



Scouts BSA Troop 46
New Parent Handbook

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Welcome to Troop 46

We are happy that you and your son have chosen our Troop for his Scouting adventure!

Troop 46 was originally formed in the mid-60's and was chartered to the Eleanor Roosevelt Home and School Association. The Troop later became inactive in the 70's. In February of 1993, the Troop was rechartered to the Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary PTO.

Boy Scouting, as is our Troop, is "Scout Run". We give each Scout as much freedom as possible to learn and to develop his independence, leadership skills, and responsibility, consistent with safety, wellbeing, and the overall best interests of the Troop. As a result, the Scoutmasters defer to the Scout-leaders as much as possible, unless safety or well-being are threatened, or where allowing a poorly-planned activity to proceed will serve no useful purpose.

As with all volunteer organizations, the benefits derived are only as good as the efforts put forth. We encourage parents to become involved and to participate in your son's activities and accomplishments. As parents of current and past Scouts, we have come to see the importance of parent participation in your Scout's journey through Scouting. The journey is filled with adventure and learning. Shared with other adults in the Troop, it can be one of the most treasured experiences you will have.

Communication among Scouts, leaders, and families can be very challenging. Hopefully this guide will cover most areas in general, but additional information is available from our website at www.morrisville46.com.

We recognize that when you first join an organization there is a lot of information you need to know as soon as you start. This guide is intended to be an orientation guide to information you want to know now. It addresses such issues as parent participation, uniform requirements, equipment, advancement, and dues.

The Difference Between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA

Cub Scouts: Come in as a boy, leave as a boy. Parent led. Involves supervised activities.

Boy Scouts: Come in as a boy, leave as a young man. Scout led, parent advised. Involves activities requiring greater degrees of self-supervision.

At Troop 46, the Scouts plan and decide on the program, run the meetings, manage the equipment, plan and execute the trips, and become self-motivated to advance.

Your Role as a Scouting Parent

There are various ways parents can stay informed of events and activities of the Troop:

- Read email notifications regarding meetings, campouts and calls for volunteers. The calendar of events is accessible via the Troop website and Scoutbook.
- Meet and converse with other parents.
- Attend the end of Troop meetings when announcements are made.

- Consider joining the Troop Committee, becoming a merit badge counselor, and/or attending events.
- The Phoenix Flyer is our Troop newsletter. It is sent out via email on a monthly basis.

Your son will, at times have specific responsibilities to the Troop and his Patrol. He may be a Patrol Leader or hold some other leadership position or have an assignment for a trip. As a parent, be aware and encouraging.

Uniforms

Uniforms are an important element in the methods of Scouting. We encourage all Scouts to obtain a Scout uniform and wear it at all Troop activities.

- Class A uniform consists of a tan Scout shirt, Troop neckerchief and Scout pants (or equivalent). Class A without neckerchief is required for all Scout meetings, for travel to and from any campout.
- Class B uniform consists of a Troop or other Scout T-shirt and is designated for camping, summertime meetings and other activities.

For Boards of Review, beginning with the Star Rank, the Scout should wear his Sash and bring his Scout Book (needed for Eagle). For special ceremonies, such as a Court of Honor or Flag Retirement ceremony, a full uniform, including a Merit Badge Sash and Boy Scout pants/shorts is required. Casual pants, such as sweatpants and gym shorts, are not appropriate.

Equipment

Besides the uniform, the only other equipment a Scout will need when he first joins Scouts is the Handbook. All of his sign-offs for rank advancement will be done in the book, so it becomes the primary source of rank record keeping in addition being a handy scouting reference. Because it goes on all Scout activities with the Scout, consider getting a cover for it. The Scout shop sells a plastic cover or a more durable nylon cover, although a quart-size zip-loc bag serves very nicely (especially at Summer Camp!).

The Troop provides most of the required camping gear with the exception of a sleeping bag/ground pad. Over time, your son may wish to accumulate additional equipment. Please consult with one of the Troop leaders before making a big investment in any equipment as they can tell you what is appropriate and where to get a good deal.

Meetings

Scouts meet every Monday night from 7:00 – 8:30pm at Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School. If school is closed or it is the meeting immediately following a campout, we will meet at Morrisville United Methodist Church.

Courts of Honor are special meetings where the Scouts are recognized for their achievements. It is very important for Scouts and parents to attend these as a sign of respect for the Scouts' hard work. For this

reason, Class A uniforms are mandatory. Courts of Honor are held twice a year (generally September and February).

Other meetings:

- Patrol Leadership Council (PLC)– For Scout leaders only. Planning for future meetings, campouts and activities.
- Troop Committee Meeting – On the first Wednesday of every month. Overall planning and administration.

Outings/Activities

Activities are planned to occur at least once per month. They almost always involve outdoor activities, and usually involve camping. The Troop attends summer camp each year for one week (historically it has been the first week in July). There are opportunities for experienced Scouts to visit BSA's high adventure bases across the country. Activities are handled as follows:

- Cost - the per-person (Scouts and adults) outing fee covers the cost of the outing. This generally includes food, camping fees, and special program items if needed. We periodically run fund raising programs where 50%-100% of the funds raised by each Scout are set-aside in a "Scout Account" for his use to offset the costs of camping.
- Canceling - anyone who has indicated that they wish to take part in an outing is committed to paying for it if they cancel after food has been bought and/or camping commitments have been made which can't be reimbursed.
- Scouts camp in patrols and learn by "guided discovery" - doing for themselves and figuring out solutions to problems that arise. A Troop Guide or other experienced Scout works with the new Scout patrol on camping skills during the outing, and a registered adult leader provides supervision. The Scouts develop independence and self-confidence by doing for themselves.
- Adults assist in running the program and oversee safety. Adults are part of the "Adult Patrol" on outings and work independently, doing their own cooking and other duties as assigned. Parents are encouraged to accompany the troop on outings - you do not have to be trained. Parents are expected to pay for attending the outing, however. The adults try not to interfere with the patrols unless there is a safety issue.

Code of Conduct

For all Scouts:

I agree to abide by the Boy Scout Code of Conduct as stated in the Scout Oath and Law, Scout Motto and Slogan, as well as the Outdoor Code (see p. 223 of Scout Handbook). If my behavior does not reflect the above Code of Conduct I understand I may be sent home from this and other Troop activities at the discretion of the Scoutmaster or designated leader. I agree to participate in a full and constructive manner in this troop activity.

Leadership

The Senior Patrol leader (SPL) is the leader of the Scouts. He runs the Troop through the Patrol Leaders' Council, where decisions are made on meeting and Troop activities, assignments of Scouts to patrols, etc. The Scouts in the Troop elect the SPL annually. Each patrol elects their patrol leader twice a year. A Troop Committee, under the leadership of the Committee Chair, governs the Troop. All parents are encouraged to participate in order to have a say in the operations of the Troop. Committee Members support the troop and handle administrative and planning details.

The Scoutmasters' Council, under leadership of the Scoutmaster, consists of trained, uniformed adult leaders and is in charge of operations of the Troop relating directly to the Scouts. The Scoutmaster and all registered Assistant Scoutmasters are required to have completed the Boy Scout Leader Training courses. ASM's (Assistant Scoutmasters) work directly with the Scouts on a weekly basis, offering guidance in responsibilities and advancement.

All adult leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training and pass state, FBI and child abuse background checks.

Advancement

The Scouts BSA advancement program is an important part of any Troop's program. It encourages Scouts to learn vital skills that allow them to get the most out of the outdoor activities and to participate safely. However, while the development of certain skills is essential, participation in the formal advancement program is voluntary. We do not feel it is in the best interests of the Scout or of the Troop to push a Scout up the advancement trail if it is not important to him. However, we will provide all encouragement and assistance to the Scout who wants to advance and to learn new skills, and we strongly encourage every Scout to set a goal of becoming Eagle Scout.

As a Scout works on his Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks, he will be instructed and tested by an older Scout, one who has at least the First Class rank. One of the senior Scouts who has been approved by the Scoutmaster will initial the Scout's handbook indicating he has completed the skill.

After the requirements for a rank are attained, the Scout asks the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference. After a successful Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout asks the Advancement Chair for a Board of Review. After a successful Board of Review, the Scout has earned the rank. Through this process, the Scout learns how to take initiative and interact with adults.

A Scout may begin working on merit badges at any time after earning the Scout badge. Merit Badges become the primary requirements for the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. When the Scout wishes to begin working on a merit badge, he should discuss this with the Scoutmaster, who will help him select a merit badge counselor and provide him a signed "blue card". It is the Scout's responsibility to contact the counselor to make an appointment with the merit badge counselor to discuss the merit badge. The Scout must take a friend or parent to all meetings with the counselor unless the meeting is conducted at a regular troop meeting. When the Scout has completed all of the requirements and the counselor has signed the blue card, it is the Scout's responsibility to turn in the blue card to the Advancement Chair so that the merit badge can be recorded and purchased.

We advise parents to be very aware of these “Blue Cards”. It is the often-irreplaceable proof of accomplishment required for receiving the badge. Suggestions: Keep “Blue Cards” in a safe place. Plastic, 9-slot baseball card sheets in a 3-ringed binder are an excellent way to store them, as they will be part of the Scout’s Eagle Book. From time to time, photocopy your son’s Rank Achievement pages in his handbook as well.

Communications

We work hard to keep you actively informed, and we ask that you do the same for us. Our normal communications are via email. We will also make announcements at meetings, text messages from Patrol Leaders or Committee Members. If your Scout has a question about Patrol or Troop activities, advancement, etc., the expected order of resolving the issue is:

1. Patrol Leader
2. Senior Patrol Leader
3. Assistant Scoutmaster
4. Scoutmaster

For adult matters, please call the adult in charge of the specific function first (Treasurer for money matters, etc). In any case, feel free to call the Committee Chair or Scoutmaster to resolve policy issues or conflicts.

Finances

Fees of \$150-175 (depending on number of Scouts enrolled and current expenses) are collected annually for each Scout in January. Adult registration fees are \$33/year.

Operating and capital funds for the Troop come from dues and from fund raising. The Troop conducts periodic fundraisers to raise money for equipment replacement and to allow the Scouts to pay their own way for outings. We expect all Troop families to participate as much as they are able. Some of the profits are allocated for individual Scouts’ use for Scouting activities (camp, equipment, activities, etc.) in proportion to the amount worked.

- Dues pay for a portion of campsite fees, camping supplies, merit badges, patches, the annual membership fee that goes to the National office, and insurance.
- Fund-raisers pay for camping equipment, and miscellaneous program expenses.

There will also be activity costs for Scouts participating in activities. The Troop treasurer collects money for Troop-wide activities such as campouts, summer camp, high adventure, etc.

The Troop maintains an individual scout account for each scout in order to manage cash deposits to the Troop, allocate fundraising proceeds and pay for scouting related cost and fees.

Getting Started

Registering with the Troop

New Scouts registering with the troop will pay pro-rated dues of \$75. We will need a completed Youth Application for the Scout.

Adults who would like to be part of the troop should also register. Adults who would like to be part of the committee need to fill out an adult application, including the disclosure page regarding the background check, take Youth Protection Training (30 minute online course) and pay the registration fee, which is currently \$33 a year. For those adults not interested yet in becoming a committee member but would like to participate in activities, such as camping, or to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor, you will need to also fill out the registration form including the background disclosure and take Youth Protection Training, but no fee is required.

About Training

Scouts BSA requires that all adults working with Scouts must take the online Youth Protection Training every two years. This is required for uniformed and non-uniformed adults, including Merit Badge Counselors and Committee Members. This certification is required before Scouts BSA will accept Adult Registrations, so when we submit your application, we include a printed copy of that certification you receive at the end of the course. Scouts BSA will also verify our compliance when we re-charter every year.

Annual Health Form

Every Scout and adult who attends an outing must have a completed and annually updated health history (Parts A & B) with a copy of an insurance card on file. An annual physical (Part C) is required for activities lasting longer than 72 hours (summer camp) or is considered strenuous (High Adventure activities).

Our Membership Coordinator keeps record of when your updated records are due. The Coordinator also keeps copies so that a set of forms for the Scouts on a given outing is readily available to the Scoutmaster in Charge should medical care become necessary. If a Scout or adult does not have an update-to-date health form on file, they will not be able to participate in the outing.

Scoutbook

Our Troop uses Scoutbook (www.scoutbook.com) for event registration and tracking advancements. You will be given a username and password upon joining the troop (or continue to use existing login).

Useful Websites

- www.morrisville46.com Troop 46 Website
- www.scoutbook.com Advancement tracking and RSVP
- www.bsawcc.org Washington Crossing Council
- www.scouting.org Scouts BSA
- www.scoutshop.org Online Scout Store
- www.meritbadge.org Merit Badge requirements and worksheets

Who's Who

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