

TROOP 400

ORIENTATION GUIDE



Revised May 2009



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Welcome to Troop 400!!

Troop 400 conducts Troop meetings every Monday evening at the Mars Alliance Church on Route 228. Meetings officially start at 7:00 p.m., and are usually completed between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m. Scouts will be notified of any changes in the time or location of the meetings.



- Meetings continue year-round with the exception of meetings falling on a holiday (and sometimes school holidays) or during the week between Christmas and New Years.

THE ADVENTURE OF SCOUTING

It is easier to build a boy than repair a man.

Scouting – A Values-based Program

Scouting offers boys an environment in which everyone can feel secure both physically and emotionally. The goal of the Boy Scouts of America is to help boys develop into honorable men. Scouting's values can be incorporated into a boy's home, school, and religious community, adding to all three – and in some cases, filling in where support is lacking.

Character Development

Scouts will have many opportunities to learn skills of leadership, of the outdoors, and of life. Each boy decides what he will learn and how quickly he will do it. As he progresses, the value of his achievements will be reinforced through recognition, advancement in rank, positions of leadership, and accomplishments during outdoor adventures.

Character encompasses a boy's personal qualities, values, and outlook. The Scouting Program strives to help boys grow in many ways.

- He becomes confident but not conceited.
- He is honest with himself and others.
- He can be counted on to do his best, even in difficult times.
- He develops special skills and interests.
- He practices his religious beliefs.
- He respects other people regardless of their differences.

— “Character is what you do when no one is looking.” —

THE AIMS OF SCOUTING

Every Scouting activity moves a boy toward three basic aims:

- Moral strength and character development.
- Citizenship training.
- Developing mental, physical, and emotional fitness.

THE METHODS OF SCOUTING

Troop 400 utilizes eight fundamental methods to meet our scouts' hope for fun and adventure; and to achieve Scouting's aims of encouraging character development, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness.

- The Ideals (The Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan)
- The Patrol Method
- The Outdoors
- Advancement
- Adult Association
- Personal Growth
- Leadership Development
- The Uniform

“The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. ‘Be Prepared’ in this way to live happy and die happy. Stick to your Scout Promise always – even after you have ceased to be a boy.”

– Excerpt from a farewell letter by Robert Baden–Powell to the scouts of the world.



WHAT DO YOU DO IN SCOUTS?

The Patrol Leaders' Council designs Troop 400's program each year. They solicit ideas from the members of their patrols and then meet to determine the best mix of activities for the coming year. The adult leaders advise on Boy Scout policies and ask leading questions when it will bring out an important point. But the end result is the Scout's work. The PLC chooses a monthly theme and plans weekly troop meetings and the outdoor activity around the monthly theme. The goal is at least one outdoor activity each month, outside the normal weekly meetings.

This booklet can only hope to suggest the typical types of activities the Troop might suggest.

OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Troop sponsored activities:

- Summer Camp
- Local holiday ceremony participation (Memorial Day/July 4th parade, etc.)
- Eagle Courts of Honor
- Service Projects & Eagle projects
- Flag retirement ceremonies
- Valley Forge Encampment trip
- Indianapolis 500 trip
- Gettysburg trip
- Ski trips
- Snow tubing
- Biking trips

- Hikes or backpacking trips
- Shooting Sports outings
- Canoe Trips
- Wilderness Survival Training
- Cave exploring
- Climbing / Rappelling

National sponsored activities:

- National Jamboree (every four years)
- Philmont High Adventure†
- Sea Base†
- Northern Tier High Adventure†

International sponsored activities:

- World Jamboree (every four years)
- Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) (annually)

†The three High Adventure programs are available every year on a first-come first-served basis. The Troop decides which High Adventure activity they would like to participate in two years in advance. The minimum age requirement for the High Adventure programs is fourteen years and First Class rank.

TROOP LEADERSHIP

A Boy Scout Troop is made up of Patrols of approximately eight boys led by a senior Scout who is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) aids him. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters help oversee the Troop meetings. The Scouts in the Troop elect the SPL and ASPL. Each Patrol elects a Patrol Leader (PL). Other leadership positions a Scout may hold are: Troop Scribe, Historian, Troop Guide, Librarian, Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aid, Instructor, OA Representative, Bugler and Den Chief.

Who runs the Troop?

The Scouts through the Patrol Leaders' Council handle the week-to-week, outing-to-outing leadership, planning, executing, and evaluating.

What is the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)?

The PLC consists of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and his Assistant, the Patrol Leaders and their Assistants, and other junior leaders as necessary. The SPL chairs the meetings. At these meetings, the junior leaders plan up-coming events and outings; and evaluate past performance. Patrol reports are given, ideas are discussed, and decisions are made based upon their discussions. They are then set into effect.

How do they learn these skills?

Younger Scouts learn from watching more experienced Scouts, through coaching by the adult leaders, and by participating in formal training. The Troop regularly conducts Junior Leader training sessions. Council also provides a week-long leadership course called Silverwolf or National Youth Leadership training (NYLT).

How are Junior Leaders chosen?

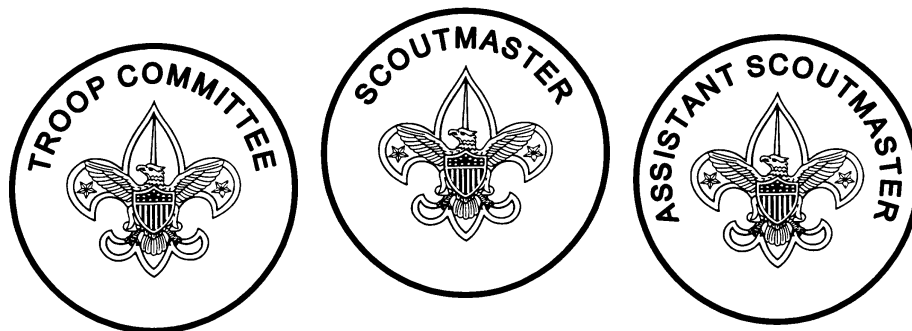
Twice a year, a Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are chosen by a majority vote of all Scouts in the Troop. The Patrols each elect a Patrol Leader. All leaders serve a 6 month term. The members of the Troop elect the additional positions in the Troop such as Quartermaster, Historian, etc., as well.

What do the Adult Leaders do?

The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters are the most visible adult leaders. They are present at the weekly meetings and outings to provide adult supervision. They help train the junior leaders after receiving leadership training themselves through council. Another group of adults works behind the scene — The Troop Committee. Committee members oversee finances, equipment, provide a facility to hold meetings, and oversee the troop program. They assure that the Scouts and Leadership have the resources they need to provide a first-rate program for the boys.

TROOP 400'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SCOUTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- To provide a well-planned, year-round program of meetings and activities which meet the aims of scouting and the needs of the boys.
- To promote the "Patrol Method" of Troop organization.
- To provide opportunities for advancement enabling the youth to reach their ultimate potential through Council, District, and Troop resources.
- To provide Scouts and their parents with information on programs and procedures.
- To provide trained, qualified, and enthusiastic leaders.
- To provide an adequate and appropriate meeting place that provides a safe haven for each scout.
- To provide financial support through proper budgeting from Troop fees, weekly dues, and fundraising as planned by the committee.
- To provide necessary troop equipment for activities and programs.
- To evaluate the program and make necessary adjustments and improvements as necessary.



PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- To review a Fast Start video so that they will have an understanding of the Boy Scouting program.
- To be informed, active, and assist the Troop and adult leaders in providing a quality program.
- Complete a parent talent survey sheet, and provide individual talents, abilities, and resources that may be utilized by the Troop to improve the program.
- Support the program by providing transportation to and from Troop meetings and activities. All monthly outings are dependent upon transportation supplied by parents. If sufficient transportation is not available, outings will be cancelled.
- Each family must support their son(s) by taking an active interest in their rank advancements and merit badges requirements.
- A member of each family should volunteer to become a registered and active member of the Troop Committee or Troop Leadership, and be willing to participate in Leadership Training.



ANNUAL FEES

The annual membership fee for each scout is \$100. Half of these fees are due the 1st of March and the second half is due on September 1st. This annual fee is used to pay for the following items:

- Registration and Insurance with National organization
- Boy's Life Magazine
- Unit chartering fee
- Consumable Troop material
(i.e., postage, propane, some camp box supplies,
Troop dinner contributions, etc.)
- Program materials
(rank advancement and award patches, pins, merit
badges, etc.)
- Equipment maintenance
(tent pegs, rope, trailer license fees, canoe
registration, minor equipment replacement/repair)
- New Equipment
(backpack tents, canoe paddles, PFDs etc)

This money just maintains the Scout in the Troop and any event or activity is extra and figured on an event-by-event basis. The Troop maintains an account for each scout. The account is replenished by Parent's paying into it or thru a scout's participation in fundraisers. It is important – and your responsibility – to keep your individual account paid up so that it may be used for these events. The Troop tries very hard to keep costs down and still provide as much Scouting per dollar as possible. Any questions about finances of the Troop or about your individual account status should be directed to the Troop treasurer. A copy of the troop budget is available to any parent upon request.

FUNDRAISERS

Scouting has many expenses, and the Troop realizes the need to conduct fundraisers to help defray the costs to the parents. Examples of these expenses include personal gear, summer camp, and Troop and council activities. Troop 400 conducts fundraisers in a continuous basis. There are usually two to three per year. Trails End Popcorn sales occur in September.

The Troop Committee decides upon an additional fundraiser if necessary. The profits earned by the boys are deposited into their individual accounts, and may be used for any Scout-related expense.

While Scouts are encouraged to participate in fund raisers in order to help defray the cost of activities, no Scout is forced to participate.

Fundraisers are also held periodically to raise funds for the Howard Croop Eagle Scout award. This award allocates funds to qualifying Eagle Scouts from Troop 400 who, upon graduation from high school, seek further education at a college, university, technical/trade school or other institution. Fund raisers for this fund typically include cash washes, collection of recyclables, and public dinners.

The cost of some Council-wide activities, including summer camp and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), can be offset through camperships from the Council. Families of Scouts must meet financial eligibility requirements. Applications can be obtained from the Council Service Center. If attendance at summer camp or NYLT would present a financial hardship then please arrange for a confidential conversation with the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman to discuss further.

UNIFORMING

“By dressing alike, Scouts show they are equal. Your uniform is also a sign to yourself and to others that you are a person who can be trusted. You can be counted on to lend a hand when help is needed. Dressed as a Scout, you want to act as a Scout.”

Each advancement that a Scout earns toward the rank of Eagle requires him to show Scout Spirit. It is Troop 400’s opinion that this cannot be fully accomplished if the Scout does not wear a proper BSA uniform.

Troop 400 mandates the acquisition of a complete scout uniform (Class “A”). The complete uniform consists of: scout shirt, scout pants or shorts, scouts socks and a scout belt. A troop neckerchief will be awarded to a new Scout upon his completion of the Basic Scout rank.

The uniform is an essential part of the program and will be worn to all program activities unless an alternate uniform is planned and communicated in advance. Uniforms can be purchased from the Moraine Trails Scout shop, Pittsburgh Scout shop, or through the BSA catalog or website. Uniforms can also be acquired through flea markets, garage sales, and thrift stores. The Troop has a limited uniform exchange program in which Scouts are encouraged to donate uniform items that no longer fit or are retired. The uniforms are available free of charge to other members of the Troop upon request. Graduating Webelos Scouts may use their Khaki Webelos shirt and simply change the patches.

It is not required but highly encouraged that scouts purchase a Class “B” uniform consisting of either a Troop T-shirt or sweatshirt. Troop 400 sweatshirts, T-shirts, and additional Troop patches are available for purchase. See a committee member for details.

Troop 400 requires each Scout to have the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Class “A” Shirt | Neckerchief* |
| Boy Scout shoulder loops | Neckerchief slide |
| Council shoulder patch | Uniform rope* |
| Troop 400 numerals | Membership Card* |
| World Crest patch | |
| Patrol patch | |
| Scout pants or shorts | |
| Scout belt | |
| Scout socks | |

*Supplied by the Troop



PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Troop 400 is a very active outdoor Troop. As such, there is a certain amount of equipment that each Scout will be expected to provide for themselves. Equipment does not have to be new or top of the line until you are sure your son enjoys a particular type of outing. Most boys will go through two or three levels of equipment until they find what they really prefer and do not outgrow it.

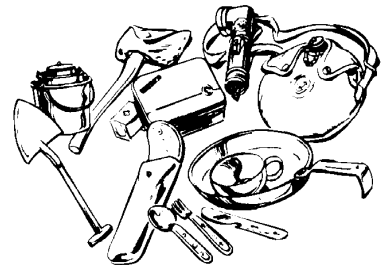
Each Scout is asked to provide the following equipment:

Essential Gear

- Boy Scout Handbook
- Sleeping Bag (rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Insulated Sleeping Pad
- “Hiking” Boots
- Backpack
- Mess Kit and Utensils (A non-aluminum Teflon coated mess kit is best)
- Canteen or Water Bottles
- Poncho or Rain Suit
- Map-reading Compass
- Flashlight
- Pocket Knife (after earning Totin’ Chip card)
- Personal First-Aid Kit (can be built by the scout)

Optional Gear

- Matches (in water-tight container)
- Fire Starters
- Camp Bucket or camp stool
- 50’ — 3/16” or 1/4” Nylon Rope
- 7’ x 9’ Poly Tarp
- Multipurpose tool
- Work Gloves



EQUIPMENT THAT THE TROOP PROVIDES

Troop 400 is a very well-equipped Troop. We are fortunate to have adequate numbers of both camporee tents as well as backpacking tents. We have 2 — 12' x20' canopies.

The troop is equipped with several patrol boxes, each having all of the cooking equipment, pots, pans, utensils, stoves, griddles, coolers, shovels, etc., to provide the Scouts in our Patrols with more than adequate gear for any of our outings or activities. We also have lanterns and 20-pound propane tanks.

In addition, we have a canoe trailer with eight canoes, and a 6'x15' equipment trailer to transport all of the gear to our outings.

Please keep in mind that the current gear owned by the troop was purchased through the efforts of previous members and generous contributions of valued supporters of Troop 400. The use of this equipment is a privilege and as such, we expect it to be properly used and maintained by the Scouts. Boys in the Troop need to respect the quality and the history of the equipment they have to use and steward for the future Scouts of the Troop.

ADVANCEMENT

The key to timely advancement is a combination of activity and Scout Spirit. The Scout who makes as many of the Troop meetings and outings as possible will be able to advance rapidly and have more fun in the process. Once learned, Scout Skills are best retained and remain sharp through use — and eventually become second nature. The Scout Oath and Promise provide a set of rules by which all Scouts should live. As with Scout Skills, Scout Spirit must be used constantly to be of value to the Scout and his community. The Scout who practices both will receive the greatest enjoyment from his Scouting career.

All requirements for advancement are tracked using the Boy Scout Handbook. The Advancement Chair maintains the information through the use of computer software. Each Scout is required to bring his handbook to ALL meetings and activities in order for rank requirements to be initialed and dated in their Scout Handbook. BE PREPARED! Ad-



vancement Cards, received upon completion of a rank or for merit badges, should be kept in a binder or other safe place. These can be used if necessary to recreate a record of advancement if the situation should occur.

The seven levels of Rank Advancement in Boy Scouts are as follows:

Basic Scout – Tenderfoot – Second Class – First Class

Star – Life – Eagle

Scouts start by earning the Scout Badge. The requirements for Basic Scout can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook. The skills must be demonstrated to the Leaders or Junior Leaders who will initial and date the Scout's handbook, which is required for the

badge to be awarded. It is the responsibility of the Scout to see that the Advancement Chair is aware of his advancements.

The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class require skills learned on campouts, hikes, Troop meetings, and service hours (service given to the community or religious institution). Again, Leaders and Junior Leaders will initial and date requirements as they are completed. A Scout may work on the requirements for any of these ranks simultaneously, but will receive the ranks in order:

Tenderfoot — Second Class — and First Class.

After advancing to First Class, a Scout may continue to Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks. The requirements for these ranks are a bit different. At each rank, the Scout will be earning several merit badges. Merit badges are opportunities for the Scout to investigate new skills and potential careers in-depth. Beginning at the Star rank, the Scout is also required to serve to serve the Troop as a Junior Leader and to serve the community by participating in service projects. Lastly, Star, Life, and Eagle ranks require the Scout to be active in his Troop and patrol for a period of months.

There are many choices available to youth today and Scouting is truly one of few year round programs. As a Troop we do not want to discourage Scouts from participating in sports, band, drama, or other school or community activities. We would much rather have a boy active in the program for 7 months out of the year than not at all. However when serving in a leadership role a boy needs to be able to make most of the planned activities during the 6 month session that they are serving as a leader. If they cannot attend a function, it is the Scout's responsibility to inform his assistant Patrol Leader or Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of these conflicts and to insure that someone is prepared and ready to fulfill the leadership responsibilities in his absence.

The last two requirements for all ranks are the Scoutmaster's Conference and a Board of Review. At the Scoutmaster's Conference, the Scout and the Scoutmaster review the requirements for that rank and any previous ranks. If the Scoutmaster feels confident that the Scout demonstrates the knowledge and skills required, he will initial and date the Scout's handbook and arrange for a Board of Review.

A Board of Review consists of a minimum of three adults — members of the Troop committee and/or community leaders including parents other than those of the Scout being reviewed. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Scout's parents CANNOT be on the Board of Review. The Scout must present himself in a neat, clean, complete uniform. He must bring his handbook. The Board of Review will ask the Scout

questions in a conversations interview form. The questions asked deal with Scouting activities; the Troop activities he has attended, and advancement requirements pertaining to the rank he is completing. They may also inquire about school activities or other interests that the Scout may be involved in. After the review, the Board will confer and announce the results to the Scout and Scoutmaster. Troop 400's policy is to present all awards including rank advancements and merit badges bi-weekly at the Troop meeting, or at the next Court of Honor. Courts of Honor are held at least three times a year. Parents, Grandparents, and special visitors are always encouraged to attend.

Eagle Courts of Honor are planned in conjunction with the Eagle's Family and the Troop. An Eagle Ceremony planning packet is provided by the Troop to assist the family in preparing and organizing the event with the Troop. An Eagle Ceremony is a very special event because so few boys ever make it to this prestigious level. When an Eagle Court of Honor or Eagle Ceremony is planned, every member of the troop is expected to be involved and participate.



MERIT BADGES

Once the Basic Scout badge has been earned, a Scout may begin working on Merit Badges. A list of all available merit badges is near the end of the Boy Scout Handbook. The Troop maintains a library of merit badge books which members of the Troop may borrow through the Troop Librarian. Books borrowed from the library must be returned in a timely fashion after completion of the merit badge.

Work on merit badges may be performed at Troop meetings, in a group other than Troop meetings, on an individual basis, or at summer camp. All badges require a Merit Badge Counselor. Please ask the Advancement Chairman or Scoutmaster to see the current list of Merit Badge Counselors. Attending summer camp provides an excellent opportunity to earn merit badges.

In addition to summer camp, the Troop provides the opportunity to attend corporate sponsored merit badge workshops, Council sponsored workshops, and Troop sponsored merit badges.

A three-part Merit Badge Application (Blue Card) must be obtained from the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairman — and the personal information completed by the Scout. The Blue Card is then presented to the Scoutmaster, Advancement Chairman, or an Assistant Scoutmaster for approval and signature. Next, the Blue Card is presented to the Merit Badge Counselor at their first meeting.

NOTE: When working as an individual with a Merit Badge Counselor, another person MUST be present. This policy protects the Scout and the Counselor. The additional person may be another Scout, a parent, friend, or sibling.

Upon completion of the requirements, the Counselor will sign the card, date it, and return the Scout's portions to the Scout. The Scout then presents the completed card and Scout's handbook to the Scoutmaster who will in turn initial and date the requirement in the handbook, sign the Merit Badge Application, and deliver it to the Advancement Chairman. The Advancement Chairman will process the Merit Badge, which will then be presented at the next troop Meeting or Court of Honor.

SUMMER CAMP

Troop 400 travels to one of the many BSA camps in the Tri-state area. The decision is based upon the Troop preferences for each year. Each camp offers many of the same opportunities for earning merit badges — although each camp offers its own unique experiences and opportunities.

The Troop usually attends summer camp in July. The week is based upon camp availability, Adult Leader availability, and the number of Scouts attending. Camp begins on a Sunday and ends the following Saturday (seven days and six nights).

The camp fees average between \$200.00 and \$300.00 per Scout camper. All Scouts are encouraged to raise money for summer camp by participating in the fundraisers during the year.

To attend camp, each Scout must have a BSA medical health/physical examination form (BSA Class 1 and 2) completed and on file with the Troop. This examination is good for three years, but should be reviewed annually for any changes or corrections. A new medical form has just been released in 2009 and will become effective in 2010 and it will require each scout and adult leader to have an annual medical examination.

Typically, Troop-owned equipment (patrol boxes, stoves, canopies, tents, etc.) is used for camp, although Scouts need to provide their own sleeping bags, mess kit, canteen, etc. Personal tents are not to be used during summer camp.



TRANSPORTATION

When planning an outing, transportation is a challenge — especially if there are as many as twenty or more Scouts attending. Parents may be asked for assistance in transporting Scouts so a successful and enjoyable time may be had by all. Parents who are going along are normally asked, since they usually take a vehicle. If your son is attending an outing, you may be asked to assist with transportation to and from the outing — even if you are not planning to attend.

IF WE ARE UNABLE TO ACQUIRE ENOUGH DRIVERS TO
TRANSPORT SCOUTS, OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO CANCEL
THE OUTING.

The Boy Scouts of America requires that all vehicles are insured for what is required by law, and each passenger must wear a seat belt.

When your son joins Troop 400, you will be asked to complete the vehicle information page in this packet, to assist in completing the travel permit for an outing. This travel permit is required by the BSA, and must be presented to the Council office prior to the transportation of Scouts.

Vehicle Information

The Boy Scouts of America require the filing of a Tour Permit for all events which are not sponsored by the local District or Council. Since it is necessary that all parents participate in the transportation of Scouts to and from the various scouting events, a Vehicle Information Form is requested from each family.

The form is available from the Transportation Chair.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All Scout Troops have a Troop Committee. This committee is composed of parents and other interested citizens who conduct the business of the Troop. It is the committee's responsibility to raise money, arrange transportation, acquire and maintain Troop equipment, conduct Boards of Review, recruit and oversee the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster(s).

Committee meetings are held on a monthly basis — usually the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Anyone involved in the Troop is welcome and may express an opinion — but only Committee members may vote. The Committee consists of: A Committee Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancement Chairman, Outings Chairman, and additional Committee Members.

Every parent is welcome to become involved in the operations of the Troop. We invite you to take an active role in your son's scouting career. Records indicate that Scouts whose parents are registered with the Troop remain in scouting and receive the additional benefits of a shared experience.

TRAINING

Leadership training for youth Scouts is provided by the Troop approximately twice a year. Moraine Trails Council also provides an advanced, week-long, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course called Silver Wolf, on an annual basis. Den Chief Training is also provided by the Council, typically at Scout University held in November.

Adult training is scheduled and provided through the Council. This consists of: reviewing the Fast Start Video and Pamphlet, participating in Boy Scout Leader Training, and attendance at the annual Scouting University. Additional advanced training is available through the Woodbadge program. Some training is available on-line via the BSA On-Line Learning Center (OLC) located at <http://olc.scouting.org/>.

THE ADULT LEADER TRAINING CONTINUUM

Boy Scout Fast Start Training

- This is your first Boy Scout specific training as an adult leader. Take this course and others at BSA's new Online Learning Center.

Youth Protection On-Line Training

- On-Line Youth Protection Training is a valuable resource, although you can also receive this training in a face-to-face session.

Basic Leader Training

The new Basic Leader Training is comprised of two parts: New Leader Essentials, for all unit-level leaders, and New Leader Specific Training, based on the leader's unit-level position.

- **Basic Leader Training**

Is designed for maximum flexibility. The sessions can be delivered over time - training on one or more evenings a week or month - or in a one-day training event that incorporates all program areas. It is suitable for large or small groups and may be presented to leaders of one or more units each time.

- **New Leader Essentials**

Is an introductory session that highlights the values, aims, history, funding and methods of Scouting. It addresses how these aims and methods are reached in an age-appropriate style within Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting and Venturing. Videos, discussions, and hands-on reinforcement are presented during the 90-minute training session. Each leader completes New Leader Essentials training only once.

New Leader Specific Training

This training provides the specialized knowledge a new leader needs to assume a leadership role. Because each course is designed for a specific leadership position, the training time varies.

- **Boy Scout Leader Specific Training**

For Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. The training is divided into two parts. The first part concentrates on troop operation and can be completed in one full day or three evenings. The final part, which focuses on outdoor skills, lasts approximately a day and a half, depending on the skill level of the new leader. The leader is considered trained when he or she has completed New Leader Essentials, Leader Specific Training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.

For troop committee members. Troop committee training consists of the Troop Committee Challenge, which can be completed in three hours. A troop committee member is considered trained after the completion of New Leader Essentials and the Troop Committee Challenge.

Wood Badge for the 21st Century

Wood Badge has evolved into the core leadership skills training course for the Boy Scouts of America. This new Wood Badge course is less focused on outdoor skills – instead, it strengthens every volunteer's ability to work with and lead groups of youth and adults.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL INFORMATION

Troop 400 is a member of Moraine Trails Council, and is in the Glacier Ridge District of that council. Moraine Trails Council serves three districts in four counties in Western Pennsylvania.



Glacier Ridge District — Packs and Troops numbered 1 — 499 (Butler County)
River Valley District — Packs and Troops numbered 500 — 699 (Armstrong and West
moreland Counties)
King Beaver District — Packs and Troops numbered 700 — 899 (Beaver County)

The Moraine Trails Council Service Center address is:

830 Morton Avenue Extension

Butler, Pennsylvania 16001

Phone: (742) 287-6791

FAX: (724) 287-0400

WEB: www.morainetrails.org



The Service Center handles registration for all adult Scout training, Scouting University, and Council-wide activities.

The Council maintains a Scout Shop at the service center which carries a variety of BSA items, including official BSA uniforms, merit badge books, insignia, handbooks, etc. The Scout Shop can also assist with ordering items from the BSA Scout Catalog.

Moraine Trails Council runs two fully equipped resident camp facilities, Camp Agawam (Cub Scouts) and Camp Bucoco (Boy Scouts). The camps can hold up to 300 campers each at one time in campsites and cabins. Both camps have a state-of-the-art training/meeting building on site which can be rented for meetings, events and activities. Campsites may be rented when available. For more information on camp facilities, visit the Council web page.

The Council publishes the *Trailblazer* newsletter 4 times each year in print and on the Council web page.

TROOP 400'S RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Troop Committee recognizes the need to establish certain rules for the safety of its members, and the proper function of the Troop and its leaders.

A Scout lives by the Scout Oath and Law. Therefore, insubordination in the Troop cannot be tolerated. Insubordination includes: disruptive behavior, repeated failure to perform prescribed duties, foul language, offensive comments, sabotage, deception, harassment, or fighting in any form.

BSA policy establishes that the possession, distribution, or use of: tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, and fireworks by Scouts are prohibited at any and all Scout functions. Adult use of tobacco is to be eliminated from view of the Scouts.

When traveling to and from outings, no food or beverages will be permitted in a vehicle without the permission of the driver. All personal rules of the driver must be obeyed. Because the driver needs to be attentive to the road, other drivers, and driving conditions, the following will not be tolerated:

- Fighting of any kind.
- Rowdy behavior.
- Excessive noise.

Seat belts **MUST** be worn by all Scouts when riding in any vehicle.

The improper use of a knife, saw, axe, matches, or lighter will result in a corner being cut off of the offending Scout's Totin' Chip and/or Fireman Chit cards. Four corners cut results in the card being confiscated. The Scout is then required to repeat the appropriate instruction to regain the card and lost privileges.

Cell phone and electronics usage. Cell phones today are a vital communication tool. They are not prohibited at scout functions, however their use at Troop meetings and campouts should be virtually non-existent. Any scout that is regularly using a cell phone at an inappropriate time will have their phone confiscated by an adult leader and returned to them at the end of that event.

TROOP 400 CODE OF COURTESY

Start and end each day with a prayer and a promise to follow the Scout Oath and Law.

Treat each other as we want to be treated — with respect, trust, and honesty.

If a conflict arises, be courteous; try to understand both sides of the issue. Work out a solution agreeable to both people. Seek help from another Scout, Leader, or Adult.

Ask for help when you need it. Offer help when you see it is needed.

Work as a team and utilize the talents and knowledge of all team members.

Welcome the input of others. Always remember that you are never too old to learn. Someone offering advice is giving you something they think could help you. Accept it graciously.

Recognize the contributions of our Scouts, our Leaders, and other adults that offer their help to the Troop.