

Boy Scouts of America
Heart of Ohio Council
Johnny Appleseed District

Troop 586

Welcomes New Scouts and Parents

Dear Scouts and Parents

Welcome! We are glad you are considering joining our troop. Scouting is the largest and one of the oldest organizations around. It is also one that is immediately known and respected by many people throughout the world. We, in Troop 586, wear our uniform proudly.

Troop 586 and its leaders believe strongly in the character building that comes from following the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We also believe strongly in parent participation in all Scouting activities. The youth that get the most out of Scouting are those whose parents are visible and active.

Our troop is boy-led, but Parent-enabled. Parents play a key role in the success of Scouting — you help motivate your son, provide moral support, and help as you can with troop activities. Your excitement and involvement will rub off on your son. Scouts get out of Troop 586 what they put into it. Leaders try to keep the “outing” in Scouting by offering plenty of activities of all kinds. We ask our Scouts to lead the troop as much as possible. That includes work planning and preparing for campouts and weekly meetings.

As you learn and grow with us, your responsibilities will increase.

Developing self-confidence, self-reliance and leadership are key goals of the Scouting program. We hope this pamphlet will be useful to you, our new parents and Scouts. Please read it together, along with the first pages in the Scout Handbook. The exciting transition from Webelos to Scouting, or entering Scouting for the first time, can be confusing at times. Please do not hesitate to ask one of our leaders if you ever have questions, now or any time in the future.

What is it all about?

Boy Scouting works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We define this as what the boy is himself; his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

The second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society.

The third aim of Boy Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

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.

The methods are designed to accomplish these aims.

These Methods include:

Advancement-Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement process. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge.

Adult Association- Boys learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage in a young man's development.

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.

Ideals- The Ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan. The 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 he becomes.

Patrols- The Patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in 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. These small groups determine Troop activities through their elected leaders.

Outdoors- Boy Scouting is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here where the skills and activities practiced at Troop meetings come alive.

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.

Uniform- The uniform makes the Scout Troop visible as a force of 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.

Eligibility

Before a boy can enter a Boy Scout Troop, he must meet the Boy Scouts of America age requirements by having completed the fifth grade, being 11 years

of age, or having earned the Arrow of Light Award, and he must be less than age 18.

A boy may fall under any of the following categories:

- He may be a new candidate crossing over from Webelos
- He may be a new candidate entering Scouting with limited or no Cub Scouting experience
- He may be transferring from another Boy Scout Troop

Every Scout needs to have an official Boy Scout Handbook. Troop 586 provides this for all first year Scouts joining our troop.

Activities

Troop 586 strives to keep busy with a variety of exciting events. Each month our youth leaders (Patrol Leaders Council, or PLC as it is more commonly referred to) meet with our adult leaders to plan interesting and fun activities. These may include:

- At least a week of Summer Camp
- High Adventure trips (older scouts)
- Troop Camp outs (once a month)
- Hikes and other one-day activities
- Scouting for Food (November)
- District Camporees

Parental Commitments

Scouting is a family affair. When a boy joins Troop 586, so do the parents. No Scout is expected to travel the Trail to Eagle by himself. Parents should encourage their son to work on advancement and take full advantage of the Scouting program. Parents are invited and expected at all Troop

meetings and especially Courts of Honor, usually held twice each year.

On the other hand, parents may not sign off on advancement and merit badges for their own sons.

Advancement through First Class may be signed off by designated Senior Scouts, the The Troop Committee oversees the troop, Troop Guides, or the Scoutmaster and his/her assistants.

Above First Class, only the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters may sign off advancement. Merit badges must be signed off by the registered merit badge counselor.

A parent cannot be the counselor for his/her son without Troop Advancement committee approval.

When a Scout is ready to begin work on a merit badge, he asks the Advancement Chairperson for a "blue card" and the name of a counselor.

A family may be asked to provide transportation for several outings during the year.

Troop Committee meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the month. The Troop program planning is done by the Scouts themselves, so the parents' as the Troop Committee, act in a support role, including fundraising and transportation.

If a parent has a special skill or training, he or she may want to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor for interested Scouts. There are over 120 different merit badges available. Of course, there is always room for anyone who wants to take a more active role in working with the Scouts to plan their program.

Council training programs are held several times a year, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of them. Many of the Troop 586 parents have taken various training courses. Without help of all kinds from our parents, Troop 586 would not exist. We hope you will take an active part in encouraging your son.

Your role as “cheerleader” is a big reason for your son’s interest and success. Parents also have a big impact on our Troop Committee, which meets just once a month. The time commitment of a committee member is minimal, but your assistance is invaluable.

The Troop Committee oversees the troop, helps plan activities, approves our calendar, and forms the Board of Review for each Scout’s rank advancement.

Our troop also needs parents to help counsel merit badges, assist with special events and drive to activities.

Many of our best ideas have come from parents who just spoke up! Because the Scouts run the troop, “helping” is usually just “watching.” Your help makes the difference. National B.S.A. rules require at least two adults at every meeting and activity. Some activities require adults with special training.

EVENTS MUST BE CANCELED if sufficient leaders are not available.

Inappropriate Behavior

The goal of the adult leaders is to have a safe, fun Troop program for the Scouts. The adult leaders have the right to intervene in any situation that they deem

unsafe. If a Scout is unwilling to abide by the requirements of the adult leaders in charge, they may require a parent to come get the Scout, whether the situation occurs at a Troop meeting or during an outing.

Also, if a Scout is disruptive at a meeting or otherwise prevents the boy leaders from running the meeting, the adult leaders at the meeting may call a parent to pick up the Scout.

YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Boy Scouts of America has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to members and their families to prevent child abuse. A Detachable booklet in the front of The Boy Scout Handbook, "How to Protect Your Child from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents Guide," provides information to help families to increase self-protection skills. One of the requirements for a boy to become a Scout is to go through this booklet with his parents.

Troop 586 is committed to following all guidelines of the Youth Protection program. Any suspected offenses of the Youth protection program must be reported to the Committee Chair, the Scoutmaster or the District Executive. All incidents reported to the Committee Chair or the Scoutmaster will be reported to the District Executive. All reports are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of our youth.

Meetings

Troop 586 meets every Monday night, except Designated holidays, at Christ

United Methodist Church in Ashland from 7 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. Scouts should be on time and in full uniform. They should be prepared for the meeting with their Scout Handbook, pencil and a small notebook. Once scouts arrive, they are expected to remain at the meeting unless leaders are told of special situations in advance.

A Scouts parents should be prompt in picking up their sons at the end of the meetings, as well. Troop policy dictates that no Scout will be left at the Church unattended. **A late pickup means that at least two adult leaders will be delayed in getting home to their families.**

Committee and Adult Leadership

Our Troop Committee of parents oversees all activities and is the ultimate authority concerning troop operations. As described throughout this booklet, parent involvement in the committee is very important. The committee meets at 7 p.m., the third Thursday of each month for about 1 1/2 hours.

The committee helps with record keeping, advancement, including Board of Reviews, fund raising and long-range planning. Committee Members work with the Scoutmaster and other troop leaders to ensure an interesting, successful and safe troop.

Parents are welcome to express their views at any time and at least one parent is expected to register as a Committee Member for an official vote in troop decisions.

The Scoutmaster is responsible for day-to-day troop operations, and is in charge of all meetings and activities. The

Scoutmaster answers to the Troop Committee. Assistant Scoutmasters work with the Scoutmaster and the youth leaders to carry out meeting plans and activities described by National B.S.A. regulations.

Youth Leadership

A major goal of Scouting is to develop leadership skills in our youth. Youth leaders are elected by their peers to help run the troop.

The highest youth leader is the Senior Patrol Leader, or SPL. The SPL runs the troop activities, with the Scoutmaster's help, following a plan decided at monthly PLC (patrol leader council) meetings.

Chain of Command

The "chain of command" revolves around the SPL and his ASPL's, who lead the junior staff in conducting the program. The ASPLs serve as the channel of communication between the patrols and the SPL. The SPL then serves as the main channel of communication to the adult staff. Scouts with questions or needing assistance, or guidance, should go first to their patrol leader, who in turn should go to the ASPL, who in turn should go to the SPL, who then should go to the Scoutmaster or other member of the adult staff. **The success of the program is dependent upon the effectiveness of the patrol, junior and adult leadership.**

Parents of new scouts have a natural tendency to want to lead the scouts, as was the case in Cub Scouts. In Boy Scouts the parents do not run the meeting, the youth leaders do. Parents

please try and curb your instincts, *don't do something for you son that he can do for himself*. Sometimes the best education is to fail and overcome your failure. The lessons learned are not forgotten and the young man (your son) will develop self-reliance. Unless it is an immediate safety concern, please try not to interfere with the youth leaders

Patrol Method

Our troop is organized into patrols of four to eight scouts, each with an elected Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders and Assistants have a key role in helping the SPL and adult leaders accomplish the goals of the troop.

New scouts work with an adult Assistant Scoutmaster and/or a Troop Guide, to learn the skills needed to advance and grow in our troop. This working together is called the "Patrol Method" and is a cornerstone of successful scouting.

Advancement

Advancement is the way you grow as a Scout, and become eligible for troop leadership positions and other honors. You start as a "Scout" and progress to "Eagle" in the following order: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

Advancement is how you become eligible for troop leadership positions, high adventure camping trips, and honors such as election to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor camping society.

There are four steps of advancement:

1. The Boy Scout Learns. A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the Patrol and the Troop. As he develops

knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others. In this way, he begins to develop leadership.

2. The Boy Scout is Tested. A Scout may be tested on requirements by his Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, a Troop Committee member or a member of his Troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to test and pass candidates.

3. The Boy Scout is Reviewed. After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle the review is conducted by members of the Troop Committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the District Advancement Committee.

4. The Boy Scout is Recognized. When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognition as soon as possible. This is done through a ceremony at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Merit Badges

Although you start at "Scout" rank, you can progress to First Class rank within one year. To do this, you will work with other first year scouts, with specific youth and adult leaders. Bring your Scout Handbook to every meeting and activity. This is very important so your progress can be promptly recorded.

Once you reach First Class, Merit Badges become the main advancement tool. (You can work on badges earlier if you choose.) There are over 120 merit badges to choose from.

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.

The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor.

Many badges, like Pets, Athletics, Theater and Citizenship, may be worked on in school or at home. You can get credit for this work. You may work independently on merit badges that interest you.

Leaders may help by allowing time to work on some badges during troop meetings. Camping offers many opportunities for advancement and merit badges as well. You must get the Advancement Coordinators permission and a Blue Merit Badge Card BEFORE starting work on a badge. This allows leaders to follow up, while you work with a specific, approved counselor who has experience in the subject.

Board of Review

After you have completed the requirements for a rank, **you** need to ask the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference. Once you pass the Scoutmaster Conference **you** need to ask the Advancement Coordinator for a Board of Review. These are held as needed, during regular troop meetings.

The Board of Review is made up of at least three adult members of the Troop Committee. The Board will check to make sure that your Scout Handbook and other records are up to date. They will also ask you about what you learned while working on the badge or rank, and what you think about our troop in

general. This sounds scary, but it really isn't. Many of the people on the Board of Review are the same ones you see each week. They all want to see you succeed and grow with our troop. You should save all written work and projects you do for merit badges and rank. These are turned in to the Scoutmaster when you request a Board of Review. Advancement is the Scout's responsibility. You should request a Board of Review at least one week in advance.

Courts of Honor

The accomplishments of Scouts and leaders are formally recognized at Courts of Honor, held twice per year. Most are held on Mondays in place of a regular troop meeting. Parents' attendance at our Courts of Honor is an important and very easy way to demonstrate an interest in your son's scouting progress. Although Scouts are formally recognized at Courts of Honor, they receive their rank patches as soon as possible, usually at the next regular troop meeting.

Uniform

There are a few things that Scouts need right away to begin the Scouting trail: a Boy Scout Uniform and a Scout Handbook. Your uniform is the place to wear all the awards you will soon be earning; your handbook tracks your progress from your first meeting. Troop 586's uniform consists of a Boy Scout field uniform ("Class A") shirt with proper insignia, Scout pants, and Scout belt. If a Scout does not have official Scout pants, he may wear a pair of blue jeans in good condition. Sweat Pants, camo pant, etc. are not permitted.

Shirts should be purchased as soon as

possible, because they are worn to every troop activity and when traveling. Periodic uniform inspections help encourage pride. Our Troop also has an activity uniform (“Class B”), consisting of a Scouting related t-shirt for wearing around camp and other times that leaders specifically announce.

Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shops located at the Heart of Ohio Council office on Rt. 250 E. Outgrown uniforms may be available from other parents, and found at garage sales, thrift shops and our troop Uniform Bank.

Dues and Fees

We try hard to keep the cost of Scouting reasonable, but some costs cannot be avoided. A yearly registration fee registers your son, pays for Boy’s Life magazine and supplementary accident insurance. Our troop re-registers each year in December. Scouts joining throughout the year pay a prorated fee.

Troop dues, currently \$36 yearly, help pay troop expenses. To purchase food \$13.00 is generally collected from each scout within each Patrol for each camping trip. This needs to be paid and the appropriate outing sign up form submitted two Mondays before we leave to secure your spot and allow for the purchasing of food.

Occasionally, we may participate in an activity that requires an additional fee to participate. We will notify everyone each time this occurs via the activity sign up form.

If the costs of Scouting present problems, please discuss it with a leader in private. We try to provide enough fundraising opportunities where Scouts

may earn enough money to pay their own way. A Scout is Thrifty.

Camping Equipment

Camping is a key part of a Scout troop (it’s the OUTING in Scouting), and some simple equipment is needed to be comfortable and enjoy the experience. A sleeping bag or a couple of heavy blankets, plate and eating utensils, rain gear and a flashlight are needed for the first campout. Pocketknives may be carried after the Tot’n Chip card is earned. Lockback and sheath knives are not allowed for safety reasons. Your Scout Handbook is a good source for additional information on what to pack.

Before buying expensive items like sleeping bags, boots and backpacks, we strongly suggest you use suitable family gear or borrow for the first few trips. This lets you see what is needed, what others use, research purchases and take advantage of sales. Troop 586’s leaders have camped for years, and can suggest money-saving substitutes, or recommend good quality equipment that will survive the rigors of Scout camping.

Our troop has set up an account through Campmor and can get a 10% discount on anything in their catalog or website if ordered through us. Let our Campmor Coordinator know of your interest to get details.

Group items such as tents, lanterns, stoves, and cooking equipment are furnished by the troop.

Scouts are not permitted to bring radios, TVs, Gameboys, CD players, tape players, cell phones, comic books, games, sodas, candy, or magazines other than Scout magazines on campouts.

Cracker Barrel

We meet at the Church on Friday at 6:00pm for all campout weekends. After arriving at the designation of the campout, the Scouts will all work together to set up camp.

After camp is set up and the SPL is satisfied that everything is complete, everyone will participate in Cracker Barrel. Each Scout is to bring some food item to share with everyone on the campout. All the food items are spread out on a table and we all share.

Scouts are encouraged to bring items that are a bit more substantial than chips, candy bars, etc. We do not cook on Fri. night, so this may be the only meal some are able to have.

Fundraising

One way Troop 586 tries to keep the cost of Scouting reasonable is by promoting fundraisers during the year. Our troop offers several fund-raisers each year. Participation is optional, but strongly encouraged.

Our Troop Committee votes to credit a portion of the profit directly to the individual scouts that participate. These earnings can pay for summer camp or other Scouting costs. Energetic Scouts can earn a substantial part of their way to summer camp by active participation in fund raising activities.

Boy Accounts

Troop 586's fundraising activities attempt to provide opportunities for Scouts to pay their own way.

Any funds raised in conjunction with these fundraising activities are in reality, troop owned. Certain fundraisers

conducted throughout the year are shared with participating Scouts on a 30/70 split. 70% of the funds are divided up between the participating Scout's "Boy Accounts" to be used for Scouting activities while a member of Troop 586.

If any Scout leaves Troop 586, any balance in his boy account reverts back to the troops general fund for troop use.

Medical Forms

So that leaders can "Be Prepared" in case medical attention is necessary and parents are unavailable, a medical history is needed from each person prior to participating in troop activities. The B.S.A.'s physical form includes a parental permission box that should be signed.

For long-term activities like Summer Camp and some High Adventure activities, a physical exam is required.

Information from any physical can be used, but the actual physical results must be attached if the B.S.A. form is not used. Parents can save money by asking their family doctor to fill out the form when a school or sports physical is done.

The Medical history of each registered person must be updated each year at re-charter time. These records are kept with our Health Officer.

Service Projects

Troop 586 works on several service projects that help provide service hours for the Scouts. This is by no means the only service hours a Scout should earn while in the Troop.

We clean the window wells and mulch the shrubs outside the Church. We attempt to have this completed prior to Easter Sunday, when weather permits.

Scouts and parents are encouraged to look at the website homepage prior to each meeting for current info.

We also collect pop cans and pop tabs. The pop cans are brought into the Church once a month by Scouting families and recycled by Church Members. The proceeds from these go toward helping the Bell Choir maintain their inventory of Bells.

The Pop Tabs are collected and donated to Akron Children's Hospital, which are then recycled and the proceeds provide needed funds to help purchase equipment.

Notes and Questions

The adult leaders of Troop 586 want to ensure that your son's transition into Boy Scouts is as successful and confusion-free as we can make it. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk with us. If you son has a question he should first approach his Patrol Leader and then the SPL.

Please review our Troop Bylaws for a more in depth explanation of how we operate this unit.

Web Site

You are invited to visit our troop's web site for a more detailed look at our troop. This site has updated information on the home page, our current Activity Calendar, information about recent outings, and other information that may be of interest. The address of our troop website is www.troop586bsa.org.