



The Boy Scouts of America

A New Parent's Introduction to



Troop 29

**DelMarVa Council
Powder Mill District**

**Chartering Organization
Red Clay Creek
Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE 19808**

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“COME GROW WITH US”

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GETTING STARTED

Introduction:

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 29! 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.

The following pages describe what the program is all about, how much it will cost, and the organization of our Troop. Reading this guide will help you understand how, with your help, your boy can gain the most benefit from Scouting.

The Outdoor Program:

Ask any scout, young or old, what he remembers most about his scouting experience and the answer will be Camping and Hikes! The rough terrain or the cold winds were not cause for alarm because as the motto states Boy Scouts will always “Be Prepared”. And...the harder the journey, the better the camp story. A Scout will embrace the worst conditions (usually after the trip) just to say I survived the two feet of snow or the mud slides or the wild creatures (usually squirrels, deer or an adult that snores) in the camp.

The BSA and Troop 29 program uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls, as scouts learn new skills, make new friends, and experience places different from home. Scouts learn and utilize skills like swimming, hiking, cooking, canoeing, fire building, camping and so much more. Scouts learn how to plan for a trip, find out what works and what doesn't, how to make the best of the situation when the plan isn't perfect (like rain!), and what knowledge gained can be used to make the next outing better. Different hikes might have different leaders. Scouts learn personal and group responsibility as they take their turn at the leading an outing.

The best part of the outdoor program is that it is tons of fun!!

HOW DO I JOIN AND WHAT DO I DO NEXT????

First...

As an adult, we urge you to **read through this document** if your son is considering joining Troop 29. Inside you will find the information you are seeking to understand the Boy Scout program, how Troop 29 executes the BSA vision, and what your son can expect during his first year as a newly minted Boy Scout.

Then....

You can help your son and us by explaining how the troop operates and how Boys Scouts is different from Cub Scouts. Finally, sit down with your son and together read the pamphlet found in the front of his new Boy Scout Handbook.

If your Webelos Scout / son believes that Troop 29 is the place for him here are the next steps:

1. Complete and return the BSA registration paperwork (BSA application & BSA Health Form)
2. Read, complete and return the Troop 29 Behavior Policy.
3. Pay the annual dues discussed in the finance section of this document.

Your son is then ready to participate in Troop 29's scouting program.

Please visit the troop website often. Updates on the calendar and activities are posted on the troop website which is <http://www.bsa-troop29.org> .

ABOUT TROOP 29

Troop 29 has a long and distinguished history. Having originally been founded back in 1919 Troop 29 ranks among the oldest Boy Scout troops in the United States. Unfortunately, we can only lay claim to a continued existence since 1953 since the troop went dark during the time periods of the First and Second World Wars. But a 64 year continuous history is still something very special. We are all very proud to be among the oldest troops the Boy Scouts can boast.

But there's more to a Boy Scout Troop than longevity. It's also about the quality of the program. Troop 29 has been awarded the Boy Scouts of America's Quality Unit award for over 25 consecutive years. And although it isn't really entirely fair to judge a troop by the number of Eagle Scouts it graduates, it is an often quoted statistic when you compare troops. Troop 29's track record is a good one. In our 65 year existence we have produced 120 Eagle Scouts. But this doesn't begin to tell the story of the hundreds of other scouts who have worked their way through Troop 29's program but didn't achieve Eagle. Each and every scout benefits from the leadership skills, the outdoor skills, the civic understanding, and the moral training he receives.

There are other key measurements of a Boy Scout troop's success. Attendance, retention, advancement, service hours, nights under canvas, frostbite nights, Order of the Arrow members, adult participation. All of these are keys to a healthy and dynamic troop. Troop 29 has consistently scored well in all categories and we would be happy to discuss our metrics at any time. Or, better yet ask any scout if he advanced last year, or how many merit badges he earned!

Troop 29 is considered a "Large" troop. With 85 active scouts in all ranks and ages we are a troop that offers scouts a unique opportunity to lead others. One of the strongest assets a troop the size of 29 possesses is the opportunity it offers Scouts to lead more than two or three other scouts during activities and outings. As a boy led troop we emphasize leadership skills through training, mentoring, and adult role modeling.

Troop 29 is also considered an "Active" troop. We meet 50 weeks of the year (usually taking a break around Christmas/New Year & Labor Day) and conduct at least one outdoor activity EVERY month. We believe strongly that scouts belong 'outdoors' and think that there is no better place to be than communing with nature with our friends.

It takes a great deal of support by our adult Scouters – adults both with and without scouts in the troop – to provide the level of program Troop 29 offers. We are fortunate to have over 35 BSA registered adults supporting our scouts and providing the mentoring and modeling we believe is important to make the scout oath and law a visible reality. The Troop 29 Committee has committed itself to insuring that all of Troop 29's adult leaders are 100% trained under the BSA's training guidelines.

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian church is proud to welcome and support the families of Troop 29 and embrace the aims of scouting.



TROOP 29 GOALS

Troop 29 Committee Program Objectives

The Troop 29 Committee seeks to advise and guide the PLC in their development of the annual program. There are several broad objectives the committee has developed to frame the overall program. The PLC is urged to consider these objectives but does not place the PLC under any obligation.

Advancement

- Scouts achieve First Class during first year in troop
- All Scouts average advancing 1 rank/year
- Merit Badge promotion
 - Promote / introduce 1 merit badge per month
 - Assure promotion of required merit badges in 3 year cycle
 - Introductory presentations at Troop meetings
- Balanced Program: Advancement / Challenge / Fun

Service

- Troop sponsors 6 Service projects per year for Community, Chartering Organization, etc. — All
- Scouts participate in at least 2 per year
- Examples: Emmanuel Dining Room, Exceptional Care for Children
- Promote Order of the Arrow
- Fundraising participation — Every Scout participate in at least 1 of the major Troop fundraisers

Activities

- At least 1 camping trip per month — at least two months per year by patrol
- Designate each Patrol to plan, execute and lead a monthly camping trip.
- Summer Camp — attend yearly
- Regional High Adventure — at least 1 per year
- Rotate 1 National High Adventure per year:
 - Sea Base, Philmont, Northern Tier and Alaska when open to Troops

Membership

- Encourage active membership, PLC must seek excused absences from meetings
- Patrol Leaders / Advisors will follow-up on more than 1 week inactivity
- Support Cub Scout Packs with Camping for Webelos and more Den Chief Support

Training

- All PLC members will complete Troop Leadership Training within 60 days of becoming a member of the PLC.
- All uniformed leaders will be BSA Trained within their 90 days of registration.
- All Committee heads will be BSA Trained within their 30 days of registration.
- The opportunity for Scouts to attend Youth Leadership Training will be offered annually.
- Advanced training will be actively encouraged adult leaders.

Communications

The Troop Committee maintains a website <http://www.bsa-troop29.org> that should be visited by both scouts and parents on a regular basis. The website has a public area, and a private area that is password-protected. Scouts and parents will receive a username & password to access restricted areas of the website.

Email has become the preferred means of communication for most of us. Troop 29 maintains email lists for the purpose of communicating important activity information. Parents are welcome to sign up to receive troop communications at multiple email destinations (i.e. Home, work, mobile). Please don't forget to let us know when your email changes!

To sign up to for Troop 29 email updates send a blank message to:
t29parents-subscribe@rccpc.org from each account you wish to receive troop messages.

Unsubscribe works the same way. Send an email to: t29parents-unsubscribe@rccpc.org

This account is monitored and only approved members of Troop 29 are permitted to be on the list. Access to send messages is also restricted to minimize unnecessary email traffic.

SCOUTING

Scouting Spirit

It is easy to join a scout troop, but learning to live to the ideals of scouting is challenging. Each day presents an opportunity to practice living up to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan and the Outdoor Code. To make Scout Spirit a part of everyday life will take a boy courage, determination, and encouragement.

In some ways, scouting is like a game with rules that you must follow to be a member of the team. The rules of scouting are found in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto and Scout Slogan. It is by following these rules that a boy can become a true scout.

Boy Scout Aims

Beyond the scout level point of view there are three adult level aims that form the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. These are:

- To develop a boy's character,
- To train him in good citizenship,
- And to encourage him to become more fit—physically, mentally, and morally.

Boy Scout Methods:

It's fairly safe to assume that no boy joins a troop specifically to work on any one of these three aims. But through the methods of scouting and an activities program using the scouting methods a boy can achieve these aims.

These eight methods define what scouting is and is about. They are:

Ideals	Oath – Law – Motto – Slogan
Patrols	Peer groups – Elected representation – Activities
Outdoors	All outdoor programs
Advancement	Self-reliance – Ability to help others – Challenge
Adult Association	Image – Role model – Example
Personal Growth	Good Turn – Service Projects – Religious emblems
Leadership Development	Leadership skills and practice – Citizenship
Uniform	Commitment to aims – Identity

The ideals of scouting are defined by the motto “Be Prepared”, the slogan “Do a Good Turn Daily”, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.

No troop meeting or outdoor activity should be planned or carried out without working on one of more of these ideals.

Every Boy Scout troop is composed of patrols. Each patrol typically has four to ten boys who work together as a team. Sooner or later every scout will have a chance for leadership within the patrol, and this is why the patrol system is one of the most strategic methods of scouting.

They do not put up tents or build campfires in church fellowship halls or activity rooms. The place for that is outdoors. The place for almost any scouting activity is out of doors. For scouting, the outdoors is not just a place, it is a method.

The Boy Scout Advancement Program provides a ladder of skills that a scout climbs at his own pace. From Tenderfoot through Eagle, the higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks and the more rewarding. The purpose of the advancement program is to spur a scout to learn, achieve, and mature. That advancement does this so consistently makes it an important method that reinforces the aims.

All of the scouting methods help a boy grow as the result of scouting experience, but personal growth is itself a method. In

striving in different ways to help scouts grow, the striving itself becomes a way of continuous education and improvement.

Scouts learn from the examples set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is critical at this stage of a scout's development.

More than one of the scouting methods has proved effective in developing leadership in scouts. Leadership opportunities at both the patrol and troop levels are real, action-oriented jobs that can provide motivation and build confidence to lead successfully and take on more responsibility. Leadership development is not only for the scouts who are leaders — but for the scouts who are not.

The Boy Scout uniform is a tool with many edges. Whenever scouts wear a uniform it reminds them that they are scouts and people expect them to act like scouts. The uniform is an outward symbol that they believe in certain values and are willing to stand up for them.

Using the methods to achieve the aims is the challenge of adult leadership that the Scoutmasters and their assistants undertake in order to deliver the promise of scouting to each boy in the troop.

Scout Oath

*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.*

Scout Law

A Scout is:
*Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent*

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

Outdoor Code

*As an American I will do my best to...
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation minded.*

THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Moving from Webelos to Boy Scouts

The transition from Webelos Scout to Boy Scout is significant and the degree of change seems to vary from Pack to Pack depending on how active a Webelos program is being conducted. In some cases Webelos I & II appear to be more like years 4 & 5 of Bear Scouts, while in others Webelos begin a gradual transition from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. Key to this transition is where the ‘program control’ resides. While they technically still are members of a Cub Pack, Webelos Scouts become more involved in planning their activities, and performance approval begins to move from parents to unit leaders. This brief chart illustrates the sorts of changes between the Cub and Boy Scout programs.

	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts
Leadership	Adults plan all activities	Boys plan all activities. Adults advise from the Background
Structure	Pack meets monthly. Dens meet more often	Troop meets weekly, but some work is done in smaller groups of patrols
Small groups	Dens have a number and maybe a flag, last for years	Permanent patrols, with new leader elected every 6 months.
Camping	Family camping, 2-3 times per year	Patrol based camping monthly, including hiking, backpacking, biking, high adventure, and so on.
Advancement	Each boy advances to a new level at the beginning of each year	Early ranks are outdoor skills based, later are merit badges and service hour based. Boys advance at their own pace.
Communication	Adults get information from other adults.	Boys get information from adults and other boys, and are expected to pass it to their parents.
Chain of Command	Cubmaster > Den Leader > Parent > Scout	Scoutmaster > Senior Patrol Leader > Assistant Senior Patrol Leader > Patrol Leader > Assistant Patrol Leader > Scout

Boy Scouts - First Year / First Class

The BSA and troop’s goal is to provide the first year scout with a fun and enriching experience so the scout will enjoy his entire scouting tenure and increase his lifelong learning. To accomplish this, our troop follows a program called First Year/First Class.

This program presents opportunities and encourages the scout to progress to the rank of First Class during the first year of scouting. The program’s purpose is to ensure that by the end of the first year the scout is “first class” in all the basic scouting skills and ready to participate independently in all activities of the troop, an ideal initially articulated by Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting.

During this important first year of scouting, the new scouts are led by the Troop Guide(s). A Troop Guide is an experienced scout whose job it is to guide the new scouts, creating an environment in which they can learn. He may schedule camping trips, call special meetings, and direct both the instructors and adult leaders toward what the boys need to learn. The Guide reports to the Assistant Scoutmaster for New Scouts and is appointed by and serves with the permission of the Scoutmaster. Questions from parents about activities should be directed first to the Troop Guide, who is usually in the best position to answer them. The Troop Guide may also refer parents to the appropriate adult leader.

A successful first year can be measured in part by how much progress the scout has made towards First Class, with the understanding that each scout is unique and thus, although many scouts will earn First Class in their first year, new scouts may need different lengths of time to complete First Class requirements. ***First Class in year one is a GOAL, not a***

requirement.

Summer Camp for First Year Scouts

Summer camp is a highlight of the First Year scouting experience. **We strongly urge ALL scouts to attend Summer camp,** but this activity is of special importance to First Year Scouts

The troop conducts a special program for first year scouts, utilizing the program in place at the camp of choice. Some of these programs are known as Dan Beard programs, others as Brownsea programs. These programs have been planned to supplement the regular troop's program, not replace it. The scouts of the first year program will still be with their units during meals and also during the evenings when they are not on outpost.

The objectives of any first-year program are to:

1. Help make the first year camper successful
2. Develop camping and some hiking and cooking skills
3. Put the scout with his own peer group.
4. Provide a support group to share all the new experiences of the first year camper
5. Teach the patrol method and develop leadership qualities in the scout.
6. Give the new scout a fun and enriching experience so he will enjoy his entire scouting tenure and increase his life-long learning

At Summer Camp the first year scout will participate in experiences concentrating on earning his First Class rank, experience many Summer Camp activities and sample a few key merit badges that will position him for a successful second year at Summer Camp. The recommended first year merit badges are:

- **Swimming**, so that the scout will be ready for lifesaving and boating merit badges the next year.
- **Nature**, so that the scout can explore and understand the exciting and beautiful Summer Camps that our troop goes to great lengths to select.
- A handicraft merit badges for fun in the evening and during break periods.

ADVANCEMENT AND RECOGNITION

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 called: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks - and the more rewarding. In Cub Scouts the standard for completing an advancement requirement was simply to "do your best". In Boy Scouts the bar is raised considerably and scouts are expected to perform requirements to his 'own ability'. All Boy Scout requirements are designed to be challenging to a Scout, and age is taken under consideration when the requirement was written. The program is written to take 12 months to advance from Tenderfoot to 1st Class.

Advancement Goals 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 and it is integrated with our outdoor activities. Advancement happens on campouts.

Advancement through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic Scouting skills that will enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps, the Scout begins to build himself physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live within 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 more advanced skills. It is important that parents realize that *this is a goal, not a requirement*. There is a lot to Scouting besides earning rank, and some Scouts take longer to earn First Class, than others. That does not mean they are not benefiting from the program. The leaders understand this and will work with each boy accordingly.

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 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 the understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting, but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins Troop 29 will earn the Eagle Scout rank; only about 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than one million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1911. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting-citizenship: training, character development, and personal fitness-remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Advancement will require mandatory attendance throughout the year to certain events and a percentage of troop meetings.

As of this writing, Troop 29 has nurtured 100 Eagle Scouts since our founding in 1953. The Eagle Roster and information for Life Scouts ready for Eagle advancement, is on our troop web page.

Merit Badges

A Scout is responsible for earning his own merit badges in collaboration with an adult Merit Badge Counselor. 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. A Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor earns merit badges. It is not the role of the troop or the parents to get a Scout through a merit badge. A Scout wishing to start a merit badge must go to the Scoutmaster and request to begin the badge. The Scoutmaster will determine if the Scout has initiated too many merit badges, and really should complete one before starting an additional one. If the Scoutmaster agrees that the Scout should begin the new badge, he will ask the scout which Merit Badge Counselor he has selected to work with to complete the badge.

The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. All work on the merit badge is supposed to start *after the Scout meets with the merit badge counselor*. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor signs the 'blue card' indicating that the badge requirements have been completed. It is the Scouts responsibility to deliver the completed and signed 'blue card' to the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will sign a section of the blue card signifying receipt of the card and return that portion to the Scout. The Scoutmaster will give the remaining sections of the "blue card" to the Advancement Chairman for processing. The Advancement Chairman will update the troop records and obtain Merit Badges earned for presentation to the Scout at the next Troop meeting. The Scout will also be recognized during the Troop's quarterly Court of Honor.

There are over 130 different merit badges. Because the boys count on the availability of counselors to support their advancements in scouting, all parents of Troop 29 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors for a subject for which they have a personal capability, skill, or training.

Scoutmaster Conference

After all requirements for rank advancement have been completed and initialed by a Troop Guide/Adult Leader, the Scout will participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. The purpose of this conference is to confirm that requirements have been met and that the Scout is ready for the Board of Review. However, this conference is also an opportunity to identify areas where the Scout may need additional help. The Scout has a chance to talk about the impact that the Scouting Program has had on his life. The Scoutmaster Conference is NOT a test. It is an opportunity for the Scoutmaster to practice a key scouting method – adult association. It further gives the Scoutmaster the opportunity to evaluate the skills of the scout being interviewed and make adjustments to the program if a scout seems to have not learned important skills. A scout should prepare for his conference and take it seriously. Scouts should wear their Class A (Field Uniform) for a Scoutmaster Conference.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank including his Scoutmaster Conference, he will contact the Advancement Chairman to schedule a Board of Review. The Scout will appear before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not a reexamination. The Board of Review is meant to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to confirm 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 discuss with a scout his lack of progress toward advancement or a serious disciplinary issue.

Scouts should wear their Class A uniform with merit badge sash for Boards of Review.

Courts of Honor

Troop 29 will conduct a Court of Honor four times a year Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented at the end of the Troop Court of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

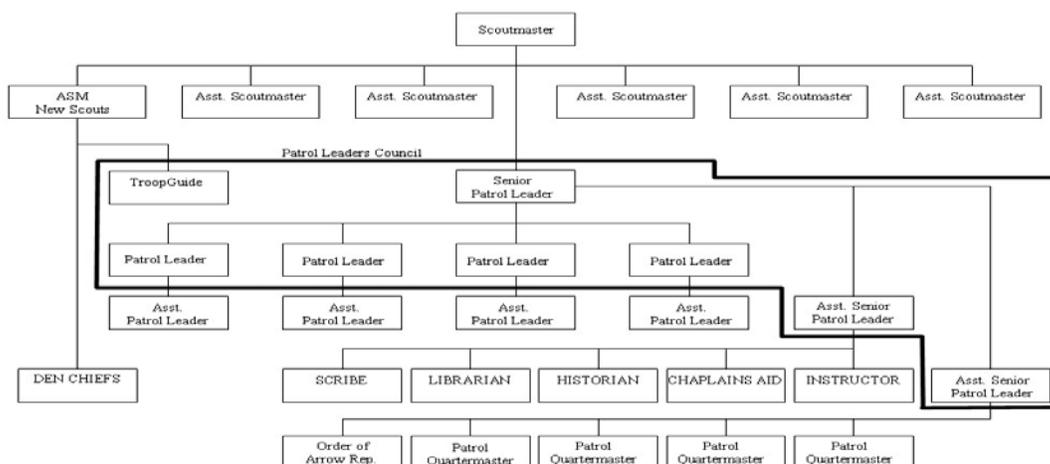
The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

THE SCOUTING ORGANIZATION

The promise of scouting is more than skills and advancement. The promise is the opportunity to develop leadership through learning and doing. Developing the leadership from within the scouts in the troop takes several years of continuous effort.

Troop Organization

Troop 29 Organization



In a scout-led troop there are two scouts who report directly to the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster — the Senior Patrol Leader, who is elected by the Scouts, and the Troop Guides, who are appointed by the Scoutmaster.

The following are a condensed job descriptions and responsibilities of five of the scout officers, two of whom are elected by the scouts and the other three appointed.

The **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** is elected by the scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop. He reports to the Scoutmaster. His duties consist of:

- Leading all troop meetings, events, activities and the annual program planning conference
- Leading the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meeting
- Appointing Troop junior leaders, with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster
- Assigning duties and responsibilities to junior leaders
- Assisting the Scoutmaster with junior leader training
- Setting a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout spirit
- Enthusiastically wearing the Scout uniform correctly

To assist the Senior Patrol Leader there are **Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL)**. They are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. They report to the Senior Patrol Leader and act as Senior Patrol Leader in that officer's absence or whenever called upon. They also provide leadership to other junior leaders. His duties consist of:

- Helping the SPL lead meetings and activities
- Leading the troop in the absence of the SPL
- Helping train and supervise the Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Instructor, Librarian, and Chaplain Aide
- Serving as a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Setting a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wearing the Scout Uniform correctly

These officers work as a team, sharing ideas and responsibilities for planning activities, involving the patrols in them and providing necessary coaching.

Each patrol has a **Patrol Leader (PL)**, elected by his patrol, except the new scout patrol which rotates the position. The Patrol Leader represents his patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council. He reports to the SPL, and if his patrol is a new one, he also works with the Troop Guide assigned to his patrol. The Patrol Leader:

- Appoints his Assistant Patrol Leader
- Represents his patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Plans and steers patrol meetings
- Helps scouts in his patrol advance
- Acts as the chief recruiter of new scouts
- Keeps patrol members informed
- Knows what his patrol members and other leaders can do
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout Uniform correctly

Like the Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leader also has an assistant on whom he can depend to back him up. This is the **Assistant Patrol Leader**, who is appointed by the Patrol Leader, reports to him and leads the patrol in his absence. The Assistant Patrol Leader:

- Helps the Patrol Leader plan and steer patrol meetings and activities
- Helps him keep the patrol informed
- Helps the patrol get ready for all troop activities
- Represents the patrol at Patrol Leaders' Council meetings when the Patrol Leader cannot attend
- Lends a hand controlling the patrol and building patrol spirit
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout Uniform correctly

The **Troop Guide** is appointed by the Scoutmaster to work with new Scouts. He helps them feel comfortable and earn their First Class rank during their first year in Scouting. He reports to the Assistant Scoutmasters for new Scouts.

The Troop Guide:

- Introduces new scouts to troop operations
- Guides new scouts through early scouting activities
- Is a friend to new scouts
- Helps new scouts earn First Class rank
- Teaches basic scout skills
- Coaches Patrol Leaders of new patrols on their duties
- Works with the Patrol Leader at Patrol Leaders' Council meetings
- Attends Patrol Leaders' Council meetings with Patrol Leaders of new patrols
- Counsels individual scouts on scouting challenges
- Sets a good example by living by the Scout Oath and Law, and showing Scout Spirit
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly

Troop Officers

To be nominated as a candidate for Senior Patrol Leader the scout must be at least 13 years of age and First Class in rank. He must have previously served as either an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or Patrol Leader, and must have a minimum of 75% attendance during the previous 12 months. His nomination must be seconded by at least two scouts, approved by the Scoutmaster and agreed to by the parents or legal guardian.

Troop elections will be held at the third regularly scheduled troop meeting in the months of December and June. The Scoutmaster will conduct the elections on behalf of the PLC. The six-month terms of office will begin January 1st and July 1st.

The troop will also have an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader who is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with approval of his parent or guardian and the approval of the Scoutmaster. The Senior Patrol Leader will appoint the Troop Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian and Chaplain's Aide, Webmaster, Bugler, and Leave No Trace trainer. All appointments must be seconded by the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, agreed to by the appointee's parent or guardian, and approved by the Scoutmaster.

Scouts may serve only two consecutive terms in one position.

Scoutmaster Appointments

The Scoutmaster will appoint Instructors. The Scoutmaster will also appoint Den Chiefs as needed to serve the needs of the Packs and the scouts.

In January, the Scoutmaster announces the appointment of the new Troop Guide(s), who will serve a one-year term beginning March 1st and continuing through the end of February the following year. He will spend the period between the announcement of his appointment and the actual beginning of his term (overlapping the term of the previous Guide) in training and development. Each Guide serves one class of new scouts. Ideally, the Troop Guide must have previous experience either as a Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or an Instructor.

THE PATROL METHOD

Troop Organization & Scout Leadership

The promise of scouting is the opportunity for scouts to learn a variety of skills including leadership by experience. A troop is organized to enable as many scouts as possible to be in a series of graduated leadership positions that will test their skills as they grow in knowledge.

Troop as Patrols

The basic organizational unit of the troop is the patrol. The sum of all the patrols makes up the troop. In Troop 29 there are two types of patrols; regular or standing and first year scout. Troop-wide officers, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader belong to their 'home' patrol as ex-officio members. Troop Guides become members of the first year patrols that they are guiding and are also Ex-officio patrol members. Ex-officio members cannot hold any office in that patrol or be included in duty rosters.

Regular patrols typically have six to eight scouts but may have as few as four or as many as twelve. The first year scout patrols typically have six to seven scouts but may have as few as five and as many as ten. Regular patrols have scouts of different experience and capability levels. Ideally, each patrol would have some scouts at each level, and at each level of advancement.

Patrol Organization

Each regular patrol has a patrol leader who is selected by election after being nominated by another member of the patrol and approved by the Scoutmaster and accepted by the nominee's parent or guardian. Patrol Leaders must be First Class or above, and have at least a 60% attendance during the previous 6-month period. They assume office at the start of their term and serve a six-month term until the next patrol elections.

Nomination forms will be available at the last two troop meetings in January and July. They must be complete with all approvals by the beginning of the first troop meeting in February and August. Patrol elections will be held in the months of March and September. The scout in each patrol who has held the highest rank for the longest time will conduct the elections.

Each regular patrol will also have an Assistant Patrol Leader who is appointed by the Patrol Leader with approval of the Senior Patrol Leader and acceptance of the appointee's parent or guardian. The Assistant Patrol Leader will appoint the Patrol Scribe, Patrol Grubmaster, Patrol Quartermaster, and Patrol Cheermaster. All appointments must be approved by the Patrol Leader and accepted by the appointee's parent or guardian.

Scouts in all elected and appointed patrol positions may serve only two consecutive terms in one position.

The new scout patrol will have the same positions as a regular patrol, but positions will rotate monthly in a sequence established by the Troop Guide during the second quarter of the year. There is no particular order to the rotation other than a scout will be an Assistant Patrol Leader the month prior to becoming the Patrol Leader. All scouts will have the opportunity to serve in each assignment for one month, preferably two, but not sequentially.

First Year Scout Patrol

First Year scout patrols are for scouts just joining the troop and who have not yet entered seventh grade. Although new scouts may join the troop earlier in the year, the new scout patrol is formed in March. Based upon the number of new scouts, it may be divided into two or more patrols. Boys joining scouting who are in or beyond seventh grade may be assigned to a regular patrol or the new scout patrol based on discussions with the Scoutmaster.

First Year scout patrols stay together for one year and receive instruction from the Troop Guides, who works with their patrol leader(s). The first year scout patrol operates pretty much like a regular patrol. A few things are done differently so scouts will have a chance to gain greater understanding of troop operations and responsibilities. Each member of the patrol has a job. The jobs are Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Quartermaster, Grubmaster, and Cheermaster (optional). In the new scout patrol, these jobs are rotated monthly so everyone gets to learn all the jobs.

In the first year patrols, the new scouts will have the opportunity to earn Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks during their first year. They will participate in all Troop activities – just as all other patrols do – so first year scouts should not think of themselves as anything other than part of the troop.

At the end of their first year, the new scouts are ready to move into one of the established patrols. This takes place at the beginning of March, thus giving the boys a chance to meld with their new patrols before Summer Camp.

The transition into regular patrols begins with a review in January with parents of the new scouts and a reminder to the patrol leaders what will happen when the new boys come into their patrols. In February the boys in the new scout patrol fill out forms indicating what friends they would like to be with (new scouts or older scouts) when choosing their new patrols – good friends are kept together as much as possible. At this time, the first year scouts may also start spending some time, such as during games, with the regular patrols. In February the scoutmaster meets with the PLC and they decide on patrol assignments. For the first 3 months after the transition, the ASM for New Scouts will continue to be a friend/mentor to them and check to see how they are doing.

Every Scout Has a Job

Every scout has a job. Some jobs are patrol jobs just for their patrol.

- Patrol Leader leads the patrol, organizes patrol meetings and represents the patrol on the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC).

- Assistant Patrol Leader assists the Patrol Leader and fills in when the Patrol Leader is absent
- Patrol Scribe keeps a log of the patrol meetings, keeps attendance, collects dues and turns in dues and a newsletter article about the monthly patrol activities to the Troop Scribe
- Patrol Quartermaster keeps track of patrol equipment and assigns cleaning duties after trips
- Patrol Grubmaster is responsible for keeping food staples box (food that keeps from trip to trip, oatmeal, salt, etc.) and purchasing the food
- Cheermaster leads cheers and patrol skits

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

Troop 29 has one Scoutmaster and a number of Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters' job is to mentor the Senior Patrol Leader and other youth leaders in how to lead the troop, they are responsible for safety and for encouraging advancement of the Scouts. The Scoutmasters do not run the troop.

Troop Meetings

Troop 29 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Monday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. One additional meeting per month is reserved for the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) usually the second Tuesday of each Month. This meeting is primarily for the Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, all Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides and others as determined by the PLC. But all scouts are welcomed to attend the PLC meetings. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning. It is expected that the Scouts will communicate changes through each Patrol. Parents should be told of changes by their Scouts. All efforts are made to keep the online troop calendar up to date.

Attendance

Every rank (as well as palms) has a requirement that the Scout be active in the Troop. Troop 29 considers active in the Troop to mean that all Scouts attend 75% of the meetings and 75% of the activities they are eligible to attend. The Troop Scribe will be assigned to keep attendance. If a Scout has a valid excuse for not attending there needs to be written approval given by the Scoutmaster (e.g., an email.); prior to the meeting or event.

This requirement shall also be implemented for Troop Officers and Patrol Officers (Positions of Responsibility) to be considered active in that position and credited towards rank advancement.

Order of the Arrow: The Honor Society of Scouting



A member of the Order of the Arrow is a recognized by their distinctive red-arrow-on-white sash and right pocket-flap patch. The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit
3. To promote Scout camping
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

The Order of the Arrow is open to both Scouts and adults, and has strict entrance requirements. To become a member, a youth must be a registered member of a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team and hold First Class rank. The youth must have experienced fifteen days and nights of camping during the two-year period before his election. The fifteen days and nights must include six consecutive days (including five nights) of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. Their fellow unit members, following approval of the Scoutmaster, elect scouts to the Order. Their fellow Troop members elect Scouts to the Order. Scouts and adults must have at least 15 nights Scout camping, and they must have one long-term (six nights or more) camp. The other nine nights must consist of overnight and short-term outdoor camping. The Scouts must be at least of First Class rank. The unit committee elects adult's members.

CAMPING, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Activity Paperwork

Each event or activity in which a scout may elect to participate will be communicated via a series of Activity Sheets, and Scout Sign-up sheets. These forms are available at Troop meetings and online at our website under the “Next Events” tab.

Activity Sheets briefly outline the details of a trip/activity and the related costs and logistics. We often refer to this as the ‘Refrigerator Sheet’ since it encapsulates all of the important logistics about the trip in one spot including contact information should the need arise. Completed Sign-up sheets are required from each Scout planning on attending an individual trip/activity.

Sample Activity Form:



Boy Scouts of America Troop 29 Activity Sheet

Activity Title: [Activity Title]
Activity Location: [Activity Location]
Activity Dates: [Activity Date]
Cost per Person: [Activity Cost]
Gathering/Returning Location: Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
Gathering Date & Time: Friday, [Gathering Time]
Returning Date & Time: Sunday, [Return Time]

Contacts	Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Tour Coordinator			
Adult Tour Leader			
Scout Program Leader			

Logistics & Registration Information

Program and Activity Information

Registration forms are permission slips for each scout to attend the planned activity. Please take careful note of the Medical Information section and the Travel information portion. Please DO NOT consider this form mere 'formality'. We rely on this information for administering medication to your scout and for planning transportation.

Sample Registration Form – Scout



Boy Scouts of America Troop 29 Scout Activity Registration Form

Scout Name: _____

Activity Title: [Activity Title]
 Activity Location: [Activity Location]
 Activity Dates: [Date]
 Cost per Person: \$??/Scout
 Gathering/Returning Location: Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
 Gathering Date & Time: [Gathering Time/Date]
 Returning Date & Time: [Returning Time/Date]
 DEADLINE TO REGISTER: [Registration Deadline]

Be sure to read the Activity Sheet for program details, logistics information, and more.

Medical Information: TO BE SIGNED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

(check applicable boxes and provide information where requested)

- There have been **NO CHANGES** in this Scout's medical facts, history or insurance since the last health forms submitted.
- There **HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES** in this Scout's health form information; I have noted those changes on this form.
- This Scout will need medications during this activity and I grant permission to the Tour Leader (or designee) to administer the medications as instructed on the Troop Medication Form which I will provide prior to departure.

I hereby grant permission, as the parent or guardian of this Scout, for him to (a) attend and participate in this troop activity; and (b) travel to / from the activity with the troop's volunteer parents or adult leaders. I also grant permission to these adult leaders to provide this Scout with the non-prescription medications which are checked on the list below as symptoms arise during the activity.

Non-prescription list: Tylenol Advil Motrin Aspirin
 (check all which apply) Pepto Bismol Tums Immodium AD Benadryl

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ **Print name:** _____

Travel Information:

Will this Scout be traveling with the group? (If "no", provide Special Arrangements information below)

From gathering point to Activity? Yes No Returning from Activity back to gathering point? Yes No

Special Departure Arrangements: (only complete this section if applicable)

- This Scout will not travel to the activity with the group — he will go directly to the activity as follows:
 Scout travel arrangements (include name of adult): _____
 Scout will arrive at the activity on (day) _____ at (time) _____

Special Return Arrangements:

- Scout will not travel back from the activity with the group — he will depart from the activity as follows:
 Scout travel arrangements (include name of adult): _____
 Scout will leave the activity on (day) _____ at (time) _____

As a parent or guardian I will volunteer to help transport Scouts to / from this activity; please contact me if needed.

I have provided my contact information on this form where I can be reached while this activity is under way.

Parent / Guardian Contact Information: _____

Financial Direction: Please indicate preferred payment method for this trip below.

Check Attached Cash Provided Invoice Scout Billing Account Withdraw Scout Savings Parent Initials: _____

Annual Health & Medical Records

In order for a Scout to participate in any Troop activity a current BSA Health and Medical record is required. Health forms must be updated on an annual basis. We generally update Health and Medical Records in May/June of each year – just prior to summer camp. Health and Medical Records are provided to parents as new scouts join the troop and subsequently distributed on an annual basis for updates and review.

All activity participants must fill out **Parts A and B** for any event. This would include parents planning to spend the night when helping with activity transportation. **Part C** (the physical examination) must be completed if your scout is participating in an event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours. **Part C** also is required for participation in setting when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding such as service projects and work weekends or such as Summer Camp and High adventure. **Part C** must be filled out by a certified and licensed physician [MD, DO], nurse practitioners, or physician assistants.

Part D pertains to High Adventure Only.

All information provided to the troop is intended to assist in maintaining the Health and Safety of your son or yourself (if you are an adult leader). Please be complete and honest in the completion of this document. We travel with this information to activities and will utilize the information contained in the document during emergency situations. Inaccurate or incomplete information can lead to delays in treatment or mistreatment in an emergency situation.

Transportation To/From Activities

One of the roles parents and leaders play in a Boy Scout Troop is being logistic coordinators. Getting scouts to/from activities and events can be a complex undertaking. Parents are generally not expected to handle transportation on an individual basis. The troop car pools to almost all activities. Troop 29 is fortunate that we have a large and engaged Adult Leader group that can assist in moving boys to/from activities. However – we frequently need additional parents to assist in moving a group of scouts to or from activities. As a large troop the need to ask the same parents to assist in driving should not be a problem...IF everyone shares this task.

Please be generous in your support of your son and the troop by helping to transport a bunch of excited scouts to activities. We will note on Activity Sheets for which we will need assistance with transportation.

Equipment Needed

Boy Scout Handbook (Provided by Troop)

During the first year of scouting the only book that each scout must own is the most recent edition of The Boy Scout Handbook. It contains general information as well as requirement sign-off sheets that are used to officially record scout advancement. The scout will need to keep this book with him. Representatives from the Advancement Committee will record in the troop records advancement information by borrowing the book occasionally during a troop meeting. It is important that the scout not lose the book, as it is his copy of his advancement record.

Uniform (Provided by Scout)

The uniform helps a scout show who he is, what he stands for, his position in the troop, and what he has accomplished. It is a means of demonstrating that he is a part of the troop. However, we do not want the uniform to be a barrier to attendance or participation in troop activities. *We are sensitive to the cost and the challenges of keeping a uniform clean. If anyone wishes assistance in uniform matters, contact the Scoutmaster.*

Different events and activities lend themselves to different uniforms. We use two, the Field Uniform and the Activity Uniform. The Field Uniform is more formal and is used for special ceremonies and when in public. The Activity Uniform is more relaxed and is suitable for greater physical activity.

Boy Scout Field Uniform (Class A)

1. Scout shirt — long or short sleeve tan shirt with green epaulets
2. Scout trousers — pants or shorts
3. Scout socks
4. Scout belt
5. Scout hat (optional)
6. Troop Neckerchief and BSA slide (Provided by Troop)
7. Insignias for scout shirt
 - Council Patch (left sleeve)
 - Troop ID — #29 (left sleeve provided by Troop)
 - Purple World Scouting Crest (left chest)
 - Patrol Medallion (right sleeve provided by Troop)

Boy Scout Activity Uniform (Class B)

1. Any BSA t-shirt or Troop shirt (Troop t-shirts are available for purchase – optional)
2. Scout pants or shorts
3. Socks
4. Scout belt
5. Scout hat (optional)

Uniform Expectations

Uniform expectations differ for different events and activities. For special cases, we will deviate from this policy and we will announce these situations.

1. Standard Troop meetings —
 - Field Uniform with neckerchief from September through May -- Activity Uniform June through August.
2. Patrol Leaders Council — Activity Uniform
3. Scoutmaster's Conference — Field Uniform with neckerchief
4. Board of Review — Field Uniform with neckerchief
5. Court of Honor — Field Uniform with neckerchief
6. Travel — Field Uniform required w/o neckerchief
7. Service Projects — Field Uniform
8. **Exceptions:**
 - The Monday after campouts – activity uniform permitted
 - In case of conflict with a team sport or other activity requiring a different uniform

Troop Uniform Exchange

The troop has a uniform exchange where Scouts and parents can find uniform parts for free. Contact the troop uniform coordinator for more information.

Being out of Uniform – What does that mean

Every Scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the proper uniform for that day.

- Includes wearing Class B when the troop has called for Class A
- Includes wearing part of the uniform with parts missing (e.g., wearing the Class A shirt and non-uniform pants.)
- Non-Scouting hats should not be worn with the uniform.

Boys will be warned by SPL, ASMs or SM about missing patches, outdated patches (rank, troop, patrol, badge of office) and other deficits such as wrong socks with shorts, missing neckerchief slide, patch falling off, dirty pants, etc. If after three warnings of the same deficit the Scout will be considered out of uniform. If the Scout is out of uniform:

- He may not line up with their Patrol or participate in the flag ceremony. The scout can participate with planning, instructions and games.

- After three consecutive incidents a Scoutmaster, Scout and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) conference will be requested.

NOTE: There are changing rooms available at the Church if a Scout is arriving to a meeting from another activity where a uniform would not be appropriate.

Personal Items (Provided by Scout required for camping)

We do not wish to see the lack of camping gear become an impediment to permitting a scout from participating. Troop 29 provides all shared equipment for use by patrols including such gear as: tents, camp stoves, cooking gear.

Personal gear – gear used exclusively by an individual scout is not provided. We recognize that many folks may not have the expertise to select gear and the adult leaders are always available to assist scouts/parents in the decision making process

Equipment required is minimal but we urge you to consider carefully and discuss a potential purchase with an Assistant Scoutmaster instead of buying these items immediately. Scouts are urged to discuss with the Troop Guide.

1. Good sleeping bag (if any extra money, spend it here “0 Degree” or better suggested)
2. Foam pad for comfort and insulation
3. Plate and cup — heavy plastic best
4. Utensil kit: knife, fork and spoon – plastic are best.
5. Non-leaking water bottle preferred, or canteen
6. Small pocket knife (no sheath knives)
7. Hiking shoes or boots
8. Rain suit
9. Compass

Participating in Activities

Scouting is all about getting into the outdoors. Activities are our primary opportunity to develop our scout’s leadership skills and these activities become the laboratory for our younger scouts to acquire and practice new skills. Advancement in Boy Scouts requires participation and active involvement.

This means that it is HIGHLY desirable that when a scout commits to join the troop on a trip that they intend to stay for the entire event. Asking a scout to arrive late, leave early, or join an activity halfway through so they can attend some other obligation is stressful for the scout, for parents - who end up running around trying to find their sons in unfamiliar wooded environments, and stressful for VOLUNTEER adult leaders who have to keep track of all the scouts on an activity. Please help your scout make

Becoming an adult means learning to make choices. We would much prefer that this lesson be taught than asking your scout to try and ‘do everything’. Consider the impact on a young scout trying to lead a team of other mixed aged boys when he is adding/subtracting team members throughout a weekend. Most of us could not handle this experience in our professional environments – how can we ask scouts to do this? Generally, what ends up happening is that the Patrol Leader gets frustrated and the whole patrol stops having fun.

FINANCE

Fees

Initial Fee New Scout (Due at Registration)

\$100.00 -- This amount covers:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Transfer or registration | 6. Neckerchief Slide |
| 2. Subscription to <i>Boys’ Life</i> magazine | 7. Green Loops |
| 3. Insurance | 8. Scout Handbook |
| 4. New Scout program costs and awards | 9. Scout Booklet |
| 5. Neckerchief | |

Dues/ Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for 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 December of each calendar year. New or transferring Scouts and adults may join a troop on any given day of the year.

Troop dues are paid annually to the troop account along with the annual registration fee. This amount is set each year by the committee and used to support the cost of merit badges and running the troop. Boys Life magazine subscriptions are also paid at this time and are very strongly recommended for Scouts.

\$65.00 per year

1. For re-registration and program costs

The total amount due at Registration, if paid in full, is \$100.00 (initial fee + first year's dues).

Monthly Campout or Activity Fee

Costs vary per activity planned and typically range from \$20-30. Only attending Scouts and adult leaders pay. The fee covers:

1. Food cost for weekend trips
2. Camp/Park fees for weekend trips
3. Troop consumables (propane, cleaning kits etc.)

“Doing Business with Troop 29”

❖ Troop Funding

- Dues cover registration & insurance with Council, Boys Life Magazine, and awards that your Scout will earn.
- Camping event activity fees are designed to just cover costs (break-even).
- Fundraising enables equipment purchases and scout savings for activities.

❖ Activity sheets & account charges must be signed by an adult (18 or older).

- Activity sheet financially commits the Scout for the full cost of trip. Additional amounts will be billed prior to the due dates on the activity sheet.
- **Refunds are approved by the tour leader.** Any amounts that have not been spent may be refunded until the Monday Troop meeting the week of the trip. Summer Camp and High Adventure are not refundable unless a substitution can be made.

❖ Methods of Payment

- Preferred Method: by Check with Activity Sheet – Checks Payable to: BSA Troop 29

❖ Some Scout families keep a credit balance in their Scout Accounts

- Families may charge Activity Fees to their Scout Account - but should settle/pay that outstanding balance at the next weekly Troop meeting.

❖ Each Scout and Adult Leader has a QuickBooks Scout Account

- Invoices & Statements will be delivered via email.
- **Any “balance due” (positive amount) is due at the next Troop meeting.**
- A negative “balance due” represents a credit balance – nothing due.
- An “invoice” is a bill to be paid (unless it reflects a credit balance)
- A “statement” summarizes recent activity & should be considered a bill if there is a positive balance due.
- A “sales receipt” reflects payment for an activity; is informational and does not affect account balance
- **Please review statements and discuss any questions immediately**
- Terms are “Due in full in 7 days” - Balances due must be resolved with 30 days of billing, and may affect advancement.

❖ Scout fundraising

- Earnings credited to the Scout Account can be used for any activity
- **Scouts are encouraged to save earnings for High Adventure camping**
- Fundraising earnings are owned by the Troop & may not be withdrawn.

❖ Spending Control:

- Tour Leader authorizes spending for outdoor activities. Grub and other expenses are generally incurred by scouts/adults and reimbursed afterward.
- Fundraiser Chair controls fundraising expenditures.
- Equipment purchases authorized by approval of Committee Chair.

- ❖ **Reimbursements should be requested as incurred at next Troop meeting**
 - Reimbursements can be credited to your Scout Account
 - All reimbursements due in 30 days; will not be reimbursed after 90 days.
 - **Submit reimbursements in full** – do not “net out” personal activity fees.
- ❖ **All checks require two signatures – All money handling should be counted by two people, sealed and initialed, prior to submitting to Treasurer**
- ❖ Email questions to finance@bsa-troop29.org
 - Jim Mariner - Finance Committee Chair
 - Bob Foreman – Treasurer

Summer Camp & Finance

The troop’s summer camp program is traditionally announced at the annual dinner on the first Saturday in February. At that time, current members of the troop are invited to pre-register by paying a small deposit, typically 25-40% of the total estimated cost. This reserves a space at summer camp. These deposits are usually due by late February or early March. Scouts currently registered with the troop may make a deposit and be placed on a waiting list for summer camp but they will be assigned slots on a space-available basis after any new scouts joining the troop have been provided available slots. Boy Scout policy lets us generally guarantee that all new scouts joining the troop in the spring will be assured of a spot for summer camp if they are able to make full payment, or make other arrangements through the scoutmaster, by late April or early May, when the payments are due into the Boy Scout camp.

Please note that the troop considers the deposits nonrefundable, because in most cases the deposits are paid directly to the Scout Councils, who have a nonrefundable policy.

For scouts on waiting lists, deposits may be refunded if the troop has not already had to prepay deposits and the slots have not been used by other scouts in other positions on the waiting list. The refund policy is simple. If the troop has not paid the money to a Council to hold a slot and the slot is not filled, the troop will refund the deposit. If the troop has had to pay the deposit out of pocket, and there is no replacement to cover that through another scout, the deposit cannot be refunded.

Fund Raising Projects

The troop raises money for its general program and equipment and also provides opportunities for the scouts to earn individual money to be placed in their scout savings accounts for use on High Adventure and to defer the cost of regular outings. It should be understood that the intent of the scout savings account is to help the scouts pay for major scouting events that may include fees such as airline tickets and other expenses over \$1,000. Currently the troop’s major fundraising event for troop operational support is a Pancake Breakfast and Plant Sales held in the early spring. The troop currently has significant fund raising needs and will be providing a number of opportunities for Scouts to add money to their savings accounts while at the same time helping raise money for troop equipment and supplies. Historically we have raised money through Boy Scout Popcorn Sales, Pancake Breakfasts, Wreath Sales, Poinsettia Sales, and others, as determined on an annual basis by the PLC in consultation with the finance committee.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the DelMarVa 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 (Rodney, Henson, and Akridge), the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration, Leader materials, Leader training, and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, however Troop 29 has a good record of support for this important source of funding. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

Donations to Troop 29:

Chartering Organization: Troop 29 is a part of Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, a 503(1)(b) charity.

- Red Clay’s Tax ID is 51-0098188. Gifts should be tax deductible and must be made to Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church directed to Troop 29.
- Please check with the COR if you wish to make a special contribution designated for the Boy Scouts.
- Consider applying for corporate gift matching and volunteer grants. Several firms will allow you to direct contributions either via Unite Way or other community matching programs.

SAFETY - ADULT AND SCOUT

Two-Deep Leadership

Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings.

An Adult is Never Alone With a Scout

An adult is never out of eyesight with a Scout who is not their son. There are no exceptions, and this includes when in motor vehicles.

Safety Rule of Four

Four individuals (always with the minimum of two adults) go on any backcountry expedition or and are recommended for any campout. If an accident occurs, one person stays with the injured, and two go for help. Additional adult leadership requirements must reflect an awareness of such factors as size and skill level of the group, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge.

Youth Protection

Protecting our youth and providing a safe environment where they can learn and develop is central to Troop 29. We encourage all parents to take the same Youth Protection training as do our adult leaders.

YPT & Adults

A Youth Facing Participant is ANY adult who interacts with Scouts. This designation includes uniformed leaders (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster), Committee members, and Youth Protection is not optional. All adult leaders are REQUIRED to maintain current Youth Protection Training.

YPT & Scouts

It is vital that scouts learn to recognize all forms of inappropriate behavior being exhibited toward them. On an annual basis Troop 29 holds a mandatory Youth Protection training directed toward scouts. This training is initially provided to help scouts Recognize, Resist, & Report Youth Protection problems. Older scouts are also instructed in more advanced youth protection situations such as Online risks, Bullying, & Sexual Harassment. See the COR for specifics or to review the program specifics.

Transportation

Automobiles

It is essential that adequate, safe, and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips. BSA regulations are as follows:

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the, the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
3. An adult leader (at least 21 years of age) must be in charge and accompany the group.
4. The drivers must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age.
5. Passenger cars or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers, but passengers may not ride on the rear deck of station wagons.
6. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.

7. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.
8. Do not exceed the speed limit.
9. Do not travel in convoy.
10. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and recreation stops. If there is only one driver, the driving time should be reduced and stops should be made more frequently.
11. Drive with lights on for safety.

Sleeping Accommodations

- Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.
- When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.
- If separate shower and latrine facilities are not available, separate times for male and female are scheduled and posted for showers. The buddy system is to be used for latrines by having one person wait outside the entrance, or by providing Occupied and Unoccupied signs and/or inside door latches.

Knives

A sharp pocketknife is an invaluable back country tool. After earning the Totin' Chip a Scout may carry one on outings (there is little purpose to carrying one at meetings). Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. Knives should be sized for the individual and the task. A pocket knife's largest blade should not exceed the width of the scouts palm. Sheath knives, fixed bladed knives, spring assisted or butterfly blades are not permitted.

Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied heavily on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have a duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility.

Scouts who do not employ proper knife/ax safety will have corners cut from their Totin' Chip. Loss of all four corners will mean the scout loses knife privilege and will be obligated to retake knife safety training and complete a scoutmaster conference to regain the privilege.

Please note that Cub Scout "Whittling Chips" are not recognized.

Axes

1. Axes should be used within the boundaries of an established Ax yard. A qualified Ax Yard monitor must be supervising the activity while the Ax Yard is open.
2. There is limited use for hatchets and axes. Scouts are discouraged from buying one for personal use. It is the responsibility of the Troop to provide hatchets or axes as necessary.
3. Scouts without a Totin' Chip card may use a hatchet only under instruction and while earning the Totin' Chip.
4. Scouts with a Totin' Chip card may use a hatchet without supervision.
5. Scouts with a Totin' Chip card and Paul Bunyan Axeman Award may use a 3/4 axe without supervision.
6. Otherwise Scouts with a Totin' Chip card may use a 3/4 axe under instruction for the Paul Bunyan Axeman Award.
7. Double bladed axes are prohibited.

Guns and Firearms

Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activity.

Restricted Activities

A number of activities are restricted, for safety reasons, to Scouts of a certain age. There will be no exceptions made please do not ask. Troop abides by the rules laid out in the Guide to Safe Scouting as published by the BSA and available for review online.

Examples of Unauthorized Activities

There are a number of activities that are not authorized in Scouting. They include, but are not limited to the following. Before planning any activity, please consult with the Scoutmaster.

All-terrain vehicles (ATV's)	Boxing, karate, and related martial arts - except judo, Aikido, and Tai Chi	Exploration of abandoned mines	Flying in hang gliders, ultra lights, experimental class aircraft, or hot-air balloons; parachuting
All motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events, are not authorized activities for any program level.	Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events	Pointing any type of firearm (including paintball, dye, or lasers) at any individual is unacceptable.	Motorized personal watercraft, such as jet-skis
Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, or other device towed by a motorboat or by any other means	All activities related to bungee cord jumping (sometimes called shock cord jumping)		

SCOUT BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION

The Boy Scouts of Troop 29 swear "On their Honor" to behave in accordance with the tenets spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code. Recognizing that situations do arise in which scouts do not act according to the Oath and Law **Troop 29 has adopted a specific Discipline Policy which every scout participating with the troop is expected to review, understand, and operate under. This policy is reviewed and signed by scouts and parents every year.**

Swearing and Jokes

At every meeting, Boy Scouts promise to keep themselves "morally straight" and "clean." The Boy Scout Handbook advises boys that being "clean" goes beyond washing off dirt; it means getting in with a "clean crowd," having a "clean outlook on life" and staying away from "swearing and telling dirty stories." Adults and Scouts are asked not to participate in swearing, lewd behavior or telling dirty stories. No alcohol or tobacco products are permitted at any Scout activity.

Part of the Scout Law is that a "Scout is Reverent". This is defined as also defending another person's right to their beliefs. No jokes or skits related to a person's faith, handicap, orientation, race or creed will be tolerated in the troop.

Scout Spirit

To advance a rank in Scouting the Scoutmaster has to sign off on a Scout Spirit requirement. This requirement is signed off at the time of the Scoutmaster Conference for every rank.

The requirement states: "Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Law in your everyday life."

This requirement is closely tied to the three aims of the program: 1) growth in moral strength and character; 2) participating citizenship; 3) development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

In determining Scout Spirit the Scoutmaster or others designated look at the attitude of the Scout and how he behaves inside and outside of troop activities. The Scoutmaster receives reports from the junior leaders, assistant scoutmasters and parents. Total behavior, troop activity participation, age and interest in being a Scout and trying to live the Oath and Law are all taken into account.

Language.

Part of the Scout Law that we all follow is that a Scout is courteous and a Scout should be clean in thought, word and deed. That means, among other things, that Scouts do not use foul language. The ability to speak and instruct effectively without profanity, hazing or degradation of human dignity is an attribute of a Scout.

Scouts who have a problem with foul language, bad behavior or a negative attitude towards the troop or Scouting, will not advance until there is a change. We realize that the boys are growing and maturing and we take that into account. Note that we are stricter as they grow older and progress into the upper ranks.

Hazing, Initiations, Harassment

All forms of hazing, initiations, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing are prohibited and will not be allowed. Hazing is defined as any activity that causes the discomfort or harm of another for the enjoyment of the perpetrator.

Troop Conduct and Discipline Policy

Troop 29 has a formal Troop Conduct and Discipline Policy. Copies of this policy are provided to each family that joins the troop and are distributed annually. Scouts and Parents are required to review and sign this document each year. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our scouts and adult volunteers.

PARENTS' ROLE IN SCOUT PROGRAM

As scouts develop the skills necessary for functioning in a goal-oriented group and a sense of responsibility to fellow troop members, it is important that they have plenty of committed adult guidance and backing along the way. The more adult participation we have in troop activities, the better the workload can be distributed, thus ensuring success of the troop programs. This is particularly important for a troop that is growing as fast as Troop 29.

Parents are encouraged to assist in the function of the troop in some capacity during the time their scout (or scouts) is active in the troop. A parent's commitment depends on time available and interests in specific parts of the troop programs. Whatever the level of commitment, it shows support for scouting activities and helps distribute the adult workload into reasonable chunks. By participating in troop activities, parents also get a chance to share in the fun of scouting and build relationships both with scouts other than their own sons and with interested and interesting adults. Parent volunteers are particularly valuable in such areas as transportation and planning for special events, and in the fundraising which helps keep the cost of scouting within the reach of the average family budget.

How can you help? What are your special interests? A parent who volunteers for the Troop Committee may choose from several areas in which to assist the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Patrol Advisors and Scouting Coordinator:

- Camping; Access to Camping Property
- Contacts for Special Trips and Activities

- Storage of Equipment
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Transportation of Scouts and Equipment
- Troop Committee
- Committee Officers
- Troop Meetings; Boards of Review
- Program Planning
- Outdoor Activities
- Webelos Den Resource
- Publicity for Special Events
- Religious Award Programs
- Record-Keeping

There are several opportunities available through which parent volunteers could contribute important service to the Troop Committee of Troop 29. Positions that are often open and need to be filled are:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activity Coordination
- Fund Raising Coordinator
- Webelos Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Training Coordinator
- Merit Badge Coordinator
- Assistant Scoutmaster
- Scheduling Chair
- Staffing Chair
- Advancement
- Property and Equipment
- Membership
- Patrol Advisors

Please consider volunteering for one or more of the areas or positions mentioned in this article, and let the Troop Committee Chair know of your interests. You will be amply rewarded by the satisfaction you receive from knowing that you have contributed to the success of an organization which has a lasting impact on your son's development into a responsible, caring adult. Your own personal growth will be stimulated by the contacts you have with the scouts and the other adult leaders and helpers.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS OF A SCOUT AND HIS PARENTS IN TROOP 29 ACTIVITIES

Part of the scout training is the development of the skills needed to function in a group and to meet the goals of the group. This requires team effort. Each scout will have a part to play in the troop activities; therefore, each scout is expected to develop a sense of responsibility to his fellow troop members, for the part that he will play in the troop's activities.

To assist the scout in developing these skills, the following guidelines are provided.

2. **Troop Meetings** — It is expected that all scouts will plan to attend each meeting. Occasional absence due to homework, illness, or required school events is understood, but chronic absenteeism is a concern. Seasonal sports conflicts or other causes of absence should be discussed with the Scoutmaster in advance.
3. **Communication** — The Troop Committee publishes a website <http://www.bsa-troop29.org> that should be read by both scouts and parents.

Email has become the preferred means of communication for most of us. Troop 29 maintains email lists for the purpose of communicating important activity information. Parents are welcome to sign up to receive troop communications at multiple email destinations (i.e. Home, work, mobile). There is also a specific scout email list for scouts that have their own email address which the boys use to communicate among themselves. This is a monitored activity.

To sign up to for Troop 29 email updates send a message to t29parents-subscribe@rccpc.org from each account you wish to receive troop messages.

Unsubscribe works the same way. Send an email to: t29parents-unsubscribe@rccpc.org

4. **Special Events** — Scouts are expected to participate in the planning and preparation of special troop activities. The preparation for troop activities is an important part of a scout's training for these activities. A minimum level of participation may be set for some events. Written schedules for these programs will be supplied to the scouts. Failure to meet the above preparation meeting requirements may result in disqualification of the scout for the activity.
5. **Fund Raising** — Fund raising is necessary to keep the cost of scouting within reach of the average family budget. Both the parent and the scout are expected to participate (in some capacity) in the troop's efforts in making scouting more affordable.
6. **Parental Participation** — It is expected that the parents of the scouts will assist in the function of the troop in some capacity. If each parent can devote some time during the time that their scout is active in the troop, the adult individual workload for the troop's activities can be held to reasonable levels.

TROOP 29 LEADERSHIP: KEY 3 STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Hawley, Charter Organization Representative

The chartered organization representative is the liaison with the unit's sponsor. In the case of Troop 29, Mike represents Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church. Mike is a member of Red Clay and as such he knows the most effective ways to get the organization's assistance and maintain a mutually satisfactory working relationship with the chartered organization.

Mike's specific duties include identifying the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair, approving all adult leaders, and serves as the head of the 'scouting department' for the church. He also represents RCCPC to the Boy Scout Council as a voting charter organization member.

Mike began his adult scouting career 6 years ago when his twins joined pack 29 as Tiger cubs and was quickly asked to step into the assistant Cub Master role that as opening. This role expanded as he spend a couple years as Cub Master before moving onto Webelos leader for 2 years. Mike is not new to scouting, he began his scouting career as a Bobcat scout while living overseas and continued when his parents relocated to the Delaware area, he worked his way through the Boy Scout ranks to eventually earn Eagle scout from Troop 50 days before he aged out. Some may say this is procrastinating, others say he was maximizing what he could get from the program.

Mike has been married to Michelle for almost 15 years, they have 3 sons, (Michelle has given up on a girl) Evan and Aidan are twins and just finished the 1st year program, and his youngest son Connor joined the pack last year in the new Lion program and is now enjoying being a Tiger cub. The boys have some big shoes to fill as they look up to 3 cousins who are also Eagle Scouts. Mike has a love of camping that Michelle doesn't, she doesn't understand why anyone would want to sleep on the hard ground when you have heat and a comfy bed close by, so Mike and the boys spend weekend nights in the backyard or camping with the scouts. Michelle has seen over the years how scouting has helped her boys grow and gain confidence and enjoys her quiet weekends when the boys are out camping.

Mike currently works as an engineer for W.L. Gore with the fabrics division developing new outdoor gear (sense a theme?) in his spare time he sits on Session for Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, and the Pack 29 Committee. Mike has several hobbies that he enjoys doing, these include open water swim races, sailing with family during summer and skiing in the winter and as a gear head he is typically working on a car project of some sort.

Tracey Lank, Troop 29 Committee Chair:

As the Committee Chairperson, Tracey's job covers many areas from supporting the Scoutmaster and every volunteer, making sure they have what they need to do their job to making sure all voices are heard. But Tracey relishes welcoming new parents and scouts into the program. Tracey began her volunteering in cub scouts when her youngest son, Kyle started 7 years ago. Now her two boys, David, 17 is a Troop 29 Eagle Alumnus and Kyle, 17 is a Life Scout working toward Eagle. Tracey began her volunteering in Troop 29 as a member of the Board of Review committee. On this committee, she was able to truly connect with the boys' one on one and gain a different perspective on the program. From there, she added the Planning Committee to her volunteer duties. Tracey liked working with the boys one on one guiding them on planning monthly camping trips while maintain the "boy led" philosophy of Boy Scouts of America.

Tracey Lank has worked in Special Education for 18 years and is currently a Principal at Education Plus Academy Cyber Charter School in Northeast Philadelphia. Educationally, Mrs. Lank earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education at Delaware State University, and received her master's degrees from Wilmington University in School Leadership. In September, 2016, Mrs. Lank began her doctoral studies in Post-Secondary Education at Wilmington University.

John McNamara, Troop 29 Scoutmaster:

John has been scouting as an adult for over 18 years. He started his adult scouting career as the Cubmaster of Pack 230 at The Tatnall School (after being "volun-told" by his wife to take the job). Subsequently he spent several years as an Assistant Scoutmaster at Troop 959 and evolved into the Chartered Organization Representative at Troop 29, he now holds the position of Scoutmaster with the troop. And if this isn't enough John has held positions within the DelMarVa council as District Commissioner, Commissioner, and Cub Scout Day Camp Director.

John reluctantly acknowledges that he is 57 years old chronologically but likes to think he can keep up with teenage scouts despite this handicap. The jury's out... He is married to his high school sweetheart for over 29 years. John and his wife Leslie have one son, Luke, an Eagle Scout, a Troop 29 alumnae and Chief Commissiner at Rodney Scout Reservation. And, because John's wife Leslie thinks that roughing it might mean having to make do without room service John maintains his position as an Assistant Scoutmaster so he can get out camping!

While he may initially have been drafted into his leadership role in scouting he has grown in his appreciation and regard for the BSA and the Scouting program. And, although his wife may occasionally lament at being left a "scout widow" she will readily agree that scouting has made a positive difference in the lives of their family through the friends they have met, the places they have visited, and the influence the program has had on them all.

John is retired and when he isn't Scouting he divides his time between Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and The Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, a local nonprofit devoted to preserving historic steam power where he runs one of their 1/8 size steam locomotives and dreams of running a "real" engine someday!

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. Troop 29 has been very active and earned a good reputation for teaching 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, and beyond!

BSA Troop 29
www.bsa-troop29.org

Receive email: **t29parents-subscribe@rccpc.org**

Proud Members of:
DelMarVa Council
Powder Mill District
Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church
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