

Welcome to Troop 666

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 666! Whether you are new, transferring from another Troop, or old hands, this packet is designed to help you get acquainted with our program and facilities. It also has something to say about a Scout's responsibilities and opportunities, and we hope it has the information you need to get the most out of Scouting.

When a boy joins Scouting, in a sense the whole family also joins. Scouting is a volunteer organization. Without volunteers to help challenge your sons there would be no Scouting program or Troop 666. Parents and interested community members comprise the majority of the Troop's volunteers as either Committee Members or Scoutmasters.

Troop 666 will need your cooperation and volunteered time if it is to succeed. The Troop has some positions that may require a few hours a week of your time; we also have numerous small "one-time" jobs that could be shared among several families. Experience has taught us that the quality of the Troop and of your son's experience is greatly affected by the contributions of time and effort each scout's family makes. In addition, the scouts themselves like having their parents involved with their activities. A Boy Scout Troop is not an extension of its Scoutmaster – it is a part of your son's physical and character development.

Troop 666 is open to all boys regardless of economic or social status, race or creed; we take great pride in the diverse backgrounds of our Scouts. Unfortunately though, no boy will be able to benefit from our program without his family's commitment to "help the Troop go." Please let us know of your areas of interest. Many parents are surprised to find that helping their son in Scouting can be both rewarding and fun!

Goals

Scouting fundamentally is a program for boys by boys. In Scouting we strive to enhance leadership development, self-confidence, character development and better citizenship through an organized program allowing boys, to teach and organize themselves under adult supervision.

Safe Haven

One of the most important principles of Scouting is that we expect to provide a safe haven for all youth participating in this program – safe from drugs, violence, and abuse.

For those whose sons were in Cub Scouts, you may remember that each of the rank books contained a short pamphlet inside the front cover, which required you to have a

discussion with your son about these topics. The same requirement exists for the rank of Scout. Read this section along with your son. Please ask us if you have any questions.

A very important rule that all troops must abide by is “Two-Deep Leadership.” This means that no Scouting activity will ever be held unless at least two adult leaders are present. This is designed to prevent situations where your son is alone with any adult, besides a parent, at any Scouting activity, or on the way to or from.

Meetings

The Troop meets weekly – on Monday evenings from 7:15 to 9:00 at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church at the corner of Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues in Northwest Washington. With occasional exceptions, Monday evenings following camping trips are reserved for the Troop leadership and planning. A Scout is expected to attend meetings regularly, in uniform. If an illness or an overriding family commitment will prevent his attending, he should call his Patrol Leader, in advance: the members of the patrol rely on each Scout’s participation.

Communications

Because of Troop 666 activity, we stress the importance of staying abreast of the Troop’s schedule. There are four principal ways of keeping informed. First, the Scouts themselves are told at Troop meetings of the activities planned for the coming weeks and months. Second, the Parents’ Committee reviews the Troop’s schedule and offers a place for communication among parents and with the Troop’s leadership. Thirdly, the Troop has a web site at: users.starpower.net/mckitterick. Finally, the Troop circulates a Parents’ Newsletter at least once each month that lists upcoming events and deals with other administrative and organization matters. The Newsletter is also posted on the website.

Campouts

The Troop camps monthly, usually from Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon. Scouts are expected to join in these activities regularly unless illness or family considerations interfere. Regular participation, to the greatest extent possible, is important in Scouting as everywhere. School schedules permitting, we try to hold a few three-day campouts – usually for some special trips. Some of our campouts require special fees; Scouts should bring funds for such fees to the Monday meeting preceding a campout or special activity. Scouts are expected to wear uniforms to and from campouts.

Special Events

During the year the Troop may participate in a number of special scouting events. The Troop also performs various service projects for our sponsoring institution, The

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, and for the community as a whole. We also have several Courts of Honor each year to acknowledge Scout advancement.

Summer Scouting

Each summer, Troop 666 camps for at least one full week. In recent years, Troop 666 has had the benefit of the excellent facilities at Heritage Scout Camp in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We attend scout camp as a Troop, and various adult leaders contribute their time to lead the Troop at Heritage. In 2002, the troop attended Camp Marin Sierra in California, near Lake Tahoe.

High Adventure Trips

Troop 666 is an active participant in the Boy Scout's High Adventure program, in which scouts take summer trips to wilderness areas or scout bases. In 1996, the Troop traveled to various national parks and sites in Alaska. In 1997, we joined 20,000 other scouts at the Canadian Scout Jamboree in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In 1998, eighteen scouts and adult leaders trekked through the Boy Scout's extraordinary Philmont Scout Ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico. The summer of 1999 included a trip to Maine for 4 days of sea kayaking and climbing Mt. Katahdin. In the summer of 2000, we sent two "crews" of scouts to Philmont. We went back to the Canadian Jamboree in 2001 and trekked along the Pacific Crest Trail in 2002.

Uniforms

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. Troop 666 is proud of our uniforms and we wear them to all meetings and campouts (unless the weather and temperature dictate otherwise). In addition to the regular Scout uniform, each member of the Troop will receive a Troop 666 tee shirt that should be worn during campouts. The complete Scout uniform consists of:

Long Scout Pants

Short-Sleeve or Long-Sleeve Scout Shirt

Web Belt with Buckle

Appropriate Insignia and Badges

Dark or Scout Socks

Boots, Shoes, or dark Sneakers

A good pair of hiking boots is a must. Badges, insignia and patches are to be worn only as prescribed. Uniforms can be obtained at the Scout Service Center, which is located at

9190 Wisconsin Avenue. For further information, call 301-564-1091. Troop 666 patches are available only from the Troop. After the initial one, cost is \$1.00 each.

Equipment

A checklist of Scouting and camping equipment is included in this packet. Recommended items are those which experience has shown us a Scout needs to participate in the program and get the most out of it. Optional items are things he may want to have for fun, extra comfort or convenience. Many times adequate substitutes are available for items on the list, and boys will often find that things they just “had to have” are, a bit much to carry on a hike. Equipment with the BSA – approved logo is satisfactory, but it is not always the best choice for Scouts. Experience is a good teacher here. The Troop does stock some donated equipment, which is available to new Scouts who have not yet acquired their own equipment.

We have found that Campmor has a wide assortment of affordable, quality gear that can be obtained in a matter of days. Campmor can be reached toll free at 1-800-526-4784 or at www.campmor.com.

Health, Medical Care and Insurance

Scouting is safety-conscious and we in Troop 666 are always concerned with every boy's health and safety. To this end we try to enforce all safety rules in the handling of tools and camping equipment. At meetings, on campouts, when Scouts are swimming or involved in any Scouting activity, we try to see that they practice safety and observe basic habits of good personal cleanliness, diet and consideration for the well-being of others.

We teach and practice first aid, of course, but we naturally do not attempt to treat illness or injuries beyond the scope of first aid. Occasionally a scout may require professional medical care. Therefore we ask that you complete and sign the Medical Release Form, included with this packet or available from the web site, users.starpower.net/mckitterick which authorizes the adult leader in charge to obtain such care as surgery, anesthesia, or injections as an attending physician may deem appropriate. We have found that it may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get such care without this authorization.

We also ask that you advise us of any allergies, or special care a boy may require and give any medication he may require to the Scoutmaster for safekeeping and dispensing.

The Troop carries accident insurance and we will be pleased to inform you about the details of this insurance at any time.

Advancement

An important part of each boy's scouting experience is the opportunity to advance through the seven ranks of scouting and to earn the Boy Scout merit badges. The Scout program is designed so that, in advancing through scout ranks, each scout also acquires

important knowledge and experience about leadership, appreciation of the outdoors, community service and, perhaps most importantly, himself. Troop 666 treats advancement seriously and devotes much time and effort to assisting scouts in their advance through the scout ranks.

However, advancement is only part of our activities, and we do not see advancement as an end in itself. We also discourage parents from overemphasizing advancement; advancement is an individualized process that will lead some scouts to advance more quickly than others.

The overall subject of advancement is covered in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every new scout receives upon joining the Troop. We encourage parents to review the Handbook to learn the details of advancement and to assist their son in his planning.

Basic Ranks

The first four ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Advancement to each of these ranks requires the scout to meet requirements for outdoor skills, first aid and citizenship. These requirements become increasingly difficult as the scout matures.

The requirements for each rank are set forth in the Handbook. Each rank has several individual requirements. Scouts study these requirements and learn the skills and knowledge they need to meet them both by reading the Handbook and by participating in the advancement activities that the Troop sponsors. As a scout [sometimes Scout is capitalized and sometimes it is not. Pick one way for the whole document] meets each requirement, the Scoutmaster, other adult leader, or any scout First Class and above will initial the relevant part of the scout's Handbook to show that the requirement has been met.

A Board of Review is a committee of Troop leaders, parents and, at times, older scouts. Before a scout is awarded a new rank, he appears before a Board of Review to answer questions about the rank and its requirements. After a scout has passed his Board of Review, he is recognized at a Court of Honor ceremony, where he receives the insignia and, more important, recognition for his achievement. Troop 666 holds Courts of Honor three or four times each year.

Merit Badges and Higher Ranks

Requirements for advancing to Star, Life and Eagle rank are set forth in the Handbook. In contrast to the lower ranks, which emphasize basic survival skills, the higher three ranks focus on leadership skills and community service. For each higher rank, scouts earn a specified number of merit badges, some of which are required. Although the particular merit badge requirements are too extensive to discuss here, the number of merit badges necessary to reach Eagle rank is 21, twelve of which are mandatory.

Advancement to higher ranks also requires a scout to hold leadership positions in the Troop, of which there are several. Finally, advancement to Eagle Scout requires a scout to plan, organize and perform a substantial community service project, which must be approved by the District Eagle Board Chair. Boards of Review for Eagle include representatives of the National Capital Area Council.

Finances

Dues

In Troop 666, Scouts pay dues of \$70 in their first year, and \$55 thereafter. This money covers registrations, Troop insurance, Boy's Life magazine, badges, awards presented to Scouts at Courts of Honor, Patrol and Troop 666 patches, a Troop tee-shirt, a Boy Scout handbook, Troop equipment and other miscellaneous expenses. This \$55 is less than one-half of the Troop's annual expenditure per Scout.

Other Expenses

At the beginning of each year, we may also collect a fee to cover the cost of providing food for campouts.

Sometimes there will be extra expenses for certain trips, such as skiing trips, rafting or canoeing trips. You will be notified of these extra expenses ahead of time. We collect these fees at the Troop meeting held the Monday before the trip.

The cost of uniforms and personal equipment is an expense each Scout and his family must meet. Since scouts seem to always be outgrowing their uniforms, however, there is a thriving trade in second-hand uniforms among our Troop's families!

Fund Raising

Troop 666's principal fund raising activity is a Christmas Tree/Wreath Sale held early in December. Our success in the Tree/Wreath Sale permits us to keep dues and fees at low levels and to enjoy a range of outings and activities that we could not otherwise afford. Because of the importance of the Tree/Wreath Sale to Troop 666, all scouts **should** participate in it.

From time to time, the Troop also engages in other fundraising activities to obtain money for special trips, equipment or other needs, and to permit scouts to build personal accounts (i.e., credits) for special summer activities. Each Scout and family is expected to participate in these activities to help make their fair contribution to the Troop.

Sustaining Membership Enrollment

To support the activities of our National Capital Area Council, the annual Sustaining Membership Enrollment drive seeks the financial contributions of parents and friends of

Scouting. Since United Way provides only part of Scouting's financial needs, we trust that you will respond generously when our Troop representative calls.

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church,

The Troop Committee and Uniformed Leadership

The Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church

The Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church sponsors Troop 666 and provides our meeting place. We're lucky to have an excellent meeting room and Troop Room for storage of our equipment and supplies. Richard Tilley is the Institutional Representative, or Scouting Coordinator for the Troop.

The Troop/Parents' Committee

The Committee is made up of parents of Scouts, former 666 Scoutmasters and former 666 parents. Individually and jointly, they are responsible for recruiting uniformed leaders, finances, health, safety, transportation, advancement, fund raising and other matters everything affecting the welfare of Troop 666. The Troop Committee works together with the Scoutmasters to provide assistance and support in running the Troop. A Parent's Meeting normally occurs monthly. Please check the Troop calendar for date and time. Meetings generally last no more than an hour and a half.

Uniformed Leaders

The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters work directly with the Scouts in organizing the Troop, meetings and campouts. The full list of leaders is presented on the Troop roster contained in this packet. Generally, the uniformed leaders have some Scouting background. If anyone is interested in serving as an uniformed leader and working directly with their son, please contact the Scoutmaster, Dennis Farley.

Conclusion

Since 1932, Troop 666 has counted many hundreds of boys and young men among its members. Our continued success is due to the dedication of our scouts and their families. As we continue to grow and offer challenging experiences to our scouts, Troop 666 takes great prides in all it has accomplished and in the many hours of volunteered time from the members of the Troop's community.

Equipment

Scouts are responsible for their own personal equipment. In order to help those that are just purchasing equipment, the Troop has the following recommendations. While we do not recommend going out and purchasing all the equipment at one time, the list is intended to provide parents with specific types of equipment that we have found to be

more usable or appropriate for camping trips. Ask around. Several people might have some equipment that you can borrow.

1. All Scouts are strongly encouraged to have a junior size external frame backpack. Most camping done by the Troop will use backpacks. Backpacks can range in price from \$75 to \$125 for junior packs, but offer a great way to consolidate and store all personal gear.
2. Sleeping bags are necessary for all camping trips. The Troop recommends a three-season mummy bag rated for 15 degree Fahrenheit weather. Sleeping bags can get a little expensive. The warmer the rating on the bag, the more expensive. Most mummy bags will run anywhere between \$100 and \$350 depending on your budget, but you will never need the more expensive ones for troop campouts. If you have an adequate sleeping bag currently, do not purchase a new one, consider purchasing a better quality at a later date if your son really enjoys Scouting.
3. Hiking boots are a must on all outdoor Scouting activities. Again, inexpensive hiking boots are more than sufficient for the average growing Scout. As your son stops growing, you may wish to purchase better quality, more expensive boots.
4. Weather gear is a must on all camping trips. One thing we have learned is that \$0.99 rain ponchos are worth exactly what you pay for them. Consider purchasing a Backpacking Poncho. They cost approximately \$30, but will last for years to come.
5. Pocketknives are used by all Scouts when they earn their Totin' Chip card, which shows they have been trained in the use of knives and other ax yard equipment. Please do not spend \$65 on a Swiss Army Knife – it will only get lost. Most Scouting pocketknives run under \$20 and are more than adequate for your sons use.
6. All Scouts should carry flashlights. The best buy on flashlights are the mini-maglites that come with a carrying holster. They cost \$10 at Home Depot, are lightweight, and give off a lot of light. There is no need for a 6 cell, 4 ft. flashlight on camping trips.
7. Compasses are important on all camping trips and something every Scout should eventually have. As with the pocketknives, there is no need for elaborate compasses. Silva makes an excellent compass that costs around \$12.
8. Foam Pads are extremely important for a good nights sleep. Closed cell pads are inexpensive and more than adequate. The 48-inch pads cost about \$15.

The Troop does have a limited amount of foam pads that we can loan out on a first come, first serve basis.

9. Water bottles are necessary on all backpacking trips and most camping trips where water is limited. The Troop recommends that each Scout has two 1-quart water bottles. Please do not buy any water bottles that are odd shaped or have straps. The straps become a safety hazard.
10. A Scout is clean. All Scouts should have a small toiletry kit containing travel size toothpaste, deodorant, soap, toothbrush, and towel. All toiletries can be kept in a small zip-lock bag.
11. Every Scout should carry a small first aid kit with him. Requirement 6b for Second class requires that all Scouts make a personal First Aid kit. Again, you can use a zip-lock bag or old Band-Aid container for storing supplies. The Scout Handbook contains a page suggesting items that should be placed in the First Aid kit.
12. As mentioned before, all Scouts should have a personal mess kit consisting of a cup, bowl, and eating utensils.

Checklist

The following list is a personal equipment checklist of all items that should be brought on a camping trip. In addition, the Scout Handbook has clothing and equipment checklists that should be reviewed for all camping trips.

	Recommended	Optional
• Hiking		
○ Boots	X	
○ Backpack	X	
• Camping		
○ Sleeping bag or 2 or 3 blankets	X	
○ Foam sleeping pad	X	
• Scout Outdoor Essentials:		
○ Pocketknife (Totin' Chip Required)	X	
○ First Aid Kit	X	
○ Extra clothing	X	
○ Rain gear	X	
○ Water bottle	X	
○ Flashlight	X	
○ Trail food	X	
○ Matches and fire starters	X	
○ Sun protection	X	

○ Map and compass	X	
○ Notebook pencil		X
● Warm-Weather Clothing		
○ Short-sleeve Scout shirt	X	
○ T-Shirts	X	
○ Hiking shorts	X	
○ Long pants	X	
○ Sweater or warm jacket	X	
○ Socks and underwear	X	
○ Cap or hat	X	
○ Bandannas		X
● Cold –Weather Clothing		
○ Long-sleeve Scout shirt	X	
○ Wool or fleece shirt	X	
○ Long pants	X	
○ Wool sweater	X	
○ Polypropylene long underwear	X	
○ Wool socks and sock liners	X	
○ Insulated coat	X	
○ Wool cap	X	
● Mess Kit		
○ Cup	X	
○ Bowl		X
○ Eating utensils	X	
● Toiletry Kit		
○ Toothbrush	X	
○ Toothpaste	X	
○ Comb	X	
○ Washcloth	X	
○ Soap	X	
● Other items		
○ Watch	X	
○ Camera		X
○ Insect repellent	X	
○ Sunglasses		X
○ Swimsuit		X

Troop 666, BSA

Troop 666 strives to provide a quality Scouting program to all of its members.

To help accomplish this goal, our Scouts are expected to adhere to behavior standards that facilitate positive growth and learning within the Scouting program. The same standards are expected at Scout Meetings and on outings. Troop expectations include:

1. *Treat others with Respect.* All leaders, adults, and Scouts are to be listened to and treated with respect. The spirit of Scouting avoids name-calling or harsh words that offend another person. Violence towards others will not be tolerated.
2. *Treat property with Respect.* We are guests wherever we are, and should treat Church property and any other facilities with respect. Scouts should not be anywhere other than the meeting room unless they have permission.
3. *Use Language Becoming a Scout.* We expect proper language in all Troop and Scouting activities.
4. *Be prompt.* Meetings start at 7:15 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. on Mondays. Scouts should be on time for meetings. Parents should also picking up their sons on time.
5. *Avoid Detractors.* Certain devices detract from the program. These may include cards, electronic devices, toys and other similar items.
6. *Wear the Uniform.* Uniforms should be worn at all times. There are 2 types of uniforms:

Class A - Scout shirt (tucked in), pants, belt, dark socks, shoes and Merit Badge sash, where appropriate. To be worn at official Scout functions, Courts of Honor or highly visible outings. (Scouting for Food, First Aid Meet, etc.)

Class B - Troop 666 red or other Scout T-shirt and Scout pants or shorts.

The Scoutmaster will evaluate the Scout's behavior regarding these rules when deciding if the Scout has shown Scout Spirit for rank advancement. If there are problems with a Scout not wearing the uniform, the Scoutmaster will find out why. Repeated disregard for the uniform may be grounds for excluding the Scout from meetings and campouts.

Scout and Parent should sign below and return a copy to the Scoutmaster.

Scout: I agree to follow these rules.

Scout signature _____

Parent: I agree to support the Troop's Behavior Expectations and to pick up my son early if necessary.

Parent signature _____ Date: _____