

Noblesville Troop 222

HANDBOOK



A Guide for Parents, Scouts, and friends

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Welcome to Troop 222, Scout!

Hello, New Scout, and welcome!

I am excited to have you as part of our troop in Scouts BSA. Whether you're involved in Scouts to make new friends, gain leadership skills, earn merit badges, experience the outdoors, or all of the above, you're setting off on an adventure that can take you far.

The skills you learn in Scouting won't just help you now – they are skills that prepare you for life. You'll learn how to be a better citizen in your community – try out different outdoor activities – become a leader – make friends – and be proud of what YOU can accomplish.



As you join our troop, you will be welcomed by girls who have been part of the troop before you joined. These older scouts will help you as you start out. If you have questions, ask them! They will help you find the right answers.

Our troop is Scout-led, which means that you are the ones making the decisions – you pick the activities, you choose the topics for the meetings, and you contact speakers or ask scoutmasters to present information. You will get to choose your outdoor adventures, and your scout leaders will help you get the resources, training, and skills to get you there.

If you joined Scouts with your eye on a goal, your leaders are here to help, whether it's to learn to camp outside for the first time or earn the rank of Eagle Scout. This is your journey, and we're excited to part of it.

This booklet is for you and your parents, and we hope it contains what you need to know about being a scout.

WELCOME!

Scoutmaster Jenny Sherrill



Scoutmaster Jenny Sherrill and
Assistant Scoutmaster Annie
Hilbert, October 2021
backpacking trip.



Welcome to Troop 222, Parents and Guardians!

In Troop 222, we take seriously our mission to prepare girls for adventure, growing young women who are confident in themselves, their knowledge, their skills, and their bodies. The leaders of Troop 222 are excited to welcome each girl into Scouting and to provide a high-quality troop experience of leadership, adventure, and learning.

This Troop Handbook is a resource for you and your scout as to how Troop 222 works. Scouts BSA has a defined program, and by following this program, your scout will work through various requirements for each rank. The troop will work on many of the first few ranks together, though missing meetings will mean a scout must work on her own on some of the advancement requirements. Troop meetings will also focus on “Scout Skills” – things a scout needs to know to participate in various activities – and might also include merit badges or other activities. Scouts is “fun with a purpose” – every activity, while fun, should have a reason behind it.

Why Scouts BSA?

In May 2018, Boy Scouts of America officially welcomed girls to become scouts. BSA had a history of including girls in scouting programs such as Explorer Posts and Venturing Crews, but girls were not able to earn the Eagle rank until now.

There are many youth programs to join, but we believe Scouts BSA (the name for the program is now not gendered, though the organization still bears the name Boy Scouts of America) offers superior training in leadership for life. Scouts learn leadership skills, plan service projects, experience outdoor adventures, and have the opportunity to join other scouts to earn merit badges and participate in camporees and other programs. For older scouts, high adventure programs and national and world jamborees are more chances to push themselves to new heights – literally and figuratively.

Where do I fit in?

Parents and other adults have many ways they may choose to get involved in Troop 222. As a parent, you will encourage your scout to work on her ranks and merit badges, bring her to meetings, and help her attend other activities like camping, hiking, and service projects. You might offer your expertise as a merit badge counselor. You might choose to attend to join us on activities. Our troop can always use adult leadership for committee positions. All adults who participate in troop activities *must* have BSA Youth Protection Training current and on file with our committee chair. This training must be renewed at least every two years.

Feel free to ask questions. This is going to be an exciting journey, and I’m glad you’re on it.

Yours in Scouting,
Jenny Sherrill, Scoutmaster



The Methods of Scouting and How You Will See Them in Troop 222

SCOUTING IDEALS

Scouting Ideals are the values BSA is based upon. The Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout all convey our ideals. (You'll find all of these in the first chapter of your Handbook.) We recite these at every meeting. Learning these ideals and understanding them is part of the rank of Scout.



PATROL METHOD

The Patrol Method is how we run our troop. A patrol is a group of 8-10 scouts who work together. They might help each other reach the next rank, operate as a team in games, camp together, and help the troop plan activities. Patrols have their own name, insignia (shown on a patch on their uniforms), and yell. Developing these helps patrol members grow together in a group.

PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Scouts BSA sets itself apart from other youth organizations with the emphasis we place on outdoor programs. Whether the troop is camping, hiking, participating in service projects, or otherwise adventuring, Troop 222 will plan at least one outdoor activity per month, all year.

ADVANCEMENT

Ranks, merit badges, and special awards recognize scouts for new skills and responsibilities, and that recognition encourages them to learn more and lead more. Some scouts work all the way to Eagle, but all scouts learn new skills through advancement – skills that they will use for a lifetime.

ADULT ASSOCIATION

Adult leaders in Scouts BSA, like Scoutmasters, assistant Scoutmasters, merit badge counselors, camp staff, and other "Scouters" (the term for adults involved in Scouting) become mentors for scouts. Scouts meet adults other than their parents who help them by listening, encouraging, challenging, and guiding. Troop 222's leaders undergo training through Scouts BSA and our council to provide an excellent experience for all scouts. Leaders who participate with Troop 222 do it because they want to, and they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience.

PERSONAL GROWTH

As scouts grow in maturity and experience – as well as physically – they go from being the new scouts to taking on leadership roles until they themselves are the "older scouts" and are examples for a new group of new scouts. This in turns becomes a sustaining cycle of learning and growing, being encouraged and then encouraging others. Older scouts are crucial to this process because they become examples for young scouts as they mature.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The title Eagle Scout is recognized in colleges, military, and business because of the opportunities for growth and leadership they experienced in scouts. Formal training, informal coaching, and experience allow scouts to learn to lead. Leading a troop, organizing an outing, and planning and executing an Eagle project are all management experience. Leadership roles are required for advanced ranks, and many roles fulfill these requirements – not just “up front” roles. Troop 222 leadership roles are elected and appointed throughout the year to give all scouts opportunities to take on different responsibilities.

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform is a recognizable way to identify a scout – it tells what unit that scout represents and what rank and accomplishments that scout has achieved. The uniform also unifies scouts and eliminates challenges of what is appropriate to wear for meetings and events. The uniform comprises the Field Uniform (scout shirt, olive pants, etc.) and the Activity Uniform (troop or scout-branded t-shirt and active pants, shorts or skort).



Troop 222 In Scouts BSA

We are part of the **national organization**.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Boy Scouts of America owns and operates high-adventure bases, including Summit Bechtel Scout Reservation in West Virginia, SeaBase in the Florida Keys, Northern Tier Scout Reserve in Northern Minnesota, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Since girls were welcomed to the Scouts program, it is known as Scouts BSA.

Our Council, Crossroads of America, is one of nine in the Indiana.



Crossroads Council maintains camps (including Ransburg, Kikthewenund, Belzer and Krietenstein), trainings, and events. Crossroads of America charters units for National and World Scout Jamborees.

The Golden-Burke Scout Center is operated by the Council. We are served by the Golden-Burke Scout Center, 7125 Fall

Creek Rd N, Indianapolis, IN 46256. District and council staff work here, and Crossroads Outfitters, the shop for all things scouting, is located here.

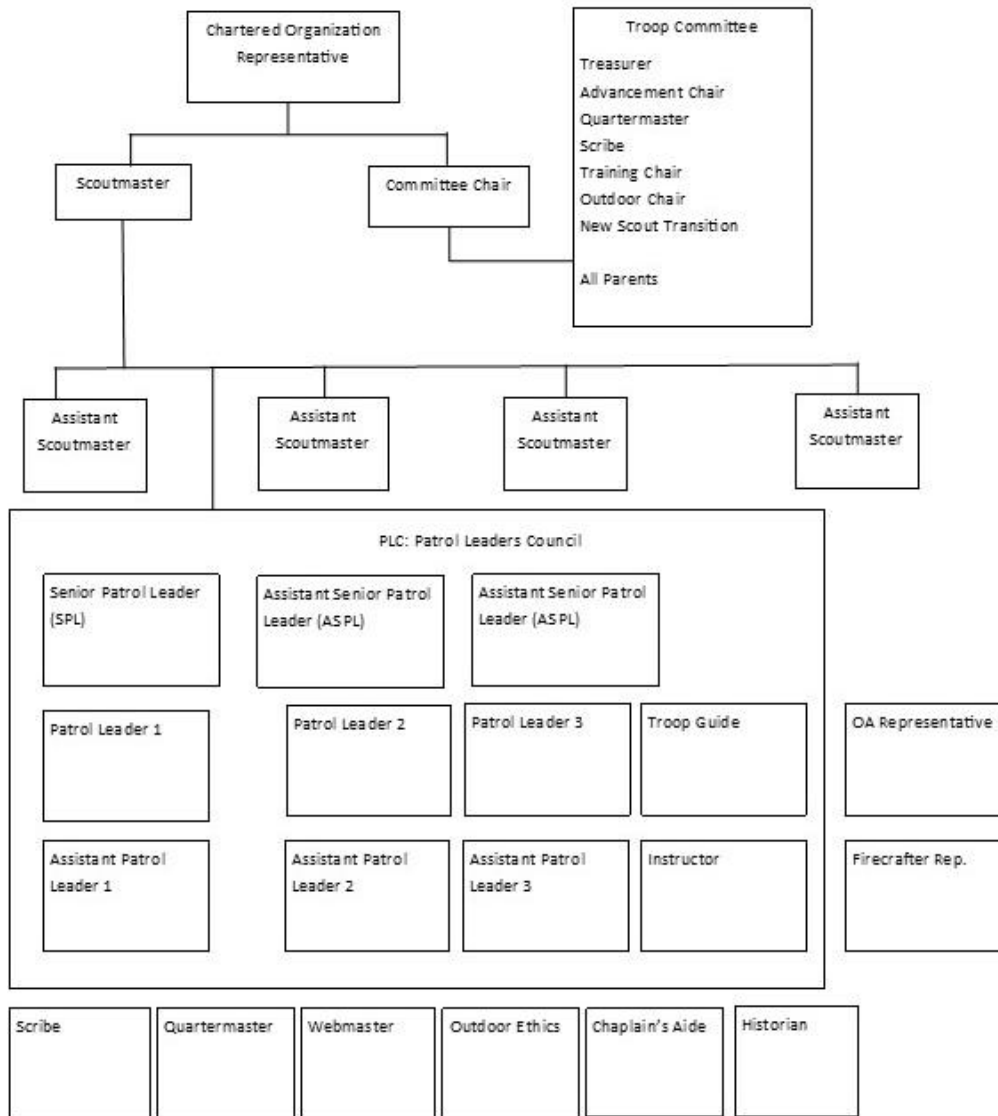
Our District is the Monon District. We are one of seven districts in the council. Our district offers training opportunities like Merit Badge University and University of Scouting (for adults), roundtables for scout leaders, and more.



Our Chartered Organization is Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville. This organization sponsors us as a part of their church but does not require troop members to be affiliated with their (or any) church. Our chartered organization provides a representative who is our liaison between our troop and the church leadership. They provide a place to meet, some storage space, and a place to park our (future) trailer.

In return, we offer service to the church by cleaning up after ourselves, staying in the space where we meet and not bothering other spaces or displays, and by helping with various church projects including seasonal clean-up days and the church's rummage sale in June.

Troop 222 Organization and Leadership



Troop 222 is organized into Scouts and Adults – the adults who work to help the troop function through administrative assistance are **the Committee**, while Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters help the troop’s Youth Leaders plan and organize meetings, activities, and service.

All parents and guardians are invited to be part of the Committee, whether as members or by filling vital volunteer roles. Similarly, all scouts are encouraged to take leadership roles in the troop.

SCOUT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

All troop leaders are expected to set a good example, wear the scout uniform properly, live by the Scout Oath and Law, and show scout spirit.

Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)

The highest youth leadership position in a troop, they are the primary link between a troop's Scouts and its adult leaders. The SPL is elected by the troop members and runs troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference and patrol leaders' council (PLC) meetings. SPL appoints other troop leaders with the Scoutmaster, assigns duties and responsibilities, assists the Scoutmaster with leader training, and provides leadership at outdoor activities, service projects, and events.



Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)

The second highest youth leadership position, working closely with the senior patrol leader to help the troop move forward. The assistant senior patrol leader is appointed by the senior patrol leader under the guidance of the Scoutmaster. The ASPL helps the SPL lead meetings and activities, runs the troop in the absence of the SPL, helps train and supervise troop leaders. ASPL serves as a member of the PLC and lends a hand controlling the patrols and building patrol spirit.



Quartermaster

Quartermasters are the troop's supply boss. The Quartermaster keeps records on patrol and troop equipment, makes sure equipment is in good working condition, issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition, makes suggestions for new or replacement items, and works with the troop committee member responsible for equipment.



Scribe

The scribe is the troop's secretary and attends and keeps a log of patrol leaders' council meetings, records individual Scout attendance, dues payments, and



advancement progress. The Scribe works with the troop committee member responsible for records and finance.



Chaplain Aide

Chaplain aides assist the troop chaplain (usually an adult from the troop committee or the chartered organization) and/or Scoutmaster in serving the religious needs of the troop, including religious services at troop activities. The Chaplain Aide encourages troop members to strengthen their own relationships with God through participation in religious activities appropriate to their faith, tells Scouts about the Religious Emblems program for their faith at least once a year, makes sure religious holidays are considered during the troop program planning process, and encourages saying grace at meals while camping or at other activities.

Instructor

Each instructor is an older troop member proficient in a Scouting skill who must also have the ability to teach that skill to others. An instructor typically teaches subjects that Scouts are eager to learn—especially those such as first aid, camping, and backpacking—that are required for outdoor activities and rank advancement and schedules merit badge counselors for troop instruction. A troop can have more than one instructor.



Webmaster

Troop webmasters are responsible for maintaining the troop's website. They make sure that information posted on the website is correct and up to date and that the privacy of youth and adult troop members is protected. A member of the troop committee may assist them with their work.



Troop Guide

The Troop Guide is appointed by the SPL and Scoutmasters to accompany the New Scout Patrol. The guide is an older scout who helps teach and mentor the new scouts in troop operations, scout skills, and rank advancement. The Troop Guide is part of PLC and helps the New Scout Patrol plan activities outside of Troop Meetings. When necessary, the troop guide stands up for the new scouts, reminding older scouts that they, too, were once new scouts, and can prevent bullying or harassment of younger scouts.



Outdoor Ethics Guide

Outdoor ethics guides help troops plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. Guides work to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities.



Patrol Leaders

Patrol Leaders plan and conduct patrol meetings and activities. As members of the PLC, they communicate their patrol's needs and preferences for planning and relay information from PLC to the patrols. They encourage patrol members to work toward advancement.



Assistant Patrol Leaders

The Assistant Patrol Leaders fill in for the Patrol Leaders when needed, attending PLC in the patrol leader's absence, and take on extra responsibility as needed.

Den Chief

The Den Chief, after taking training for the position, serves as a mentor for Cub Scout dens in a local pack. The den chief helps the den leaders and Cubmasters lead the den through Cub Scout advancement and activities and attends meetings of that den and pack. The Den Chief makes an important contact with a Cub Scout pack, encouraging Cub Scouts to cross over to a Scouts BSA troop (like ours!).



Historian

The historian collects, assembles, and preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia, and makes materials available for Scouting activities, courts of honor, the media, and troop history projects.



OA Representative

This Scout is a member of Order of the Arrow, a national BSA camping honor society. The OA representative keeps the troop updated with OA information and opportunities, and helps further the purposes of OA in the troop by scheduling OA elections and promoting OA membership in the troop.



Firecrafter Representative

Firecrafter is an Indiana BSA camping honor society, comprising three ranks that can be achieved at summer camp. The Firecrafter Representative has achieved Firecrafter (the third rank) and keeps the troop informed and updated on Firecrafter opportunities and information.

ADULT LEADER POSITIONS

The Adult Leaders mentor and coach scouts in leadership. Scoutmasters work with Troop Leaders to provide an excellent scouting experience, while Committee members support the troop's administrative needs.



Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster is the adult responsible for working directly with the Scouts providing direction, coaching, and support. The Scoutmaster is responsible for their own training, including BSA Scoutmaster Training, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, and other training, as well as providing training to the Scouts.

Assistant Scoutmaster



An assistant Scoutmaster helps the Scoutmaster deliver the promise of Scouting and is assigned specific program duties. They can serve the troop by guiding a particular patrol to which they've been assigned, advising certain Scouts who've assumed a position, or fill in as necessary to assure the junior leaders have what they need to run things.

Chartered Organization Representative

The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) is the direct contact between the unit and the Chartered Organization and is the organization's contact with the District Committee and local Council. If the chartered organization has more than one unit, one COR serves them all. The COR appoints the Unit Committee Chairman. Troop 222 has a designated representative for the COR, approved through the church council



Committee Chair



The troop committee chair sees that all committee functions are carried out. The committee chair appoints

and supervises the unit committee and leaders and organizes the committee to see that all committee responsibilities are delegated, coordinated, and completed.

Committee members

Advancement Chair

Oversees advancement records (ranks, merit badges) and boards of review. The advancement chair works with the committee chair and adult volunteers to plan and carry out courts of honor.

Chaplain

Provides spiritual support to scouts and leaders

Quartermaster

Manages the troop's equipment. Works with the troop Quartermaster to check out and check in equipment and determine what needs to be cleaned, repaired, and replaced.

Membership Coordinator

Coordinates recruiting and retention efforts. Aids in collecting application forms.

Treasurer

Handles the troop's finances – member dues and fees, camp costs, etc. – and financial records

Fundraising

Committee members who handle fundraising work with the committee to help fund the troop's needs as well as individual scouts' experience through popcorn sales (Popcorn "Kernel") and other fundraising efforts.



What Does Scout-led Mean?

Scouts BSA is special among youth organizations because it is “scout-led.” Scout-led means that the members of the troop, not the adult leaders, are the ones who decide what happens in the troop. The scouts plan meeting topics, activities, camping trips, and merit badges.

Troop members apply for leadership positions and elect the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL then selects her assistant senior patrol leader or leaders. These leaders, with advice and guidance from the Scoutmasters, appoint other troop leaders from those scouts who have applied for positions, taking into consideration the needs of the troop and the scouts. (Advanced ranks have troop leadership requirements, so effort is made to make sure all scouts who need leadership positions and apply for them have a role.)

Annual Planning Meeting

Armed with school and holiday calendars, troop leadership plans the annual troop calendar. The annual planning meeting occurs in July or August – after summer camp but before or shortly after school starts. The Annual Troop Planning Meeting will set rough dates for camp, campouts, and goals for the upcoming year, including topics to be covered. This meeting also sets aspirational merit badges to cover, giving the SPL, Instructor, and Scoutmaster time to identify and contact merit badge counselors to lead those badges for the troop.

Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC)

Troop leadership forms the PLC to make plans. The SPL leads the patrol leaders’ council, which includes SPL, ASPL, and the patrol leaders. Other troop leaders, including troop guide, instructor, quartermaster, chaplain aide, are also included. The troop scribe keeps the minutes from the PLC meetings. Any scout may attend patrol leaders’ council. The Scoutmaster attends PLC as a silent member unless called upon for assistance.

PLC meets regularly to plan upcoming events – as often as monthly, though depending on troop needs and council efficiency, they could meet bi-monthly or quarterly.

PLC plans meetings, campouts, and troop service projects based on the Annual Troop Calendar set at the Annual Planning Meeting. Adult leaders provide ideas and resources, but the youth leaders are responsible for planning and leading the events.

The Patrol

Each scout in Troop 222 is part of a patrol. Groups of 6-10 members are more efficient than larger or smaller groups. In a larger group, there are more people to coordinate and people without responsibilities. In a smaller one, there aren’t enough people to get the job done. Patrols are generally organized by age, with scouts of similar age and/or scout experience grouped together. Our Founding Patrol, Fancy Founding Flamingos, was the exception to the rule as we had nine scouts found the troop. This patrol was also the troop.

Patrols are encouraged to plan outings together, aside from Scout meetings. These outings still need to observe Youth Protection rules and have at least two adult leaders (one a woman) in attendance.

Adult Roles in Troop

I'm a parent. What should I be doing here?

Welcome to the Troop. Join us. Come and visit in the adults' group meeting during troop meetings. Get a feel for what's going on. See where we need help. Where do your skills lie? Fill out an Adult application to join the committee. There will be something you can do.

Start with Youth Protection Training (YPT), offered through My.Scouting.org. If you're already a registered adult, log in and update your YPT. If not, make an account and get started. ALL ADULTS who participate in Troop 222 activities beyond New Scout Campout (as a new scout parent) need to have current YPT on file with the committee chair. Even if you're just coming along on adventures, we're happy to have you.

When you are ready to move to the next level, fill out an adult leader application to join the committee and take a role, or become a merit badge counselor through the council. Our committee chair can help you learn what merit badges do not have counselors in our troop yet, and maybe there's something that fits your skills. Merit badge counselor training is offered at various council training events or can be taken online.

What should I be doing for my scout?

BSA is scout-led, but scouts are learning how to lead from the scouts around them, their scout leaders, and their parents. Ask them how they're doing. Remind them to get things signed off. Make sure your scout copies you on emails or text messages sent to any scout leaders. Ask to see their Handbook to see how they're doing on rank advancement.

Merit badges? As tempting as it is, please do not select your scout's merit badges. You can help guide them on which classes to take at Merit Badge University or summer camp, but they're more likely to finish those badges that they are interested in.

Don't help them too much with merit badge worksheets. Merit badges are there for them to learn something, not just to fill in the answers. What do they learn if you tell them what to write down? However, you are welcome to talk about what they're learning and help them understand and apply the material.

If you are a merit badge counselor, we strongly discourage you from signing your scout's merit badge Blue Card unless they have tried and failed to connect with others. You will be able to get a list of potential merit badge counselors from Scoutbook; have your scout contact them (not you).

Signing Rank requirements? Parents who are registered leaders should not sign their scout's rank requirements unless they are parent-child requirements. HOWEVER, once the ranks are signed off in their Handbooks, you may enter them in Scoutbook. Parents with Scoutbook privileges may *not* "approve" anything marked complete on their own scout's account.

Packing? Scouts need to pack their own items for outings – hikes, camping trips, summer camp, etc. Parents should go over the packing list to make sure their scout didn't forget anything, but it must be the scout's responsibility to pack. She will be able to find her items better if she's the one who packed them.

Medications? Parents are responsible for their scout's medications at any overnight event. A medication form is filled out and included in a zip-lock bag with the scout's name on the bag. All medication must be in original containers with the scout's name, dosage, pharmacy, etc. printed on the label. This includes over-the-counter medications and supplements. These are handed to the scoutmaster or medical officer at drop off. The scouts should not have *any* medications in their possession during any events.

Encouraging? Scouting is fun, but sometimes there are requirements that take more time than others. It's easy to get discouraged and lose interest. Parents are here to encourage their scouts along the way – don't let them get bogged down. Similarly, there are a lot of things, and it can be overwhelming. Parents are there to help break things down into manageable tasks.

Communicating? Communication is vital in any organization, but there are a few levels of communication in a scout troop that need to be drawn.

Should parents reach out to Scoutmasters, assistant Scoutmasters, etc., on behalf of their scouts? Generally, the answer is no. If the scout has a concern, they should speak to their Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster about it. However, in some circumstances, a parent needs to reach out. Your Scoutmasters will let you know if this is a "scout" issue or a parent one and will help you find the support you need.

Should parents reach out to Committee members? Generally the committee addresses administrative functions of the troop that are *not* youth-led, so if there is an issue here, yes, please reach out to the Committee Chair or specific committee member needed (treasurer, fundraising chair, membership, chair, etc).

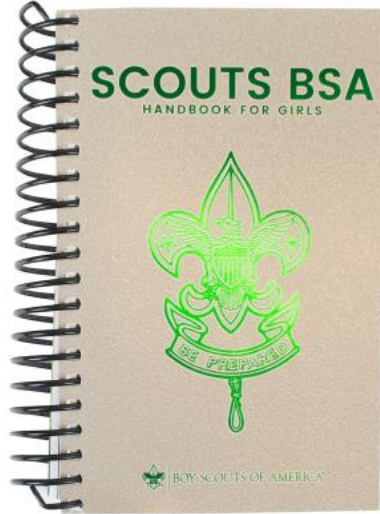
For communications between scouts and scoutmasters, youth protection principals need to always be observed. Scouts who are emailing or texting a scoutmaster should always copy their parent or guardian on any message, and leaders commit to "reply all" in such cases.

Your Scouting Resources

Your Scout Journey is before you – and you get to decide your paths. But you don't have to do it alone.

BSA's Handbook for Girls

Your Scout Handbook has everything you need to know in it – open the pages and read from beginning to end or read the sections that are most interesting to you first. The first section is a removeable



booklet about Youth Protection for you to discuss with your parents. This is part of your first rank, Scout.

You'll get your Handbook when you join our troop. Write your name on the front page, and below that, write in the name of the person who gave you the book. Maybe it was a Scoutmaster when you first joined, or another scout when you crossed over from Cub Scouts. Fill in the blanks for troop number and the date, and add Noblesville, Indiana. Below that, there are lines to write in the dates you achieve each rank.

Everyone's *Handbook* looks pretty much the same, so some people write their names in large letters on the front, back, or across the page edges to help quickly identify their book. Do whatever works! You do *not* want to lose this book!

Near the back of your book are the Requirements for Advancement through the ranks – Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle. Each rank has very specific requirements – make sure you read them carefully so you know what's expected. Each rank requirement shows the page numbers where the information for that item can be found. Scouts aren't expected to already know this stuff – that's what the book is for!

After the Rank Requirements, there are logs for Camping, Hiking, and Service. Keep track of these! Every night camping with your patrol or troop counts. Hiking miles count, too. And every scout needs service hours! Each rank has service requirements – some for non-specific service hours, and some relating to conservation efforts. Each item needs to be signed by an older scout or adult leader; service hours may also be signed off by the adult in charge of the project, if it was not scout-related service. (NOTE: Service hours are free! If you get paid for your work, it's not service. Similarly, if you are getting service hour credit for some other organization – youth group, honor society, etc. – it's not appropriate to record as Scout service.)

Book covers are available to purchase through the Scout Shop online, or other zippered book covers can be used to protect your *Handbook*. You can even buy a digital copy to keep on an electronic device.

Scoutbook

Scoutbook is an online resource that is useful for tracking all things scouting in our troop. Scoutbook is operated by the national BSA organization. Scouts are added to the Troop's Scoutbook roster automatically when their application is processed. Each scout has her own profile, which her parents can link to their own account and can edit to include a photograph for reference. Parents can then update their scout's advancement using Scoutbook's tools. (A troop leader will then compare the Scoutbook

data with what is marked in the Scout's *Handbook for Girls*. When in conflict, the *Handbook* record is the official one.

The reports in Scoutbook will generate purchase orders for advancement items at Crossroads Outfitters, particularly rank patches and merit badges. No one may buy these without an official purchase order. When these items are awarded, they are then marked in Scoutbook by the Advancement Chair.

Scoutbook is handy because it helps Scouts and their families see their progress through ranks.

Merit badges are also in Scoutbook. Merit badges that are completed or partially completed at summer camp will be entered from the camp report – those that are finished can then be awarded, but those that aren't are noted so scouts will know what they need to finish.

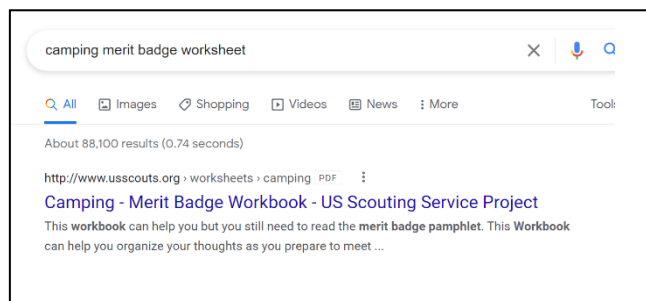
For merit badges that are done at other merit badge events, in Troop meetings, or on a scout's own, the merit badge "Blue Card" is turned in to the Advancement Chair, who will enter the information into Scoutbook. (More on Blue Cards in the Merit Badge section.) Completed merit badges can be checked off in the back of the scout's *Handbook*, but Scoutbook is the official record of merit badge completion. (If there is a question, a completed Blue Card is definitive proof, so always keep the Blue Cards.)

How to use Scoutbook will be covered in the Scoutbook chapter of this handbook.

Merit Badge booklets and worksheets

BSA publishes merit badge booklets covering nearly all of the current badges offered. A scout who reads the merit badge booklet is well on the way to understanding the material required, but reading the merit badge booklet is not the only way to earn the merit badge.

Merit badge worksheets are published online and available to download and print to assist a scout who is working on a merit badge, especially if they are working on it independently, at a troop meeting, or doing prerequisites before a workshop or summer camp. The US Scouting Service Project has created an online database of merit badge worksheets that can be printed out or downloaded as fillable PDFs. Search the name of the merit badge and "worksheet" and select the result that comes from usscouts.org. Filling out the merit badge booklet and turning it in to a scoutmaster is NOT a substitute for meeting with a merit badge counselor – only a registered merit badge counselor may sign off a merit badge. (*More on this in the Merit Badge section.*)



Working on Advancement

Advancement is one of the seven methods of scouting. Advancement allows scouts to set short-term and long-term goals and to be rewarded periodically for their accomplishments.

Ranks are awarded in the order Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle

The first four ranks are the basic ranks in which a scout learns *how* to be a scout – learning scout skills and having scouting experiences. The latter three are ranks that bear signs of leadership – teaching other scouts, taking leadership roles in the troop, and fulfilling service requirements.

Requirements are clearly noted in the advancement section of the *Handbook for Girls*. Scouts are wise to read them carefully – there might be specific order to some requirements. Items may be worked for ranks that are not the current one in order, but ranks must be awarded in order. An older scout or leader may sign a second-class requirement for a scout, but that scout cannot earn Second Class until after they have earned Tenderfoot. Requirements for advancement cannot also be counted toward merit badge requirements.

The Four Steps toward Advancement are detailed in the *Handbook*, but are summarized simply: You learn, you are tested, you are reviewed, you are recognized.

Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls, p. 416

When you have completed each requirement, you will get it “signed off” – an experienced scout (First Class or above) or an adult scout leader (not in your family) will sign off that requirement with the date. When you finish all the requirements for the rank, including a Scoutmaster

Conference and a Board of Review (except for Scout), you earn that rank! You will get a patch to wear on your uniform, and you’ll get a card with the date and Scoutmaster signature, which you want to *keep in your records*.

Scouts advance at their own rate. Some will hurry through the requirements with a rapid pace. Others take their time. There’s no required pace except that the requirements of Eagle must be completed before the scout’s 18th birthday. (Star, Life, and Eagle each have length-of-time requirements as well.)

New Rank patches are awarded as soon as possible after the scout achieves that rank; the scout is recognized the next Court of Honor as well, when they receive the card for that rank. (Keep that card in your records. Really.)

Rank patches are worn on the left pocket. Only one rank patch is worn at a time.

Your First Scout Meeting

Scout meetings are intended to follow the same general plan, though it might vary depending on planning. Scouts are responsible for leading the meetings, though they may enlist an adult leader to help teach skills, a merit badge, or something else. We meet every Monday throughout the year, unless otherwise noted.

6:45 Pre-opening activities: often a game or activity that relates either to this week's lessons or a previous week's activity

7:00 Opening: A flag ceremony, led by scouts, includes the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout Oath and Law and the Outdoor Code. A brief "Uniform Moment" highlights some aspect of the scout uniform

7:15 Skills: Scout skills training on Program Features or various skills needed for advancement are offered based on experience/rank levels

7:45 Patrol time: Scouts separate into their patrols to work on rank advancement, plan patrol outings, or share ideas for the Patrol Leader to take to Patrol Leaders' Council or troop planning meetings

8:00 Challenge or game – usually something that reinforces the skills time or helps prepare for an upcoming event

8:15 Announcements, Scoutmaster Moment, and Closing, which includes Scout Motto and Scout Slogan

During the Troop Meeting

Other things might also go on during a troop meeting.

The parents and other adults will gather in another room to discuss committee business, plan a fundraiser, decide who's driving to the next event, or appoint new committee positions. The Scoutmaster might pull someone aside for a Scoutmaster Conference. A scout might come before three adults for a Board of Review. Scouts may be asking older scouts or adults to "sign off" rank advancement requirements in their Handbooks.

Scouts at the meeting will be in the Scouts BSA Uniform. You'll read more about that later. They might also have a scouting-related t-shirt under their uniform shirt. This helps keep the uniform shirt clean and in good shape during a messy project.

After the meeting

After the meeting, some scouts will head out right away. It's a school night and they need their rest. Other scouts might stick around to get advancement requirements signed off, or to talk with friends or make some last-minute plans. It's a good time to ask questions. If you need something from a

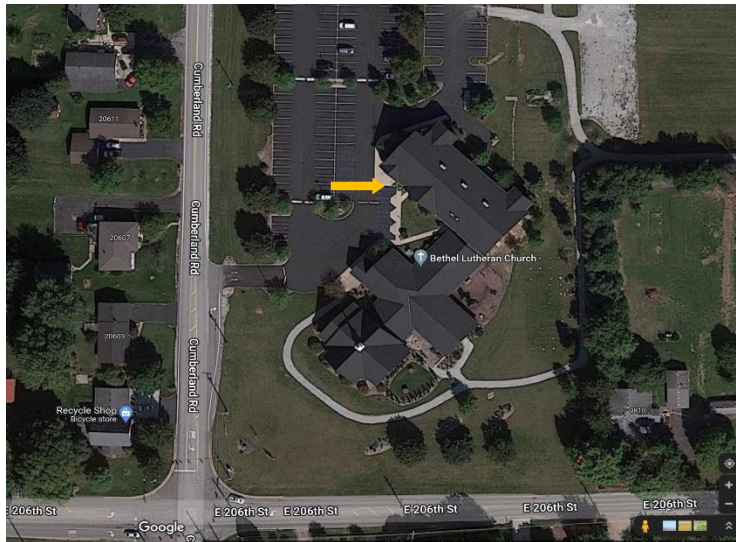


Scouts in Deerfield, Illinois. Mark Kodiak Ukena / Pioneer Press, Feb 21,

Scoutmaster, it's a good idea to email her about it when you get home – she's apt to forget between leaving the meeting and getting home.

Meeting Locations

Troop 222 meets at Bethel Lutheran Church, 20650 Cumberland Road, Noblesville, at the corner of 206th Street and Cumberland Road. We meet upstairs in the Education wing – enter the northwest doors facing the parking lot.



Troop 222 enters the doors with the yellow arrow and go straight through the hall to the stairs opposite these doors. (You pass an elevator on your way to the stairs, if needed.)



The entrance doors are shown here at the lower left. The room we use is the one with the round window on the second floor.

Facility

Bethel is also home to Boys Troop 183, which meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship area in the other part of the building. They also meet Mondays at 7pm, so we're likely to see them coming in and out. Our parents meet in another room in the hall during troop meetings.

Two restrooms are located just down the hall from our meeting room.

Other rooms in the hall might be in use by other church groups. Be sure to say hello to the sewing group, who meet one Monday a month. The mens' Bible study is downstairs in the education all.

We have shared storage in a classroom in the education hall on the first floor. This room is kept locked but is shared with Troop 183 and the church.

Outdoor Facility

Bethel's property includes many features, including several Eagle projects from scouts over the years. The Bethel Peace Trail (Zack Reising, Troop 183) is an accessible trail that traverses the property. A picnic shelter (Sam Staebler, Troop 103) and firepit (Luke Staebler, Troop 103) anchor the northeast corner of the property, and an outdoor sanctuary and garden (Jackson Von Blon, Troop 101) add beauty to the area. Our troop will meet at the shelter when weather allows it and will make use of outdoor areas when possible.

The Uniform

One of the methods of Scouting is the uniform. The *Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls* shows where patches should be applied to the uniform shirt on **pages 22-23**. We recommend sewing patches to the uniform. Various iron-on adhesives such as “Badge Magic” are available, but we advise against using them: they are either not reliable to hold the badge on, meaning it falls off and gets lost, or they are too secure, meaning that the badge can never be removed without damaging the shirt. Scouts should be encouraged to learn to sew their patches onto their uniform – a job done imperfectly by a scout is much preferred over patches perfectly sewn for a price (or by an unwilling parent).

The Shirt

The shirt is a short-sleeved tan shirt and can be purchased from Crossroads Outfitters at Golden-Burke Scout Center. We recommend trying on the shirt before buying. If a scout is young, it’s always wise to buy a little large to allow for room to grow. Shirts should be worn tucked in, unless the shirt is cut to high-hip and looks tidy untucked. This shirt is known as the Field Uniform. A wise scout wears a t-shirt under the Field Uniform shirt in case a messy project or activity comes up.

Permanent Patches

These patches are “permanent” patches on your scout’s uniform and can be attached permanently (or until the uniform is replaced).

- Right sleeve
 - American Flag (already on the shirt when you buy it)
 - Patrol patch
- Left sleeve
 - Council patch
 - Troop patch
 - Founder patch (for founding members)
- Right front of shirt
 - Recruiter patch (below pocket)
 - Order of the Arrow patch (pocket flap, when earned)
 - Translator patch, if applicable
- Left front of shirt
 - World Scouting Emblem (purple)
 - Arrow of Light, if earned
 - Knots, if earned, above the pocket

Temporary Patches

These patches are meant to be changed periodically – you definitely want to be able to remove these.

- Leadership position patch – left sleeve
- Rank patch – left pocket
- A temporary patch or insignia, like Firecrafter or an event patch or name badge, may be placed on the right pocket. Only one temporary patch may be worn at a time. These may also be attached by a loop to the right pocket button but should still be limited to one at a time.
- A single Jamboree patch may be worn on the right, above the BSA insignia.

Uniforms should be used to show current accomplishments but should not become over-decorated.

Epaulets

The Scout shirt has epaulets (shoulder straps) on the shoulders. These carry the shoulder loops that signify the level of scouting – navy blue for Cub Scouts, forest green for Scouts BSA, green for Venture scouts. Council and district volunteers wear silver loops, and gold loops are for adults and youth who serve at the national, regional, and area levels. A Den Chief will wear the den chief cord under the epaulet on the left shoulder.

Other Clothing Items

Pants

Scouts BSA sells pants, shorts, and skorts in the olive-green color appropriate to scouting. These are available online or from Crossroads Outfitters. We recommend trying these on before purchasing. Not everyone fits the Scouts BSA pants. We suggest that scouts and leaders find uniform pants that work for their bodies rather than stressing about branded pants. Uniform pants should be olive green, as close to the color of the BSA-branded pants as possible, and should be comfortably fitting, neither too loose nor too tight. Scouts should be able to move freely in them and should not worry about getting them dirty – they will! We cannot speak strongly enough about the need for *pockets* in a scout's pants – Don't skip pockets!

Belts

Scouts BSA has branded belts, and different Scouting experiences might also lead to belt buckles. Branded belts and buckles are encouraged for the full uniform effect, but any sturdy belt will do.

Hats

A hat is often an important part of outdoors clothing. Scouts BSA-branded caps, campaign hats, or official event hats (Wood Badge, NYLT, etc) are great. A scout should bring a hat for every outdoor activity for sun protection as well as hair control.

Socks

Scouts should choose socks that are appropriate for the occasion. Hiking socks, BSA-branded green socks, athletic socks, all work. Wild socks aren't really a great part of the uniform, especially if they can be seen, but we're hardly sock-police. The only unacceptable sock is no socks.

Shoes

Choose shoes that are suitable for the occasion. Slip-ons, sandals, and clogs are not advisable for scout activities. Close-toed shoes are required for all scout activities. Shoes with laces are best because they can be adjusted. Expensive hiking boots are not required, but athletic shoes will get muddy and dirty on some activities.

Neckerchief

The neckerchief for our troop is navy blue with silver insignia and is worn neatly at the neck. Our neckerchief slide is a paracord woggle (a loop tied in a Turks head knot). Both are provided by the troop when a scout joins. Alternate neckerchiefs are worn by scouts who have completed NYLT (leadership training) or who have attended a national or world jamboree or have earned Eagle Scout. Adults who attend Wood Badge training or other events might also wear a different neckerchief. "A neckerchief tells a story." If you see a different neckerchief, you should certainly feel free to ask.

Sash

A **merit badge** sash is worn over the right shoulder, diagonally toward the left hip. Merit badges are sewn three across on the front of the sash. There is no proscribed order for the merit badges. You can put on as many merit badges as the sash will contain on the front and back, if desired. Some scouts use the reverse of the merit badge sash to display past rank patches or other temporary patches.

Scouts and leaders who have been elected to the Order of the Arrow, BSA's national camping honor society, may wear the **OA sash**, also worn over the right shoulder toward the left hip.

Only one sash may be worn at a time.

Sashes are generally worn for dress occasions. Courts of Honor, Scout Sunday, or other occasions are great to "show off" merit badges, and OA sashes should be worn by OA members on OA election days and for OA events.

Sashes may be worn over or under the epaulet on the right shoulder and should not be worn tucked over the belt.



*Girls in Scouts
BSA uniforms,
Bryan on
Scouting, January
28, 2019*

The Activity Uniform

Each scout's membership fee includes one Activity Uniform t-shirt, which will be selected by the troop and ordered through a licensed BSA retailer. Activity shirts (formerly called "Class B") allow for messy and athletic activities in a more comfortable shirt. These shirts are ordered in April and include our troop number and city as well as BSA insignia. Scouts wearing the Activity uniform are considered "in uniform" and may salute the flag. Adult troop leaders and parents may order Activity uniform shirts at the time the troop places the order for the scout shirts.

All scouts and scouters should remember that when they are wearing our troop's Activity uniform, they represent our troop to others.

Activities

Troop Activities

Our troop holds weekly meetings and monthly outdoor activities. Plan to hike and camp. We don't just do "easy" things – but we support each other and have a great time. A major event every year is summer camp at Ransburg on Lake Monroe. Many other scout troops are there while we're there, but we camp in a site together and have meals together.

Camping trips might be combined with service opportunities at local camps.

Group Activities

Local BSA Troops for girls in Hamilton County plan group campouts so girls in our troops can meet each other and make connections. More troops of girls will help our program grow!

Camporees are an opportunity for all the troops in the Council to get together for one big campout. Three Camporees a year – fall, winter, and spring – are offered. Troops camp together and participate in activities as a troop, alongside boys' and girls' troops.

Summer camp is something we do as a troop but in a group setting. Our annual visit to scout camp will give scouts the opportunity to gain skills, earn merit badges, and bond with their patrol and troop – and meet other scouts as well!

Jamborees

National Scout Jamboree (at Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve) and the World Scout Jamboree (held in four-year intervals at various locations worldwide) are opportunities for scouts 14 and older (above First Class) to apply to be part of a contingent from our area. Scouts incur a larger cost to attend these events and can participate in fundraising activities to help defray the cost.

High Adventure

Scouts BSA high adventure bases include

- Northern Tier (Northern Minnesota): boundary waters canoe outings in the summer and extreme cold weather camping adventures in the winter
- SeaBase (Florida Keys): varied trips include out-island, SCUBA, and other coastal activities
- Summit Bechtel (West Virginia): the Summit provides a vast range of high-adventure activities in BSA's newest camp along the New River Gorge
- Philmont (New Mexico): scouts experience hiking in the high desert, with a variety of adventure packages

Other high adventure activities can be planned to take scouts many amazing places throughout the country.

High adventure experiences are recommended for older scouts, ages 13 and older, who are First Class or higher. Troops can plan such trips, or scouts can secure spots on these trips with other troops. If a scout joins another troop for such a trip, they become part of that troop's crew and agrees to abide by their rules and plans. They also agree to be under the care of that troop's leadership during the trip.

Merit Badges

Scouts BSA offers more than 130 merit badges on a wide variety of topics meant to pique scouts' interest. Merit badges cover hobbies and special interests, good citizenship, and potential career paths. Scouts earn a minimum of 21 merit badges on their way to achieving Eagle.



Merit badges are worn on the merit badge sash (see the Uniform section of this guide). There is no minimum number of merit badges to start wearing the sash – after the first badges are earned, scouts should get their sash and learn to sew their badges.

The Merit Badge Process

When a scout would like to start a merit badge she must **FIRST** get an Application for Merit Badge, called a “Blue Card,” from the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair. At this time, she will discuss with the Scoutmaster which MB she wishes to pursue, and she will be told who are some merit badge counselors that she might contact. **SECOND**, the Scout contacts and works with the counselor to complete the requirements. (Merit Badge counselors follow strict Youth Protection guidelines and will not work with a Scout one-on-one, so getting a “buddy” to do a merit badge is a great idea if the Scout is not doing this at a merit badge event like Merit Badge University or summer camp.)

The image shows a portion of the 'APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE' form. It includes fields for Name, Address, and City. Below these are checkboxes for 'is a registered' status: Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Girl Scout. There are also fields for 'of' (with sub-fields for Troop, team, crew, ship) and No. The bottom of the form lists fields for District and Council.

It is very important that the Scout *NOT* begin working on a merit badge until she has gotten her blue card *and* consulted with the MB counselor. Any work done towards a merit badge before obtaining a blue card and discussion with the appropriate counselor will not count towards the requirements, and she must start over at the beginning.

Once all the requirements are completed, the counselor signs the appropriate sections of the blue card and tears off his/her portion. The Scout gets the completed blue card signed by the scoutmaster as completed (two signatures – one to start and one to finish) and then turns the blue card in to the troop Advancement Chair for processing. The merit badges are awarded at the Court of Honor, along with the Scout's portion of the blue card, which she must then keep in a safe place. This is her permanent and official record of merit badges earned. (Scoutbook also tracks Merit Badges, so there will always be a record there.) Once a merit badge is earned, it can never be taken away, even if a scout no longer knows all the information from that badge.

Many Scouts complete portions of merit badges and finish them later. These are known as partial merit badges, and the work the Scouts put into them will never expire as long as they don't lose the blue card. If it is lost, leadership will check Scoutbook; if it has been recorded then the Scout will not need to start over.

Merit Badge Opportunities

Merit badge classes are offered every year at **summer camp**. Scouts can choose from a whole “course catalog” of merit badges and activities. Many merit badges have prerequisite activities that need to be completed before camp – these will be noted in the listing for that badge. For most merit badges, if the scout completes the course requirements before and attends every day's classes, they will have

completed the badge at the end of camp. (If they don't finish them at camp, they're partials and can be finished with another merit badge counselor, as mentioned above.)

Our District offers **Merit Badge University** every year at a local high school. Scouts may sign up for up to three merit badges to take during that event (one Friday evening and one each Saturday morning and afternoon). As at camp, there will be prerequisites before the class or requirements that will need to be completed afterward. Many merit badge counselors at these events will make arrangements to meet with scouts from their classes at later times to finish requirements.

Special Merit Badge events are often held at various locations in the area. Ft. Harrison, the Benjamin Harrison Home, and other locations have events. Your scout leaders will try to make those events known as they learn about them.

Online merit badge courses are also available. During COVID, some organizations began offering comprehensive merit badge courses on the internet to aid scouts who were not able to attend in-person courses. Merit badge counselors worked with scouts via email instead of face-to-face, and classes utilized online meeting tools like Zoom. While online merit badges aren't recommended for the majority of a scout's badges, they do provide another way to work. *These programs must be offered through an authorized scout unit or organization and by registered merit badge counselors. Parents and scouts should be very cautious before joining an online merit badge class and make sure they are fully informed. Additionally, the rules of safe scouting are harder to enforce in an online class, so scouts should engage in online study in a public place under parent supervision. No scout who has not earned the Cyber Chip appropriate for their age and level in scouting (grades 6-8, grades 9-12) will be allowed to do online merit badges. All communication with online merit badge counselors must include the parent or guardian and not be between scout and counselor alone.

Our troop PLC might decide to offer merit badges as part of our **troop meeting**. There will always be more work to do at home to demonstrate the scout's knowledge of the topic, but this is a way to help earn badges, especially those that are Eagle required (see below). Merit badge counselors from our troop or other troops in the area might be invited to work with our scouts in one or more meetings. Scouts who miss part of the presentation will have to find another time to complete the requirements.

Eagle Required Merit Badges

There are 14 Eagle-required merit badges. These can be identified by the silver border instead of the green border. These badges cover topics that apply to all scouts – camping, personal fitness, citizenship, first aid, and more.

There are three Eagle-required badge choices. Scouts may choose between Sustainability or Environmental Science for one badge; Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving for another; and among Swimming, Cycling or Hiking for a third. However, scouts are welcome to earn more of those if they wish!

Suggested Merit Badge Sequence

Here is a recommended, age-appropriate sequence for earning the Eagle-required merit badges. First Aid is required for several other merit badges, so is recommended to be taken early.



**New Scouts - Ages 10 ½ to 12 -
5th & 6th Grade**

First Aid
Swimming¹
Family Life
Emergency Preparedness²

**Experienced Scouts - Ages 12-13
- 6th & 7th Grades**

Camping
Citizenship in the Nation
Communication
Citizenship in the Community
Cooking
Environmental Science³
Sustainability³
Hiking¹

Personal Fitness
Citizenship in Society (as of
2021)

**Star & Life -Ages 14+ - 8th
Grade+**

Citizenship in the World
Personal Management
Lifesaving²
Cycling¹

*¹ One of these three – Hiking,
Swimming, or Cycling*

*² One of these – Lifesaving or
Emergency Preparedness*

*³ One of these – Environmental
Science or Sustainability*



Camping and Outdoors Gear

Participating in Outdoors Activities is one of the methods of scouting, and Troop 222 will do something outside every month, with an attempt to get in as much camping as we can.



Scouts will be responsible for the camping items listed in the Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls. We will not ask scouts to purchase gear beyond the basics, but any scout who becomes very involved might want to have her own gear. Remember, fitted gear bought to fit a first-year scout will not likely fit one who is going on a high-adventure trip, so plan accordingly. The troop may have some gear available for loan, and Crossroads Outfitters has rentals available. Sleeping bags, daypacks, hiking shoes or boots, and clothing will all be things that you and your scout will figure out together. Don't get expensive items when you first start out.

What gear your scout will need at first:

Sleeping bag - Look for something rated at no more than 15-20 deg. Standard options from Walmart, Meijer, or Target would be fine for spring/summer/fall camping. Down bags are difficult to care for and are not recommended for routine use. A fleece liner can be used to add warmth for colder weather situations.

Sleeping Pad - Closed cell foam or inflatable pad is fine. Backpacking air mattresses like Therm-A-Rest or Klymit are nice if you want to pay for it.

Clothes - Polyester layers are best. Cotton retains moisture and keeps it close to the skin resulting in heat loss and chafing ("Cotton is Rotten"). For cooler temps, layers are the way to go. Poly/spandex against the skin, fleece over that, and a wind layer for cold temps is great. For warmer temps layers are still good for cool mornings/evenings. Modest tanks and shorts can be great. Long pants help with tall brush for hiking and long sleeves help with mosquitos and ticks.

Jacket/Rain Gear - A good wind layer can be combined with a fleece layer below for cooler temps. A water-resistant top is fine for a budget purchase. A plastic poncho is good to keep in a day pack for true waterproof coverage and can go over a daypack as well as clothes. Best: coated nylon jacket and pants are the way to go; Frogg Toggs are very inexpensive, but also not very durable. Columbia and REI have great versions of this that are more durable. Buy big so it lasts 2-3 years.

Boots - Your feet are the part of your body that is always touching the ground. Good boots are essential but can be expensive. A sturdy hiking boot, trail running shoe, or other rugged shoe/boot is a good choice. If you can find a waterproof option, your scout will thank you for it on those wet campouts. Used boots are ok. Look for leather boots with minimal seams and/or Gore-Tex, with grippy soles and an enclosed tongue; they should flex near toe. Try on boots with good hiking socks and walk around a LOT. Look for sales! REI has a 'garage sale' where top-quality boots can be found for acceptable prices. Your scout will likely only add a small amount of wear and you can pass on/sell the boots once they are outgrown. Look for boys' shoes if there aren't as many options in the girls' section.

Socks - Good socks prevent blisters on hikes. Wet socks can damage skin. Having a couple pairs of Smartwool, Darn Tough, or thicker synthetic socks can make a huge difference. Use thicker socks if the boot is a little oversized. Walmart has good quality socks (at different times of year). Don't skimp on socks, and ensure your scout packs 2 extra pairs. Once socks have gotten wet, they no longer keep feet warm and begin to chafe.

Lights - Headlamps are great for getting around at night and leave the hands free for setting up a tent or looking through your gear for that item you can't find. Small AA flashlights are good too. Having more than one source of light is good. Having an extra set of batteries is important.

Utensils - Heavy-duty plastic knife, fork, spoon, bowl, and cup are fine. (You can even get a "spork" with a serrated edge for three utensils in one!) Don't get anything fancy. Metal conducts heat away from food into your hand, neither of which is a good thing. Walmart has complete kits that are great and can be a one-time purchase. A mesh bag allows for dunking the whole kit in hot water and has a clip to hang to dry. Your eating utensils are called your "mess kit."

Water Bottles – A wide-mouth Nalgene (one liter) or poly bottles to fit water filter kits. Camel packs can work great in a day pack, but scouts should also have a stand-alone water bottle.

Knives – a good, sturdy pocketknife with a locking blade or multi-tool (Leatherman). Don't worry about getting saws or anything fancy. A Scout needs to have earned her Totin' Chip to carry a knife at events. Do not give your scout a knife that does not have the blade lock open! This is a safety hazard.

Backpack/Daypack – This is to carry your gear. It needs to fit and have room for your gear while hiking. This is not the same as a "backpacking" pack but could be as simple as a school backpack. Throw a large plastic trash bag in the bottom in case of rain to cover your pack.

Where to buy gear

If on a budget, all of these items can be purchased at Walmart or other department stores. Typically buying the cheapest item (like a tent, backpack, or sleeping bag) will not give years of use. Buying brand name items from REI or Amazon is also not needed. ScoutsLife magazine (available online) has excellent recommendations for mid-to higher-tier items, and the articles are written for scouts (i.e. do not push high-dollar brand names, available in youth sizes, fit scout usage, etc.)

Many items are available at Crossroads Outfitters, if you're interested in looking. Often they can be purchased elsewhere at a lower price. Mess kits, water bottles, knives, clothing, boots – they have a lot of stuff and very helpful staff, but if you tend to get drawn in by fun gear, be careful.

You don't have to shop at the top stores. The Ozark Trail line at Walmart has a lot of reasonable entry-level gear at a low price to fit the needs of the beginning camper. This is one of the best discount-store camping aisles you'll find. Costco has reasonable gear at times

Online sellers like Campmor, Sierra Trading Company (part of the TJ Maxx family), and others have reasonable gear. Check their return policies carefully.

Advanced Gear

These items will be recommended later, after your scout is ready for more high-adventure activities, especially those that are fitted to a scout.

Backpacking pack - Young scouts – especially girls – are hard to fit. Make sure the hip belt cinches enough for the scout. A well-padded hip belt that supports pack weight and good shoulder strap padding and sternum strap are helpful; a pack with two main compartments works well. A pack with an adjustable back length is important, especially if your scout is not finished growing. The belt should rest on the hips, and shoulder straps should be parallel to the ground. (*A high-end retailer can help with fitting a pack to the scout but will cost more money. A poorly fitted pack will be miserable for a multi-day trip.)

Tent - Must be a 2- or 3-season tent with full rainfly that comes down to the ground and doesn't touch the inside of the tent. Zipper should have a flap that covers it to keep water out. Inside should be breathable fabric or mesh screen. Bottom must be waterproof. One-person tents are truly for ONE

person – and no gear – so keep this in mind. A two-person tent accommodates one person with their gear or two scouts with gear outside.

Pots and pans – small, stainless, with lid, only needed for advanced backpacking

Water filters – There are many types, but only needed for advanced backpacking

Being Grubmaster

Each Scout will have a chance to be the “Grubmaster” for a camping trip with the Troop. Planning meals, shopping for the ingredients, and feeding the troop or patrol are requirements for advancement as well as for the Cooking merit badge, which is required for Eagle. But the Grubmaster is not expected to do all the work alone. Her parents can help her plan the menu based on proper balanced nutrition and take her shopping, and she will assign all of her troop or patrol members to the duty roster to help with various tasks.

Meal planning is covered in the *Handbook’s* Cooking section. Campouts include breakfasts, lunches, suppers, and a “cracker barrel,” which is an evening snack. Meals can be all sorts of foods, from cold sandwiches (very handy for lunches) to cooked dinners. Scouts often base their menu choices on their own personal preferences, which is fine. Any dietary needs will be given ahead of time. In the case of food allergies, Scout leaders will assist the Grubmaster and her family for appropriate planning.

A budget is provided for meals based on a rate of \$5/supper, \$4/lunch, \$3/breakfast, and \$1/cracker barrel, multiplied by the number of participants on the event. (All camping events’ costs will include this amount of money, plus other costs.) The Scout’s family should plan to shop for the items and keep the receipt for reimbursement from the Treasurer. Shopping costs should not be a deterrent to being Grubmaster, however. If there is a concern about the financial aspect of this, the Scout’s parents should talk with the Committee Chair and Treasurer to work out an arrangement. All expenditures must be accompanied by receipts to make sure that Scouts keep to their budgets and all funds are properly reimbursed. The given budget is sufficient to feed the group, but it does encourage thrifty spending and attentiveness to costs, which is also part of the Scout’s financial awareness.

Being a Grubmaster can be a big job, but the Troop works together to support that Scout. The Duty Roster gives her help with her tasks. Scouts are reminded to be supportive of their Grubmaster, no matter how the meal turns out, and adult leaders are on hand to help in a cooking crisis. No Scout is permitted to criticize another Scout’s food choices or cooking, because it will be her turn one day as well. This is one of the more intimidating new experiences for a Scout, and creating a supportive and encouraging atmosphere for this learning is critical!

Electronics

In our imaginations, our Scouts are all electronics-free at Scouting events and activities. However, in the era we’re now living, many older Scouts use their mobile devices for more than just calling or games. For some, it is a GPS or carries an app like AllTrails for navigation while hiking. For others, it is a reminder to take their medicines. And for still others, it is a camera. But for many, it is a distraction.

Troop 222 is still working to determine the full electronics policy for Scout events, but until that time, we will operate under the following guidelines:



- Mobile devices are allowed only for Scouts who have earned the appropriate Cyber Chip for their age level. Cub Scout Cyber Chips expire when Scouts cross into BSA programs. A Scout who has brought a mobile device to an event other than a Scout meeting should check in with a Scoutmaster and show proof of her Cyber Chip.
- No hand-held games may be brought or used on any scout event. Any hand-held games will be held by the scoutmaster or other leader until they can be returned to the parent after the event.
- There will be NO requirements or suggestions that Scouts who do not yet have a mobile device should get one. This is a decision for each family to make.
- Mobile devices are the responsibility of the Scout. This means that if they bring their devices, they are responsible to keep them safe and dry. Scout leaders will not retrieve forgotten devices or search for lost ones. A Scout is wise to leave their phone safely in their gear unless it is in use.
- Scouting events and camps will NOT have charging facilities unless they are at a specialized location. Scouts may bring their own batteries, but they will not be allowed to utilize electrical outlets for charging. (*Scout Leaders may be able to use these to facilitate emergency communication or organizational needs.) When a Scout's battery runs out, it runs out.
- Mobile devices may NEVER be used during programming unless it is invited by the leader. This includes classes, meals, ceremonies, and programs. Photography is allowed if it is not disruptive at certain programs. Mobile devices may never be taken to shower or bathroom facilities; Scouts who take them into those places will have them confiscated to be returned after camp.
- Scouts should not use mobile devices at night. Listening to music, playing games, etc., will likely impinge on much-needed sleep. These activities also tend to isolate Scouts in camp during the day; Scouts who are on their devices will be encouraged to put them down and join the troop in activities.
- Scouts are discouraged from calling or texting their parents during camp, even if they are homesick. Going to a week-long camp can make a Scout miss her family and home, but her Scoutmasters want to help her work through her challenges. If she is feeling bad emotionally or physically, her leaders need to know about it in order to help her. Parents frequently texting or calling their Scout can actually heighten homesickness.

Health and Physical Needs



BSA Health Forms

Every scout and adult who participates in Troop 222 activities must have a BSA Health Form and insurance information on file with the troop. The current BSA health forms can be found online. The Troop 222 website has a link to the health form.

Parts A and B (two pages of B) are filled out by the scouts or adult leaders and are required for everyone. Part C is the physical form to be filled out by the physician.

Health forms expire after one year and need to be updated each year. They are submitted with a copy of the front and back of the scout's health insurance card.

Medications

Scouts' and Adults Leaders' medications need to be fully listed on their Health Forms. Any medications that will be taken during an outing need to be given to the Scoutmaster or Medical Officer for that Campout to be dispensed at the proper time. All medication needs to be in its original packaging with the current prescription on it. Medication should be brought in a Ziploc bag with the Scout's name on it and a medication form.

Parent tip: When you get your prescription filled, ask the pharmacist for an extra bottle. They can print the label for your camp needs.

Scouts should not carry over-the-counter medicines with them – any medications they might need should be in their bag with their medications. The health form asks for a signature to authorize giving a scout OTC medications like acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.

Medication forms may be downloaded from the troop website.

If your scout's medications change, please update the health form.

Injury and Illness

If a scout is at an event, we will provide basic first aid for minor injuries. Should an injury need medical care, we will contact the parent, if they are not present, and give them instructions to meet us at the nearest care facility. It is of utmost importance that we have a phone number where you can be reached at all times. (If parents are going on vacation while your scout is at camp, make sure we have someone else to call in case of emergency.)

If a scout becomes ill at an event, we will separate that scout from other scouts to our best ability until their parent can pick them up. No scout will be left alone. Youth protection rules still apply.

Scout leaders ask for authorization to give over-the-counter medications to scouts if needed, on their health forms. In case of non-serious injury or feeling slightly unwell, medication will be offered first. If a scout is feeling bad and wants to go home, their parents will be contacted and they will be sent home. No refunds can be given for events that are cut short because of illness.

Scouts who have a positive COVID test should not attend scouting events until they are symptom-free and have a negative test. COVID policies for our troop will follow those of Noblesville schools, which are available on the school website. COVID policies for camp will be dictated by camp policy.

Mental Health

Many teens have mental health issues, ranging from ADHD to anxiety and depression and much more. In Troop 222, no one should be ashamed of these any more than having diabetes or big feet. The best way for us to support our scouts with mental health needs is to be open and honest about them. *Please*, if your scout is on medication for mental health needs, make sure we know about it and that she continues to take it during events. Her medication information is confidential – the health officer for the event will give her the medication without comment. Some medications have unexpected side effects, like reactions to extreme heat or cold, the sun, exertion, etc. It is important to let your leaders know of these things, because we are not likely to be aware of these possible environmental interactions.

If your scout is going through a rough time at home or school, please let us know, especially if there is a way we can support her. We believe that a Scout Troop is a unique place that is kind to others, and we want a scout's fellow patrol members, troop members, and leaders to be part of her circle.

Menstrual Health

Menstruation is part of life for a girl troop in Scouts BSA, and we do not want periods to be a deterrent from participating in any and all scouting activities. We do not need to know about anyone's periods, nor does anyone need to keep them secret. Any scout (or leader)'s cycle is her own business to do with as she is most comfortable. However, we do not want for our cycles to be a subject to cause embarrassment. The best way to handle body issues is to be up front and matter-of-fact about them.

Scouts should always “be prepared” for their periods, even if it's not the usual time – physical exertion can cause cycles to get out of order. Each scout should have her preferred sanitary products in her backpack along with her 10 Essentials.

Products

There are many modern products to help women stay active during their cycles, including swimming and other activities. We encourage parents to help their scouts find the best products for their bodies and needs and will not endorse any products ourselves. Several products on the market offer reusable items that help reduce waste, including menstrual cups and absorbent underwear. Each product has its own benefits and challenges, and we ask parents and scouts to work together to decide what works – and please don't let that scout outing be the first time your scout tries something out for the first time! We have links to some helpful hints about not letting your period stop your adventures on our website.

The Box

Scouts are encouraged to bring their favorite form of period protection in a zip lock or zippered bag with their name on it to put into The Box, a box that will contain everyone's emergency items, just in case. If a scout is surprised by her period at an event, she can just tell the Scoutmaster she needs The Box. If she uses her emergency supply, she should make a point to bring refills later. The troop will have some supplies in The Box for those who are not prepared but can't guarantee brand or style preferences.

Disposal

Periods should not be a barrier to scouting. Used period products must be disposed of properly. Period products do not get flushed or thrown in latrines in any location. If there is not a restroom with a wastebasket, items should be wrapped and disposed of in the nearest trashcan. On a camping trip, scouts should bring a resealable bag to put these items until a trash can is available. **Personal trash should not be left out or kept in tents as it will attract animals. If you are in a location that has dedicated sanitary disposal boxes, check to make sure the box is equipped with a paper liner before using it. (Especially on a Scout property, let your scoutmaster and/or ranger know if the facility doesn't have liners so we can mention it.)

Cramps and other side effects

Everyone experiences their periods differently, and in a girl troop, it's a safe assumption that everyone has, will have, or has had periods (though not always true, due to many reasons). Everyone's symptoms are different, and we validate the challenges that come with monthly cramping and mood changes.

We encourage our scouts (and parents) to try to be as active as possible throughout the month with the hopes that physical activity will help keep us physically strong all the time. If a scout is experiencing cycle-related symptoms, let us know how we can support her participation without minimizing her concerns.

Scout leaders can give basic pain medications like ibuprofen and acetaminophen with parental permission, and scouts should never carry other medications with them. If a scout has a preferred medication, she should turn it in with a medication form.

Women's Hygiene Kit for Scouts and Adults

Each woman should include her preferred items in her kit.

Start with an opaque, drawstring bag. Inside is a gallon-sized Ziploc bag, a small package of wet wipes, hand sanitizer, your preferred products (tampons, pads, etc), a roll of dog-waste bags for trash, and a smaller Ziploc bag for waste. (Note: tampons without applicators take a lot less space but require some practice. Menstrual cups or reusable "period" underwear produce no waste but have clean-up requirements.)

Include a disposal container:

- * A quart-sized Ziploc bag covered with duct tape and/or
- * An opaque or taped-over water bottle that you won't use anymore, labeled TRASH

Dog waste bags are a handy way to wrap used products to decrease odors and keep them in place.

These are good for anywhere, especially if there are no bins or liners.

Wet wipes should go into disposal container, never into your cathole!

Leadership Training offered through BSA

Leadership Training for Scouts

ILST

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops is the first level of youth leadership training and is organized by a troop to provide the first level of training for scouts.

NYLT

National Youth Leadership Training is offered by the Council and different times throughout the year. It



is a national curriculum and is staffed by trained adult and youth leaders. NYLT spring and fall courses are offered over two weekends with one weekend between. A summer course is a weeklong course. Scouts must be 13 years old and First Class or above to attend NYLT.

NYLT is an exceptional leadership course and teaches scouts the principles of servant leadership, as well as allowing scouts to connect with others.

NAYLE

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience is an advanced leadership training held at the national level. NAYLE is held at Philmont and Summit Bechtel and is open to scouts who have completed ILST and NYLT and are age 14 and/or have completed 8th grade.



Leadership Training for Adults

Position-Specific Training

BSA offers training for adult leaders in various council-led trainings, including the University of Scouting and sometimes at events like Merit Badge University. These courses offer position-specific training for your role in scouting.

Adult leaders attending summer camp will also have many training opportunities throughout the week.

Many trainings are also offered online, free of charge.

All adults involved in Troop 222 are asked to take BSA's Youth Protection Training (YPT) and submit their completion certificate to our Committee Chair. Taking the YPT course ensures that all adults know the expectations and limitations for adults in BSA troops and activities. All registered leaders in Scouts BSA must keep their YPT up-to-date, which means renewing every two years.

Merit Badge Counselor training, Scoutmaster training, Committee member training, and more are all offered online as well through Scouts BSA. Leaders' training is stored in the scouting website under each leader's individual BSA ID.

Wood Badge

Wood Badge is a premiere leadership training with a national curriculum. Crossroads of America Council offers 2-3 Wood Badge programs throughout the year, dependent on leadership. Spring and Fall courses are offered over two weekends with one weekend off between the two. The Summer course (when offered) is a week-long course. These courses are held at camps with a blend between cabins and



camping. Wood Badge teaches leadership skills that go into everyday life as well as scouting skills. Wood Badge participants are leaders in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts, as well as Council-level volunteers. Along with their five-day leadership training, Wood Badge participants commit to working on five tasks over the following 18 months to improve their units and scouting. These tasks are called the “ticket” – and commit to diversity and member recruitment and retention.

Online Resources

Scouts BSA offers a wide variety of training sessions through My.Scouting website.

Troop Resources are available for scout leaders on troopleader.scouting.org, and all sorts of scouting advice is on blog.scoutingmagazine.org. (Any answers to questions on this site are official answers! On Scouting is *the* source!)

Tips are offered through experienced scouters online like Scoutsmarts.com and ScoutmasterCG.com.

Using Scoutbook

Parents will be invited to connect to their Scout's account using the same login as they use in My.Scouting for their Scout training. The committee chair and Advancement Chair will train parents in how to use Scoutbook. Scoutbook contains information on both the scout and the troop.

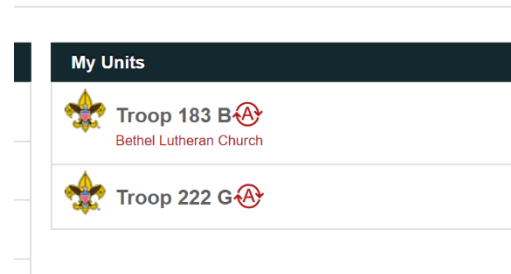
The Scout

Your scout's profile gives you a place to see her information – address, school, grade, advancement, current and past leadership roles, and parent connections.

Features in Scoutbook enable you to quickly see your scout's percentage toward rank and progress on merit badges.

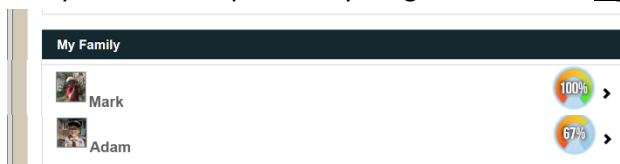
Camping, hiking, and service logs are also accessible on Scoutbook.

If you have connections to multiple scouts and/or multiple units (troops, packs, or crews), you can switch between these scouts or units on your administration page.



Tracking

You can track your scout's progress in Scoutbook through rank advancement and merit badges. Parents may mark as completed anything that has been signed off in the scout's Handbook by a scout leader or



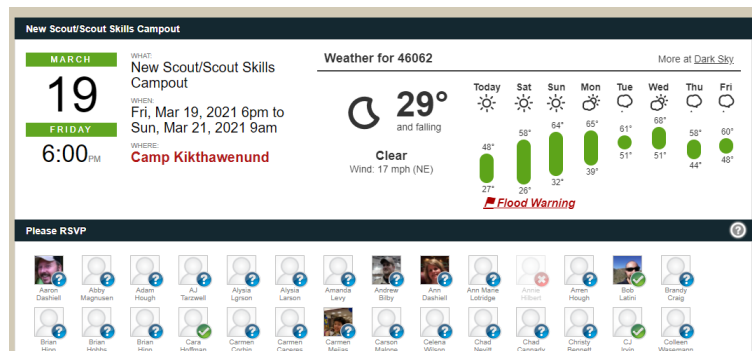
older scout. No parent should "approve" their own scout's advancement or merit badges; the Advancement chair, Committee chair, or Scoutmaster are to approve advancement and merit badges.

The Troop

Troop information, including leader contact, troop and patrol rosters, and the troop calendar, are all part of Scoutbook. Scouts will be expected to RSVP for every scout activity – not just those they will be attending, but also those they will not. Parents also will be asked to RSVP. This is the best and most simple way to let the leaders know who is attending. You can sync the troop calendar to get notifications on your personal online calendar.

Training

Scoutbook training is provided by the committee for all new and existing scout parents. The Committee chair can answer any Scoutbook questions.



Finances

2022 Unit Budget & Scout Dues

The standard unit dues are \$215 per year but vary based on current BSA membership status.

The unit budget is broken down into 3 categories represented in the tables below. For example, if the troop has 10 scouts, after scout expenses that leaves \$48 per scout X 10 scouts = \$480. \$100 goes towards fixed costs and the other \$380 is allocated towards the 6 categories shown below (e.g., \$380 X 45% = \$171 towards equipment). This model builds these funds over time at a rate proportionate to the size of the unit.

Estimated Per-Scout Expenses	Cost	New	Returning	Crossover	Transfer
Scout Recharter Fee*	\$85	x	x		
Class B T-Shirt	\$15	x	x	x	x
Misc. & Materials	\$28	x	x	x	x
Badges & Awards	\$39	x	x	x	x
New Scout Items	-				
Book	\$18	x		x	
Neckerchief	\$12	x		x	x
Slide	\$7	x		x	
Troop 222 Patch	\$4	x		x	x
Patrol Patch	\$3	x		x	x
Shoulder Loops	\$5	x		x	
2022 Dues		\$264	\$215	\$179	\$149
Per-Scout Sub-Total		\$216	\$167	\$131	\$101
Remaining Towards Variable Expenses		\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48

* BSA membership fees are prorated; scouts that register at the end of February would pay approximately \$71 (vs. the \$85 shown). Scouts that cross over from a Cub Scout pack or another BSA troop would have already been registered through their existing unit.

Remaining Budget Allocation	Rate
Equipment	45%
NYLT Scholarship Fund	20%
Leader Training	10%
Memorials & Gifts	5%
Dues Assistance	10%
Contingency	10%
Total	100%

Fixed Troop Expenses	Cost
Troop Recharter Fee	\$75
Office Supplies	\$25
Total	\$100

Dues do not include summer camp or events. Summer camp is approximately \$300. Monthly events include camping, lock-ins, or outings and typically range from \$10 to \$50 (average about \$25). All events are encouraged but optional.

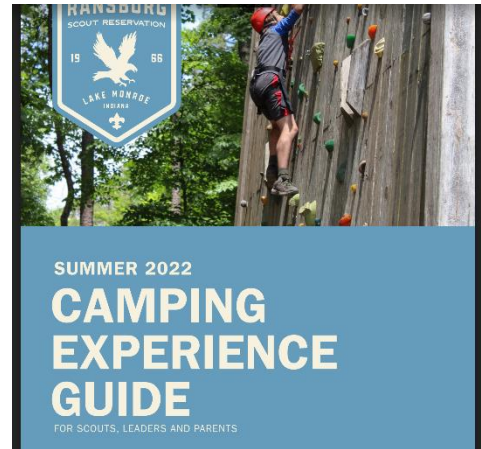
Assistance, payment plans, and fundraising are available. Speak to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, or Treasurer for information. Please do not let cost be a factor in your decision to join Scouts BSA.

Summer Camp

Troop 222's "home" summer camp is at Ransburg Scout Reservation near Bloomington. The best resource to learn about summer camp programs, camp traditions, camp policies, and expectations is Ransburg's website, www.ransburgbsa.org. This website really is the best place for information about camp, and all parents should check out their current camping experience guide to learn all about summer camp at Ransburg. (This is a PDF document that can be found on the website.)

Our troop attends summer camp during the camping season "week 3" in mid- to late June. We are assigned a campsite based on the size of our unit as well as other camp reservations.

The troop will give each scout a class schedule and a Ransburg map on the first day of class. She is responsible to attend her classes through the week. (Scouts might want to bring a folder to keep materials.)



Food at Camp

Meals

Troops eat three meals a day together in the dining hall. (Field uniform expected for dinner). Meals are basic camp-style meals served family style. Every meal at camp includes an optional salad bar and sunbutter and jelly for sandwiches. Wednesday night dinner is "on our own" as a troop. \$20 is added to the cost of camp to cover the cost of a meal at a restaurant in town or delivered to our campsite. There is no "opt out" for this meal or for meals at camp. Any dietary needs must be noted in health forms and camp registration.

Snacks

The Trading Post is a camp favorite – scouts who plan to spend money on snacks and items (and they all do) should bring money. There's no set amount that a scout "should" bring – but \$50 should be sufficient. Scout leaders will not monitor what scouts buy/spend at the trading post or what snacks and drinks they are buying; this is the scout's responsibility.

No snacks may be eaten or stored in campers' tents. This is a cleanliness and pest control issue. Each scout may bring a one-gallon (or smaller) Ziploc bag of snacks with their name on it, to be stored in the troop trailer.

Camp Expenses

Most camp expenses are covered through camp fees. The only things not included are supplies for certain merit badge classes or activities that are clearly designated in the course catalogue. Those fees are paid at camp.

The trading post offers snacks, drinks, camp gear, mementoes, etc. Parents may purchase reloadable gift cards at Crossroads Outfitters that may be used at any BSA shop, but scouts should be careful not to lose them. Scouts are responsible for their own camp money and/or cards. Do not send a credit or debit

cards with your scout! Parents who attend camp should strive to allow their scouts to make their own decisions about purchases and should not keep track of their money for them.

Packing for Camp

SHELTER

RSR provides a tent and a cot for each camper - tents are double occupancy

Sleeping pad

Sleeping bag & small pillow

Folding camp chair or stool

Optional: Mosquito net (keeps bugs out)

Small Tarp (5'x7' or 6'x8')

PERSONAL ITEMS

Please be sure to put your name or initials on everything!

CLOTHING

Field Uniform (must be worn on the way to Camp, and for each dinner)

6-7 Pairs of Socks (include at least one pr good hiking socks)

5-6 Short Sleeve T-Shirts (including Activity Uniform T-shirt)

2 Pair of Shoes or Boots (Sturdy shoes that tie!)

Other shoes: Horsemanship merit badge and trail rides require a heeled shoe, boating merit badge and activity need water shoes.

1-2 Long Sleeve T-Shirts or Lightweight Shirts

1 Sweatshirt or Fleece

2 pairs Pants (zip-off pants work very well; avoid sweats and jeans, though scouts taking horsemanship classes will need one pair of jeans)

1 Pair of Shower-type sandals

Handkerchief/Bandana

1 Hat

3-4 pairs Shorts (include Scout shorts if you own any)

1 Belt (Scout belt if you own one)

1-2 Swimsuits: Camp guidance says one-piece or tankinis, no bikinis

1 Pair of Work Gloves

1 Plastic Shirt Hanger (to hang up your Scout shirt each night)

6 Pairs of Underwear

1 Laundry Bag / Plastic Garbage bag (to hold your dirty laundry!)

ESSENTIALS

Day Pack

Medications – all in the original package and in a Ziploc bag with a medication form (Do not pack in your gear!)

Rain gear	Sunglasses (nothing fancy)
1-2 Water Bottles	Sunscreen, Chapstick & Bug Spray
Flashlight & Extra Batteries (A HEADLAMP is a must!)	1 Wristwatch (that does not need charging)
Compass	Scout Handbook, Small Notebook, Pens & Pencils (put inside a gallon sized zip lock bag)
Pocket Knife & Tot'n Chip Card	Merit Badge Prerequisites, Worksheets or Booklets
Personal First Aid Kit	Spending Money – best placed on a BSA gift card -- \$50 - \$75 (these cards are refillable, so putting \$50 to start with the option to add on is probably wise)
Basic Toiletries (toothpaste/brush, soap, shampoo)	
1-2 Towels (quick drying towels work great!)	

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Book(s), cards or other board games	Mosquito net for inside tent
Stuffed animal or “friend” to stay inside your sleeping bag (washable, just in case)	Healthy Snacks (one gallon bag with your name on it - all snacks will be stored in the trailer)

Pack all items in a large plastic tote. These will stack better in a trailer and keep everyone's belongings separate during transport and are handy to store in camp (and waterproof). Write your scout's name on the tote and the lid.

Other Camp Activities

Aside from merit badge classes and meals, summer camp at Ransburg offers a wide variety of activities during free time: waterfront activities, shooting sports, climbing and rappelling, and more. In addition, scouts may work toward the camping honor society Firecrafter during their week of scout camp.

Electronics

The Troop Electronics policy is especially important at summer camp. Electronic entertainment like video games and music players are not allowed. Modern mobile devices are entertainment, communication, and reference all in one, which complicates phone usage at camp. Scouts might use their phone apps for photography, directions, time, knots, stars, and many other scout-friendly activities, which are all great. However, communications with home, games, music, and other distractions take away from the camp experience (see below for communication from home). If a scout's phone usage becomes problematic, a scoutmaster will address the issue. Consequences may include warnings and temporary or camp-long loss of phone privileges.

If a scout brings a phone, she bears full responsibility for it. There will be no charging locations for scouts' phones. Leaders do not assume any responsibility for keeping phones from getting lost, forgotten, or wet. Scouts must power off their phones at night. (If they usually use their phones for timekeeping, bring a watch for the week – not a smart watch.)

Electronic reading devices, like a Kindle, are permitted but with the same understanding as phones – the scout bears the responsibility to keep these safe and there are no charging facilities. Scouts are wise to bring a plastic bag to protect any electronic device from the inevitable damp.

Communication with your Scout

The goal of summer camp is to transport your daughter to a new place and have new experiences. While we want her to share those adventures with you, we do not encourage frequent calls/texts home as experience has shown that it pulls the girls out of the “camp” context and puts them back at “home,” which they then miss. Adults at camp can help fill you in on anything going on if you have a concern and can arrange a conversation at camp if it is important. Adults will have access to charging facilities and available in case of emergency to care for your scout.

Scout (or Adult) Name
Bison Trace / Troop 222
Ransburg Scout Reservation
7599 E. Waldrip Creek Road
Bloomington, IN 47401

You may send your scout letters at camp, though do not mail anything valuable just in case it doesn't get there in time. Keep any mail light-hearted (nothing that might trigger homesickness) – jokes, cartoons, and funny stories are always good. Remind your scout that you're proud of her for doing this! Any letters that are not claimed at the end of the week will be disposed of.

Critters at Camp

Yes. There are critters at camp, from bugs to furry creatures. Some of them are inevitable, and some are not. The best advice for critter management is:

NO FOOD IN TENTS. Store food in a closed container in the troop trailer and only eat snacks in campsite areas away from the tents. Check your daypack to make sure there are no forgotten granola bars!

Keep your tent clean! Sweep the platform, put everything into your tote every day, and don't leave things around for anything to “mess with.”

Use bug spray! Many folks like to try natural or non-DEET bug prevention but the truth is, the bugs at scout camp need the real stuff. Pretreating clothing with permethrin will last for several washes (and works to keep away mosquitoes and ticks), and insect repellants with DEET or picaridin are the only effective way to reduce bug bites. Scouts should bring a non-aerosol bottle of bug repellent for camp and should reapply as needed.

Shake out your sleeping bag, blanket, and pillow at bedtime so it's fresh and less inviting for anything but you.

Pick up any snacks or food items that are dropped in camp and properly dispose of them. A food source encourages critters.

Don't stress. Bugs and critters are part of camp life. Adults – this is on you: Do not entertain stories of scary creatures at camp. Older scouts should offer assistance to younger scouts but should not spread stories. We are cautious and aware but not afraid. After a day or two, everyone will be used to the spiders and flying things who also live in the space we're using.

Scouting Honor Societies

Firecrafter

Firecrafter is a Crossroads of America Council camping honor society based in learning and demonstrating scout skills and scout spirit at camp. Firecrafter has three ranks: Camper, Woodsman, and Firecrafter, and the steps for these ranks may only be completed at summer camp. Minisino is a fourth, honorary rank.

Scouts who choose to participate in Firecrafter activities may practice and prepare ahead of time, especially for Firecrafter rank, which requires each candidate to plan and lead a campfire program. Other scouts are at camp and prepared to help candidates with their requirements.

Those candidates who complete their Firecrafter rank at camp then finish their accomplishment at the Midsummer or Grand Ritual later in the summer. The traditions of Firecrafter are safeguarded but not secret, in keeping with BSA standards for safety and protection.



Order of the Arrow (OA)

Order of the Arrow is BSA's National Camping Honor Society. Scouts are eligible for election to OA by having 15 camping nights and being First Class. Elections are held in the late winter in the troop – no one is automatically selected for OA but the troop elects eligible candidates. Those who are elected to become OA candidates are called out at the spring camporee.



OA candidates then present themselves to an area "Ordeal" – a weekend camping outing in the spring in which they also perform service and learn the history and meaning of OA. OA Ordeal members may then seal their brotherhood in a future event, and some may become Vigil members.

Adult leaders may also be selected for OA.

Our OA organization is the Jaccos Towne Lodge.

OA traditions are, like Firecrafter, safeguarded, not secret. No scout is ever hazed or allowed to be put in danger in these scouting honor societies.

GLOSSARY

Blue Card: This is the record of a scout's merit badge progress. The Scoutmaster signs the blue card indicating that the scout has been approved to start working on the badge, and once completed, the merit badge counselor and the scoutmaster sign the card. The scout then turns it in to the Advancement Chair for recording. The scout then keeps her portion of the completed blue card in her records. Partially filled blue cards should be kept safe until the scout finishes that merit badge.

Board of Review: This is the last step of each rank advancement, when the scout sits before a small group of adults from the Troop Committee. During this time, the committee members ask questions of the scout – not to try to stump her or test her knowledge, but to give her a chance to talk about what she has done as part of her rank advancement. A Board of Review is like a job interview, and each rank's Board of Review will likely have harder and more reflective questions. Scoutmasters do not sit on Boards of Review. All parents should plan to sit on Boards of Review from time to time. Sample questions are provided.

Chartered Organization: This is the group that “sponsors” our troop. For troop 222, it's Bethel Lutheran Church. They have agreed to charter our troop, and they lend space and support to us. In exchange, we participate in service for the church, including assisting with the annual rummage sale in June, property clean up days, and more. Bethel Lutheran also is the chartered organization for boys' troop 183.

Committee: The group responsible for the administrative tasks of the troop. All parents are part of the Troop Committee, and many parents take leadership roles to make sure things run smoothly.

Court of Honor: There are two kinds of Courts of Honor in Scouts BSA

Troop Courts of Honor: The troop holds regular Courts of Honor to recognize advancement and accomplishments of the troop. These are special ceremonies held separately from troop meetings and are times to invite parents or other relatives to celebrate with you. While rank patches are awarded as soon after new ranks are achieved, scouts are recognized for their advancement, given their rank cards, and congratulate their parents at this time. Merit badges are also awarded at Courts of Honor. Troop Courts of Honor are scheduled for spring and fall.

Eagle Courts of Honor: When a Scout achieves Eagle Scout, she has her own special Court of Honor to celebrate her accomplishment. This is usually planned by the scout and/or her family. It can be held at the church or in another location. Eagle Court of Honor ceremony ideas can be found online, and Scoutmasters can help with planning. Some parents have a reception afterward with food; this is not necessary but is a fun time for others to congratulate the scout. Some parents might ask why all of this is necessary, but it's a very good time to recognize that scout's accomplishments. Displays at an Eagle Court of Honor might show off items from the scout's journey through scouting, congratulatory letters, photos, patches, awards, etc.

Courts of Honor are good opportunities for Scouts to serve as Master of Ceremonies, which is required for advancement and merit badges.

Grubmaster: The Scout who has volunteered to take the lead on food for a troop campout. The Grubmaster prepares the menu, shops for the food, and then prepares meals with assistance of others

according to the duty roster. Every scout will have a turn to be Grubmaster as it is a requirement for rank advancement.

Handbook for Girls, or BSA Handbook: The scout's handbook, containing all the information needed for advancement, rank requirement checklists, and more. Scouts should bring this to every meeting.

Hike: A hike is a walk with intent. Taking your dog for a walk isn't necessarily a hike, but a longer walk is a hike. Hikes can be in the woods, parks, or trails; walking in a city or town is an urban hike.

Merit Badge: Merit badges are focused on a wide variety of topics related to hobbies, skills, potential careers, and citizenship. Some merit badges are required on the path to Eagle Scout ("Eagle-required" and signified by the silver edge on the badge) and others are elective.

Merit Badge Counselors work with scouts to help them learn the material, and to sign off when the requirements are completed. Scouts do not have to work with a merit badge counselor who is affiliated with our troop – in fact, they are encouraged to branch out.

Mess Kit: The scout's mealtime gear – plates, bowls, cups, and utensils. Metal bowls, cups, and plates conduct heat and can get HOT. A mesh bag can keep these together and can be hung to dry at campouts.

Patrol: A group of 6-10 scouts, usually of a similar age, who work together within the troop.

Patrol Outing: an activity planned by the patrol outside of regular troop meeting time. Any patrol outing must still include two-deep leadership (two adults) and follow the rules of safe scouting.

Requirements: anything the scout needs to do to meet the expectations of a merit badge or rank advancement. Some requirements can be done in any order; others are specifically ordered. Scouts are wise to read these carefully. "Demonstrate," "Explain," and other verbs have to be followed to meet requirements.

Scoutbook: Scoutbook is the official BSA software that our troop uses for membership, tracking, and communication. Our committee provides Scoutbook support for parents.

Service: Work that benefits others for which the scout does not receive payment.

Service Hours: Hours logged doing service for others, whether in a scout service project or for another organization. Service hours that a scout uses to fulfil another organization's service requirements (National Honor Society, KEY Club, etc.) should not be counted for Scouts. The Scout should have the organizer of the project sign off in the service log in their Handbook.

Service Project: A formal work period that benefits another not-for-profit organization like a school, church, community, park, etc. A troop service project might occur as part of another event. Troop service hours will be recorded in Scoutbook by a troop leader.

Troop meeting: Regularly scheduled troop meetings (usually Monday evenings at Bethel)

Uniform: Scouting attire as described by the BSA Handbook

Field Uniform (sometimes called the old name, “Class A”): The tan scout shirt, green pants, and neckerchief.

Activity Uniform (sometimes called “Class B”): The troop activity t-shirt, pants or shorts

Youth Protection: Any adult participating in troop activities must have taken the BSA Youth Protection training. This training is offered as an online course and must be renewed every two years. There are no exceptions. Understanding the expectations for safety for our youth is important for every parent, and anyone who participates in our activities must be informed of what is acceptable and what is not.

This Handbook was created in 2022 by Scoutmaster Jenny R. Sherrill as part of her Wood Badge ticket, course 160-9-22-1. All contents are subject to change as Troop 222 develops new strategies and policies. Special thanks to Troop 183 and Troop 101 for sharing their handbooks and policies for the basis of ours.

FORMS

The pages that follow contain various forms specific to Troop 222.

Scouts BSA Troop 222 Code of Conduct Contract

Each Scout and Adult in Troop 222 shall practice living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law in everyday life, as well as at all Scouting functions. All Scouts and Adults will observe the Guide to Safe Scouting as defined by the Boy Scouts of America.

The Code of Conduct is as follows:

Each Scout and Adult will treat other Scouts and Adults with respect at all times.

Each Scout will conduct themselves in a 'Scout-like' manner and carry out all duties assigned to them by the leaders (both youth and adult) in charge.

Foul language (cursing) or obscenity will not be tolerated at any time.

Physical or verbal abuse, hazing, or pranks against other Scouts or Adults will not be tolerated.

Roughhousing, fighting, or "threats" to Scouts or Adults will not be allowed.

Personal and Troop property will be respected at all times, and nothing will be taken or used that belongs to another Scout or Adult without that person's permission.

If you break or lose another Scout's or Adult's property, you will replace it -- if you had permission to use it or not.

During meetings, campouts and other Scout activities, Scouts will not be allowed to leave the meeting or program area for any reason, unless an Adult Leader has granted permission, and ensured the proper supervision. This includes leaving with a parent. Adults leaving the area are asked to check in before they leave.

The meeting area will be kept neat and left clean including the bathroom area. Scouts and Adults will clean up after themselves and at the end of each meeting, as assigned.

Non-compliance with any of the above Code will result in the Scout facing one or more of the following actions, with right to appeal to the Troop Committee Chair:

- Peer to Peer Meeting with another Scout, Patrol Leader or Junior Leader
- A meeting with the Scoutmaster or adult leader as designated
- A parent being called and the Scout being sent home from an event
- Letter of apology prepared by the Scout and/or Adult
- Scout's parent(s) requested to begin attending troop events or Scout and parent(s) present themselves before the Troop Committee
- Temporary suspension from Troop activities OR Non-renewal of Scout's registration with Troop 222.

I agree to abide by the Troop 222 Code of Conduct.

Scout's or Adult's Name: (print) _____ Date: _____

Signature of Scout or Adult: _____

Signature of Parent (for Scouts): _____

Medication form

Medications			
Scout name:			
Medication Name	Dosage: quantity and time	Appearance	Medication for:

Medications			
Scout name:			
Medication Name	Dosage: quantity and time	Appearance	Medication for:

Medications			
Scout name:			
Medication Name	Dosage: quantity and time	Appearance	Medication for:

Medications			
Scout name:			
Medication Name	Dosage: quantity and time	Appearance	Medication for: