

Boy Scout Troop 170



Greater New York Councils / Bronx Council

Parent Guide



Eastern District

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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

*"Scouting is a game with a purpose"
Lord Baden-Powell*

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:

- Aim I -- To build character
- Aim II --To foster citizenship
- Aim III -- To develop fitness

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

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT LAW	SCOUT OATH
<i>A Scout is:</i> Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent	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

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:

James Lovell Commander of Apollo 13	Eagle Scout	Justice Anton Scalia Supreme Court Justice	Eagle Scout
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, which many of you are familiar with; 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 Eagle 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 resumes 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.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

ORGANIZATION

Troop 170 is a participating member of the Eastern District of the Bronx Council/ Greater New York Councils, 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 170 is Saint Clare's Church. The Chartered Organization 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 Parish.

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: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets regularly. The meetings are informal but open to all concerned parents and other interested adults.

Troop 170

Troop Meetings

Troop 170 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Thursday, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. Troop 170 also has two Troop Swims during the first few months of the calendar year. We meet at 7:15 on swim nights and the Scouts will be driven directly home by the Troop Committee after each swim. Please check the Troop Calendar on our website (<http://www.troop170.org>) for exact dates of Troop Swims.

A Scout must be present at the Troop meeting immediately before a Weekend activity in order to participate in that activity. In other words, "If you don't come down on Thursday; don't come down on Friday".

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 170 meetings, trips or outings.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is a group made up of two patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader 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 an elected position. The Senior Patrol Leader selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. 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 in September each year.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 170 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.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) 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.

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; 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*.



**Figure 1
First Class
Rank Badge**

Advancement through First Class

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.



**Figure 2
Eagle
Rank Badge**

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

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 Council chooses people to council Merit Badges on superior expertise in a given subject. This gives the Scouts a chance to speak to an expert in a field they find interesting. Many adults today have found their careers while earning a

particular Merit Badge. 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 earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's Court of Honor.

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. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Courts of Honor

Troop 170 will conduct a Court of Honor regularly. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of 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 February 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 170 is:

\$40.00

- \$7.00 for national BSA membership
- \$1.60 insurance
- \$23.60 for Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)
- \$7.80 for *Boys Life* magazine

Fees for Outings / Activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, the parents will be notified. Generally, Ground fees are \$5 plus whatever each patrol spends on food for the weekend. We like to keep the camping weekend total to about \$20 a person.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through our one major fundraising project for the year – our annual wreath sale at St. Clare’s Church. Details on this year’s fund-raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

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 (Greater New York Councils, Bronx Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Boy Scout Hat (Optional).
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Sensible shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- A neckerchief is an optional part of the scout’s uniform and is encouraged. Our neckerchief color is red and blue they are sold in the scout shop along with a “slide” to hold the neckerchief in place.

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

- Scout Appropriate T-shirt
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Sensible Shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

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.

SCOUT SHOPS

There are several Scout Shops in the New York Metropolitan area where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Frank Bee Enterprises, Inc.

3439 E. Tremont Ave.
Bronx, NY 10465
Telephone: (718) 823-9475

Benson's Youth Center

5548 Broadway
Bronx, NY 10463

Long Island Scout Shop

180 Jericho Turnpike
Mineola, NY 11501
Telephone: (516) 739-0928

The JC Penny Catalog

Greater New York Scout Shop Empire State Building 4th Floor

Frank's Sport Shop, Inc.

430 E. Tremont Ave.
Bronx, NY 10457
Telephone: (718) 299-9628

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 said in this package, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun! Many of our Scouts, after college, come back to volunteer as troop leaders and counselors. It is often said that Troop 170 is not only a troop but a family.

For more information, contact:

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Or visit our Website at www.troop170.org (chock full of scout info and Scouting links!!!!)