



Boy Scouts of America



PARENT'S GUIDE

TROOP 179

CLINTON VALLEY COUNCIL



Parent's Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Troop 179! We are happy you selected our troop and look forward to getting to know you, your son and your family. Troop 179 has a long history of being one of the finest Boy Scout Troops in Southeastern Michigan. Some of the indicators in which we feel that we have exceeded as a troop are:

- Participation: with our three programs, the New Scout Program, Traditional Scout Program, and Venture Scout Program, we have a wide range of activities that hold the interest of all of the boys who are members. The national average shows that most Scouts will quit the Boy Scout program by their 15th birthday with only 1% of boys staying in Scouts until their 18 years of age. In Troop 179 we maintain about 20% of the boys who join our troop until they are 18. This gives us an extra three years to work on the boys to develop leadership, work on advancement, and to achieve the *Aims* of Scouting.
- Advancement: our program is developed to give each Scout every opportunity to advance to the Eagle Scout Rank. A Scout enters the troop into our New Scout Program that is designed to ensure that each Scout makes First Class in about one year from joining. Next, he is on his own to earn merit badges and pursue leadership experience to earn Star, Life, and Eagle at his own pace. The troop has Assistant Scoutmasters dedicated to counseling Scouts to help them prepare for rank. Nationally 4% of all boys who join a Scout troop make it to the Eagle Scout Rank. Troop 179's average is 18%.
- Adult Leadership: we have four areas in which parents and adults from the community volunteer to help maintain Troop 179. (1) Our Troop Committee is a group whose purpose is to support the operations of the troop by helping to facilitate the program. (2) The GOAT Patrol are Scoutmasters who are the backbone of our troop — they maintain equipment, keep records, lead fund raising, and help with membership. (3) The Lucy Project is a gem for the troop. This group of dedicated “young 20 something” adults put together special projects and they traditionally run our Youth Leader Training. (4) The Program Scoutmasters work with the Scouts directly, advise Scouts on their advancement, and work with the Scouts to develop leadership. In all there are over 50 adult members doing a wide variety of jobs to support the troop.

Some of the key factors to maintaining our standards are:

- A high standard of expected performance for all members
- Trained Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters
- 95% parental participation
- A high dedication to the eight methods of Scouting designed by the BSA
- A large resource of Troop owned equipment (tents, patrol kitchens, patrol dining tarps, propane stoves, lanterns, and trailers for hauling equipment to camp)
- The Aims of Scouting



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SCOUTING'S AIMS & METHODS

Your goal in having your son join Scouting should be to help him to grow into a stronger person. The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America designs its program with three aims in mind:

To build character

The growth in moral strength and character defines what a boy thinks of himself, his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

To foster good citizenship, and

Used broadly, citizenship means the boys 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.

To develop 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).

Each of our meetings and activities have been planned to meet the aims of Scouting. It is a year-long program and missing any part of it slows the progress of your son's development as a Scout. Leadership positions that your son will be assigned to are a large part of this development. Take an active interest in helping your son to meet the responsibilities of the positions to which he is assigned. For every position there is a written description of his responsibilities.

Undoubtedly many of you were Scouts when you were young, but many of our activities will not be the same as you remember. Keep in mind that your son is not living in the same world you lived in 20 years ago. He has different interests and likes. Scouting has changed to keep up with the interest of your son and boys his age. The aims of Scouting are the same, but what we do to meet those aims has evolved.

How Does Scouting Work, Our Methods

To accomplish the Aims of Scouting the National Council has developed a program that falls into eight methods:

Scouting Ideal

Advancement

***Leadership
Development***

Patrol Method

Adult Association

Uniforms

Outdoor Programs

Personal Growth

Troop 179's program incorporates all of these methods in delivering Scouting to its members.



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SCOUTING IDEALS

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Scout Oath (or Promise):

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Motto: Be Prepared

Scout Slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily

Venturing Oath:

As a Venturer,
I promise to do my duty to God
and help strengthen America,
to help others, and
to seek truth, fairness,
and adventure
in our world.

Venturing Code:

As a Venturer, I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life. □ I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.

Scout Law:

TRUSTWORTHY

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

LOYAL

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

HELPFUL

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payments or rewards.

FRIENDLY

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

COURTEOUS

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

KIND

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

OBEDIENT

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

CHEERFUL

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

THRIFTY

A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

BRAVE

A Scout can face danger although he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at him or threaten him.

CLEAN

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

REVERENT

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.



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THE PATROL METHOD

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. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other.

The Troop Operations Plan developed by the National Council has three program areas in which your son will participate. They are termed: New Scout Patrol, Traditional Patrol, and Venture Crew. As your son grows older, each of the areas are designed to meet his needs and interests.

The **New Scout Patrols** are made up of Scouts in their first year with the troop. These Scouts receive guidance from a Troop Guide, appointed solely to their patrol from among the troop's best youth leaders. The Guide teaches them all the basic Scouting skills that can carry them through the ranks of Tenderfoot and Second Class until they become First Class Scouts, in about one year. At the same time, their patrol elects a Patrol Leader who appoints other patrol officers to run the patrol. By spending time with other new Scouts their own age and having a talented, dedicated Guide to help them along, our new Scouts can have an enjoyable first year Scouting experience.

Scouts entering into their second year with the troop become a part of the **Traditional Scout Patrols**. In this program, they have the opportunity to reinforce their Scouting skills without the need for a Troop Guide. They elect a Patrol Leader each term to serve for approximately six-months. The elected Patrol Leader, in turn, appoints an Assistant Patrol Leader, a Patrol Quartermaster, and a Patrol Scribe. The Traditional Patrol Scouts work on Merit Badges to pass requirements for Star and Life ranks.

The **Venture Crew** is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are fourteen (and have completed the eighth grade) through twenty years of age. The Venture Crew's purpose is to provide positive high adventure and hobby experiences while helping young people mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Our Venture Crew assists the troop in running activities, trains junior leaders, and provides our older Scouts with opportunities to bond with activities designed to meet their interests. Venture Scouts are appointed to positions of responsibility that help them obtain the Eagle Scout award.

The **Paul Bunyan Patrol** is our leadership patrol. Twice a year we hold Senior Patrol Leader elections and all of the Scouts and Venture Crew members have the opportunity to elect the one Scout who will run our troop's program. The Senior Patrol Leader has the responsibility of being in charge of all the activities and meetings of the troop as well as being the chairman of the Patrol Leaders Council, a committee of youth representing each patrol and crew. Following the election, the new Senior Patrol Leader appoints eight to ten Scouts to help him in his responsibilities. These Scouts along with the Senior Patrol Leader make up the Paul Bunyan Patrol.



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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

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. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Attending Troop Activities

The week prior to any Troop Activity a description of the activity and an electronic permission slip will be e-mailed to the address on file for your scout. Additionally, paper copies are available during the Troop Meetings just prior to the trip. 'Generic' permission slips may also be downloaded at any time from the Troop Website www.bsatroop179.org. Whichever permission slip you choose to use, please fill it out **completely**, and **sign** it. Electronic forms are 'signed' by submitting electronically with a previously arranged 'electronic signature'. The appropriate form and details can be found at the registration table or on-line at <http://www.bsatroop179.org/index.php?page=eslips> The Transportation Committee encourages you to use the electronic forms whenever possible.

Transporting your scout to and from camp is your responsibility. On the permission slip, you will have the option to volunteer to attend the activity, and/or provide transportation to or from camp for other scouts. Typically, if a ride is arranged for your scout one way, it is expected that you provide other scouts a ride the other way. It is important for you to provide the Transportation Committee the vehicle information requested on the permission slip, both for planning rides, and for the Troop's 'Tour Permit' required by the Boy Scout Council.

Electronic permissions slips are to be turned in no later than Monday evening prior to the Troop activity. Paper permissions slips are to be turned in at the **beginning** of the Tuesday Troop Meeting prior to the activity. This allows sufficient time for the Transportation Committee time to arrange car pools, as well as individual patrols to arrange for food and gear. If changes are needed in a previously submitted permission slip, please contact a Transportation Committee member directly. If a check or cash is not included with the permission slip (use an envelope, please!) your scout's account will be charged for the cost of the activity.

If your son is arriving late or leaving early from an activity, you must notify the Transportation Committee ahead of time in writing (there is a space for this type of information on the permission slip). Before any Scout can physically leave the event, you must notify the leader in charge of the activity before leaving with your son. This is no joke! The safety and well being of your son is a serious matter to the Boy Scouts of America. Please cooperate with us so that we may all be safe and have a good time.

Sleeping:

For most camping trips your normal Holofill sleeping bag will be plenty warm. In the spring and fall you may want to pack an extra blanket, on a winter camping trip two sleeping bags and a blanket works well. If you need to purchase a sleeping bag, a zero degree rated sleeping bag may be a good investment. If you are purchasing a blanket for camping, a wool blanket (US Army blankets can be purchased at one of the Army/Navy Supply stores) works best since it has warming ability even when it is wet. It is also a good idea to have some padding under the bedding. A closed cell foam pad can be purchased at most stores and works best. An air mattress does not work well because it tends to deflate as air temperature drops eliminating any



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insulation from the cold ground. Cots are great, but are a luxury and take up a lot of room in cars. (They also cause you to become cold in the winter because of heat loss through the cot.) If you are buying a cot, be sure to get one that is low to the ground, 6 to 12 inches.

Meals: The troop provides nutritional meals and an evening snack for all Scouts. This is enough food for the weekend. We allow scouts to bring extra pop or snacks; however it should be kept to a minimum. These snacks should be stored away so they are not mistaken as a common snack bought by the troop.

Medication: For weekend campouts, Scouts are expected to manage their own medication and keep it with them. For the weeklong summer camp, medication is kept with the nurses in the medical tent.

Tent Assignments: The Patrol Quartermaster is in-charge of checking out tents that the patrol will need from the Troop Quartermaster. He then will assign the tent to an individual in the patrol to use for an outing. That individual is responsible for returning the tent or dining tarp to his Quartermaster in good shape and ready to be stored and reissued on the next outing.

After most of the camping trips (where we use tents) your son will bring home a tent or dining tarp to dry out, clean, and repair. We ask that the parents help their son with this task to ensure that the proper procedures, that are listed below are carried out. The troop has a sizable investment in these tents (approximately \$400 each) and we need to make sure that they are properly maintained and stored. Make sure that the tent is hung up to air out even if your son says that it didn't rain. It most likely will be damp.

Post Campout Canvas Drying Procedure: Unroll the tent and hang it up to dry. If the tent is very wet you should hang it in the sunlight to expedite the drying process. Make sure you have two complete six-foot aluminum poles (newer tents have three poles), and twelve pin stakes. Knock the dirt off the stakes and straighten them if required. Wipe the sand and dirt off each section of the two aluminum poles. It is much easier to get the sections apart if they are kept clean. Do not beat the poles against anything to get them apart! You will only dent them and they will never come loose!

When the tent is dry, sweep out any dirt and/or leaves. Scrub any dirt, sticky, or mildewed spots with a scrub brush using soap and water. Inspect the tent for damage! Report to the Quartermaster any repairs that are needed. Roll the two or three (2 or 3) poles and twelve (12) stakes up inside of the tent and place the tent inside the canvas storage bag. Store in a dry place (preferably inside) until it is returned.

Extras: Troop 179 always has a fun-filled, jam-packed weekend in store for the boys, but there is also free time that the Scouts have to themselves. A good book or crossword puzzle is great to have along. Portable radios, iPods, and portable video games are often brought to campouts, however, it is not recommended by the leaders. If the Scout brings items and does not want other Scouts to use them, they should keep them in their tent and not tell other Scouts that they have them.



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Clothing:

The best clothing for camping is warm, light-weight materials. Wearing layers of clothing is most effective on all camping trips. The logic is that you wear many layers, adding some when you are cold; taking them off when you are warm. Gloves are great items to have at most outings throughout the year – on colder weekends you will need gloves and mittens. Always bring twice as many socks as you think you will need. A good warm hat is also a good thing to bring on all outings throughout the year.

Uniforms:

Uniforms must be worn when riding to and from camp. This is so that the Scouts are identified as Scouts. During most activities the Scouts may wear our activity uniform; however the Senior Patrol Leader may call for Full Scout Uniform when he deems it appropriate.

PERSONAL CAMPING GEAR LIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Scout Uniform (wear to campout) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas or Sweat suit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duffel Bag or backpack or nylon suitcase | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Tee-Shirts and Sweat Shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag or two to three blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Kit including: soap, deodorant, toothbrush & paste, toilet paper, comb, and towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foam Pad or Air Mattress | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight with extra Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Sheet, (4' X 8' sheet of plastic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Compass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweater or Light Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal First Aid Kit (Band-Aids) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho or Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout Handbook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight Boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent (no aerosol) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pair of Sneakers or Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen/Pencil and Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Jacket, warm gloves, and hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Block with PABA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Pair of Pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline (summer camp) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim Trunks | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair (summer camp) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Socks | |



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ADVANCEMENT

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement, and by participating in the troop program, progresses 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 him grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

After your son has completed the requirements for each rank, the troop evaluates the progress of the Scout and ensures that he has reached our standards for each rank. For the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class we test the Scout through a process called the **General Assessment of Skills (GAS)**. This is part of the way we help build character.

After the Scout has proven he is ready for rank advancement, he meets with a Scoutmaster for a **Scoutmaster Conference**. This conference is designed to involve the Scout in his own personal growth process by asking him to evaluate his own progress. He is then asked to discuss and decide how to achieve the next steps in development. This agreement becomes the basis for a program of development meeting the Scout's own desires and needs. The conference helps the Scout accept the responsibility for his growth in Scouting. It also establishes a relationship between the boy and the Scoutmaster that makes this growth possible.

Most people think that the Scoutmaster holds all the Scoutmaster Conferences. Your son may have a Scoutmaster's Conference with any of the Assistant Scoutmasters and can schedule with a specific person, or ask for one to be assigned to him. The Scoutmaster himself, however, does all Eagle conferences.

The last phase of earning each rank is the **Board of Review**. The purpose is to review the progress of the Scout and determine if the Scout has matured to the level of the rank. The board is made up of at least three parents of the Troop who are not a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. Troop 179 has at least one of the board members (the Board Chairperson) as a member of the Troop Advancement Committee. The other two board members can be any parent and are trained just prior to the review. We mention this because this is an activity that we need most of our parents to become involved with so please consider signing-up. Reviews are held once a month and are published in the Troop Calendar. We usually need six to nine parents to assist on these nights.

If a Scout fails to meet the troop's standards and is turned down for rank, it is usually because he has forgotten a vital part of the skills or other requirements for that rank. Whether he is turned down at the Scoutmaster's Conference or the Board of Review, the Scout will always be told exactly why he has been turned down. He is told what he has to do to satisfy the Scoutmaster or Board Chairperson to receive his rank. He does not start over the procedure, but simply returns to the person who held up the progress and satisfies them that he has re-learned the skill.



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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. Troop 179 maintains at least one trained and uniformed leader for every 10 Scouts. These volunteers work directly with the boys to help them to develop a program in the troop that meets the aims of Boy Scouting: to build character, to foster good citizenship, and to develop mental, moral, and physical fitness. They become a role model of Scouting ideals and a mentor to the Scouts in helping them to develop good ethical decision-making practices. Troop 179's Scoutmasters are broken into a variety of tasks:

The Scoutmaster: Is in charge of working with the Senior Patrol Leader, the Paul Bunyan Patrol Members, and the Patrol Leaders Council to plan, develop, and run the troop's program. He works with his Assistant Scoutmasters to help in the implementation of the troop's organizational plan. He works with the Troop Committee Chairman and Chartered Organization Representative to ensure that the Boy Scouts of America's Aims and Methods of Scouting are put into place.

Assistant Scoutmasters/New Scout Program: These Assistant Scoutmasters are in charge of running the New Scout Program to ensure that every Scout who joins 179 is taught the ideals of Scouting and has the opportunity to advance in rank to First Class.

Assistant Scoutmasters/Traditional Scout Program: These Assistant Scoutmasters are in charge of running the Traditional Scout Program to ensure that every Scout is taught the ideals of Scouting and are working on Star and Life ranks.

Venture Advisors: These Assistant Scoutmasters are in charge of running Venture Crew 179, an older Scout program with boys and girls ranging from 14 to 21 years of age. The focus of their program is to develop activities that are either social, high adventure, or in service to Troop 179.

The G.O.A.T. Patrol: This group is made up of parents and community leaders who have volunteered to be an Assistant Scoutmaster and commit to attending all meetings, activities and camps. To be a G.O.A.T. member you must be approved by the Presbyterian Church, purchase a Scout Uniform, and complete all three phases of BSA Scout Leader Training. The G.O.A.T. members help with Advancement, Membership, and Equipment. See the Troop Committee for more information.

PERSONAL GROWTH

As Scouts plan their activity 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. There is probably no device so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Many Scouts will move along quickly, earning merit badges and completing requirements toward the ranks, and then be told that they need to spend some extra time at something. They may get frustrated at waiting their turn to get a leadership position that they need for a



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requirement for their next rank. We often need to remind these Scouts that it is the journey on the trail to Eagle that is important, and not the individual steps.

The magic of the Scouting program happens over a length of time and the longer your son sticks with it the more he will get out of it. Scouting is not a race to the end but rather a path that leads the Scout to a better understanding about his own abilities and where they can take him. At the end of the journey, the leaders are not here to present Eagle Scout Awards (although it makes us proud to do so) we are here to build character, create good citizens, and strengthen physical and emotional fitness. These are the Aims of Scouting.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared 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.

Scouting has set up a wide range of leadership positions for Scouts to try. The idea is that he takes on these leadership positions and works at them until he has learned what being a leader is all about. It is expected that most Scouts will not fare well in their first attempts at leadership. Do not let this discourage your son — everything he does becomes part of an experience base in his life and will help him to do a better job the next time. Let's take a look at the leadership positions in the troop:

Positions of responsibility that are commonly used to fulfill the Star rank requirements:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Patrol Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Axmen Patrol Member/Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Quartermaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Bugler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Scribe | <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain Aide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop Librarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Chief |

The next level of position is for Scouts who have experienced some leadership and are commonly used to fulfill the Life rank requirements:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Bunyan Member/Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Venture Crew Chief | <input type="checkbox"/> Order of the Arrow Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop Quartermaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Troop Scribe |

Our highest level positions are for Scouts who have proven leadership abilities and wish to sharpen their skills to be at their best. These are commonly used to fulfill the Eagle Scout rank requirements:

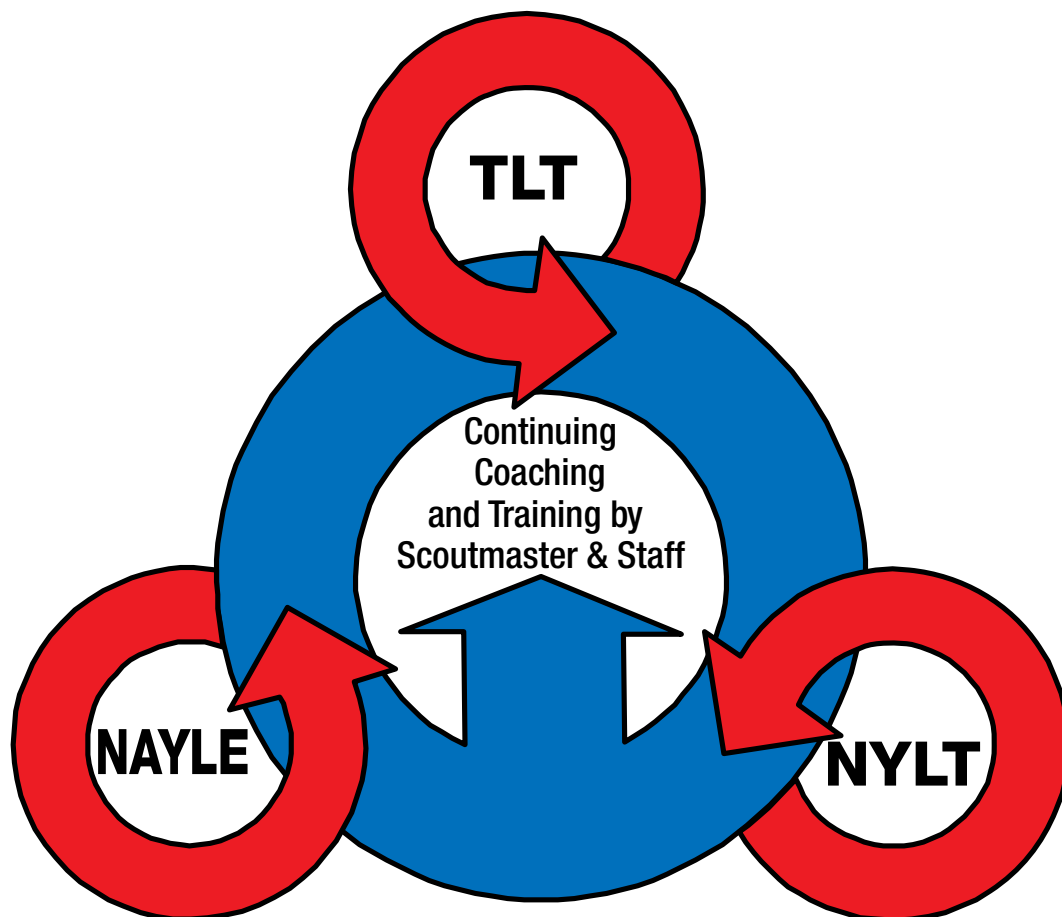
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Patrol Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Venture Crew President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Senior Patrol Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Venture Crew Vice President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Troop Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Assistant Scoutmaster |



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Boy Scouts of America has positioned themselves as the foremost experts in training adolescents and teenagers in leadership skills. Their award winning Leadership Training programs have been developed by some of the top names in the training industry. Troop 179 conducts Troop Leadership Training (TLT) several times annually. Once a year we offer a Leadership training weekend full of courses designed to help develop skills.

The Scouts also have available to the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) held locally several times annually. After completing TLT and NYLT we encourage our Scout to head to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico to attend the National Advance Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE for the ultimate in youth leadership training).



UNIFORMS

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and 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. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.



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When to Wear What?

At most Troop functions; the uniform is required and should be worn. The Senior Patrol Leader will always let the Scouts know if no uniforms are to be worn. The best rule is, "When in doubt, wear your uniform."

Regular Meetings: the **Scout Uniform** as well as sharp folding knife, bolo tie, beret, small first aid kit, and pen or pencil.

Courts of Honor: the **Scout Uniform** plus medals, pins, and a merit badge sash.

Activities: the Scout and Activity Uniforms, no bolo ties are required as this is an item that tends to be lost at campouts.

The Scout Uniform Definition

- Scout shirt with proper patches
- Scout trousers, shorts, or Switchback™ pants
- Scout web belt (the new Switchback™ pants include a nylon web belt)
- Centennial Green shoulder loops for Boy Scouts, green for Venture Scouts
- Scout socks, any length
- Merit Badge Sash (Star, Life & Eagle Scouts only)
- Folding pocket knife
- Western bolo tie (any style)
- Red Beret for Boy Scouts, Black Venture ball cap for Venture Scouts

The Activity Uniform (Casual Dress)

- Red T-shirt
- Scout trousers, shorts, or Switchback™ pants
- Scout socks, any length (required with shorts only)
- Scout web belt (the new Switchback™ shorts include a nylon web belt)

Note: Any past official uniform of the Boy Scouts of America may be used in place of the current issued uniform.



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Before You Run Out and Buy a Uniform

Troop 179 participates in a uniform exchange program. It sells used Boy Scout Uniform shirts, pants and shorts at great prices. Before you buy an all-new uniform for that growing boy of yours, take a look at what we have in stock in the Trading Post. In addition, we stock some new uniform items such as red berets, belts, socks and almost all of the patches and numerals worn on the uniform shirt. We also sell items for the activity uniform called "Babe Wear" because it has the troop number and logo, Babe, the Blue Ox, on it. There are hooded sweatshirts, crew neck sweatshirts, turtlenecks, tee shirts, pajama bottoms, red baseball caps and day-size backpacks with the logo for sale. Sales take place the Tuesdays before campouts and before Courts of Honor. Please look at the troop calendar for sale dates.

When your son outgrows his uniform, we ask that you consider donating it to Troop 179 for resale. Proceeds from the sale of these uniforms help towards the replacement of worn out equipment.

Where to Find Boy Scout Supplies:

<u>Store</u>	<u>Store Type</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Distance</u>
National Supply:	Web Based	www.scoutstuff.org	(800) 323-0736	
Nankin Hobby	Distributor	33350 Nine Mile Road Farmington, MI 48336	(248) 919-0040	4.64 miles
Nankin Do-It Center	Distributor	35101 Ford Rd. Westland, MI 48185	(313) 722-5700	10.64 miles
Clinton Valley Scout Shop	Scout Shop	1100 County Center Dr, W. Waterford, MI 48328	(248) 253-9596	14.69 miles
Great Sauk Trail Council	Council Shop	1979 Huron Parkway Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4199	(734) 971-7100	18.68 miles
Detroit Toyota Scout Shop	Scout Shop	1776 W. Warren Ave. Detroit, MI 48208-2215	(313) 898-8920	21.12

Red Beret or Paul Bunyan "Campaign" Hat

Troop 179 Trading Post
 Joe's Army/Navy Surplus (248) 681-5277, Waterford
 Harry's Army/Navy Surplus (313) 565-6605, Dearborn

Western-Style Bolo Tie (worn instead of neckerchiefs)

Scott Colburn Western Wear (248) 476-1262, Livonia (Farm Rd & 8 Mile)
www.scottcolburnwestern.com

For a few styles: National Scouting Catalog or CVC Store (see above)



TROOP RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section I Affiliations

- A. Troop 179 is chartered by the Ottawa District, Clinton Valley Council, Central Region (Area two), Boy Scouts of America.
- B. Troop 179 is sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.
- C. Troop Colors are Royal Blue and White.
- D. Troop totem is Babe, the blue ox. Babe was selected in 1968 to go along with our first Patrol the Paul Bunyan's.

Section II Membership

- A. Initiation procedure:
 - a. Complete the Boy Scout application and pay the prorated troop dues.
 - b. Purchase a *Scout Handbook* from a Scout distributor.
 - c. Purchase a Full Scout Uniform from a Scout distributor.
 - d. Meet the joining requirements as detailed in the *Scout Handbook*.
- B. Attendance:
 - a. Like any other organization we depend and plan on the attendance of all Scouts. If a Scout misses a meeting or activity his team (his patrol or crew) is short a person. If too many Scouts miss a meeting or activity, the patrol cannot function and our program breaks down. Because Scouting is a year round activity we understand that other activities can come in conflict with the troop program. Regarding sports and other school activities our policy is:
 - i. If an infrequent event, such as a music concert, conflicts with our weekly meeting, the Scout should miss the troop meeting for this one time event.
 - ii. However, if a weekly after school activity conflicts with a troop campout, we feel the Scout should attend the campout. We feel this is important as the Troop attends only one campout each month.
 - b. If a Scout cannot attend a meeting, he should call his Patrol Leader. If a Scout cannot attend a Campout after he has signed up, he must notify his Patrol Leader, and the Transportation Chairperson.
 - c. Only active members will be considered eligible for awards, ranks and membership in a patrol or crew. An active member will be defined as someone who consistently attends two-thirds of the troop meetings and activities.
 - d. A Scout may be asked to report to the Patrol Leader Council if he misses three consecutive meetings or three consecutive activities. If the Scout fails to report to the Patrol leaders Council they may suspend his membership for review by the Troop Committee.
- C. Participation:
 - a. The Scout will be expected to be in Full Scout Uniform at all Scout meetings and activities unless otherwise announced by the Senior Patrol Leader.
 - b. As a member of a patrol and troop a Scout will be asked to do tasks by his fellow elected Scouts. The Scoutmasters work to make sure this is done fairly. However, if a Scout is insubordinate to the others he will be asked to go home.
 - c. Scouts who participate in High Adventure events, such as the Philmont Scout Ranch, Sea Base, or National Jamborees, are required to participate in Summer Camp. Summer Camp is considered a vital and important part of the Scouting experience that should not be missed for even one year. High Adventure activities are extra-curricular.



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Section III Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

- A. The PLC is the governing body of the troop. Its purpose is to plan, develop and give leadership to all meetings and activities of the Troop and Venture crew.
- B. Voting Members of the PLC:
 - a. Senior Patrol Leader (Chairman of the PLC)
 - b. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Traditional
 - c. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, New Scout
 - d. Venture Crew 179 President
 - e. Patrol Leaders (for the New Scout Patrols)
 - f. Patrol Leaders (for the Traditional Patrols)
 - g. Venture Crew Chiefs (for the Venture Crews)
- C. All other Paul Bunyan Members are considered non-voting members of the PLC

Section IV Adult Leaders

- A. Scoutmasters:
 - a. The troop will maintain one Scoutmaster for every ten Scouts.
 - b. Every Scout deserves a trained Scout leader. All 179 Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters must complete BSA training within one year of registering.
 - c. The troop will cover the camping and food fees for Scoutmasters on Campouts.
- B. Troop Committee
 - a. The troop will maintain a committee of parents and interested members of the community to decide on matters of operational policy, membership, advancement and finance.
 - b. The committee will form a group that will support the Scoutmasters in their role as requested by the Scoutmaster.

Section V Meetings

- A. The Troop meets regularly on every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. throughout the year (except July and August).
 - a. The doors will be open at 7:00 p.m.
 - b. Parents should pick up their sons at 9:00 p.m.
 - c. If the Farmington Public Schools declares a snow or hazard weather day or is not in session on the day of a meeting, we will not meet.
- B. Special Meetings:
 - a. The Troop will have three Courts of Honor each year to recognize awards the Scouts earned since the last Court of Honor and award them to the Scout with his parents. All parents are encouraged to be present.
 - b. Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets once a month on the Tuesday following each activity to plan the troops program. On the same night the Troop and Patrol Quartermasters meet to work with the troop equipment and the Scoutmasters meet to evaluate the program and our goals.
 - c. Patrol meetings may be summoned at the convenience of the Patrol Leader or Guide. Attendance is required.
 - d. The Troop Committee meets once a month.
 - e. There will be at least one parent meeting per year.



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Section VI Activities

- A. Transportation
 - a. Transportation will be arranged on a volunteer basis by the Transportation Organizer. Parents need to volunteer to drive either to or from an activity at least every other time a Scout attends.
 - b. If a Scout will be arriving late or leaving early his parents are responsible for his transportation. Under these circumstances, the Transportation Organizer must be notified in writing prior to the campout.
 - c. All Scouts must travel in uniform and wear seat belts while traveling.
- B. Scouts are expected to maintain a level of behavior that is tolerable to the leaders in charge. Fighting or lack of cooperation will result in the Scout's parents being called to come and pick up the Scout.
- C. Parents are welcome on campouts at any time; we can always use extra supervision. Remember campouts are learning experiences for the Scouts and parents should refrain from helping their son too much.
- D. There must be at least one adult per ten Scouts on a campout.
- E. Prior to joining the Troop, a Scout candidate will be limited to going on one campout.
- F. No firearms, fireworks or sheath knives are permitted on campouts.

Section VII Disciplinary Problems

- A. First time offenders will meet with the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) to provide an explanation of what happened. If found guilty of a First Offense, the Scout will be warned and a note will be attached to his records for a six month period. As an offense constitutes a lack of Scout Spirit, it may delay any pending advancement in rank.
- B. If problems continue after talking to the Scout, the PLC can issue a Second Offense, and renew the six- month period. At this time an adult leader will contact the Scout's parents and will explain the reasons for the action to the parents.
- C. If problems persist and the PLC assigns a Third Offense to the Scout, the PLC relinquishes responsibility to the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee will meet to determine if the Scout will be asked to leave Troop 179 to transfer to another Troop.
- D. If the Scout wishes to appeal any decision of the PLC he may appeal with his parents to the Troop Committee.



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THE TROOP COMMITTEE

The Troop Committee is the overall governing board of the troop. Their purpose is to decide on the direction the troop will take and long-term goals that help meet the goals of the Sponsor using the aims and methods of the Boy Scouts of America. It is the job of the committee to recruit and approve all adult participation in the troop; decide on matters of youth membership; charter the troop; keep the troop financially independent; and approve all rank advancement of the Scouts.

Although it is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, his Assistants, and the Patrol Leaders Council, to decide on the troop's program, the Troop Committee should play a supportive roll in its administration. The committee helps with making reservations, providing transportation, assists Scouts with their uniforms, run Courts of Honor and other parent activities, and works closely with the Scoutmaster. The decisions of the Scoutmaster on the troop's program are solely his and should not be questioned. If there are concerns by the committee as to whether his decisions are meeting the overall goals of the troop the committee can intercede and direct the Scoutmaster to meet the goals or replace him with someone new.

Administrative Positions

Chartered Organization Representative (COR): The COR is appointed by the sponsor to be a liaison officer of the committee to oversee the operations of the troop and insure that the goals of the sponsor are being met. The COR presents concerns that the sponsor has to the troop and facilitates any requests the troop has of the sponsor. All adults involved in the troop must also be approved by the COR.

Committee Chairman: The Chief Executive Officer of the troop, the Committee Chairman, is in charge of the total operation of the committee responsible for recruiting and approving all adult volunteers in the troop. The chairman is responsible for training all committee people in their jobs and following up with them to see that the tasks assigned to them are being done in a timely and proficient manner. The chairman is present at most meetings of the Troop to interact with the parents, oversees committee activities going on at the meeting, and maintains first hand knowledge of the activities of the troop and its program.

Registrar: This individual ensures that all of our members, youth and adults, are properly registered with the Boy Scouts of America and the Clinton Valley Council. The Registrar maintains our membership database keeping it up-to-date. The Registrar presides over the annual re-charter process.

GOAT Patrol Leader: The GOAT Patrol is a pool of Assistant Scoutmasters who support the troop and crew program as needed. They camp and cook as a group at activities separate from the Scouts, providing adult support to the program. The GOAT Patrol Leader presides over the monthly committee meetings, ensures representation at monthly roundtables and secures top-notch, trained individuals for troop leadership positions.



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Assistant Scoutmasters in the GOAT Patrol work in one of three areas:

- **Advancement:** These Assistant Scoutmasters maintain records for each Scout, they work with the boys who have made it to First Class rank and help them to connect with merit badge counselors and choose leadership positions that enhance their experience and help them grow.
- **Membership:** These Assistant Scoutmasters work with Webelos Leaders in the area to represent our troop and coordinate with the parents of boys who want to join our troop.
- **Equipment:** These Assistant Scoutmasters work with the boys who have been appointed Quartermaster to maintain our troop camping equipment.

The Finance Team

Treasurer: The Chief Financial Officer of the troop, the Treasurer, is in charge of all financial concerns of the troop. The Treasurer is required to present an annual report to the parents of the troop's financial status, including presenting an annual budget for the parents to approve and making recommendations on funding the budget. Throughout the year the Treasurer will attend most meetings of the troop to reimburse expenditures made by Scoutmasters and pay bills. The treasurer will produce a monthly balance report and present it at the monthly committee meeting.

Friends of Scouting: A one-person position that raises funds from the Scout families to donate to the Clinton Valley Council.

Fundraising: This committee is responsible for raising the funds needed to fulfill the budget approved annually by the parents. Our current fundraising has been to sell Christmas Wreaths starting October 1, taking orders and then delivering the wreaths within a few weeks after Thanksgiving. This fundraising effort has worked well for us and has earned the troop over \$35,000 annually.

Uniforms: This committee runs our troop trading post and uniform exchange. They encourage Scouts to turn in uniforms that don't fit anymore and then have them available to sell at a reduced price. All of our "Babe-wear" clothing, T-shirts, sweatshirts, PJs, hats, patches, socks, etc is also available. See the troop calendar for dates when the store is open, and it is also open by appointment.

Outdoor Activities Team

Outdoors: This is usually a one-person job that makes arrangements for all troop outings. After the annual planning conference (a Patrol Leaders Council meeting held in the winter) the Outdoor chairperson goes to work contacting all the camps and facilities that the troop requires for the next year. They make reservations and set the dates for next year's calendar.



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Transportation: Our Transportation Committee coordinates a car-pooling service for parents to provide transportation to and from troop activities. The service is voluntary and parents can opt to be a part of the car-pooling or provide their son or daughter with their own transportation. The committee collects data from the parents via the on-line Activity Registration and then arranges the Scouts into vehicles making sure that every Scout has a ride to and from the activity. The committee also files for Tour Permit with Clinton Valley Council. Important meetings for committee members to attend are the meetings prior to Activities, Committee Meetings (usually the Tuesday after Activities), and most of the month of June.

The Advancement Team

The Advancement Committee is one of the largest committees in the troop. The responsibility of this committee is to see that every Scout has the opportunity to advance in rank to the ultimate goal of Eagle Scout. The troop is responsible for ensuring that:

- Each Scout will have the opportunity to advance to the rank of First Class through a skills training program that is conducted by the Patrol Leaders Council.
- Parents are recruited to be Merit Badge Counselors and make themselves available to all Scouts in the Ottawa District and a Merit Badge Counselor list is made available to each Scout to use.
- A Board of Review is held at least once a month to approve the rank advancement from Tenderfoot through Life and to review the progress of Scouts who have not advanced in the past year.
- Eagle Boards of Review are conducted within a month after requested by an Eagle candidate, and that it is conducted under the auspices of the Ottawa District Advancement Committee.
- All Scout Advancement is reported on the official Advancement Report form (#4403B) to the Clinton Valley Council at least once a month.

The old saying *many hands makes light work* is what allows us to accomplish all of these advancement goals and provide the superior program to our Scouts.

The Equipment Team

Another large job that is handled easily with the help of a lot of volunteers is the equipment maintenance. Troop 179 owns approximately \$40,000 in camping equipment and has six trailers for hauling it. All of the equipment is stored at the Presbyterian Church and it is a tremendous task to keep it maintained. We ask the help of all parents, since from time to time tents are sent home to be dried out. The maintenance of the equipment is broken up into several volunteer areas:

- Quartermasters - An Assistant Scoutmaster works with the troop, patrol, and crew quartermasters, and mentors them to help develop leadership and to ensure completion of their tasks.



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- Patrol Equipment - Inventory, replace, and maintain the equipment that is issued in the patrol kitchens and the patrol equipment boxes
- Tents - Distribute to and collect tents from the Scouts – develops a program of maintenance for repairing and waterproofing
- Supplies - Maintains a supply of consumable products (i.e. paper goods), loads patrol boxes for patrol cooking activities, loads bulk products for troop cooking activities, ensures an adequate supply of charcoal and propane for each activity
- Vehicles - Inspect and maintain trailers ensuring reliability for use; Check electrical connections, charge batteries, and check tires prior to each use; Recruit and create a list of drivers for transporting the trailers to and from each activity
- Propane Equipment - Safety inspection and maintain the troop propane equipment
- Troop Equipment - An Assistant Scoutmaster inventories, replaces, and maintains the common troop equipment used by the adult eating group and/or troop cooking activities, including program equipment; Is the lead adult on the troop activities in charge of the equipment performing field repairs when needed and leading the Assistant Scoutmasters in the proper packing of the equipment back in the trailers for transport

The Membership Team

This committee is responsible for creating a marketing program that attracts new members to the troop, both youth and adult. They work with both the community and Webelos leaders to make Troop 179 available to receive any new recruits. They host our annual Webelosfest weekend, attend Crossover Ceremonies, and host open houses at our meetings. They are also involved in working with the program Scoutmasters to ensure retention of our existing members.

Other Committees

The Hospitality Committee: This committee requires multiple people to complete the job. The committee serves as hosts at our parents' nights. Our largest parent's night activity each year is the International Dinner. The Hospitality Committee organizes and works with the Scouts to select their country (done by patrol) and ensures that each patrol is organized with a menu and instructs each family what to food to bring. The committee usually serves beverages and decorates.

Training: This committee works to ensure troop leaders and committee members have opportunities for training. Their duties are to: maintain an inventory of up-to-date training material, videotapes, and other training resources; work with the district training team to schedule Fast Start training for all new leaders; be responsible for BSA Youth Protection training within the troop; and encourage Scouts to participate in youth leader development within the troop and at the council and national levels.



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Chaplain: Our troop Chaplain provides a spiritual tone for troop meetings and activities. The chaplain gives guidance to the chaplain aides; promotes regular participation of each member in the activities of the religious organization of his choice; visit homes of Scouts in times of sickness or need; gives spiritual counseling service when needed or requested; and encourages Scouts to earn their appropriate religious emblems.

Webmaster: As the name suggests the webmaster maintains troop website, www.bsatroop179.org, and keeps it up-to-date with all the recent information that you will need to know about our activities. Permission slips, maps, forms, and everything you need may be downloaded on your personal computer.

Publicity: This committee promotes the news about Troop 179 and its great Scouts. The publicity chairperson writes articles, takes pictures and notifies the press about our courts of honor and special activities, especially information about our Eagle Scouts.

First Aid: Mostly composed of medical professionals, this committee inventories, replaces, and maintains various first aid kits that are appropriate to the activities conducted by the troop; works with the Assistant Scoutmasters encouraging them to undertake first responder training and to be prepared in the event of an accident on an activity; staffs a State of Michigan certified Health Office for week-long youth camps while the troop is at summer camp; organizes two CPR certification courses for the Scouts and adults annually.

GETTING INFORMATION

Troop Calendar

The troop produces a troop calendar detailing the activities of each month throughout the year. The calendar is distributed at the parent's kickoff meeting in August and parents who are not in attendance at the meeting can pick up their copy at any regular Scout meeting in September. An electronic calendar which is updated throughout the year is available on the Troop website (see below).

Troop Website

The troop has a very complete and up-to-date website at www.bsatroop179.org. There you will find all kinds of information on activities, advancement, documents like this book, on-line registration for activities and maps. There is a Bulletin Board that the Scouts use to post messages to each other.

Troop Email List Server Newsletter

Most months the Troop produces a newsletter which describes all the upcoming activities (including outdoor activities, service projects parent's nights and meetings) that are coming up and also covers news that pertains to the troop. You may also have information sent to as many email addresses as necessary. We send out at least one email a month with news about the troop. To put an address on the list server (or have one removed) it is handled through the troop Registrar and can be done at most regular troop meetings.



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Getting Questions Answered

Part of the Boy Scout program is to help ensure that your son is becoming self-sufficient. They should be able to think and act on their own. As a parent, it is sometimes very easy to just do it for them. If a problem arises, or you do not understand the information that has been sent home, call and find out what's going on. To assist you and your son with the process, both of you should follow the Chain of Command provided below:

Your Scout should call their Patrol Leader or Guide. If he cannot answer your question, or if he is not home, call the Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. If he cannot answer your question, or if he is not home, the parent or Scout may call the Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member in charge of the area pertaining to your question. If he cannot answer your question, or if he is not home;

Call the Scoutmaster! He will gladly answer any questions you may have, and should have the answers to all of them. It is very easy to just decide to call him first, but with 80 to 100 Scouts in our troop he gets a lot of calls and if someone else can answer your question, try them first.