

ADVENTURES OF BOY SCOUTING



**Parent /Guardian
Orientation**

**Hudson Valley Council
Boy Scouts of America**



When Tradition Meets Tomorrow

**Welcome To
Scouting's Quality
Program**

**Building For
Tomorrow and Beyond!**

THIS BOOKLET WILL:

**Inform parents / guardians
about Boy Scouting and
The Boy Scouts of America**

To find a Troop near you call (845) 566-7300



OUR VISION



The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Scouting continues to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure.
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character traits as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.
- Train young people in citizenship, service and leadership.
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality program.

**MOST OF ALL, KIDS, AND THEIR
FAMILIES, COME TO US FOR A GREAT
TIME AND FOR THE ADVENTURE THAT
WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR A LIFETIME.**



YOUR SON, SCOUTING, AND YOU

As a parent / guardian, you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth, a self – reliant, dependable, successful and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910 , we’ve been in partnership with responsible chartered organizations in weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship and enhancing physical fitness in youth.



These values help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence, as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow.

With all the negative influences in today’s society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a program that is fun and adventurous and helps him “be prepared” to shape his own future in a positive manner.





BOY SCOUTING

- This is a troop and patrol centered program for boys in the sixth grade through senior high school. It is designed to build and foster lifetime skills.
- The Scouting program builds self-esteem, self-reliance and self-respect through a blend of outdoor experiences, educational and instructional skills, recognition, value binding and fun.
- Among the activities offered are: more than 120 hobby and career skills available through the Merit Badge program, year round camping and outside activities, an honor camping society, recognition, leadership training, service projects and special events.





BOY SCOUTING

I. YOUR BOY IS A MEMBER OF A PATROL

- A Patrol has 4 to 8 boys.
- The Patrol is led by a Patrol Leader, who is guided by an Assistant Scoutmaster.
- The Patrol usually meets once a week separate from the Troop.
- The Patrol meets with and interacts with its Troop once a week.
- The Patrol Leader is assisted by an Assistant Patrol Leader and the Patrol Staff.
- The Patrol members work on individual advancement.
- Patrol meetings have an agenda similar to the Troop's pre-opening, skills instruction, patrol meeting, inter-patrol activity, closing and a session after the meeting for clean-up and tutoring.

II. YOUR BOY IS A MEMBER OF A TROOP

- A troop is made up of a number of Patrols.
- The Troop is split up according to ability groups: New Scout Patrol, Experienced Scout Patrol and Venture Patrol for Older Scouts.
- The Troop meets weekly and has special occasions such as Courts of Honor.
- The Troop meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader under the direction of the Scoutmaster.
- The Troop will participate in and run outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, swimming, lifesaving, boating, sailing, archery, sports, fishing, gardening, and wilderness survival.
- While participating in the above the Scout can earn Merit Badges for any of the above or any of the other 120 hobby-oriented subjects, including first aid, safety, stamp collecting, aviation, computers, cooking, dog care, emergency preparedness, engineering, firemanship, forestry, handicap awareness, law, nature, photography, scholarship, space exploration, theater, weather and wood carving. Just to name a few.



III. THE TROOP IS RUN BY THE TROOP COMMITTEE.

- The Troop Committee is made up of a group of qualified adults appointed by the Chartered Organization to administer the program of the Troop. Usually, the committee members and other troop leaders are parents/guardians and members of the Chartered Organization.
- The Troop Committee meets in support of the Troop's operations and leadership once a month.
- The Troop Committee is led by the Committee Chair in concert with the Scoutmaster.
- The Troop Committee plans fund raisers, provides transportation needs and okays the Troops annual plan.
- The Troop Committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages Troop finances, orders and delivers advancement badges, maintains Troop equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.
- The Troop Committee provides guidance to the Troop's youth officers.

IV. THE TROOP IS OWNED BY THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION

- Chartered Organizations include schools, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth.
- The Chartered Organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates the Troop within the guidelines and policies of the Chartered Organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The Chartered Organization selects a Chartered Organization Representative who serves as a liaison between the Troop, the organization, and the Hudson Valley Council.



RANKS OF BOY SCOUTING *Onward to First Class*

It is the goal of the program for a boy to advance from Scout rank to Tenderfoot to Second Class to First Class rank, all in the first year. Yes, a focused Troop program with enthusiastic, participating youth can climb the pathway to First Class within the first year of membership by mastering certain Scout craft skills.

- Each Scout is to be judged by the test of participation: your attendance, your appearance, your attitude.
- Each Scout is judged by the test of Scout Spirit: in your heart, you try to live the Scout Oath and Law. You live it in your Patrol and Troop, in your school and at home, in your church / synagogue / mosque.
- You are a help to others and your daily Good Turn grows stronger and more challenging.
- Each Scout grows in his Scout skills dealing with the outdoors, having a healthy body, helping others and improving himself in regards to his family, his community and his country.
- Each Scout sets goals for growth for himself through a Personal Growth Agreement with his Scoutmaster.
- Each Scout must pass a progress review conducted by the Troop leaders.

EXPERIENCED-SCOUT PATROL *Upward to Eagle*

When you reach First Class, you are on your way to Eagle Scout Rank. Before you lies the trail of the Star Scout, the Life Scout, and the Eagle Scout. There are three more tests added beyond those passed for First Class.

- Each Scout must have a certain number of Merit Badges, some from a required list.
- Each Scout must give leadership to the Troop.
- Each Scout must do a service project benefiting others.



LET'S GO BOY SCOUTING

GOOD TURN

A Scout, a Troop, a District, a Council....all do service for others.

SUMMER CAMP

Green forests, blue water, camp food, archery, swimming, rappelling, hiking, lifesaving, afternoon nap, nature center, COPE, rifle range, shotgun shooting, crafts, baseball tournaments, canoeing, sailing, rowing, lifeguard training, songs, skits, friends, memories..... etcetera, etcetera, etcetera!

HIKING

"Over hill, over dale, we will hit the Scouting trail;

AS THE Boy Scouts go marching along.
And it's Hi! Hi! Hee! The BSA's for me.
Shout out your name and shout it strong!
Wherever we go, we will always know
That the Boy Scouts go hiking along."



WEEKENDS

"Hey, This weekend let's go camping at Camp Nooteeming."

"Okay, the next time I'd like to go to Camp Bullowa and hike the 1777 Historic Trail."

Did any of you go to Philmont High Adventure Camp in New Mexico, or the Sea Base in Florida or the Northern Tier Base Camp in Minnesota! Let's ask our Scoutmaster to get us some information.

Where else do you want to go?

BE PREPARED

Life is likely to throw you many curves, so BE PREPARED!

Be prepared! Know how to save your sister, brother, mother.

I know how to do that. I did it in Scouts. I'm prepared!



BOY'S LIFE MAGAZINE

BOY'S LIFE MAGAZINE **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of BOY'S LIFE MAGAZINE is to "ENTERTAIN AND EDUCATE" America's youth and to open their eyes to the joyous world of reading. We do this through a proven mix of news, nature, sports, history, fiction, science, comics, and Scouting. We bring lively writing to a wide range of story topics illustrated with colorful graphics and photos.

BOY'S LIFE MAGAZINE and quality Scouting go together. BOY'S LIFE helps develop a taste for good reading and takes the program of Scouting into every home, every month. BOY'S LIFE tells our youth that life is good and that America's a neat place to live. The magazine opens a Scout's eyes to the joyous world of reading.

BOY'S LIFE MAGAZINE **GROWING STRONG**

Since 1911, Boy's Life magazine has published more than 1,000 issues, and has attracted more than 4 billion readers! As we begin the 21st Century, Boy's Life stands alone as the premier magazine for youth concerned with good reading and good character.



SCOUTING IS FOR ADULTS, TOO

Adult leadership is fun, challenging and rewarding. Boy Scouting is an enjoyable experience in which parents, friends and adults interested in the growth and welfare of youth can participate and receive great satisfaction and accomplishment.

Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents/guardians. Quality troop adult leadership and program go hand in hand.

The desired personal qualities for adult leadership positions include:

- Interest in youth development
- Likes young people
- Has views supportive of the ideals and principles of the Scout Oath and Law
- Is a positive role model both in personal conduct, ethical behavior and appearance
- A person to whom you would entrust the well-being of your child

Some of the dividends that enrich the life of a leader dedicating time, talent and enthusiasm for Scouting:

- Fun and fellowship with other families, sharing your pride in the boys' accomplishments
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families
- A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and to help shape them into men who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others
- The opportunity to help make a difference in the life of boys as they grow in mind and body
- A code to live by which sets a worthwhile example for both boys and adults
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified in this organization—wearing the Scouting uniform is a visible means of showing you believe in and stand up for the ideals and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America.



WHO MAKES SCOUTING GO?

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer unit leaders are an example of the principle of service to others in Scouting. Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. They volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve their son and his friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth of the community.

For every position in Scouting- both youth and adults- there are guide lines and training available to show the way to success. Some is available on DVD which can be borrowed for study and other training opportunities are provided by the Hudson Valley Council and your Scouting district. Training dates are published annually as part of the Council and District calendars and should be included in your Troop's annual calendar.

In your Troop, the Scoutmaster's position is similar to a president of a company. He or she will have a number of Assistant Scoutmasters. The leader of this company is the Committee chair who directs the actions of the Troop Committee. Overseeing all of this is the Chartered Organization Representative who reports to the Chartered Organization Head.

On the youth level, the Senior Patrol Leader, through advice and consent of the Scoutmaster and the Troop Leaders Council, directs the operations of the whole Troop through the elected Patrol Leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader is assisted in various Troop functions by his staff, including The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Den Chiefs, Musician, Bugler, and Junior Assistant Scoutmasters.

A Troop is made up of a number of patrols, under the guidance of its Patrol Leader. There will be an Assistant Patrol Leader, a patrol Quartermaster, a Scribe and any other as the Patrol may choose.

All activities, gatherings and meetings are carried out under the guidance of at least two-deep leadership.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

All of these resources are available to help you be successful.

STAFF SUPPORT: Our professional support staff at the Service Center can assist when needed and get you in touch with other necessary resources. In addition, each town is served by a full time District Executive.

ROUND TABLES: A monthly leader “in-service” meeting for all adult Scout volunteers, which provides help with program, games, skits, and songs for use at Scout meetings.

TROOP LEADERSHIP: Most troops have been in existence for many years and have existing leadership who can provide direct assistance and support to your program. Many troops even have a library of resource books to aid leaders in putting on programs. In the case of a new Troop there are Commissioners who will guide you through the process. Plus a series of books such as Scoutmaster Hand book, a Field guide and other Program Resources are available to you.

DISTRICT STAFF: A group of packs and troops in a geographical area are organized into a district which is staffed by an experienced volunteer corps of specialists to provide on-going support to Troops and Packs.

ESSENTIALS AND LEADER SPECIFIC TRAINING: The District provides frequent training courses in your community organized by experienced Scout Leaders. The training will give you a full understanding of the Boy Scout program, as well as many aides and resources to help you in your Troop operation. It is very important to attend New Leader Essentials Training, Youth Protection Training as well as the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leaders Specific Training and Outdoor Leadership Skills. Training dates are available at www.hvctraining.com or contact the Council Service Center.[845-566-7300]

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING: University of Scouting is a great event to sharpen your skills and get great information. Youth Protection and Risk Zone Training are two additional courses important to your leadership position. Details are available at the Council Service Center.



BUT THAT'S NOT ALL

In order for many identified Scouting Services to be provided for you and your son, the Hudson Valley Council must raise additional funds. Aside from camping costs, the cost per Scout this year is \$128.00.



Each year, usually in January or February, all Scouting families are given the opportunity to participate in the annual Friends of Scouting campaign to help support the annual cost of Scouting. You have an opportunity to help. If you feel that the Scouting program has made a significant impact on your son, please consider becoming a Friend of Scouting when a Campaign representative visits your Troop. Make a difference in the lives of boys by contributing to the ongoing success of Scouting.

BOY SCOUT MISSION

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime while achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

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	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent



WHAT DOES SCOUTING COST?

Immediate costs:

Annual registration fee	\$15.00
Annual Insurance fee	\$ 3.00
Annual Boys' Life Magazine	\$12.00
Scout Handbook	\$ 9.99

TROOP BUDGET

The Troop prepares an annual budget to fund their “ideal year” of Scouting which includes for most Troops activities, awards and advancement, recognition, etc.

Troops fund the annual budget in many ways. Often dues are charged to each Scout family to offset the budget. However, most Troops participate in the Council sponsored Popcorn Sale which helps supplement Troop dues for Scout families and also helps boys raise enough money for their summertime camp experience.

Your Troop leadership will give you additional detailed information about your troop budget and the annual popcorn sale and other fund raising projects that they do throughout the year.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are not required to join Scouting, but they provide a special way for boys to display awards earned and show Scout spirit. Your Troop has its own uniform guidelines.

Uniforms can be purchased at The Scout Shop in Salisbury Mills, NY as well as other area stores.

Contact the Scout Shop at [845] 564-4210.



YOUR COUNCIL

The Boy Scout Troops in your area are members of a larger Scouting Family that is called the Hudson Valley Council. The Hudson Valley Council is a nonprofit corporation whose responsibility is to provide the programs of the Boy Scouts of America [including Cub Scouting] to all the communities in its geographical area. It is the Council's responsibility to provide Boy Scout Troops the tools and resources it needs to conduct a quality character-building program for your child.

Due to the large geography of the Hudson Valley Council, it is divided into smaller entities called Districts. Districts provide localized support, training and programming. In addition to local volunteer support, a local Scouting professional is provided by the Hudson Valley Council to give leadership and guidance to the Scouting volunteers in your community.

Local camp properties are also provided and maintained for your Troops use. Our camps include Camp Nooteming in Salt Point, NY, and Camp Bullowa in Stony Point, NY. We also operate Cub Scout Day camps at various locations in the Council. A highlight of any Scout's adventure lies in the great outdoors.



The Hudson Valley Council serves over 9,000 youth in Dutchess, Sullivan, Rockland, Orange, and Pike Counties.



VALUES

Boy Scouting is an exciting program for youth and adults who want to share in the development of young people.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values the BSA strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law.

A Troop is made up of several patrols that work and hike and camp together. A boy immediately learns that his fellow Scouts are trying to live by a unique set of rules; rules that stress trustworthiness, loyalty, honesty, and reverence. The Scout also learns the skills of Scouting—how to handle an axe, build a fire, cook a meal, pack a pack, and pitch a tent.

The Scout Oath and Law become his guides to life. The Scout motto is “Be Prepared.” This means the Scout will be prepared to take care of himself and to help other people. The Scout Slogan is “Do a Good Turn Daily.” This helps the Scout learn to be of service to others.

The Spirit of Scouting directs Scouts to strive to make their troop the best. To be the best, Scouts in each patrol must work together. This begins with learning and understanding the basic ideas of doing things together in the Troop. These ideals are embodied in the joining tests shown in the Boy Scout handbook. Upon completion of the joining requirements the new member is presented with his Scout badge.

Then it’s time to put the OUTING in Scouting into practice, with Troop hikes and overnight campouts on the agenda—all kinds of fun and adventure that youth who aren’t Scouts couldn’t have.

The Scout Oath, which every member takes when he joins, is very important. The Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law are tough for anyone to follow, but to provide a road map to follow for life.

The real price of belonging to the Troop will be regular attendance at meetings and working toward all the things that make a Scout prepared.



MY TROOP INFORMATION

I am in the Hudson Valley Council.

My Troop is part of the _____ District

I am in Troop number _____

My Patrol is _____

My Chartered Organization is _____

My Patrol Leader's name is _____

My Patrol Leader's phone number is _____

My Patrol Leader's e-mail address is _____

My Scoutmaster's name is _____

My Scoutmaster's phone number is _____

My Scoutmaster's e-mail address is _____

My first Troop meeting will be _____

My first Patrol meeting will be _____

I CAN REACH THE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER BY CALLING:

[845] 566-7300

Fax: [845] 566-7332

www.hvcbsa.org
thescoutzone.org



Notes



**HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL
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