

**Troop 1916
Prospective
Scout Parent
Information Packet**

Troop 1916 Scouting Information for Prospective Scout Parents

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What is Boy Scouts of America?

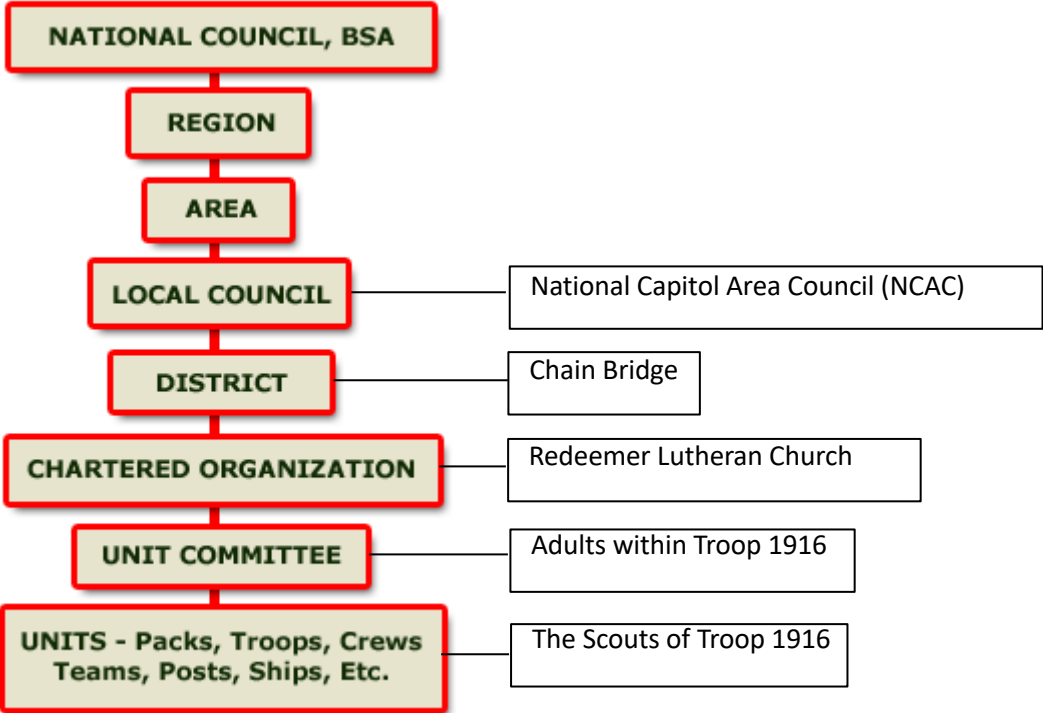
The Boy Scouts of America (Scouts BSA) is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with over 4.5 million youth members in its age-related divisions. Since its founding in 1910 as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA. The BSA goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

One common misunderstanding with many is that Scouting is going “coed.” While it’s true that we are serving boys and girls, these changes don’t make our troops coed. With these modifications, you still have boys in troops, and girls in their own troops. Per Scouts BSA policy, we must have separate troops for boys and girls. What does all this mean? Troop 1916 is a boy-only troop, while Girl's Troop 2119 (our sister troop), accepts girls. Both troops meet at the same time at the church and attend many of the same outings, but for the remainder of this document, we will be referring to boys only. Please contact the Scoutmaster for Troop 2119 if you are interested in enrolling your daughter in Scouts.

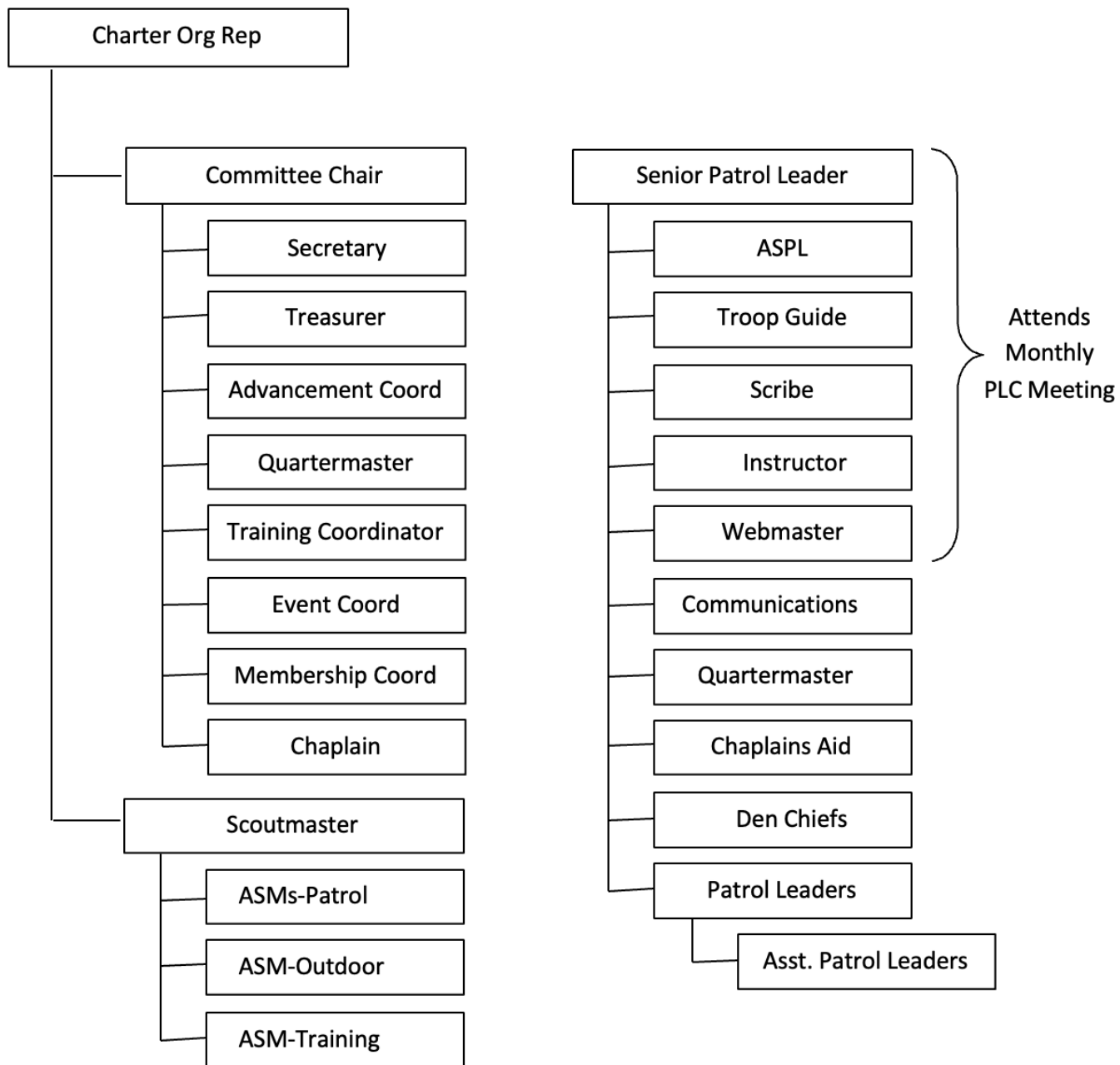
Scouting is a membership level of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for boys and young men. It provides youth training in character, citizenship, and mental and personal fitness. Boy Scouts are expected to develop personal religious values, learn the principles of American heritage and government, and acquire skills to become successful adults.

To achieve these, Boy Scouting applies eight methods of Scouting: Ideals (viz., the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan), the patrol method, participation in outdoor programs, advancement, adult association, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform. Boy Scouting is generally available to boys between the ages of 10 and eighteen. They are organized in Scout troops, administered by volunteers with support of paid professional staff. Youth and adult members are Scouts, the boys are referred to as Boy Scouts, and the adults as Scouters.

Organization of BSA?



Organization of the Troop



Scouts vs. Cub Scouts?

Scouts are not “Webelos 3”. There are significant differences between the two organizations. These differences reflect the differences between the target groups of youth served by the different organizations. They are there for good reasons. Cub scouts is a family program aimed primarily at 7-10 year old boys; it requires the adults to run it in detail, largely because boys of that age cannot be expected to run it. Boy Scouts is a youth-oriented program aimed primarily at 11-18 year old youth. It is run by the scouts, for the scouts, and the adults play a (considerable) role in supporting the program.

Whose Troop is it?

It is worth remembering the words of Baden-Powell, “The chief task of the scoutmaster is to help the scouts run their troop”. The central goal of all adult leadership (really adult mentoring and teaching) is to empower the scouts to take up the leadership of their unit. Every adult leader should always ask “does this action of mine enable the scout leadership, or does it interfere with their ability to run their troop?”

Equivalent Positions in Cub and Boy Scouts

Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Den Leader (adult)	Patrol Leader (youth)
Cubmaster (adult)	Senior Patrol Leader (youth)
Unit Committee planning functions (adults)	Patrol Leaders Council (youth)
(no equivalent)	Scoutmaster (adult)
Unit committee administrative functions (adult)	Unit Committee (adult)

Notice that most Cub Scout positions are filled by youth in Boy Scouts. This reflects the central difference between the two organizations. The patrol leaders are elected by their patrols, and the senior patrol leader by the troop at large. Because it is run by the scouts, Boy Scout meetings and activities tend to be more chaotic than cub meetings and activities. This is healthy. The scouts need to have opportunities to make mistakes. One role of the adult mentoring is to prevent these mistakes from becoming catastrophes. Unlike cub scouts, rank advancement in the first ranks (tenderfoot through first class) is examined by senior scouts (technically the scoutmaster can now restrict who can examine them, but it does not bode well if a scout who is most of the way to eagle is not competent to teach basic knots to a tenderfoot scout), and checked by the scoutmaster and board of review. Ranks like star, life scout, and eagle require merit badges which are taught and examined by adults who are registered merit badge counselors. They still have Scoutmaster Conferences and boards of review.

Baden-Powell was thinking of the turn of the last century English word “schoolmaster” when he coined the word “scoutmaster”. A schoolmaster is a mentor, friend and teacher to his students. BSA is one of the few scouting organizations that still uses the term scoutmaster. The way to think of scoutmaster is as “chief adult guide” and the assistant scoutmasters as “adult guides”. Unfortunately these don’t make as nifty patches as scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster.

Positions Within the Troop - Scouts

Senior Patrol Leader: The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop. The Senior Patrol Leader is the focal point of the troop. He needs to attend as close to all troop functions as possible. One of the major parts of the SPL's job is to appoint other troop leaders. He must choose leaders who are able, not just his friends or other popular Scouts.

Patrol Leader: The Patrol Leader is the elected leader of his patrol. He represents his patrol on the Patrol Leader's Council. The Patrol Leader may easily be the most important job in the troop. He has the closest contact with the patrol members and is in the perfect position to help and guide them. The Patrol Leaders, along with the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are the primary members of the Patrol Leaders' Council.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster: The Junior Assistant Scoutmaster serves in the capacity of an Assistant Scoutmaster except where legal age and maturity are required. He must be at least 16 years old and not yet 18. He is appointed by the Scoutmaster because of his leadership ability. In many cases the JASM has the same responsibilities as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Den Chief: The Den Chief works with the Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and Den Leaders in a Cub Scout pack. The Den Chief provides knowledge of games and Scout skills that many Den Leaders lack. The Den Chief is also a recruiter for the troop. This function is important because no troop can thrive without new members and most new members will come from Cub Scouting.

Instructor: The Instructor teaches scouting skills. The Instructor will work closely with both the Troop Guide and with the Assistant Scoutmaster for new Scouts. The Instructor does not have to be an expert but should be able to teach the scout craft skills needed for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. The troop can have more than one instructor.

Troop Guide: The Troop Guide works with new Scouts. He helps them feel comfortable and helps them earn their First Class rank in their first year. The first year as a Boy Scout is a critical time with new places, new people, new rules, and new activities. The Troop Guide is a friend to the new Scouts and makes first year fun and successful. This is an important position.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader: The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is the second highest-ranking leader in the troop. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader acts as the Senior Patrol Leader in the absence of the SPL or when called upon. He also provides leadership to other junior leaders in the troop. The most important part of the ASPL position is his work with the other junior leaders. The ASPL should be familiar with the other positions and stay current with the work being done.

Assistant Patrol Leader: The Assistant Patrol Leader is appointed by the Patrol Leader and leads the patrol in his absence. Substituting for the Patrol Leader is only part of the Assistant Patrol Leader's job. The APL actively helps run the patrol.

Chaplain Aide: The Chaplain Aide works with the Troop Chaplain to meet the religious needs of Scouts in the troop. He also works to promote the religious awards program. "Duty to God" is one of the core beliefs of Scouting. The Chaplain Aide helps everyone in the troop by preparing short religious observations for campouts and other functions. The Chaplain Aide does not always lead the observation himself and can have another troop member help.

Communications: This is a new role combining the traditional roles of historian and librarian. The Troop Historian keeps a historical record or scrapbook of troop activities. The true value of a good Historian does not show up until years later. The Historian provides material for displays and presentations of current activities. In addition, the work of the Historian provides a link with the past. The Troop Librarian takes care of troop literature and online documents. The library contains books of historical value as well as current materials. All together, the library is a troop resource worth hundreds of dollars. The Librarian manages this resource for the troop.

Assistant Quartermaster: The Troop Quartermaster works with the adult troop quartermaster to keep track of troop equipment and sees that it is in good working order. The Quartermaster does most of his work around campouts. There are times when the Quartermaster has to be available to check equipment in and out.

Webmaster: The Webmaster, under the guidance of an appointed adult leader, maintains the Troop website, social media page, and/or unit information listings on unit finding sites. A knowledge of using social media sites and HTML coding, and having internet access from home are helpful.

Scribe: The Scribe keeps the troop records. He records the activities of the Patrol Leaders' Council and keeps a record of advancement, and Scout attendance at troop meetings. To be a good Scribe you need to attend all troop and Patrol Leaders' Council meetings.

Positions Within the Troop - Adults

Committee Chair:

- Organizes the committee to ensure all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed.
- Maintains a close relationship with the chartered organizations representative and the Scoutmaster.
- Creates an agenda and presides over troop committee meetings.

Secretary:

- Keeps minutes of meetings and sends out committee meeting notices.
- Prepares a family newsletter of troop events and activities.
- Reports minutes from last meeting at each committee meeting.

Treasurer:

- Handles all troop funds.
- Pays bills on recommendation of Scoutmaster and authorization of committee.
- Keeps adequate records in the Troop Record book/software.
- Supervises money-earning projects that support the troop's programs.
- Reports to the troop committee at each meeting.

Event Coordinator:

- Helps secure permission to use camp sites or other needed facilities.
- Serves as transportation coordinator.
- Secures tour permits for all activities.
- Collects and maintains all health records and permissions slips for adults and Scouts.
- Insures a packet of all necessary travel paperwork is delivered to a registered leader that will be present on each trip.

Advancement Coordinator:

- Works with troop scribe to maintain all Scout advancement records.
- Arranges quarterly troop boards of review and courts of honor.
- Ensures Scouts are recognized for their accomplishments.

Training Coordinator:

- Ensures that troop leaders and committee members have opportunities for training.
- Responsible for BSA Youth Protection training within the troop.
- Stays up-to-date on all BSA training materials, videotapes, and other training resources.
- Insures highest possible troop compliance with Journey To Excellence training scoring requirements.

Quartermaster:

- Work with the youth Quartermaster and is responsible inventory, storage, and maintenance of unit equipment.

Troop Membership Chair

- Ensure a smooth transition of new Scouts into the unit and orientation for new parents.
- Organizes recruiting events throughout the year, to include regular visits to local Packs by Troop Scouts to encourage continuing to Boy Scouts.

Scoutmaster

- Work directly with the Scouts to help them create the program for the Troop.
- Trains boy leaders to run the troop by providing direction, coaching, and support.
- Schedule and lead a JLT after every switch of elected officers (Jan & July)
- Contact SPL weekly to review plans for upcoming meetings.

Assistant Scoutmaster(s)

- Assist the Scoutmaster in delivering the troop program.
- Provides guidance to their assigned Patrol, helping the Patrol Leader to plan and execute valuable Patrol Meetings.

What does “Boy Led Program” Really Mean?

Taken from the introduction of “*Parents’ and New Leaders Guide to a Boy-Led Troop*”. Please consider reading more of this document.

One of the major differences between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is the very important method, leadership development. In order to teach leadership, you have to let the boys lead. In fact, one of the more vigorous debates you can have in Scouting is over the feasibility of a boy-led troop. Some adult leaders will argue that while a boy-led troop is the BSA ideal, it's not possible in their particular troop for any or all of the following reasons: the boys are too young, too lazy, too irresponsible, or just not interested.

A boy-led troop is more work for the adult leadership, and therein is the problem, and our need for your cooperation and help. It is so much easier for the adults to just take charge themselves than to teach the necessary leadership skills to the boys.

All Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters are taught the basics of a boy-led troop and patrol in Scoutmaster Specifics. However putting that training into practice is often difficult without a mentor in the troop. This guide will hopefully bridge the gap between theory and practice. It covers some of the common pitfalls and offers suggestions for getting a working boy-led troop. The importance of a boy-led troop and patrol is emphasized in two chapters of the Scoutmaster’s Handbook; chapter 3 “The Boy-Led Troop” starts with this strong statement:

“Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop a troop program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve the goals. One of our most important challenges is to train boy leaders to run the troop by providing direction, coaching and support. The boys will make mistakes now and then and will rely upon the adult leaders to guide them. But only through real hands-on experience as leaders can boys learn to lead.”

As mentioned before, perhaps the most common reason for the existence of adult-led troops is that it is easier for the experienced adult leaders to run things; teaching leadership to boys is not easy. A second common reason is that the adult leaders may be afraid of failure; they want a smooth running troop. A boy-led project will occasionally falter, and adults may feel it necessary to take over to ensure success. A third is that the troop may have adult leaders that do not delegate well, and do not wish to give up control. In fact, many consider that the main barriers to a boy-led troop come from the attitudes within the adult leadership.

Scout Ranks

Scout: After meeting age requirements and finding a troop, the Scout learns basic scout knowledge such as Scout sign, salute, handshake, oath, motto, slogan, promise. The young Scout must also demonstrate how to tie a square knot.

Tenderfoot: The Tenderfoot Scout shows and packs camping gear, camps overnight with the Troop in a tent he helps pitch, ties more complicated knots, participates in a flag ceremony, helps prepare meals and can describe safe hiking and trail rules. By now, the Scout can demonstrate basic first aid skills and has shown improvement in personal physical fitness benchmarks.

Second Class: The Second Class Scout demonstrates compass work and basic orienteering and map reading on a 5 mile hike. He must demonstrate basic fire building, axe sharpening and use and prepare a meal for his patrol. Safe swimming, more advanced first aid, and identification of dangerous wildlife is also required. The Scout is introduced to service projects; an essential component of Scouting with this rank.

First Class: The First Class Scout demonstrates that he can now fend for himself in the outdoors. He demonstrates how to correctly identify direction and location without a compass. His cooking skills are put to the test as he plans and executes a full day's menu using safe food handling and a hot stove. By now, he's a productive member of the Troop since he's participated in at least 10 Troop activities, held at least one position of authority and has attempted to recruit new boys. As well, the First Class Scout has met with elected officials or other civic leaders.

Star: The Star Scout transitions into a new role in the Troop. He is now a leader, not just a learner. The emphasis on his development is driven by leadership to his Troop and service to his community. There are requirements to reach minimum community service hours and merit badge attainment goals.

Life: The Life Scout leads by example. His commitment can be summed up by tenure, community service and leadership positions within the Troop. It's time for the boy to take a serious look at his path to Eagle Scout and to mentor other boys in the Troop to reach the same goal.

Eagle: Eagle Scouts must complete 21 merit badges and a comprehensive and challenging Eagle Scout service project that must pass rigorous standards from BSA and substantially benefit a community or service organization other than the Boy Scouts of America. The project is designed to be a long-lasting tribute to the hard work and legacy of Scouting. Eagle Scouts can go on to earn Eagle Palms beyond the Eagle Scout rank. The Palms demonstrate continued involvement in the Scouting program.

Merit Badges & Blue Cards

Your son, as a Scout, will generally be working on two types of things at all times... his rank requirements and merit badges.

Rank Requirements: As you read on the Boy Scout Ranks page, your Scout will advance in rank during his time in Scouts. Some Scouts advance more quickly than others. Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts of an age group do not necessarily advance at the same time. Lack of speed is not an issue as long as there is always some degree of momentum, and as long as the pace is not so slow as to deny your son the opportunity to earn the rank of Eagle before they become too old to be eligible. Rank requirements change in focus and difficulty as the Scout advances. One requirement of achieving the next rank is earning a certain number of merit badges.

Merit Badges: A merit badge is an opportunity to learn about an area of knowledge, profession, activity, sport, or other skill through research, activity and exposure to someone that is a professional or very experienced hobbyist in the field. Before starting a merit badge, your Scout will be required to meet with a Scoutmaster to get a Blue Card. These cards are records of which requirement for the merit badge your son has completed. Keep these in a safe place. When you join the Troop you will receive more information on how the Blue Card process works.

While it is up to Scouts to work at their own pace, they very often need some encouraging, or even nagging, to keep their momentum up. You, as a parent, are not alone in this responsibility. Not only will the Scoutmaster staff try to stay aware of your son's progress, but we also have an Advancement Coordinator who will keep close tabs on your son and prod him occasionally when he starts to get a little lazy. You are always welcome to approach the Advancement Coordinator to get an update on where your Scout stands in his advancement progress, but don't expect the A.C. to do all the work. Your Scout needs YOUR support at home if he is to succeed.

Keys to Success

Let me be very clear right up front... with very rare exception, your Scout will NOT succeed without your help! The Troop leaders will do all they can, but Scouting MUST be supported and encouraged in the home as well. Here are some very easy points that will help you help your Scout be successful.

Pride in Uniform: When we dress professional, we feel professional. Encourage your Scout to not only wear his uniform, but to look in a mirror and see if it all looks right. As Scouts get older you will find yourself battling their willingness to wear the uniform in public. That battle will be lessened if you encourage the wearing of the uniform early and often.

Ask “Do You Have Everything?”: One of the greatest challenges our Scoutmaster and advancement staff faces is Scouts not bringing folders and handbooks to meetings. Before walking out the door, just ask your Scout casually, “Do you have everything?” At first you may have to help them by running down the list: uniform, handbook, Scout folder. After a year or so you may get to the point that you just have to ask the questions. Eventually, if you are fortunate, they will be asking themselves the question.

“We attend everything”: If you can make this the assumption in your household without having to say it, your Scout will have a HUGE advantage. When a Scout doesn't show up for a meeting or event, they miss out, their Patrol is short-handed, their Troop is short-handed, and we are less-represented in front of any other Troops in attendance. The greatest loss in all of that though, is to your Scout. Give them an inch and they'll take a mile. If you let your Scout think that Troop events are optional, they will often take the option and skip.

What can you work on?: When your Scout hits middle school, and even somewhat in high school, the homework load can be oppressive. Chances are that once your family settles into a school-year routine though, you will discover that there is a night of the week that is lighter for your Scout than others. Use this night to try to encourage your Scout to pay attention to scout stuff. Does he have a rank requirement that he can work on? Are there rank requirements that you can help him with? Is he working on a merit badge that he can knock out a requirement or two on?

What next?: When your Scout finishes a merit badge or earns a rank, don't let him rest on his laurels long. Encourage him to jump in to the next step. What's next? What merit badge do you want to try now? What do you need to do for your next rank? Make progress a very regular, but comfortable topic in the household.

Be a Registered Leader: OK, this is not a requirement. We're just going to give you the hint and let you ask around as to whether it's a good idea or not. Take a look around the history of the Troop though... of any Troop... how many Scouts can you find that didn't achieve Eagle and had a parent that was a registered and involved leader? Not many. VERY FEW as a matter of fact. Many of us are busy. Many of us are having challenges making ends meet. We hope you will find that choosing to help share in leading the Troop will bring you new friendships, support, and the ability to set an example for your Scout that participating is something that you do... regardless of feeling tired... regardless of wanting to play video games... regardless of just wanting to stay home.

Uniform

Part of being a Scout is wearing the Scout uniform with pride. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. Scout uniforms can be very confusing. Any registered Leader is happy to answer any questions you may have! Different types of activities require different uniforms.

Class A is a complete uniform:

- Scout Shirt with all appropriate insignia, Troop 1916 Shoulder strip and numeral, Troop Neckerchief with slide, Scout socks, Scout belt and buckle, and Scout pants or Scout shorts.
- Used for: Ceremonies, Service Projects not requiring physical work, Scoutmaster Conference, Board of Review, some summer camp events.

Class B: Troop "T-Shirt"; clean, neat, well fitting pants or shorts without holes in them.

- Used for: Troop meetings, Work Parties, Hikes, campouts, summer camp or other locations when the Class A uniform may become soiled or damaged.

How to Get Started

Wow! Still reading? Congratulations!

There is a fair amount to do to get started, but let's make it easy. Just start by doing these four things:

- We suggest that a prospective Scout visit our Troop Meetings or a Troop Activity before deciding to join the Troop.
- At a troop event, come and introduce yourself and your Scout to the Scoutmaster,
- Fill out a Youth application and turn it over with a check for registration fees to the registrar.
- Request more information or apply to the troop at <https://beascout.scouting.org/list/?program%5B%5D=scoutsBSA&unitID=308823&zip=22101>

After that, we'll ask you to do a few more things over the next couple weeks:

- Visit the Scout Shop and buy uniform, more on that above...
- Fill out some additional forms used within the Troop,
- Make an appointment with your family physician to perform an annual physical and complete the physical form,
- Start acquiring some of the most basic Scout camping gear and 10-essentials gear,
- Register an account with the national Scout website and go through some of the adult on-line training. (you may already have created an account when applying)

Any registered Leader will be happy to help you through these tasks if you have any questions at all.