



Scout Parent Guide

Troop 45, Warwick, NY

2015 Edition

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BSA Mission Statement

“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”

The Aims of Scouting

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

Character

One is growth in *moral strength and character*. We may define this as what the boy is himself; his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.

Citizenship

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

Fitness

A 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 the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The Methods of Boy Scouting

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy 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 and who he becomes.

Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Associations With Adults

Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for 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. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

General Troop Information

Troop Meetings

The troop meets each Monday night when school is in session. If school is canceled (e.g. snow day) the troop meeting is also cancelled.

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Troop meetings are used to prepare for outdoor program activities, develop skills, and have some fun. Leaders and merit badge counselors are often available during a portion of the meeting to review and test Scouts on specific advancement requirements.

Patrol Leaders Council Meetings

The youth leadership of the troop schedules planning meetings roughly once a month – check the calendar. This group also holds an annual program planning conference in the spring.

Leader Meetings

The SM and ASMs meet informally after troop meetings and during outings, or as called for by the SM.

Troop Committee Meetings

The troop committee meets periodically as scheduled by the committee chairman.

Troop Website

www.troop45warwick.org

Key Contacts

Troop Committee Chairman

Scot Brown
(845) 986-7861
sbrown@warwick.net

Scoutmaster

Mark Curran
(845) 981-7035
Mark82curran@gmail.com

Chartered Organization Representative

Jay Domeseck
(845) 986-5145
mejay49@optonline.net

Chartered Organization

The chartered organization holds the formal, legal relationship with the Boy Scouts of America for the purpose of offering the Scouting program to its membership and the surrounding community. Troop 45 is chartered by:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
95 Kings Highway, Warwick, NY
845-986-3040

Email

Email is the primary means of communication within the troop. Please be sure to keep your email contact information up to date by informing the committee secretary. You are encouraged to list your Scout's direct email (if he uses his own account) in addition to parents' email, to promote the responsibility of the Scout to stay informed.

Additional Information Sources on the Web

HudsonValleyScouting.org
MyScouting.Scouting.org
Scouting.org
www.ScoutStuff.org
MeritBadge.org
USScouts.org

Outdoor Program

The Scouting program is designed to take place in the outdoors. Our goal is to hold at least one outdoor activity per month. Permission slips with medical waiver and/or medical history forms are necessary for participation in all troop events. Every Scout event MUST have at least one registered leader and one other adult at least 18 years old. Each Scout should keep an outdoor journal to record participation and details from each event.

Camping

A typical campout weekend consists of a Friday evening departure from the church parking lot, Saturday program, and usually return by noon on Sunday. We often participate in “camporees” with other Scout units in our district, where the program usually includes some element of competition in which patrols put their Scout skills and teamwork to the test. The troop owns tents and cooking equipment that are usually carried to camping events in a troop trailer. From time to time we will include a special camping trip such as a weekend on the battlefield at Gettysburg, or an overnight on a battleship.

Hiking and Day Trips

The troop program will also include a variety of events such as local day hikes and museum trips such as Steamtown or the Intrepid.

Summer Camp

Participation in summer camp is strongly correlated with a boy remaining active in Scouting. Scouts will have the chance to work on Scout skills, merit badges and a variety of outdoor activities, including some that are difficult to do at other times (e.g. archery, small boat sailing). The troop usually attends summer camp the week after the Independence Day holiday at Camp Ranachqua in the Ten Mile River Scout Reservation near Narrowsburg. A Scout may also attend summer camp with another troop, or as an individual member of a “provisional troop.”

High Adventure

Older Scouts can engage in more challenging outings know as “high adventure.” The BSA operates four national high adventure bases: Philmont Scout Ranch in the New Mexico highlands, the Northern Tier Adventure Base in the boundary waters area of Minnesota, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and the brand new Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia. Trips to these exciting locations and events like National Jamborees are run with smaller groups, usually as part of a council contingent. They can be somewhat expensive, but a Scout who is highly motivated should be encouraged to earn at least some of the money to go on these trips. They stimulate personal growth through challenging programs, and create lifetime memories. High adventure programs are generally restricted to Scouts at least 14 years old.

Program Planning

The annual program plan and detailed event plans are developed by Scouts (see Youth Leadership below) with input from the troop committee and guidance from the scoutmaster. The potential variety of the program is practically limitless. Encourage your Scout to talk with his patrol leader and fellow Scouts about ideas for activities that would be fun for the troop.

Advancement

In Scouting the term advancement refers to the development of the Scout; the ranks, badges and other symbols of recognition are just signposts along the road of progress. Parents play a vital role in encouraging and motivating their Scout, but *each boy must take responsibility for his own growth* in the program. Each Scout will progress at his own pace, so he should never feel as though he is competing with his fellow Scouts. When a boy meets the basic joining requirements he is recognized as a Scout.



First Class Trail

Rank recognition in Boy Scouts consists of six ranks a Scout earns by meeting specific requirements that he can find in the Scout Handbook. After meeting the joining requirements and becoming a Scout, he will focus on participation in camping and other troop activities, and learn basic Scout skills in areas like first aid, knots, knife and axe handling, fire building, cooking, flag etiquette and citizenship. He may work on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class in any order. An active Scout may reasonably set a goal of achieving the rank of First Class within a year of joining.



Scout Spirit

Each rank requires a Scout to live with "Scout spirit" in his everyday life. Scout spirit is the name we give to the collective ideals of the Scouting program as codified in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto and Slogan. This requirement is usually signed off in the scoutmaster conference after a discussion of what Scout spirit means and how the Scout is living those ideals. The conversation about Scout spirit gets more involved as the Scout matures and advances through the ranks.

Scoutmaster Conference

When the Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank advancement he should request a scoutmaster conference. The scoutmaster or a designated assistant will schedule a meeting to discuss the Scout's progress. The scoutmaster conference is a chance for the scoutmaster to get to know the Scout better, ensure he has been adequately tested on the requirements, and assess whether the troop program is meeting the needs of the Scout. It will often involve a discussion of the Scout's goals, and guidance in achieving those goals (in selecting a leadership position for example.) This meeting is a private conversation but must meet the BSA youth protection rules by taking place in public or within sight of others. Campouts, hikes or a mutually convenient time outside troop meetings are best. Parents should encourage Scouts to plan ahead and not rush to schedule this meeting just prior to a Court of Honor.

Board of Review

The board of Review is the final step that a Scout takes to earn a new rank. It is a meeting with three or four troop committee members to discuss the Scout's readiness for advancement. This is also an opportunity for the committee members to assess the success of the troop program in light of the experience of a particular Scout. It is not a re-test, but the committee may ask questions to ascertain how well the Scout has performed in meeting requirements for the rank, and also whether the Scout is advancing in the goals of character building, citizenship and personal fitness. At the conclusion of the board of review, the board will briefly discuss the candidate in private, and then immediately inform him whether they have found him qualified to advance. Once passed by the board, the Scout officially holds his new rank, though formal recognition is normally given at the next Court of Honor.

Senior Ranks

The senior ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require participation in the troop, holding a leadership position, earning merit badges, living the Scout Oath and Law, and performing community service. Once a Scout has earned the rank of First Class, he will set a more individualized course of personal development to earn these senior ranks. All senior Scouts are expected to set a good example for younger Scouts, and seek leadership opportunities to help the troop operate successfully. As a percentage of all Scouts, very few earn the Eagle rank, so emphasis should be placed on personal development, not the rank.



Merit Badges

The merit badge program allows each Scout to develop skills and knowledge in over one hundred specific areas of interest, guided by an approved adult merit badge counselor. Twelve merit badges from a specific list of fifteen are “required” for the rank of Eagle. While any Scout may work on merit badges, new Scouts should usually focus on rank advancement until they reach First Class, especially when it comes to these required badges, which usually involve a significant amount of effort. There is no time limit for earning a merit badge other than completion before the Scout’s 18th birthday. However, working on more than one of the more challenging badges at a time often results in loss of focus and is not recommended. Many of the craft or hobby badges can be completed in a weekend. Four or five merit badges can often be completed during a week of summer camp.

The Merit Badge Process

When a Scout decides he wants to work toward a specific merit badge, the first step is to request a merit badge application (“blue card”) from the scoutmaster. The scoutmaster will also let the Scout know who the approved merit badge counselor is for the badge. The merit badge application, properly filled out by the Scout and signed by the scoutmaster, is the Scout’s record of progress, and he may not start work on a badge until he has an approved card. The merit badge counselor initials the card after the Scout shows he has met each requirement. When all requirements are complete the signed application is then returned to the scoutmaster, who approves it and passes it to the committee advancement chair or secretary for recording. The Scout keeps one section of the application card as his record until he is presented with the award.

Court of Honor

A court of honor (or court of awards) is the troop’s formal program for recognition of rank advancement, merit badges and other awards the Scouts have earned. Regular courts of honor are scheduled into the troop calendar four times a year (in late September, December, March and June.) Note that a Scout has earned his new rank when he passes his board of review, not the court of honor, for purposes of the

participation requirement for his next rank. A special court of honor is held to recognize the rank of Eagle Scout, and is scheduled on as-needed basis in cooperation with the Eagle Scout and his family. Moms are given a ribbon for a pin representing each rank earned by their son, recognizing the key role of parental support. They may wear the ribbon at each Court of Honor.

Service Projects

Community service is a significant aspect of character development and citizenship, and a major focus of Scouting activities. Service projects are an integral part of the annual troop program plan.

Warwick Ecumenical Council Food Pantry

The local food pantry has a variety of needs and calls on Troop 45 from time to time. We organize and run food drives, sort donations from the annual Post Office drive, or man coin drops, usually once or twice a year.

Eagle Service Projects

On the trail to earning the rank of Eagle, a Scout is required to plan and execute a community service project incorporating a significant amount of volunteer labor. Fellow Scouts usually do the bulk of the work on these projects.

Order of the Arrow

Order of the Arrow (OA) is sometimes referred to as the “honor society” of Scouting. The OA is dedicated to the ideals of Scouting, and especially cheerful service. Service in the OA most often takes the form of conservation or other outdoor projects, frequently in support of the local council’s camp properties. A Scout must meet certain eligibility requirements including an active camping record, and be elected by his troop as exemplifying the ideals of Scouting, before being invited to join the OA. As an OA member, a Scout will have the opportunity to participate in additional camping, service and fellowship activities.

The Patrol Method

Robert Baden-Powell (one of Scouting’s founders) said “The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the *only* way.” So what are patrols?

Patrols

The patrol is a group of approximately six to eight Scouts, with a patrol leader elected by the patrol, which operate as a team within the troop. Troop operations are almost always carried out within the context of

patrols. The patrol camps and eats together, sharing the work and solving problems along the way. The Scouting program encourages good spirited competition between patrols. When the patrol method is working well, a Scout will think of himself foremost as a Panther or Owl, and then as a member of the troop. Patrols may be reorganized occasionally to keep the number of Scouts within an effective range.

The New-Scout Patrol

First-year Scouts are formed into a “new-Scout patrol” for their first few months of scouting until summer camp is completed. They choose a name and elect a patrol leader from among their number like the other patrols. Unlike other patrols the new-Scout patrol is assigned a troop guide who is a kind of mentor, helping to lead the patrol through tasks like menu planning, tracking and encouraging advancement, and coaching the patrol leader on his duties. First-year Scouts will also have an ASM assigned to them to focus adult attention on the unique needs of the less experienced group. In September the new-Scout patrol is blended into existing patrols which are comprised of boys who have diverse ages and scouting experience to allow them to learn from and interact with older scouts.

All About Money

It is our intent to make Scouting accessible to all youth regardless of their financial situation. If any of the costs of participation in the troop are a hardship for your family, please speak with the committee chair or another leader about options.

Annual Dues

A dues payment is required for a Scout to remain active each year when the troop’s charter is renewed shortly after the New Year. A part of this payment is a charter fee that helps to support the BSA’s national program, including insurance for troop operations. The remainder stays in the troop treasury to cover the annual budget needs aside from program activities. These basic operations costs include troop equipment, awards and emblems, the troop neckerchief and a troop t-shirt (prior to first summer camp.)

Scout Accounts

Scouts who participate in troop fundraising activities may direct the use of a portion of those funds through a “Scout Account” within the troop’s general account. Any balance assigned to a Scout may be applied to troop activity fees or dues for that Scout. Unused balances must revert to the troop general fund for tax reasons.

Activity Fees

Monthly program activities are budgeted by the lead ASM for the event, and assessed to participants prior to the activity. Scouts may use fundraising proceeds in their Scout Accounts or write a check to pay their

share of the cost. Meal costs for campouts are handled within the patrol and not included in the event budget, specifically to give Scouts the responsibility for managing the funds and doing the grocery shopping for their patrol.

Summer Camp Cost

The cost of summer camp and high adventure trips (Philmont, Sea Base, National and World Jamborees) are the responsibility of the Scout and his family. In many cases there are subsidy programs available to families that can demonstrate need, but the principal of personal responsibility suggests that a Scout makes some investment in raising the money for his own trip.

Friends of Scouting

The annual Friends of Scouting campaign supports the local council, which provides program support to units and operates two camp properties. Families are encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to this campaign each spring.

Fundraising

Scouts raise money to support the troop's program through a variety of fundraising activities during the program year. Scouts are highly encouraged to participate in troop fundraising and otherwise take a personal stake in helping to pay for the program. Scouts who participate in fundraising activities may direct the use of some portion of proceeds through their Scout Account.

Council Popcorn Sale

The largest fundraiser each year is the annual council sponsored popcorn sale. Each fall Scouts take advance orders for popcorn which is delivered before the holiday season. We also order some product in advance for "Show'n'sell" events within the community. A portion of popcorn sales also supports the local council.

AppleFest

The troop has had a volunteer role in Warwick's harvest weekend celebration for many years. The organizers make a modest donation to the troop treasury, but this event also gives Scout volunteers a very public role in the community, and is a recruiting opportunity on top of that.

Stuff Scouts Need

Families should use discretion when beginning to equip a boy to be a Scout. The handbook and a uniform are important, but other clothing and equipment can be acquired over time. It is often possible to find

second hand uniform parts and equipment within the troop to help reduce the cost. The Scout Shop at the council office (6 Jeanne Drive, Newburgh) carries all official BSA merchandise. There are many outlets for outdoor gear in the area including Gander Mountain (show BSA membership card for discount), Ramsey Outdoor and CampMor. ScoutStuff.org is the BSA online store. If you aren't sure, please ask for advice before making significant purchases.

The Boy Scout Handbook

The Boy Scout Handbook is a Scout's reference manual, textbook and advancement log. Currently in its 12th edition, this book has been continually improved for over 100 years and makes an outstanding guide for both new Scouts and parents. A Scout should put his name in his handbook immediately, and bring it with him to meetings and campouts. After he is tested on each advancement requirement, a senior Scout or adult leader will initial and date the appropriate place in the handbook. This becomes the Scout's personal record of his achievements and is a very important cross-check against troop and council records. There is also a space to keep a basic log of participation in troop events and outdoor activities.

Uniform and Insignia

Troop 45 insists on a "full uniform" for normal troop events including troop meetings and when travelling to and from campouts. Full uniform consists of Scout shirt, Scout shorts or long pants with belt, and Scout socks; the troop will supply a neckerchief after the initial dues payment when a Scout joins; the troop has elected not to wear a hat as part of the uniform (Headgear and neckwear are optional on a troop by troop basis according to the BSA standard); a leather Scout belt and Scout buckle may be substituted for the standard web belt. See the uniform guide on the inside covers of the Scout Handbook for proper placement of insignia. The troop often has second hand uniform parts in smaller sizes as newer Scouts tend to grow quickly. Please consider donating outgrown uniform parts back to the troop. The activity uniform (sometimes called "class B") is a Scout t-shirt with Scout shorts and socks. Troop t-shirts are normally ordered before summer camp.

Footwear

Don't send your Scout on outdoor events wearing sneakers. They simply aren't comfortable or safe for most hiking and camping. Look for sturdy shoes to protect the foot, most people like them to cover the ankle; waterproof and insulated for winter wear, though this will raise the cost, and those features are less important in warmer weather. Experienced hikers will develop very specific preferences about stiffness of the sole, but in general stay away from soles that bend like street shoes. A stiffer sole will result in less fatigue on a long hike. And don't expect to break your new shoes in the week before a big hike.

Outdoor Clothing

Clothing needs will depend heavily on what type of activities your Scout likes, and what time of year he is outdoors. It will take more specialized clothing to be comfortable on a winter campout than a spring hike.

Plan to accumulate outdoor clothing over time. It is often expensive, but with care each item should last for many years. Think layers, and avoid cotton *anything*. Outdoor stores carry poly underwear and long johns, which is the right place to start. Thin pile, thicker fleece and a windproof outer layer are most useful as separate garments rather than a combination – layers.

Equipment

- Personal first aid kit – every Scout should carry a small first aid kit to handle minor cuts, blisters or a headache.
- Mess kit – a lightweight plastic mess kit is the most practical. Backpackers often pack only a large bowl, spork, and a cup good for hot or cold beverages (i.e. not metal).
- Journal, small size for portability and plastic cover for durability.
- Sleeping bag – most avid campers will end up owning more than one bag, since it is impossible for one bag to be right for all seasons. Your first bag should be a relatively inexpensive bag appropriate for typical fall and spring temperatures.
- Backpack – this is usually something you can defer until your Scout gains some experience. There are many choices and a wide price range. A small duffel bag is appropriate for typical “car camping” events.

Adult Leadership

The adage that “many hands make light work” was never more true than in operating a Boy Scout Troop. There are lots of opportunities for parents to be involved, including both formal and informal leadership roles. There is no doubt that family participation increases the length of time a boy will remain an active Scout. There are excellent training opportunities associated with the formal leadership roles; Scouting experience is not a requirement. *All registered adults are required to take the BSA Youth Protection Training course every two years.*

Troop Committee

The troop committee is responsible to the chartered organization to provide support for the operations of the troop, including selecting the scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters. Committee members are registered with the BSA, but are not considered “direct contact” leaders. Committee members have formal contact with Scouts as members of boards of review that are held as the final requirement for each rank advancement. Committee members are expected to complete the online *Troop Committee Challenge* training.

- **Committee Chair** – Sets committee agenda, presides at committee meetings and courts of honor, responsible for scoutmaster selection process.
- **Chartered Organization Representative** – Liaison to the chartered organization, ensures chartered organization’s goals for the program are represented.

- **Treasurer** – Collects troop funds, prepares annual budget and reports to the committee on financial status of the troop.
- **Secretary** – Manages troop records database, informs committee on troop business, records and communicates minutes of troop committee meetings, works with the troop scribe to keep accurate attendance and advancement records.
- **Advancement** – Organizes boards of review, monitors advancement status of Scouts, reports advancement changes to council, procures awards.
- **Fundraising/Popcorn Kernel** – Manages the troop fundraising program, schedules public sales events, handles product.
- **Equipment** – Works with the troop quartermaster to repair and replace equipment, plans for future equipment needs.
- **Training** – Promotes adult and youth training, monitors adult training requirements and qualifications.
- **Membership** – Maintains relationship with local cub packs, organizes recruiting events, ensures committee goals for new membership are met, handles youth and adult registration and unit recharter process.
- **Outdoor** – Assists troop with reservations and advance logistics for program events, maintains information about sites and events appropriate for the troop program.
- **Chaplain** – Works with the troop chaplain aide to maintain reverence toward God throughout the troop program.
- **AppleFest Coordinator** – Organizes advance planning for troop involvement, ensures adequate Scout participation and adult supervision is available for the event, maintains relationship with AppleFest planning committee including submitting evaluation forms after the event.

Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmasters

The scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters are adult volunteers who are registered with the BSA as “direct contact” leaders, and expected to participate in BSA basic training for their position, including *Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training (SASLST)* and *Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)*. The role of the scoutmaster and assistant scoutmasters is to coach the youth in planning and executing the troop’s program, manage risk and handle logistics that require an adult (such as campsite reservations, BSA tour permits and transportation arrangements.) An assistant scoutmaster is typically designated to oversee each major troop event.

Merit Badge Counselors

Merit badge counselors are adult volunteers who register with the BSA and are approved as subject matter experts by the local council. The scoutmaster and assistants have access to the list of approved counselors to assign when a Scout is ready to work on a new badge. Merit badge counselors are recruited from among parents, teachers and other trustworthy adults who are willing to register with the BSA and spend the time to assist Scouts in learning about a subject where they have expertise. If a Scout is interested in a badge for which we don’t have an approved counselor available, it may involve a search

to recruit a qualified counselor. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in this capacity and to help recruit others.

Youth Leadership

Scouting is a “youth-led” program. It is perhaps the most unique element of Scouting in relation to other youth programs that Boy Scouts develop leadership by taking responsibility for developing and running the program. Sometimes that means the execution of a plan is not perfect, or a plan itself may be flawed. The adult leaders are there to coach and advise (and step in where safety may be at risk), but should allow the youth leaders to learn from their own experience as far as possible.

- **Senior Patrol Leader** – Top junior leader in the troop. He leads the patrol leaders' council and, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, appoints other junior leaders and assigns specific responsibilities as needed.
- **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** – Fills in for senior patrol leader in his absence. He is also responsible for training and giving direction to the quartermaster, scribe, troop historian, librarian, and instructors.
- **Troop Historian** – Collects and maintains troop memorabilia and information on former troop members.
- **Librarian** – Keeps troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor list available for use by troop members.
- **Instructor** – Teaches one or more advancement skills to troop members.
- **Chaplain Aide** – Assists in troop religious services and promotes religious emblems program.
- **Junior Assistant Scoutmaster** – A Scout 16 or older who supervises and supports other boy leaders as assigned.
- **Patrol Leader** – Gives leadership to members of his patrol and represents them on the patrol leaders' council.
- **Assistant Patrol Leader** – Fills in for the patrol leader in his absence.
- **Troop Guide** – Advisor and guide to the new Scout patrol.
- **Den Chief** – Works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.
- **Quartermaster** – Responsible for troop supplies and equipment.
- **Scribe** – The troop secretary, responsible for attendance and advancement records.
- **Bugler** – Plays appropriate bugle calls at troop events.
- **Webmaster** – Maintains the troop website.
- **Leave No Trace Trainer** – Develops outdoor conservation skills and awareness.

Training

Training for youth leaders occurs on many levels, including two formal programs. *Troop Leader Training* (TLT) is a standard BSA program run within the troop that applies to all leadership positions. Scouts who have completed TLT may wear the “trained” patch along with the patch for the position they held when trained. *National Youth Leader Training* (NYLT) is a BSA program delivered by the local council each summer. NYLT trained leaders may wear the “trained” patch for any position they hold thereafter.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents play a critical role in the success of the Scouting program. Direct involvement of at least one parent correlates with a Scout’s likelihood of remaining active in the program.

Learn

Create an account on the website myScouting.org, and explore the online training opportunities. Every Scout parent should review the basic introduction to the program *This is Scouting*, and *Youth Protection Training* which details the BSA’s system to ensure the safety of Scouts and accountability of adults. Your Scout’s Handbook is a great place to get information about general outdoor skills, including camp menus and gear checklists.

Encourage

Create a positive environment for your Scout to learn and grow in the program, and to take personal responsibility for his own development. Help him set realistic goals and learn how to make choices between conflicting interests. Scouting can coexist with music, sports and academics if a boy’s goals are reasonable.

Participate

Ask an adult leader how you can help out. Parents are welcome to join the troop on outings, campouts and hikes, but must complete Youth Protection Training. (For liability reasons it is not appropriate to include siblings who are not Scouts.) There are endless ways to contribute, so let a committee member know about your talents and interests.

A Few “Don’ts”

- “Never do anything a boy can do.” –*Robert Baden-Powell*
- Don’t withhold Scouting as a punishment. If your son needs more time for academic work, consider helping him structure his time without sacrificing the positive benefits of participation in Scouting.
- Don’t interfere with patrol operations, especially when camping with the troop. Allow the patrol to learn to set up their tents and cook their meals as a team.

- Don't discipline your own child in the context of the troop. Scouting is a chance for boys to exercise some independence from their parents. If necessary, ask another adult to step in.
- Don't over-emphasize rank advancement. From its very beginning the Scouting program was intended to be fun. Advancement will occur as a result of active participation in the program.

Troop Policies

Meeting Facility

Troop 45 is authorized to use the fellowship hall of the Lutheran Church for meetings scheduled through the church office. Other church facilities are off limits, specifically including the kitchen, lower level meeting rooms and the outdoor playground equipment.

Glossary

| | |
|----------|---|
| ASM | Assistant Scoutmaster, adult leader position |
| Council | BSA support organization, Hudson Valley Council covers a five-county area |
| District | BSA support organization, Heritage District contains about 70 troops and packs |
| IOLS | Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, adult training course |
| NYLT | National Youth Leadership Training, youth training course |
| OA | Order of the Arrow, service and conversation organization within Scouting |
| PLC | Patrol Leaders Council, troop youth leader group determines troop program |
| SASLST | Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, adult training course |
| SM | Scoutmaster, adult leader position |
| SPL | Senior Patrol Leader, primary youth leader position |
| TLT | Troop Leader Training, youth training course |