



# **Parent Guide**

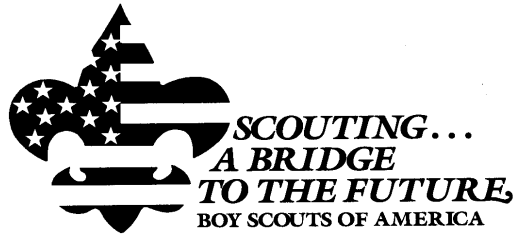
**All Saints Episcopal Church  
Sunderland, Maryland**

**Western Shore District  
National Capital Area Council**

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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*

## **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
<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>A Scout is:</i>  Trustworthy  Loyal  Helpful  Friendly  Courteous  Kind  Obedient  Cheerful  Thrifty  Brave  Clean  Reverent </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 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. </p>

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:

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 résumés 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.

## **SCOUTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs is that every boy wants to participate fully and be respected like every other member of the troop. While there are, by necessity, troops exclusively comprised of Scouts with disabilities, experience has shown that Scouting usually succeeds best when every boy is part of a patrol in a regular troop.

If your Scout has some special needs please convey those needs to the Scoutmaster. There are provisions in the Scouting program to obtain approval of alternate requirements for advancement .

## **ORGANIZATION**

Troop 1792 is a participating member of the Western Shore District of the National Capital Area Council, 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 1792 is All Saints Episcopal Church in Sunderland Maryland. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as a liaison between us and the church.

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

The Committee meets monthly, currently the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

## **Troop 1792**

### **Troop Meetings**

Troop 1792 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Thursday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. Notification of changes will be posted on the website and further notification will be made by telephone and or email. If the Calvert County schools system is closed due to severe weather conditions on a Thursday, the meeting will be cancelled. Only the scouts that are attending the overnight activity will meet the Thursday before the activity with their personal gear. Those scouts will pack the trailer.

### **Summer Camp**

Troop 1792 attends a one week long summer camp. We encourage all Scouts in the troop to attend. This experience allows the boys to participate in the full range of Scouting activities. In a week long event the boys become better friends. It also gives the new Scouts an opportunity to complete many of the basic requirements as they move toward 1<sup>st</sup> class.

### **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 1792 meetings, trips or outings. At least one of the adults will be trained in Youth Protection.

### **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts 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 June and January of each year.

### **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 1792 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. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
2. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
3. 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).
4. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar. The calendar is posted at the troop's web site at: [www.troop1792.org](http://www.troop1792.org)
5. We encourage each parent to volunteer to be a merit badge counselor for the troop for at least one merit badge. Please fill the Troop Resource Survey which can be found at [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/28-501F.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/28-501F.pdf) and return to a Troop Leader. The Merit Badge Counselor information form can be found at [www.troop1792.org/Adult\\_MB\\_application\\_form1.pdf](http://www.troop1792.org/Adult_MB_application_form1.pdf) .

## **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.

## Advancement Through First Class



**Figure 1 First Class Rank Badge**

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.

## 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.



**Figure 2 Eagle Rank Badge**

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which is provided by the troop to every Scout. 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 process for earning a merit badge is as follows. The Scout talks to the Scoutmaster to receive a signed blue card and obtain the name and contact information

for a merit badge counselor. The Scout also needs to have a buddy to attend the meeting sessions with the merit badge counselor. No scout should ever meet alone with a merit badge counselor. 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 complete the Blue Card. The Scout then needs to turn the completed blue card in to the Advancement Coordinator. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

### **Boards of review**

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank and after he has his Scoutmaster conference, he contacts the Advancement Coordinator to request a board of review. The board of review is 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.

After a successful Board of Review the rank badge is presented to the scout at the next troop meeting.

### **Courts of Honor**

Troop 1792 will conduct a Court of Honor three times a year. 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.

## **OUTDOOR PROGRAM**

Scouting works best in the outdoors. There are a number of good reasons why the outdoor program is so special. Here are the four that are especially good:

1. The outdoors is the best place for learning outdoor skills. How could it be otherwise? A Scout who tried to boil a potato on the gymnasium floor would be in hot water for sure - not to mention the boy who tried learning to swim by reading a book.

2. The outdoors is a great place for learning something about living with others. When Scouts walk on the same trail, cook and eat together, and share triumphs and troubles together, they are going to find out some important things about, say, patience, respect for other points of view, doing their full share, making a friend more easily, and saying no without losing one. Skills like these are among the "personal growth" skills we want from every Scout. The outdoors is where they grow up best.

3. On the trail or in camp, the boy's leaders will be challenged by the real thing - getting their patrols fed and sheltered, keeping them warm and safe, solving the problems they can solve, and knowing how to get help for those they can't. It's a time when leadership skills can deepen, patrols grow closer, and the troop grows stronger.

4. The outdoors is also a place where a Scout can get closer to the natural world around him - the land, the forests and their wildlife, the lakes and rivers, the mountains and the seas. Here, in the outdoors, he will learn of the "land ethic" - the understanding and respect for the environment we all share, and he will develop an active concern for it's health and a willingness to work to keep it healthy.

Troop 1792 has a very active outdoor program and it's getting even better. All boys are encouraged to participate regularly. Our program includes monthly weekend campouts, annual long-term summer camp (1 week), day hikes, and other outdoor activities. Parents are welcome on monthly campouts or summer camp. To see some of the activities of our troop, visit our website at [www.troop1792.org](http://www.troop1792.org) and checkout the photo album.

**What to bring on a campout:** A list of basic equipment needed for camping is provided below. Keep in mind that each campout or outing has a specific purpose or goal. Each scout must use some judgment in tailoring the list to meet specific needs. For example, swim gear might be appropriate for a spring rafting trip. But do not "fail conservative" and load your Scout down with 50 lbs of equipment for his first camp out. The scouts have to carry their gear from the vehicles to the camp site. A scout must "Be Prepared," but he must also think how he will carry everything he brings.

Sleeping bag	Silverware	Comb	Notebook
Foam Pad	Mess Kit	Washcloth	Pen/Pencil
Sweater	Cup	Towel	Scout Handbook
Rain gear	Soap	Sewing Kit	
Clothes	Toothbrush	Flashlight	
Canteen	Toothpaste	Watch	

**Do Not Bring**

Radios*	Snack Food	Electronic Games*	Firearms
Fireworks	CD players	Scout Knife**	

\* Electronic devices such as games and CD players, are only allowed on trips with an estimated travel time in excess of 2 ½ hours. In this case, they are only permitted to be used during travel and are to remain with the vehicle. Risk of loss or damage lies solely with the Scout. (Revised 2000 PLC)

\*\*Scouts are **not allowed** to bring knives, hatchets, or other sharp instruments to scouting activities until they earn their Totin' Chip, which is a license earned after demonstrating safe care, handling and proper uses of these tools.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Rechartering and Fees**

The process of rechartering is the annual registration of 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 March of each calendar year.

### **Annual Fees**

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 1792 is \$120.00 paid as dues of \$10.00 per month. We encourage the boys to earn the money for the dues.

- \$10.00 for national BSA membership
- \$1.00 insurance
- \$97.00 for Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)
- \$12.00 for *Boys Life* magazine (optional, but really enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings. A good buy)

### **Fees for Outings / Activities**

Most activities have fees associated with them. Any fees will be indicated on the permission slips for the activity. These fees currently run \$20-\$25 plus food.

The troop also attends a week long summer camp the fees are currently approximately \$300.

### **Fundraising**

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do two to three major fundraising projects a year. Our fund-raisers are designed so that half of the funds are designated for the troop and half of the funds are distributed to individual accounts as "Scout Bucks" to defray scouting costs such as summer camp costs, uniforms, and other scouting costs. Details on this year's fund-raisers will be available at future Troop and Committee meetings.

## **Friends of Scouting**

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the troop has a good record of support for this activity.

## **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 – always worn traveling to and from an activity

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (National Capital Area Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number (obtained from Troop)
- Troop 1792 neckerchief (Optional) (provided by Troop) To be worn at Scoutmasters conferences, Board of Reviews, Courts of Honor, and other times designated by the Scoutmaster
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by Scout).
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Troop Hat (Optional obtained from troop).
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Boy scout handbook (up to 1<sup>st</sup> class)

Activity or "Class B" Uniform Also optional for April 1 to November 1 (worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform).

- Troop 1792 T-Shirt (obtain from Troop 1792).
- other Scout shirt
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.

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 SUPPLIES**

There are two Scout Shops in the Washington Metropolitan area where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

National Capital Area Scout Shop  
9190 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3897  
(301) 564-6028

Northern Virginia Scout Shop  
5234 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22151  
(703) 321-4836

Scout Uniforms can also be purchase locally at:

Beacon Surplus Outdoor  
3256 Leonardtown Rd.  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
(301) 645-0077

They can also be purchased online at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

## **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!

### **For more information, contact:**

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Mike Rafalowski	Chair, Troop Committee	<a href="mailto:mrafalowski@comcast.net">mrafalowski@comcast.net</a>	410-414-2606
Kevin Garrison	Advancement Coordinator	<a href="mailto:garrfam2@juno.com">garrfam2@juno.com</a>	410-535-0463