Council meetings and activities.
- Ensures that all activities are conducted under qualified leadership, safe conditions, and the policies of the chartered organization and the BSA.

The Troop Committee

The Troop Committee is the Troop's board of directors and supports the program in the following ways:

- Ensures that quality adult leadership is recruited and trained.
- Provides adequate meeting facilities.
- Advises the Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the chartered organization.
- Supports the Scoutmaster in carrying out the program.
- Responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements.
- Plans and serves on Boards of Review and Courts of Honor.
- Responsible for procuring equipment for the Troop.

Communication Methods

Troop 52 realizes the importance of good communication to any organization and attempts to keep our Scouts and parents informed through the following methods:

- **Troop meeting announcements** are the primary mode of communication to the scouts, with the purpose of teaching responsibility and follow-up.
- Our **website** which can be found at <http://www.troop52campers.com> , which posts all pertinent troop information including camping trip permission slips, BSA forms, photos of prior camping trips and events, important troop announcements, etc.
- **Emails** as needed to remind and update Scouts and parents of events or important information. The following email addresses are currently utilized:
 - messages@troop52campers.com - (primary address for troop messages)
 - scoutmaster@troop52campers.com - (Scoutmaster messages)
 - meritbadge@troop52campers.com - (Merit badge related communications)
 - advancements@troop52campers.com - (Advancement coordinator messages)
 - payments@troop52campers.com - (Used when payments have been received)

The website and troop e-mail list is the primary method Troop 52 communicates, so please check it frequently. Please inform the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman with email changes. Families can have multiple email addresses set-up.

ROLE OF PARENTS

The Troop is a voluntary organization. Your involvement will help to ensure that all the Scouts in Troop 52 have the benefit of a great program!

Support your son by encouraging his participation and advancement in rank

- Attend quarterly Court of Honors
- Attend Eagle Court of Honors
- Ensure that your contact information is always up-to-date
- Help the Troop wherever you can. Here are some ways you can do it!

- Attend monthly Committee meetings
- Share your talents/abilities where they may benefit the Troop
- Assist in the various yearly events and special functions
- Provide transportation to and from monthly camping trips
- Join the Committee or become an Assistant Scoutmaster
- Become a Merit Badge Counselor

Troop 52 invites you to attend a monthly Committee meeting. This is one of the best ways to learn about the Troop, its leaders, and the Troop 52 Scouting program for your son.

If you would like to be formally registered as a Committee member you must complete a BSA Adult Registration. Once you are a registered member, you can participate on Board of Reviews.

If you have an interest in working directly with the Scouts and the Scouting program, then you may find satisfaction and enjoyment in becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster.

To learn more about what you can do to help the Troop, see any Troop 52 Adult leader!

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

There are various meetings and special yearly events that take place throughout the year in Troop 52. The following is a list and brief explanation of each so that you may become familiar with them and schedule the family calendar appropriately.

Troop Meetings

Troop meetings are held on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:00 at OLMC Cafeteria, 235 Ashland Ave, Doylestown, PA. Scouts should arrive early to ensure a prompt start at 8:00. Troop meetings consist of an opening ceremony, patrol corners, instruction, rank advancement, preparing for special events and camping trips, games/activities and announcements. Scoutmaster Conferences and Board of Reviews also occur during Troop meetings.

Class A uniforms must be worn at last Wednesday of each month, Court of Honors and all scouting activities. Class B uniforms can be worn at other troop meetings. Please reference the "How to Wear the Uniform" in the downloads and checklist section for the troop web site for more details.

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

PLC are typically held the 1st Sunday of the month, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in Simon Stock House. All PLC members must attend.

The PLC is responsible for planning, coordinating and conducting the Troop's activities and is composed of the following voting members: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guide as designated by the Scoutmaster. Events such as weekend and summer camping trips as well as upcoming meetings and special events are examples of what the PLC plans.

Uniforms are not required at PLC meetings.

Assistant Scoutmaster Meeting

Following every PLC meetings, the Scoutmasters meet from 7:30pm to 8:30pm to plan and discuss the various Troop's program activities, including each Scout's advancements and ways to improve the Troop and make it exciting and fun for our Scouts.

Special Scout Events

The Scouts of Troop 52 plan and prepare for a variety of regularly scheduled events and activities held throughout the year, which brings all the troops from the Lenape District together for fun competition.

- **Indoor Rally** - held in the fall, testing each Scout's skills through Troop competition.
- **Klondike Derby** - Held in January at Camp Ockanickon, the Scouts compete using their outdoor Scouting skills while pulling a Klondike sled.
- **Swim-A-Ree** - Swimming competition and fun events.
- **Camp-O-Ree** - A weekend of camping with fellow Lenape troops, each year emphasizing a different theme and events. The yearly Call-Out for the Order of the Arrow nominees is conducted during this event.

Courts of Honor

Troop 52 holds four (4) Courts of Honor each year on a Wednesday night in lieu of a Troop meeting. They are typically held in September, December, March and June. It is suggested that at least one parent of each Scout attend.

The Court of Honor portion of the meeting recognizes the Scout's efforts over the past three months for rank advancement, merit badges and special awards. Refreshments and some time to socialize follow the meeting. The meetings include a potluck dinner.

Eagle Courts of Honor

The highest rank a Scout can achieve is Eagle and Troop 52 is very proud of our Eagle Scouts. The Eagle Court of Honor is a very important day for that Scout, his family, all of Troop 52, our Charter Organization and the Bucks County Council. An Eagle Court of Honor is organized by the Scout's Family. Scouts and Parents are encouraged to attend, to show support for the Scout. Remember, statistically, only two in one hundred Scouts reach the rank of Eagle. However, Troop 52 has achieved a much higher average and that is something for which we should all be proud.

Committee Meetings

Troop Committee meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month, starting at 7:30. ALL parents, whether or not a registered Committee member, are welcome to take part in these meetings, as well as, to vote on important Troop issues. Attending these meetings is a great way to learn about the Troop and the program offered to your son, as well as having a voice in the Troop.

Scouting Sunday

A Sunday in early March is designated as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Scouting Sunday is celebrated at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (OLMC), our Chartered Organization. Participation by our Scouts is highly encouraged as it demonstrates "A Scout is Reverent" and shows respect for our Chartered Organization.

Summer Camp

Each summer, usually the third or fourth weekend of June, Troop 52 camps at a BSA Reservation for a full week. The PLC recommends a camp and the Scouts vote for the selection a year or more ahead with the guidance and support of the leaders. In recent years, Troop 52 has traveled to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York.

All Scouts will have a tremendous opportunity to earn Merit Badges and work on rank advancement, as well as enjoying a week of camping and camaraderie with Troops from all over the country.

The BSA Medical Form is required in order for each Scout and adult to attend. Health and safety is of the utmost concern to the BSA.

High Adventure Camping

For Scouts 14 and older, each summer the PLC selects and coordinates a high adventure activity as a Troop coordinated with the council or sometime independently. In past years this has been to BSA events such as BSA National Jamboree, Philmont, Northern Tier, Sea Base and a Troop 52 multi-day Delaware canoe trip.

MONTHLY CAMPING TRIPS & SPECIAL OUTINGS

A Scout will require certain equipment and proper clothing for weekend camping trips so that he remains comfortable and safe. Using the proper equipment and clothing will help to ensure an enjoyable time! (**See www.troop52campers.com for checklist**). Class A uniforms and appropriate footwear are required when departing and returning from all camping trips unless otherwise stated by the Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster.

Typically, Scouts meet at OLMC by 5:30 PM on Friday evenings to begin loading equipment and tents from the attic and depart at 6:00 PM. **Scouts and adults attending the camping trip should eat dinner prior to departing - the Troop does not provide dinner on Friday evening although patrols typically plan for cracker barrel (light snack at camp after getting set-up)**. The Troop returns at approximately 12 Noon on Sunday, and unloads the trailer and stores gear in the barn.

Note to Parents: *It is part of each Scout's responsibility to arrive early before a trip to help prepare, as well as assist in unloading and storing equipment when returning to the church. Please time your departures and arrivals appropriately so that your son shares in the responsibilities. No Scouts will be excused until all chores are completed.*

There are times when a Scout will be required to take equipment home to clean and dry. It is the Scout's responsibility to care for the equipment and ensure that it is returned at the next Troop meeting. See the *Camping Equipment Care & Damage Policy* in the Troop 6 Policies section.

Medications: For the safety concerns of the Scout and his fellow Scouts; only a uniformed leader may dispense prescription and non-prescription medications. Therefore, Scouts are not permitted to carry medications, except for Epi-Pens and rescue inhalers that must stay with the Scout at all times. Please be sure to provide the medication in the original container with concise instructions in a zip lock bag to the appropriate leader on Friday evening, prior to departing.

Should your son have any special dietary requirements, consult the Scoutmaster prior to the trip.

Transportation: Parents are expected to provide transportation when needed. If there is not adequate transportation for a given trip, the result may be a limit to the number of Scouts that can attend or cancellation of the event. *Note:*

FEES & FUND RAISERS

Annual Dues - \$110 (2013-2014), \$55 for new Scouts joining after January, dues waived for Webelos Crossovers who are already BSA registered

Yearly dues are payable by the end of October each year and cover the period of September through following August. For new Scouts joining after the 1st of the New Year, dues are prorated to \$55. Dues are waived for Webelos crossing over in January-April who are already BSA registered for the year they are crossing over.

Monthly Camping/Special Events

Troop 52 standard trip fee is \$25 which covers campsite fees, scout food, etc.

Special event fees will be additional and vary based on the planned trip. Details will be listed in the specific trip permission slip. Please retain the upper portion of a permission slip for your reference.

Summer Camp

Costs for summer camp at a BSA Reservation typically range from \$250.00 to \$350.00. A nonrefundable deposit is due when making the reservation with payments due per the published schedule. Special transportation if necessary is in addition to the camp fee.

Refunds for Monthly Camping Trips

Troop 52 is unable to refund any money that has been spent for food, lodging, transportation or other expenses involved with each trip once purchases or certain reservations have been made. If your son is unable to attend a camping trip for which he has signed up and paid, it is important for him to let his leaders know as soon as possible. As there will be some unavoidable reasons for late cancelations, to be eligible for a refund, the cancellation must be done as soon as possible in writing to the scoutmaster@troop52campers.com and messages@troop52campers.com ID. Refunds will be at the discretion of the Troop Committee and reviewed monthly at the Troop Committee Meetings where all parents are invited to attend.

Annual Fund Raiser

Comedy night has been Troop 52 has been the Troop's primary fund raiser over the past few years. Troop 52 is adding an Applebee's Pancake breakfast fundraiser this year. We have been fortunate that between these fund raisers, dues and trip fees, and significant time and effort from parents volunteering their time, the troop has been able to offer Scouts and extensive and active outdoor Scouting experience.

YOUTH PROTECTION AND SAFETY

As a Boy Scout Troop we must comply with both the policies of our chartered organization Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and BSA.

We urge you, his parent, to become familiar with the BSA policies as well. You can start by reviewing the inserted pamphlet found in the beginning of the Boy Scout Handbook entitled, ***How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide***. It is necessary for you spend time with your son reviewing this information.

Youth Protection Training is performed on-line and can be found via the Bucks County Council website at www.buckscountybsa.org or on a link on our web site <http://www.troop52campers.com>

We encourage ALL parents to take the time to conduct the convenient on-line Youth Protection Training. Doing so will give all parents, whether or not you are involved in the scouting program, a well-informed education of what rules leaders must abide by to maintain safety for all Scouts.

ALL uniformed leaders and Committee members must conduct Youth Protection Training every two years and must be current in order to maintain these positions and take part in Troop activities. Any parents attending weekend or summer camping events must also conduct Youth Protection Training.

If you should ever have any questions or require additional information regarding the BSA policies, please do not hesitate contacting the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair.

SUMMARY OF CATHOLIC SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

In addition, we comply with the policies of our chartered organization, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, with the following a layperson's summary of the Philadelphia Archdiocese's Safe Environment Training requirements, as applied to volunteers. It is not an official Diocesan publication and any questions should be referred to your parish or the Archdiocese Office for Child and Youth Protection, 215-587-2466. The information on these pages is derived from the Philadelphia Archdiocesan website.

Background Check – A Pennsylvania State Police background check “should” be completed before any adult volunteer can begin working with youth. If they do not, they “may receive provisional permission” to volunteer, for a period of thirty (30) days, provided their background request has been submitted and they are supervised during this time. If the report is not received after thirty (30) days, their status must be moved to “inactive” until all requirements are completed.

An immediate report can be obtained on-line, through the PSP's “PATCH” program, which implements the Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Information Act, 18 Pa. C.S. § 9101 *et seq.* There is a \$10.00 fee per request. Under the terms of this law only the individual whose records are subject to the request, or a criminal or non-criminal justice agency may submit the request. ***Your cooperation in making the request is therefore necessary for it to be filled.***

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp> - for help call 1-888-783-7972.

At your option, request forms for mailing can be downloaded from this site, but the on-line process is obviously far more efficient for both the church and the volunteer and its use is encouraged.

A federal background check is required for persons who do not presently live in Pennsylvania or who lived outside Pennsylvania within the last two years. The Archdiocesan website, www.archphila.org, will provide the information to obtain this background check by clicking through the “Safe Environment” links.

Safe Environment Training – there are three components, described below. ***It is not necessary to have completed the background check to be eligible to take the training.*** The training is free, it is open to all who wish to take it, once completed there are no continuing education requirements, it is “good” anywhere in the Archdiocese, and it covers all requirements for service as a volunteer, whether in CCD, CYO, participation in parish school activities, scouting, or any other youth activities associated with the Church. Volunteers must complete their Safe Environment training within 90 days of the commencement of service or must be moved to “inactive status” until all requirements are completed.

Virtus Training – The most intense of the programs, Virtus requires personal attendance at a 2.5 hour seminar. ***No persons under the age of 18 are permitted to attend.*** Training programs rotate around the Archdiocese and a schedule may be found by running a Google search, “Archdiocese of Philadelphia virtus training schedule” and clicking on the menu to the Philadelphia Archdiocese schedule.

A certificate of completion will be provided at the end of the program with instructions. ***Participants are highly encouraged to make a copy for their own files before turning over copies to parish or other offices.***

Mandated Reporter Training – this is a one hour program taught by agencies outside the Archdiocese, with the subject devoted to understanding Pennsylvania's secular law governing when it is a crime to fail to report suspected child abuse. At this writing the Archdiocesan website only advises that the 2011 training program has been completed and persons who did not complete it should discuss their continued role with their volunteer coordinator.

Information and Communication Technology Addendum Training – this is a short program which was previously available on-line but at present is being handled within parishes. It deals with appropriate standards for using electronic communication devices to interact with youth, including e-mail, texting, Facebook, etc. Persons who have not completed this training are directed to contact their parish.

Arrest/Conviction Certification Report and Certification Form – This is a form which must be completed once a year, whereby the individual volunteer certifies that he/she has not committed any of a list of crimes provided during the preceding year. It requires a signature and nothing more.

BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

Troop 52 is part of the Buck County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council is divided into four (4) Districts - Lenape, Pennsbury, Playwicki and Tohpendel. Troop 52 is in the Lenape District.

The Mission Statement of the Council is:

"It is the mission of the Bucks County Council, Boy Scouts of America, to meet the spiritual, developmental, and social needs of young people by instilling lifetime values that result in achieving full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on the Scout Oath and Law."

We are fortunate that the Council office is located in Doylestown, by the library and Mercer Museum on Scout Way. Here, the professional and volunteer Scouters ensure that a quality program is provided to our youth, by providing continual leader training, monthly roundtables and organizing the many Pack and Troop District and Council functions throughout the year, just to name a few.

Within the Council headquarters is the Service Center, where you can conveniently purchase all Scouting apparel, accessories, and handbooks.

The Bucks County Council also supports Ockanickon Scout Reservation, a BSA Reservation located in Plumstead Township, a couple miles west of Point Pleasant. It is a quality reservation and boasts one of a few premier science centers in the nation, sponsored by GE Betz.

If you are not familiar with the Council and Ockanickon SR, we highly recommend you visit the website at www.buckscountybsa.org.

TROOP TRIP POLICY

The main purpose of our policy is to ensure safety of the Scouts during trips but also to make sure their experience is optimum for learning about leadership and having fun.

The trips are designed to promote independence and leadership skills by having the Scouts plan and run the trip in their patrols. The Adults are there, as their own patrol (the Owl patrol); to set an example and offer guidance to the Scout leadership and to help them run the trip. We (Adults) always have a great time and enjoy the camaraderie of being a patrol and spending time with the Scouts, however, the trips are not designed to be father/son or parent/son campouts. The purpose of the program is to promote leadership among the scouts. As a side benefit, the adults get to be there to watch their Scouts grow into (hopefully) responsible leaders.

The following list of points, in no particular order, is designed to promote safety and support the purpose of the scout program during trips:

ADULTS: ALL ADULTS ATTENDING TRIPS MUST COMPLETE ONLINE YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- Go to <http://myscouting.scouting.org> to sign up and take the training online. You can also follow the training links from <http://www.buckscountybsa.org> or from our website www.troop52campers.com. The training takes about 15 minutes of your time watching videos and answering questions. Once the training is complete, print the certification and bring it to the next meeting or trip for our records.
- Adults must register their auto and insurance information with the troop to transport Scouts other than their own.
- The adults (Owl patrol) set up tents separately from the Scouts where instructed by the SPL. If the Venture Crew is on the trip, they also set up in a separate location.

SCOUTS

- Everyone meets at the parking lot by the Barn wearing Class A uniforms for every trip at the designated time. It is important to meet at this time to load the equipment from the barn into the Trailer if we are base camping or into cars if we are backpacking.
- Scouts may take their Class B uniforms to wear during the trip. We return in Class A uniforms.
- Once at the destination, the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) and Patrol Leaders decide how we are going to set up and instruct the adults and scouts where they are to set up their tents.
- No electronic devices (video games, music devices, phones, radios, etc.)
- Cameras are great. We love pictures for the Web site

ADULTS MAY NOT LEAVE WITH OR WITHOUT ANY SCOUTS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT INFORMING THE SCOUTMASTER OR ADULT IN CHARGE OF THE TRIP.

There should be no reason for any Scout to need to leave. There are circumstances where a Scout may have to leave or arrive late due to a school or family commitment. The Scoutmaster or person in charge of the trip must be notified in advance. It is VERY important that we account for all attendees at all times.

Returning from the Trip

All Scouts must return to the Barn after the trip to pack the equipment back into the Barn and hang tents. If Scouts cannot return due to a prior commitment, they must notify the Scoutmaster or person in charge of the trip. It is important that the Scouts continue to work as a team to return equipment and hang tents after a trip.

Parents play a very important and crucial role in helping and supporting their son in achieving his growth and goals in Scouting. It is a proven fact that the Scout performs better and enjoys the program more, when parents take an interest and participate in the Troop's activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q - What does the Troop expect from parents Of a new Scout?

A - For the details, see section, *Role of the Parents*. In general terms, note the following:

Dues - Make sure they are current and prompt

Contact Information - Complete the *Troop 52 Scout Personal Data Form*. When there are changes, be sure to relay, especially email addresses

Meeting Attendance - Ensure that your son attends meetings and special events

Camping Rules - If your son brings home equipment after a camping trip, ensure he cleans and returns

Get Involved - When and where you can, help out with driving to/from camps, service activities, fund raisers, etc. Show interest!

Q - Does Troop52 hold meetings when the schools are closed?

A - Yes. If due to weather or other circumstances the weekly meeting has to be canceled, you may receive an email and check the troop web site.

Q - How can / help my son advance?

A - Maintain an awareness of his status and progression on rank advancement and any merit badges he may be working on. Offer to work with him to practice any requirements he needs to master. (Remember, only a uniformed leader can test a scout's skills and sign-off on a requirement). Also, stay in touch with the Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to your son's Patrol, like you would with his teacher at school.

Q - How do Patrol elections work?

A - Each boy in a patrol is entitled to vote for his Patrol Leader. The PL then appoints his assistant,. Elections are held every 12 months.

Q - How can my son earn service hours for rank advancement?

A - There are many ways throughout the year to earn service hours. First, there are various Troop organized projects and your son can also volunteer to assist Scouts working on their Eagle projects, as well as perform special services in his community, church or school.

Q - Why does the Troop have a policy that scouts cannot bring cell phones or electronic on camping trips or special events?

A - Cell phones and electronic equipment is a distraction on many levels on campouts. The time away with their fellow scouts and leaders is important and the primary purposes is to work and have fun together as a group, as well as observe nature. They get enough of this equipment when not on campouts and this time can be better spent on him communicating with his peers and leaders, working on advancement and most important, enjoying the outdoors as they should be! Any communication with home in case of an emergency is to be through the leaders.

Q - My son takes prescription medication. How can I make sure that he takes it during the camping trips?

A - All medications must be given to the designated Asst. Scoutmaster by the parent prior to leaving on the trip in clearly labeled containers and instructions. He will secure all meds and ensure that your son receives them as prescribed. During summer camps the meds are surrendered to the camp health officer and dispensed via the camp staff.

Q - Is there a limit on what each Scout should take on a weekend camping trip?

A - Yes. A Scout should only bring what is essentially needed for the weekend. As a rule, all his gear must fit into a medium size duffle bag except for the sleeping bag. There are no chairs, electronic equipment, cell phones, or personal food or beverage allowed.

Q - My son is a picky eater, so can I send along food I know he will eat?

A - If he has a food allergy, then we need to know that, so please denote on the permission slip. Your son needs to learn to eat varied foods and also eat the food prepared by his patrol. Therefore, we cannot allow additional food items sent for such a convenience.

Q - Why is the Troop policy on handing in permission slips so rigid?

A - Most people don't realize the amount of effort - planning and coordination that go into each every monthly camping trip. Once headcount is set, reservations must be made, drivers to be selected and a BSA Tour Permit to be completed and submitted to the local Council. All this takes time, especially to do it correctly and safely and the leaders have day jobs too! Any late-comers would not be accounted for in the driver list, food list and Tour Permit with the BSA which covers us for insurance.