

Boy Scout Troop 139 Orientation Handbook



This handbook contains information for parents of boys in
Troop 139.

Our Troop is chartered by:
United Church of Christ
785 W. Street Road, Warminster, PA 18974

We are in the Bucks County Council, Lenape District.

If you are new to Scouting or crossing over from a Cub
Scout Pack, this packet will give you useful information on
what will be expected of your son (and you!).

We have tried to include everything, but if you have any
further questions, don't hesitate to ask anyone on the
Committee or one of the Adult Leaders.

Induction into Troop

Boys new to scouting must learn the requirements listed in the front of their Scout Handbook before being inducted into the Troop. Webelos will have done this for their Arrow of Light Rank (this is the only Cub Scout Badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform). Induction ceremonies are regularly scheduled as part of a Troop Court of Honor. All new boys to the troop will receive their Troop 139 number patch, their Scout patch and their Troop neckerchief.



Registration

For Webelos crossing over into the Troop, a fee of \$15.00 is required. Normal registration is \$50.00, which includes: registration at Council, Insurance, Boys Life Magazine and Troop Fees.

Troop Meeting



Troop Meetings are usually held Monday evenings 7:30pm . 9:00pm, at the Log College Middle School. Information and demonstrations for upcoming trips are provided. Occasionally, Merit Badge Counselors provide opportunities to work on Merit Badges. Guest Speakers are sometimes invited to meetings. Scoutmaster conferences and Board of Reviews for Rank advancement can be scheduled. Supermarket Script certificates can also be picked up.



Where Can I Buy Scout Related Items?



Most Scout related supplies can be purchased at the Council Store in Doylestown (next to the Mercer Museum), Rose Uniforms in Willow Grove or the BSA National store at the Cradle of Liberty Council Office in Valley Forge, PA. This includes Uniforms, Socks, Belts, Handbooks, etc. Some items, like Rank Advancement patches, Merit Badges, etc. are purchased by the Troop for your son.

Scout Uniform

Full Dress or “**Class A**” uniforms should be worn to all Troop Meetings, Trips and Scout Functions. This uniform consists of a khaki Scout shirt, pants, socks, belt, Troop Neckerchief and slide.

The activity uniform or “**Class B**” uniforms, consists of a red Troop 139 T-Shirt, khaki Scout Shorts / Pants, socks and belt. You will be notified of events or meetings when this is the appropriate uniform. Troop 139 T-shirts may be purchased through the troop.



At induction, the red Troop 139+ number patch and brown neckerchief will be provided by the Troop. If your neckerchief is lost, a new one may be purchased for \$5.

At Courts of Honor, all Merit and Rank Badges will be provided by the Troop.

A **Uniform Exchange** program is also available. There is no charge for this exchange. If you need a recycled shirt, pants or shorts, simply donate your outgrown uniform and select one in the size you need.

Troop 139 T-shirts: Tom McKeone . (610) 764-7482

Replacement Neckerchief: Zoe Puglisi . (215) 672-4721

Uniform Exchange: Zoe Puglisi . (215) 672-4721

Scout Leadership

Troop 139 is run by the boys!



Patrol Leaders' Council Members include: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), Patrol Leaders, Troop Scribe, Historian, Troop Guides, Quartermaster, Librarian and Instructors.

The Patrol Leaders' Council meets monthly to decide the format and content of each Troop Meeting. These meetings are noted as “**PLC Meeting**” on the Troop Calendar. If your son is not in one of the Leadership positions listed above, he does not attend these meetings.

The members of the Patrol Leaders' Council are responsible for planning monthly trips. These trips provide the means to accomplish many of the requirements for rank advancement and merit badges.

Leadership roles are necessary to fulfill certain Rank requirements, and each scout will be expected to assume a leadership role for a period of time as he advances.

The boys in the Troop vote for leader positions each Spring or as otherwise needed.

Patrols



Scouts are formed into Patrols and each Patrol elects their own Patrol Leader on a semi-annual basis. The Patrol Leader then selects the Asst. Patrol Leader, Patrol Scribe and Patrol Quartermaster.



As Webelos crossover into the Troop, their Dens become the newest Patrol . the **Cobra Patrol or Panther Patrol**. Instead of electing a Patrol Leader, these first year Scouts will work with a **Troop Guide**, who will help them learn the requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and some requirements for 1st Class. Prior to new Scouts joining the troop, (January), these Scouts will be assigned to a permanent patrol.



All patrols have a phone chain. Your son will be called by his Patrol Leader prior to a Monday night meeting, to remind him to turn in permission slips, special needs for that meeting or general announcements.

Adult Leadership

Boy Scouting is VERY Different from Cub Scouting.



Adult Leaders do not provide a program as was done in Cub Scouts. They play an advisory role only. The underlying purpose of Scouting is to teach Leadership to the boys. We will let them lead: this is their Troop.

As Adult Leaders, we help any way we can, but the ultimate responsibility is on the boys. Sometimes they learn by failure. We let them try as long as what they are doing is safe and reasonable.

Hazing is not permitted, and any suspicion of it should be brought to the attention of an Adult Leader.

Scouting is for the entire family, and we ask that you **get involved and help out**. Driving on a trip, teaching a special skill or contributing to the newsletter are some of the little things that make us all part of the same scouting family. All

interested parents are invited to attend any of our functions, but we ask that you respect the authority of the Scout Leaders at all times.

Current Adult Leader names and contact information are listed on a separate page.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee provides for the administrative and financial needs to run the Troop. **All parents** are encouraged to join or attend any Committee Meeting. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at the United Church of Christ Warminster starting at 7:00pm. The Troop Committee Member names / positions are included on a separate page.



Troop 139 Newsletter & Website

The Troop has a monthly newsletter, **The Gazette**, which is distributed to each scout family. The boys should read it to keep up on current information about meeting dates or events, special projects, Merit Badges, Trips and Permission slips, etc. A monthly Calendar of events is also included.

A copy of the Gazette as well as a calendar of events and other interesting troop information can also be found at www.bsatroop139.org. The scouts of Troop 139 maintain this site.



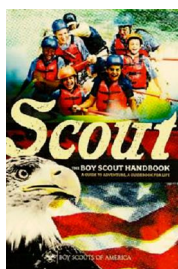
GAZETTE

Troop 139 Warminster, PA



Scout Handbook

Each Scout will need to supply his own Handbook (can be purchased at the Scout Store in Doylestown).



The Scout Handbook contains a variety of information your son will need about Rank Advancement, First Aid, Camping, etc. He should bring this Handbook to each meeting and refer to it regularly. Since every Scout brings his Handbook to each meeting, we suggest you write your last name on the closed edges of the book. This makes the books easier to identify. The Scout Handbook is also used to record completion of Rank Advancement requirements.

Behavior

Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Laws. Each Scout is responsible for knowing and understanding the Scout Law completely. Patrol Leaders are in charge of the conduct of their patrol. The Troop has a discipline policy based on the Scout Law, please read the separately prepared policy thoroughly.

Fundraising

The Troop assesses each Scout \$60.00. Families can pay this by check, through participation in the Joe Corbi's Cookie and Pizza sales, or by the purchase of supermarket script. These funds are a necessary means for keeping our Troop solvent. Without it, we could not provide camping gear, canoes, Merit and Rank Badges, etc.

Supermarket Script

Scouting for the individual can get very expensive. Personal equipment, trip costs and Summer Camp all add up quickly. This program provides you and your scout(s) with an easy way to earn money to defray the costs. It allows the scouts to accumulate money in their individual accounts that are used for scouting expenses. One boy purchased a \$600 Canoe with money he earned through this fundraiser. Many boys never pay for a trip, they just ask for payment to be deducted from their accounts.

Here's how it works:

The Troop buys Food Store Gift Certificates with a \$100 Face value for \$95 and sells them to you for \$100. You use the certificates just like cash. The Troop turns a \$5 profit in the transaction: \$3 is assigned to a special %Scout Account+ for the scout responsible for the sale. The other \$2 is used for Troop expenses. Your Scout will earn \$3 for every \$100 in sales!

Should your family use the certificates every week and spend \$100 at the Supermarket, he will earn \$150 a year. If he has a little initiative and sells to neighbors, Grandparents, etc., he can earn \$500-\$600 a year. All it takes is a phone call to the person in charge of the account, and they will bring the script to the next Troop Meeting where the exchanges are made.

Best of all, you don't buy anything you don't really need or use. It costs you no more than shopping with Cash! The program has been in place for years and works great. For more information, contact the person who handles the Script for the store you shop at.

Giant and ShopRite: Cynthia McGinley (215) 682-7283

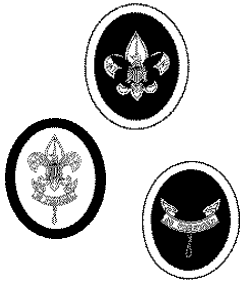
Sell Script Help Troop 139 Grow ! ! ! ! !

Joe Corbi's Cookie and Pizza Sales

\$5.00 from each item sold is applied toward the \$60.00 assessment. Above that, \$4.00 is placed in the %Scout Account+ and \$1.00 goes to the Troop.

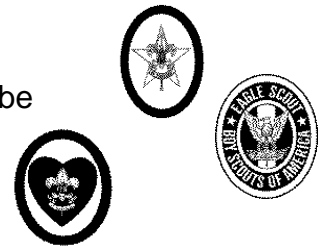
Rank Advancement

Each Scout must take the initiative to achieve Rank Advancement. They must refer to their Scout handbook for requirements and then take advantage of opportunities offered through Troop Meetings or Trips, and Summer Camp. They should ask for assistance when needed.



Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are the first three ranks the boys will strive for. These Rank advancement requirements can be worked on simultaneously. Many of the monthly trips provide opportunities to fulfill the requirements for these ranks. Summer Camp also provides a first year scout program, which will enable the boys to complete the requirements.

Star, Life and Eagle are the succeeding ranks. These must be done individually. Among other requirements, they require the leadership roles previously mentioned.



Be active in your Troop

The first requirement for the rank of Star, Life and Eagle reads:

“Be active in your troop and patrol . . . Troop 139 has determined that the definition of %active+will be 50% participation in Troop Meetings and Troop trips for all Scouts.

Scoutmaster’s Conference and Board of Review

As a Scout completes the requirements for each rank, it is his responsibility to schedule a Scoutmaster conference and Board of Review. Scoutmaster’s Conferences and Boards of Review are generally held during a Troop Meeting.

1. Scoutmaster Conference must be scheduled with Scoutmaster Candell in advance of the Troop meeting.
2. You must call the Advancement Chairman, Mr. Detwiler, no later than the Friday before a Troop Meeting to schedule a Board of Review
3. You must know the Scout Oath and Scout Law by heart and will be asked to recite both.

4. You must be in a clean, full dress (Class A) uniform, or you will be told to reschedule the Board of Review

The troop meeting immediately before a Court of Honor is usually completely scheduled with Scoutmasters' Conferences and Boards of Review. Schedule these meetings early to avoid disappointment. These conferences may be held at any time during the year. Your rank advancement takes place immediately after the Board of Review. Recognition and a Rank Patch will be given for the rank advancement at the next Court of Honor (held 3 times a year).

Merit Badges

With so many different Merit Badges to choose from, there is something for everyone! It is up to the individual to choose what badges to work on and the rate of his progress. However, First Aid and Swimming are extremely important and will be the first badges the boys are required to earn in Summer Camp. There is also a list of required Merit Badges a scout must earn as part of the Eagle Scout Requirements. The required merit badges are listed in the Scout Handbook.



---IMPORTANT ---

With each Rank Advancement or Merit Badge earned, in addition to the patch, you will be given a card.

DO NOT LOSE THESE CARDS.

They are very important.

Some boys purchase a 3 Ring binder and use %Collectable Card+ sleeves to keep them organized.

You must keep a record of your progress.

The Troop and Bucks County Council will have records also, but should a discrepancy occur, you will have proof of your accomplishments. This information is most important when applications are filed for Eagle Scout Rank.

Merit Badge Counselors



Each Merit Badge has a Counselor.

They are usually the Adult Leaders of the Troop, but parents who are an expert or have a special skill in a particular field either by profession or hobby can also become a Counselor. Scouts must work with their Counselor in order to complete a Merit Badge. Parents cannot sign off Badge requirements as they did in Cub Scouts. A Merit

Badge Counselor must be a registered Scouter. If you have an interest in helping the Scouts by becoming a Merit Badge Counselor, please contact Cynthia McGinley (215) 682-7283 for the necessary forms.

For each Merit Badge, there is a Merit Badge Pamphlet. These can be purchased at the Scout Store, or check with the Troop Librarian to see if the latest version of this pamphlet is available for the Merit Badge you would like to learn more about.



For Counselors and Scouts alike, Merit Badge information is also available online at: www.meritbadge.org and www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx.

Court of Honor

In Cub Scouts, the boys receive their achievements each month at the Pack Meeting. In Boy Scouts, the boys receive their Rank and Merit Badges at a **Court of Honor**. These events are held in October, February/March and June at the United Church of Christ. Look for information about Courts of Honor in the Gazette.



Scouts must plan and finish their Merit and Rank Badge requirements accordingly.

Eagle Court of Honor

An Eagle Court of Honor is held after a Scout has completed the necessary requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. It is a very special ceremony. Every member of the Troop, as well as family and friends of the Scout being honored are invited to attend



Troop Leadership Training



By Invitation only, Troop Leadership Training is for Scouts pursuing leadership roles such as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader. Additionally, all Scouts who earn the rank of 1st Class during the year will be invited to attend this weekend event, with the assumption that they will be assuming a

Leadership position in the coming year. This is an intense weekend packed with training and activities to provide Scouts the skills and tools required to be an effective Leader. This event is usually held in February.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow is a National Brotherhood of Scout Honor Campers. It originated at Treasure Island Camp (Philadelphia) in 1915 to help strengthen troops and encourage outdoor camping. The purpose of the Order is to build character, encourage selfless service to Scouting and foster Brotherhood. Inspirational ceremonies are based on Indian legend and lore that strengthen understanding of the Scout Oath and Law. Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, at St Paul's United Methodist Church, on Palomino Drive, Warrington.



Scouts who have achieved a minimum of First Class and have camped at least 15 days and nights (6 consecutive days at summer camp are mandatory) may be nominated to the Order with their Scoutmaster's approval. Elections are by members of the Troop, even those who are currently not members of the Order. Any Scout who achieves at least 50% of the vote is elected.

There is a provision for recommending adults for induction into the Order to assist as Advisors.

Summer Camp

A week of camping at a Scout approved camp is offered during the summer months. Summer Camp begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday. Attendance is highly recommended and provides the chance to acquire Merit Badges in a concentrated amount of time.



There is a first year scout program specifically designed for scouts that are working on Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class ranks. Other scouts can schedule up to 5 Merit Badges with qualified counselors. The Troop camps at the same site, in tents. The Senior Patrol Leader is in charge, and several Adult Leaders always attend. Dads may be asked to volunteer to stay for a few days.



Footlockers with locks will be needed to store the boy's belongings. Detailed information on clothing and supplies required will be provided 2-3 months before Camp.

A doctor must complete a BSA approved physical form. It's a good idea to schedule your physical early in the year.

Your son's Scout Account+ can be used to offset the fee for Summer Camp.

Monthly Trips

Monthly trips are provided for adventure and as opportunities to complete Rank requirements. They usually start early Saturday morning and end Sunday afternoon. They are planned by the Patrol Leaders Council with the guidance of the Adult Leaders.

Trip permission slips will be given out at Troop Meetings, included in the Troop Newsletter (*The Gazette*) or the Troop website (bsatroop139.org) and must be turned in with the trip fee at the designated Troop Meeting. Fees are for Camping charges, transportation and any rental or activity equipment.



Food is generally the responsibility of each Patrol, unless specifically stated on the trip permission slip. Money for food will be collected by the Patrol designated cook for that particular trip.

One of the Adult Leaders will be responsible for each trip: several will attend. Parents are encouraged to come along, but must be willing to spend the weekend roughing it. There are specific guidelines for adult campers. They must sleep in their own tents, which are pitched in a separate area away from the boys. Each parent camping must also complete Youth Protection Training (ask an adult leader for information).

Each Patrol is outfitted with a set of camping supplies (tents, camp stove, etc.). At the conclusion of each trip, one or two scouts from each patrol are responsible for cleaning their patrol's camping supplies.

Parents may be requested to help provide transportation.

Religious obligations may not be able to be fulfilled: please check with the Adult Leader in charge of the trip.



Each Scout must supply his own uniform, sleeping bag, ground mat, backpack, flashlight, canteen, mess kit, utensils, mug, hiking boots and the proper clothing for each trip. A complete packing list is included in the following pages. A transportation insurance disclosure form is provided at the end of this document for those parents who wish to drive on any of the trips.

High Adventure Crew



Troop 139 offers a High Adventure Crew for older Scouts seeking greater challenges. Scouts must be 1st Class or higher in rank, at least 13 years old, and have earned the First Aid and Camping Merit Badges. They must also possess the physical abilities required for the scheduled activity. Past adventures have included Backpacking, Whitewater Rafting, Climbing and long distance Bike Riding. The Crew has regularly scheduled trips in the Fall and Spring.

Skills and Advancement Weekend

Troop 139's goal is to have Scouts learn the skills and knowledge required to reach the rank of 1st Class as quickly as possible. We have seen over the years that if a Scout is not actively advancing in Rank he will eventually lose interest and drop out of Scouting. To give Scouts the chance to get started on the right foot, the troop trip in April is for Skills and Advancement training. This trip is designed to provide Scouts the opportunity to work on items for advancement. This trip is highly recommended for younger Scouts.



District Events

District Swimoree . March

Troops challenge each other in swimming events and games.

District Camporee . April

Troops Camp together and challenge each other in various sporting events, cooking contests, etc

Indoor Rally . November

Troops test their Indoor Scout skills against other Troops. There are events for all level and ages of Boy Scouting. This event is generally held in a school gym in the area.

Klondike Derby . January at Ockanickon Scout Reservation.

This is a contest of Outdoor Scouting skills. Each troop may enter as many sleds as they have scouts to pull them. Each sled team is expected to pull their sled, which contains their supplies and equipment, from station to station. At

each station, they will be expected to perform some scout skill and will be judged. Cooking their lunch is also a station. Sleds will be timed and results will be announced at the end of the day

Things to Take Camping

Always wear your “Class A” uniform, unless directed otherwise

Raincoat or Poncho

Ground Cloth (4qX 6qpiece of Plastic)

Sleeping Bag

Foam Pad (closed cell)

Flashlight with extra batteries

Filled Water Bottle

Eating Utensils:

Knife, Fork, Spoon, Plastic Cup or Mug, Plastic Bowl (Cool Whip Container)

Personal Gear:

Soap, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Comb, Hand Towel, Insect Repellant (non aerosol) and Sunscreen

2 complete Changes of Clothes (to fit the season)

Hat and Gloves if the weather is cold (remember, it usually gets colder at night!)

Pack each complete change of clothes in a separate plastic, zip-lock bag.

4 Pairs socks in plastic, Zip-lock bag

Extra Shoes, Boots

Daypack (use an old School Bag) if hiking and you need to carry your lunch, water bottle, map, compass, etc.

Scout Handbook

Radios, Personal CD Players,
Hand Held Games and any other electronics
ARE NOT PERMITTED on trips.
These are a source of distraction and there are
plenty of other things going on to keep you busy !

The Troop has established a separate Cell Phone Policy which should be read in conjunction with the Troop's Orientation Handbook.

Try to make it easy on us and pack things well, loose sleeping bags, shoes, etc are hard to keep track of. A large duffel bag (**not a trash bag**) will probably hold all the gear needed. Write your last name or initials on **everything**. It always rains when we go camping, and we need to make the best of it. The trips are designed so each scout can participate and gain something from them.

This is a general list of camping supplies. Some trips will require other gear. Those items will be discussed at the Troop Meetings held before the trip.

Special trips may not be open to all scouts; the younger boys will have to wait until they acquire the necessary skills before participating.

TROOP 139 DRIVER / INSURANCE INFORMATION YEAR _____

A Tour permit must be filed with Bucks County Boy Scout Council for all Troop trips and activities not held at the regular meeting facility or Troop Room. On the tour permit, it requires a list of all drivers with their license, auto and insurance liability information. The Boy Scouts of America requires that all vehicles, used for Troop transportation, **MUST** be covered by a liability insurance policy. Coverage limits are at least \$50,000 / \$100,000 / \$50,000. In order to comply with and facilitate preparation of the tour permit, please complete the following driver information form and return it to Scoutmaster Candell.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Kind, Year, Make of Vehicle: _____

Number of Seat Belts: _____

Driver's License #: _____

Liability / Each Person \$: _____ Each Accident \$: _____

Property Damage\$: _____

