

TROOP 555



Boy Scouts of America
St. Gertrude Catholic Church
Blue Jacket District
Dan Beard Council

Parent Guide

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

--Aristotle

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:

- Character Development
- Citizenship Training
- Personal Fitness

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

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.

SCOUT LAW	SCOUT OATH
<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>A Scout is:</i> Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 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. </p>

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:

President John F. Kennedy Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, First person to set foot on the Moon Eagle Scout
President Gerald Ford Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, M.D.; Transplanted First Artificial Heart Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank Eagle Scout

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 , 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 the Eagle Scout 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 résumés 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.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 555 is a participating member of the Blue Jacket District of the Dan Beard 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 555 is St. Gertrude Catholic Church. The Chartered Organization provides a meeting place, shares our objectives for the boys, and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between us and the Church.

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 drives and Pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

Troop 555

Meetings

Troop 555 holds meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m in the school cafeteria. We generally do not meet on school holidays or when school has been cancelled due to inclement weather. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

Outdoor Programs

“Scouting Means Outing”. Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Troop 555 generally has an outdoor camping experience once per month, year around. We go to summer camp for one week in July. These monthly activities are intended for all troop members. Older scouts have the opportunity to participate in more challenging activities as part of our Venturing program.

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 555 meetings, trips or outings.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

Our boy-led troop practices the “Patrol Method”. The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and no more than eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader is a position elected by all the boys in the Troop. 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 twice per year. Other troop leadership positions (Quartermaster, Chaplain’s Aide, Scribe, Den Chief, Librarian, Historian, Instructor, Troop Guide, etc.) are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 555 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. Parents should also take the Boy Scout Fast Start training available online at <http://www.scouting.org/>
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress 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. The Troop maintains a web site where information, forms, and other useful information can be found at: <http://triplenickeltroop.com/>

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. The ranks in Boy scouts are (in order of progression) Scout, 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



First Class Rank Badge

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



Eagle Rank Badge

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. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

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 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, as well as rank advancements, will be presented to the Scout during regular troop meetings.

All parents of Troop 555 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please fill out a Troop Resource Survey and return to a Troop Leader.

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.

Courts of Honor

Troop 555 will conduct a Court of Honor about twice per year. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may also be presented during 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 Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of December of each calendar year.

Annual Registration Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 555 is \$60.00. This includes the following:

- National BSA membership

- BSA insurance
- Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)
- *Boys Life* magazine (each household to have one subscription)

Registration fees are due in November and cover the following calendar year. Registration for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts transferring from another Pack or Troop are covered by the troop until the next annual registration.

Fees for Outings / Activities

Our monthly outings normally have additional fees associated with them. These range from about \$25 for a typical weekend campout, to about \$200 for our week-long summer camp each July. Older scouts will have the opportunity to attend National Jamborees and High Adventure experiences, such as Backpacking at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Costs for these are significantly higher.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. Our fund-raisers will be designed so that our overall Troop budget is met. Details on this year's fund-raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps¹, the Council Scout-O-Rama, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

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 (Council strip, shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number (obtained from Troop)
- Troop neckerchief (obtained from Troop)

¹ Camps Friedlander, Upper/ Lower Craig and Cub World (Milford), and Camp Michaels (Union, KY)

- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Boy Scout Hat (Optional).
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Sturdy shoes (hiking boots recommended).

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

- Troop 555 T-Shirt (obtain from Troop).
- Sturdy shoes (hiking boots recommended).
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.

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.

We encourage scouts and adult leaders to wear the uniform properly, as this is an important element of the Patrol Method and promotes unity within the group. However, please come to meetings and outings in partial or no uniform as your budget or busy schedule dictates.

SCOUT SHOPS

Dan Beard Council operates a Scout Shop where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Dan Beard Scout Shop
 10078 Reading Road
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
513-961-2336

E-bay is also an excellent and often cheaper way to get gently-used uniforms. The troop maintains an inventory of used uniforms and welcomes donations as your scout outgrows his.

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

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