

Troop 22
Whitman, MA



Parent's Handbook

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Welcome to Troop 22

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 22. We hope you and your family enjoy being with us!

We are a Scout-run Troop, chartered by the Boy Scouts of America and sponsored by the Holy Ghost Parish and VFW Post 697 Whitman, MA.

This handbook is intended to give you information about our Troop, and the Boy Scouts of America. You may find that most of your questions are answered in this book. Please do take the time to read it. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. If you were in Cub Scouting, you will notice a major difference between that and Boy Scouting. In Cub Scouts, adults planned and ran the program. In Boy Scouts, the Scouts themselves plan and organize the Troop. The role of the adult leaders is to assist the Scouts in becoming young leaders while learning to plan and organize the Troop.

What are the Boy Scouts?

The Boy Scouts is a youth program founded in Great Britain by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell was a military officer who gained fame in the Boer Wars of the early 1900s.

In 1907, Baden-Powell invited a group of boys to the first Boy Scout camp on Brownsea Island. He soon wrote Scouting for Boys, a book intended to pass on his ideas. It became an instant bestseller, and boys joined by the thousands.

In 1909, William Boyce, an American visitor, was lost in the London fog. A young boy helped him to find his destination. When Boyce offered the boy a tip, the boy said, "No thank you, sir. I am a Scout I won't take anything for helping." Intrigued, Boyce asked the boy what a Scout was. The boy told him about himself and his brother Scouts, and took Boyce to the British Scouting office. There, Boyce met Baden-Powell, and decided to bring Scouting to the United States.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and others founded the Boy Scouts of America. Since then, millions of boys have enjoyed and benefited from Scouting.

Despite its founding by a military officer, Boy Scouts is not a military organization. It is a youth program with the objectives of developing character, citizenship, and fitness.

Backpacking

Backpacking is a combination of hiking and camping. The use of lightweight equipment, transported entirely by the scout to a remote location to camp is an exciting opportunity in Scouting. Scouts will be trained for this specialty form of camping before they participate in a backpacking outing.

On a backpacking trip, a good, well-fitting backpack is essential. The Scout should be able to carry his personal gear, as well as his share of the patrol equipment. A good sleeping bag is important, too, as blankets are too bulky.

Cold-weather Camping

The Troop camps year-round. For cold-weather camping, additional equipment is necessary. The sleeping bag should be rated for about -20 degrees. A liner or cover for the regular bag can work. Warm footgear is essential. Good insulated boots are best. Socks should have no cotton content, wool or synthetic pile are the socks of choice. Polypropylene or silk sock liners help a lot. Bring plenty of extra socks.

Clothing should consist of three layers. None of the layers should be cotton if possible. The inner layer should wick moisture away from the skin (polypropylene underwear works well). The second layer should trap an air layer (pile and fleece work well). The outer layer should stop the wind (Nylon is good). A good hat and gloves finish the outfit. Wind-resistance is a good feature.

Final Remarks

Now that you know a little about us, please ask us questions to learn even more!

Accompanying this handbook are a listing of adult leaders and a calendar of events for the Scout year.

Please keep this handbook in a safe place in your home so that you can consult it whenever you have a question -- but, in all cases, if you need information, please ask!

Troop 22

Camping Equipment

These need to be carried in a pack or bag. Please no suitcases. Much of our camping is car camping, where a good backpack is not essential. We recommend packing in Ziploc style bags, 2 gallon work well, as these bags keep your clothes dry in case of rain and also keep items from leaking onto other gear. For campouts, the Scout needs in addition to the above list:

- Warm sleeping bag (around +20-30 degrees for summer camping and – 20 for winter camping)
- Air mattress or sleeping pad
- Ground cloth
- Two sets of clothes: socks, pants, shirt, underwear
- Sweatshirt
- Warm coat
- One pair gloves
- Warm pajamas or sweats to sleep in
- Extra pair of shoes or hiking boots (no open toe shoes)
- Extra pair of socks and underwear
- Warm hat
- Toiletries in Ziploc bag: hairbrush, toothbrush and paste, washcloth, towel and soap in soap dish and other personal items
- Mess kit with metal or plastic plate, cup, bowl, fork, knife and spoon
- Insect repellent

LABEL EVERYTHING WITH YOUR SON'S NAME

Troop Camping

Camping is a great opportunity for Scouts and Troop 22 offers weekend camping trips approximately 10 months a year in addition to summer camp and high adventure trips.

Summer Camp

Our annual summer camp is a fun-filled activity planned for a 2 week period annually during late July/early August.

Summer camp is a weeklong trip that costs approximately \$300.00 per Scout plus any spending money. Parents are encouraged to attend for the week or a few days. Physicals are required for everyone attending summer camp and a special form is needed (class 3 forms available on our website).

It is strongly recommended that every Scout attend summer camp. It is the single most important activity of the Scout year.

The New Scout

When a boy joins the Troop, he is placed in a patrol. Each patrol consists of six-to-eight boys led by a Patrol Leader.

A Troop Guide, an older Scout, is assigned to each new patrol as a "big brother" to help the new Scouts feel welcome and adjust to the Troop and its activities. An Assistant Scoutmaster is assigned to each patrol and functions as an advisor to the patrol. With the assistance of the patrol leader and Troop Guide, the new Scouts make friends and become familiar with Scouting and the Troop.

It is particularly important for new Scouts to attend all regular Troop meetings and as many camping trips as possible so that they quickly get a solid understanding of the breadth of the Scouting experience and their own role in the Troop.

The New Parent

We want our new parents to feel at home with the Troop from the very beginning. In fellowship, we provide our sons with the best which Scouting has to offer. Many events are planned for the specific purpose of encouraging new parents to meet adult leaders and other parents in the Troop. Please attend as many of these gatherings as you can.

If your boy is new to scouting, some added patience and cooperation is needed. Your encouragement and help, as well as a willingness to let him stand or fail on his own, are vital to your boy's scouting career.

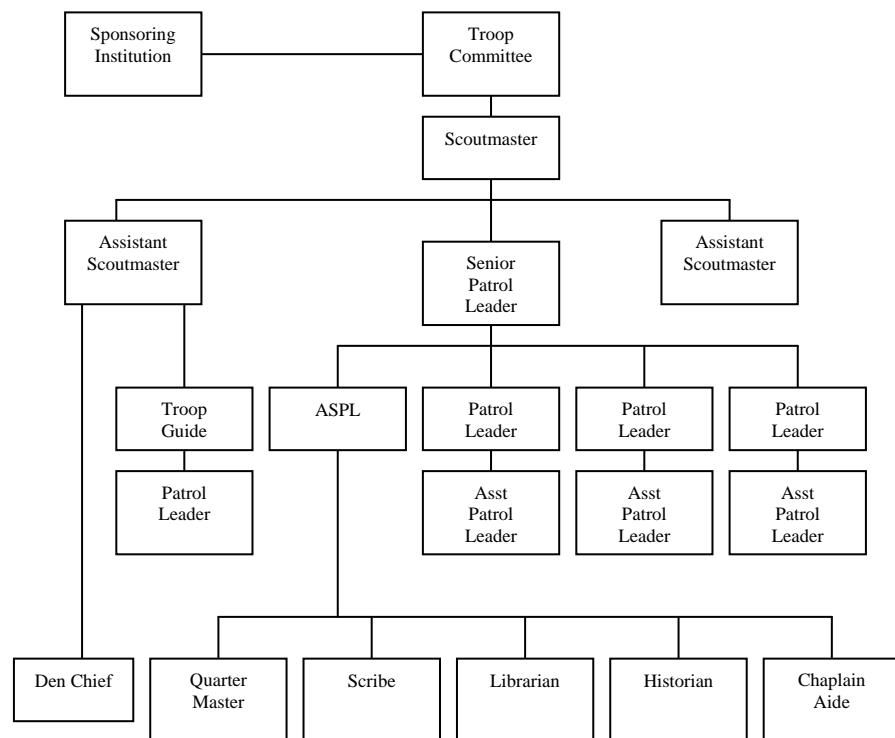
Boy Scout activities are not like Cub Scouts. We will not "spoon feed" the boys to advance through ranks, nor will we provide all the planning and entertainment to ensure they have a great time on outings (although this is a primary goal). We treat our boys as young adults and much of the decision making is put upon the shoulders of our boy leaders. We ensure learning opportunities and encouragement is provided at every activity, but if a boy fails to produce sufficient effort and teamwork he will probably not have a good time nor advance. To enjoy scouting, a boy must learn to work as part of his patrol and try to master his basic scouting skills quickly and enthusiastically.

You are cordially invited to participate either as an adult leader or as an active parent. We welcome you and your ideas.

Troop Organization

The Boy Scouts of America does not operate units directly. Instead, it grants charters to organizations authorizing them to organize Scout Troops as part of their youth service program.

Our chartered organizations are the Holy Ghost Parish and VFW Post 697. The Parish Priest and the VFW Commander are responsible for the Troop. They appoint a Chartered Organization Representative to act as a liaison to the Troop.



Troop Committee

The Troop committee acts for the institution head in making policies and providing support for the Troop. The committee is headed by the Committee Chair. Positions on the committee include Secretary, Treasurer and members responsible for Advancement, Activities, Equipment and Membership. These people are responsible for major areas of the Troop operation. Committee meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Cardinal Spellman Center. We encourage you to attend these meetings.

Troop & Scout Equipment

The Troop owns a lot of equipment to camp with. This equipment consists of tents, first-aid kits, tarps, cook kits, stoves, axes, etc. The Scout does not need his own tent. A Scout who does have a tent may use it if he wishes; however, we discourage the use of tents that sleep more than three Scouts.

Each Scout should have his own personal equipment. The lists here are to you a guideline when packing. We expect the Scouts to pack their own gear but for new Scouts, we ask that parents check that all the gear is there. The Coleman Outlet store in Wrentham or Hilton's Tent City, 272 Friend St Boston, MA are local stores with good selections of outdoor gear.

For every outdoor activity, in a daypack or waist pack, the Scout needs the outdoor essentials:

- Pocketknife (Toten' Chip required)
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing
- Rain gear
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Trail food
- Matches & fire starter in waterproof container (Fireman Chip required)
- Sun protection
- Map & compass
- Boy Scout handbook

The following items will NOT be allowed on Troop events:

- Electronics - including Walkman, MP3, CDs, radios, Game Boys, etc
- Sheath knife (only 1 small folding pocketknife is allowed)
- Ax or hatchet
- Firearms
- Water-shooting items – including balloons, super-soakers, squirt guns
- Fireworks

Activities

Our Troop schedules a number of activities each year including Troop meetings, hikes, camp outs, ski trips...whatever the Scouts plan. Times, meeting places and uniforms will be announced 4 weeks in advance of each activity. Transportation, attendance, fees and menus are collected and confirmed 2 weeks prior to the event.

Costs of the activity will be announced before the activity, and it is the Scout's responsibility to pay them. When we cook by patrols, food costs will be split among patrol members. Each patrol collects the food money and then shops for the patrol food. Scouts who commit to attending an activity, but do not attend, will be responsible for their share of the cost.

Transportation for Activities

Each Troop 22 family is expected to drive on two short trips (or one long trip) per year. Your cooperation in this regard allows the Troop to provide safe and economical travel to and from its destinations.

The Troop provides drivers with detailed maps that are distributed before each trip to assist adults in locating the camps.

Troop Meetings

The Troop meets each Thursday from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM in the main hall at the Cardinal Spellman Center. Troop meetings concentrate on skill development, patrol involvement, competition, games, and fun. The Patrol Leaders' Council plans each meeting around a specific theme. One patrol arrives 20 minutes early for set-up and remains after meeting adjournment for clean-up.

During the Patrol Meeting portion of the Troop meeting, a brief and informal adult information meeting is held to discuss upcoming events and other matters. This short gathering provides parents with an opportunity to ask questions or obtain clarifications about Troop activities and issues. Everyone is welcome at this information meeting.

Scouts are encouraged to attend all meetings, and to arrive before the starting time. Each Scout should bring his Boy Scout Handbook, a notebook and pen/pencil to every meeting. He should also wear his uniform. Adults are welcome and should attend any meeting or activity they wish. There are no closed or secret meetings.

Courts of Honor are held during the year. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras and families to help us celebrate the achievements of our sons. Each patrol will be assigned something to bring to the Court of Honors - usually drinks, desserts, or paper goods donated by our Scout families.

The Troop Leadership

The Troop is run by the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) who is elected by the entire Troop membership (i.e., the Scouts). The SPL selects a staff to help him in his job. These positions of responsibility include:

- Quartermasters keep track of troop-owned equipment
- Troop Guides are assigned to New Scout patrols
- Historians to keep troop records
- Librarians to keep the troop's library of official literature
- Scribes take attendance at meetings, keeping notes at patrol leaders' council meetings, and helps write a troop newsletter
- Chaplain's Aides conduct Scout's Own services
- Den Chiefs work with a local Cub Scout Pack
- Instructors are the primary teachers in the Troop
- An Order of the Arrow Troop Representative to serve as a liaison between troop members and the OA lodge

Elections are held yearly before Summer Camp. Junior Leader Training is offered to help Scouts who hold office or wish to hold office. It is an opportunity for leadership development.

The Patrol

The Scouts are divided into patrols of 6-10 members. Each patrol elects a Patrol Leader to run the patrol. He selects an Assistant Patrol Leader and other positions as he sees fit. Patrols compete against each other for the highest point score within an established time period. Points are awarded based on patrol members' attendance at Troop meetings and camping trips; for patrols' winning in specific competitive events; and for other patrol accomplishments. The winning patrol receives a prize that is established and announced in advance of each competition.

Patrol Leaders' Council

The Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Scribe and the Patrol Leaders. For any particular patrol, the Assistant Patrol Leader fills in when the Patrol Leader is absent. They meet annually to plan the yearly calendar, and monthly to make detailed plans for the following month's meetings, events, and outings. The monthly PLC is held the second Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Cardinal Spellman Center. Parents are welcome to attend the PLC to watch as the boys plan.

General Information

Uniform

Boys Scout uniforms are classified into two groups: Class A (Scout shirt) and Class B (Scout T-shirt). Uniform for activities will be specified for each activity. Travel to and from activities will always be in uniform, either the Scout shirt, or Troop T-shirt. You may purchase one by contacting the committee chairman.

The minimum acceptable Class A uniform for meetings is an official Scout shirt, which must be clean, buttoned and tucked in, Scout pants and a Scout belt. The shirt must have the following patches, as specified in the Boy Scout Handbook:

Below are locations of various patches & emblems to be sewed on his shirt:

- Left Sleeve – Old Colony Council Strip, the number 22, current position patch (if applicable)
- Right Sleeve - American flag, patrol emblem, one Quality Unit emblem (if applicable)
- Left Pocket - Rank badge
- Above left pocket - World Scouting Emblem, year pins

Additional patches may be worn on the uniform if the Scout has earned them: Arrow of Light, Recruiter strip, Interpreter strip, Trained strip, Religious Award knot with devices, Order of the Arrow Lodge flap, and temporary patch. If worn, these must be in the correct location. The Boy Scout Handbook has uniform information on the inside covers and pages 112-13.

Additional uniform items are encouraged, and are appropriate for any meeting. If a hat is worn with the uniform, it must be an official Scout hat. Full-dress items are encouraged at Courts of Honor and other ceremonial occasions: Merit Badge sash and medals.

Class B uniforms are a Scout T-shirt which has the fleur-de-lis somewhere on it, tucked into any scout pants or shorts. Your Scout should ask his patrol leader if he is unsure what to wear to an activity.

Merit Badges

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. New Scouts will be encouraged to focus on their requirements for achieving First Class rather than totally concentrating on merit badges. Scouts may however earn merit badges anytime after joining the Troop. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. When a Scout feels he is ready to work on a merit badge, he will ask the Scoutmaster for a merit badge card. This authorizes the Scout to work on the requirements with a merit badge counselor approved by the Scoutmaster and the Troop advancement chair. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. Additionally, the counselors or Troop will offer merit badges during Troop time. These are normally badges that are required: physical fitness, communications, etc. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge, the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster and the Troop Advancement Chairman that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit badges may also be earned at summer camp, jamboree, and Merit Badge University.

All parents of Troop 22 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors.

Scoutmaster Conference

When a Scout feels he has satisfied all requirements for a rank, he must schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scoutmaster. This must be done before the Board of Review.

Board of Review

When the Scoutmaster is satisfied that the Scout has passed all requirements for a rank, the Scout will schedule a Board of Review (BOR). The Scoutmaster can guide the Scout in this process. This is a review board consisting of 3-5 members of the Troop Committee. The Scout must be a Class A uniform.

This is not a retest on requirements. It is a discussion of what the Scout has learned, how he feels about the Troop, and what the Troop can do better. The board's duty is to see where the Scout is, Scouting wise, and to derive a general consensus about whether the Scout has achieved competency. It is recommended that a Scout spend some time reflecting on his Scouting career before entering the Board of Review.

Rank badges will be presented to the Scout at the meeting following the Board of Review. Formal recognition will be presented at the next Court of Honor.

Annual Parent's Meeting

In July of each year, the Troop holds a mandatory annual parent's meeting. One parent from each family is expected to attend. At this meeting, the annual Troop program is presented, a discussion of the past year is held, and a presentation regarding the Troop is made.

Any issues, concerns, or questions can be brought forward at this meeting and discussed.

Advancement

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." This 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, for which he is awarded badges: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging the tasks -- and the more rewarding.

Achievements 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.

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.

Troop Rules (Code of Conduct)

Our Troop operates by the Scout Oath and Law. It is expected that every Scout, boy and adult, will be respectful to each other, guests and property at all times.

Specific rules adopted by the Troop are:

- There will be no profanity at any Troop meetings or activities.
- We will not tolerate destruction of any property.
- We discourage roughhousing between Scouts. Roughhousing between a large Scout and a small one, or more than one against one is not allowed.
- There will be no hazing or initiations of new Scouts.
- There will be no use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs on any Scout activity.

Adults who smoke must do so in designated areas, and not in the presence of Scouts.

Rule violations will be handled by the PLC. In extreme cases, or when the PLC is not able to resolve the issue, adult leaders will become involved.

Newspapers

Newspapers are printed out and given to the Scouts at a Troop meeting once a month. The Troop also has a bulletin board at each troop meeting where information is posted. Make sure you or your son checks out the board at each meeting. Announcements are also at end of every Troop meeting. Come a few minutes early to pick up your Scout and hear them.

Email

Email is a key communication tool for the Troop. Please provide your email to the Membership Chair if you have not done so yet. Many families give mom's, dad's and the Scout's email so all can be informed of the Troop activities. It is very important that you check your email the day of Troop activities, as there may be last minute updates.

We try not to have many last minute changes but please remember that Troop 22 is a boy run activity. The Scouts are learning about leadership, deadlines and communication with other Scouts and their families and may not be as efficient as we would like initially.

Website

The Troop maintains a website with useful information, a calendar of events, patrol pages and other items the Scouts decide to post. The Website is located at <http://www.t22whitman.org>

Troop Finances

The Scouts are responsible for financing the Troop. Troop dues are \$80.00 per year and cover the following costs:

- \$15.00 for national the Scout's BSA membership
- \$15.00 to register a parent
- \$50.00 for Troop for badges, awards, equipment, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole

These are payable by the end of each October. Scouts who join in midyear pay a prorated amount at the time they join.

The Troop will have fundraisers during the year, as approved by the Troop committee. Scouts are expected to participate. These funds are used for equipment costs, activity fees, advancement and other badges and program requirements. Special fund-raising events may be scheduled for specific trips or needs.

Troop 22 has a policy that any Scout who wishes to participate in a camping experience will not be denied that opportunity based on financial status. On a strictly confidential basis, the Troop will provide financial assistance from its Campership fund to any Scout in need of such help. Scouts or their parents should speak directly to the Committee Chair about such assistance.

Safety

Troop 22 adult leaders have been trained and are experienced in providing a safe environment for all activities. Great care is always taken to ensure the safety of everyone. The Boy Scouts requires that each registered leader undergo a Corey background check. This is done both for the safety of the boys, parents, and leaders.

Medical Forms / Accident Insurance

Each year, you are asked to sign a form authorizing our adult leaders to obtain medical treatment for injuries. Before summer camp, forms are provided for medical exams so that we know in advance about any physical restrictions.

The Boy Scouts of America maintains an accident insurance policy which covers the cost of any medical bills not covered by any other insurance.

Parent Involvement

Parents are always needed to help with the Scouts and the Troop. Parents are more behind the scenes in Boy Scouts than in Cub Scouts. Have no fear though; you are needed more now than ever! There are positions available at the committee level, as an Assistant Scoutmaster, as a Merit Badge Counselor or on a camping trip or even as a driver to an event. This program doesn't work without you! You can work directly with your son's patrol, with another group of Scouts or behind the scenes.

You can become a merit badge counselor just by thinking of your interests. For example, if your hobby or profession is then you could be a counselor for

Fishing	Fish & Wildlife Management or Fishing
Business, Finance	American Business, Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, Salesmanship
Health and Medicine	First Aid, Emergency Preparedness, Safety, Medicine, Public Health, Dentistry
Art	Art, Basketry, Graphic Arts, Leatherwork, Pottery, Sculpture, Textile, Wood Carving, Painting, Drafting
Animals	Pets, Veterinary Medicine, Mammal Study, Insect Study, Bird Study, Animal Science
Politics, Civics	Citizenship in the Community, Nation and World, Communications, Public Speaking
Fitness	Personal Fitness, Swimming, Cycling, Hiking, Camping, Backpacking, Climbing, Golf, Sports, Waterskiing, Whitewater
Boating	Rowing, Waterskiing, Whitewater, Oceanography, Motorboating, Canoeing, Small-Boat Sailing

With over 120 merit badges, we're positive you can find a badge to help the Scouts with. Once you've identified a merit badge that you'd like to help with, let the Scoutmaster know and he'll add you to the list. You should be knowledgeable about the Merit Badge that you have chosen so that you can instruct the Scouts properly. Merit Badge Counselors must fill out an application and take the Youth Protection training. When a Scout is interested in earning your badge, he will call you to set up a time or you can announce to the Troop that you would like to work with a group on a badge.

Please do volunteer. We realize your time is precious but nothing is more precious than your child. It's a fabulous reward to watch our children evolve into young men and leaders.