

BOY SCOUT TROOP 63 COBRAS

Washington School & Elks Lodge #1583

UNION, N.J. 07083

www.troop63cobras.com

Parent Information

This information was designed for the parents and scouts of Troop 63, so that they might have a better understanding of the Boy Scout program.

Without your constant support, the program that has been designed for your son cannot be as strong and fulfilling as we would like. We thank you, in advance, for your help in fulfilling our goal of a meaningful and long-lasting experience for our sons.

The Scout is responsible for:

- Contacting merit badge counselors for earning merit badges.
- Contacting the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster conference.
- Requesting a Board of Review
- Proper behavior at ALL Scouting activities.
- Bringing information on outings and events home, and to review information with his parents.
- Wearing proper Scout uniform to meetings

The troop is responsible for:

- Providing a well-rounded program for the Scouts.
- Providing adult leadership to help the Scouts advance in rank.
- Providing an interesting program for the Scouts so that they will not get bored.

The parents are responsible for:

- Assisting the troop either as a leader, committee person, an activity coordinator, or a merit badge counselor.

IMPORTANT TERMS TO KNOW

BOY SCOUT:

A boy younger than 18 years old, that wants to learn about interesting things, better themselves, and have fun doing them.

RANKS:

Ranks are the levels that a Boy Scout earns by completing specific requirements.

The ranks are as follows (in order):

SCOUT
TENDERFOOT
SECOND CLASS
FIRST CLASS
STAR
LIFE
EAGLE

MERIT BADGE:

Merit Badges are the second main area of the Boy Scout advancement program. Unlike ranks, there is a degree of choice in the merit badge program. A sub-group of merit badges are known as Eagle required merit badges.

Merit Badges represent achievements in areas of interest and are intended to teach life skills and allow Scouts to examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation.

BLUE CARDS:

Blue cards are the record of the Scout earning a merit badge. There are three copies to each blue card: one for Council, one for the Troop Advancements Chair and one that the Scout should retain.

BOARD OF REVIEW:

The board is a group of committee members that meet with a scout who has met the requirements for rank advancement. Boards of Review are granted at the earliest possible opportunity. Passing a Board of Review is the final step in earning a rank.

COURT OF HONOR:

A Court of Honor is a periodic awards ceremony that publicly recognizes Scouts for their successful achievements and provides incentive for other Scouts to advance. **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PARENTS AND FRIENDS ATTEND COURTS OF HONOR AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR SCOUTS.**

ADULT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: The person that heads the troop committee.

TROOP COMMITTEE: A group of parents that support the troop program and troop activities.

TREASURER: Tracks, records and reports on the troop's finances. Reviews, approves and issues checks for disbursements. Deposits funds as needed.

SECRETARY: Records minutes of meeting and handles correspondence.

FUNDRAISING PERSON: Responsible for coordinating the fundraising efforts of the troop.

OUTDOORSMAN PERSON: Get Tour Permits, records number of days camping.

MEMBERSHIP: Handles the new and returning scouts when the troop re-charters each year.

SCOUTMASTER: Works in training and guiding the boy leaders who run the troop.

ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER: The person who helps the Scoutmaster.

JUNIOR ASSISTANTSCOUT MASTER: Scout who is at least sixteen years old and an Eagle Scout, who supervises and supports the other boy leaders.

EAGLE ADVISOR: A registered adult member of the troop who guides, counsels and helps a Life Scout who is working on his Eagle project.

UNIFORM DONATION COORDINATOR: Stores and reports on uniforms and other BSA items available for exchange.

ADVANCEMENTS CHAIRPERSON: Person responsible for recording all rank advancements for individual scout records. Oversees Board of Reviews

HOSPITALITY PERSON: Supervises year-end Court of Honor and yearlong refreshments as needed.

RECOGNITIONAWARDS PERSON: Person responsible for all non-advancement awards.

QUARTERMASTER: Store, order and maintain inventory of troop gear.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR: Adults with the desire to assist the Scouts in fulfilling the requirements of specific merit badges. With over 100 merit badges, adults can find areas that interest them

SCOUT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

(Elections held annually by Scouts in the month of January)

SENIOR PATROL LEADER (SPL): The Scout in charge of the other Scouts.

ASSISTANT SENIOR PARTROL LEADER (ASPL): The Scout that assists the Senior Patrol Leader.

ORDER OF THE ARROW (O/A) REPRESENTATIVE: Provides reports to all *OIA* members. Holds elections twice a year.

PATROL LEADER (PL): The Scout in charge of a group of Scouts.

ASSISTANT PATROL LEADER (APL): The Scout that assist the Patrol Leader.

TROOP GUIDE: Older Scouts that help teach newer Scouts how a troop works.

LIBRARIAN: The Scout in charge of the troop's merit badge pamphlets and books.

SCRIBE: The Scout in charge of recording attendance and dues.

HISTORIAN: Scouts in charge of tracking the special events and activities of the troop.

QUARTERMASTER: Scouts in charge of the troop's equipment.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 63 UNIFORM GUIDELINES

It has been decided by the adult leadership that the uniform habits of the Scouts is a sign of scout spirit. In an effort to maintain a uniform appearance, thereby instilling a team effort in our troop, the following uniform guidelines should be followed:

CLASS A: Boy Scout dress shirt, with insignia placed appropriately, scout pants or shorts, scout belt and buckle, scout socks, neckerchief and a slide.

CLASS B - Boy Scout or Troop T-Shirt.

TROOP 63 POLICY

A. GENERAL

- All actions of the troop committee and the Scoutmaster and the assistant Scoutmasters are to be taken with the primary purpose of enhancing the well being of the Scouts and the troop.

B. ORGANIZATION

- Troop meetings are held every Wednesday, 7:00PM to 8:45 PM. Generally, the Troop meets at Washington School. Meeting dates and locations are subject to change due to conflicts. Special meetings, such as Courts of Honor and equipment meetings are held at the Elks.
- Troop meetings will not be held when school is closed.
- The committee Chairperson and the Troop Committee hold Troop Committee Meetings each month as scheduled.
- Troop meeting content: As part of the troop meeting, the reinforcement of "Scouting skills" is necessary. These include map reading, compass use, knot tying, for backpack outings, equipment maintenance and outdoor survival skills. This is one of the reasons that some of the Scouts decided to join the Scouting program.

C. PARENT/GUARDIAN SUPPORT

- Believing that Scouting should involve a positive commitment by the boy's family to support him in Scouting by encouraging his participation and growth in maturity, leadership, and scout skills. Parents/guardians of a Scout should support the troop activity in one or more of the following ways:
 - Being a Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster
 - Being an active member of the Troop Committee.
 - Being a merit badge counselor in one or more skill areas

- Providing the necessary adult supervision on overnight camping trips to supplement the leadership of the Scoutmaster or assistant Scoutmaster.
- Volunteer and assist with various Council, District and Troop events and activities including, but not limited to transportation, community service, outdoor events, spearheading a fundraiser.

D. FINANCIAL

- Registration for the year will total \$80.00. The troop committee reserves the right to assess additional fees throughout the course of the year, if fundraising activities do not support the financial requirements of the troop. Individual activity and outing costs, as well as food, are separate.

E. ADVANCEMENT

- Board of Review - A minimum of three committee members will serve on the board of review
- Eagle Scout candidates: at the time a scout becomes a Life Scout, the advancement chairperson will give him an Eagle packet. In preparation for his road to Eagle, the scout must submit his proposed Eagle project to the troop committee for approval.

F. ACTIVITIES

Campouts and summer camp

- the Scoutmaster **MUST** have permission forms signed for each scout.
- Adults driving scouts to, from or during a troop activity must have an insurance form on file with the troop
- A minimum of two (2) adults is required on all overnight camping trips and troop activities. A ratio of one (1) adult for each ten (10) boys must be observed.
- A tour permit must be filed with council for all overnight camping trips and activities outside the troop meeting.
- No Scouts are permitted to leave camp early without prior written request from parent/guardian.
- Scouts are committed to an activity or campout by submitting a completed sign-up flyer accompanied by a required, non-refundable deposit.
- All boys must qualify and be registered as a Scout before attending any troop activity.
- Parent/guardian of any Scout taking any kind of medication must make arrangements with the adult leaders regarding this medication prior to an activity.

G. CONDUCT

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS: The use of alcohol and illicit drugs have no place in scouting. Therefore, alcohol and illicit drugs are banned from scouting activities. *Any violation of this policy is considered the most serious by the Troop and the Troop committee. Any scout or registered adult violating this policy will be subject to the appropriate action by the Troop Committee which may include a request for resignation.*

TRUSTWORTHINESS: A Scout is trustworthy. Trustworthy includes honesty and obviously trusting fellow Scouts. Included in this section is theft. While we, as a Troop, do not view this as an issue, incidents can occur, and therefore, must be addressed in our policy for remedial purposes. *Any violation of this policy is considered the most serious by the Troop and the Troop Committee. Any scout or registered adult violating this policy will be subject to the appropriate action by the Troop Committee which may include a request for resignation.*

TOBACCO: No tobacco use in front of Scouts.

FAQs

Uniform

You will need to purchase a Class A uniform for your son. Here are the things your son will need:

Boy Scout uniform shirt (if you upgrade to the tan uniform shirt in Webelos, you're all set)
Green uniform pants (this is not an urgent requirement)
Patriot's Path Council patch (worn on the shoulder, same as Cubs)
World Crest emblem (purple – same as Cubs)
Green Unit numbers 6, and 3 (if you have the tan uniform shirt with 163 from Cubs, see Peter Glaser for hints on how to rearrange)
Hat (also not an urgent requirement)
Neckerchief and slide are provided by the Troop
Class B T-shirt – one shirt is provided by the Troop, you may purchase additional shirts as you deem necessary.

Handbook

The handbook required to proceed through the ranks. It is a wealth of information and learning. It is also where the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Review Board and your son will record his progress toward rank advancement.

Where to buy BSA items

There are two area Scout Shops. The main store is at 1 Saddle Road in Cedar Knolls at Patriot's Path Council headquarters. The smaller store is at 1130 Route 22 West in Mountainside (look for the Verrex sign). Directions and hours for both can be found online at <http://shop.pbbsa.org/locationhours/>. The employees at both are hugely helpful in getting all the uniform parts assembled. If you prefer to shop online, there is scoutstuff.org

Where to buy outdoor gear

BSA outdoor gear is sold at ScoutStuff.org. Certain outfitters offer scouting discounts. For example, Eastern Mountain Sports offers a 20% discount on your purchase, twice per year, with a BSA membership card. Outfitters include: REI, Campmor, Dick's, Sports Authority. There are also good online resources such as Sierra Trading.

What to wear, when

For the 2014 to 2015 Scout year, the Troop voted that every Scout should wear his Class A uniform to the first Troop meeting of the month (which, as a rule, coincides with the Troop Committee Meeting). Class A uniforms are expected to be worn properly and with pride. They are to be kept neat and tucked in, with covered toe footwear (no sandals or Crocs). Class B uniforms can be worn at all other meetings. Announcements are usually made as to how to dress for outings. Class A uniforms are rarely required for camping events, unless camping is at District, Council or National levels.

Proper footwear is required for outings. Hikes require a decent pair of boots, and winter weather activities require winter cold weather gear and attire. Because Boy Scouting is an outdoor program, we will encounter rain. Proper rain gear is also necessary.

Joining Requirements

- 1) Every new scout must meet the age requirements: be a boy who is 11 years old, or one who has completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.

- 2) Find a Scout troop near your home – you’ve done that! Troop 63!
- 3) Complete a Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.
- 4) Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5) Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.
- 6) Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).
- 7) Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code.
- 8) Describe the Scout badge.
- 9) Complete the pamphlet exercises. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide.
- 10) Turn in your Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian.
- 11) Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

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