



BSA Troop 221

Sponsor: Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

Wyoming, OH

Queen City District

Dan Beard Council

Parent Guide

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Introduction

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! As a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of our Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy may follow. Reading this will help you understand how your son can progress through the ranks of Scouting. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

What Is It All About?

There are three aims to Scouting:

- Aim 1: To build character
- Aim 2: To foster citizenship
- Aim 3: To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement. They represent the long term outcomes we want for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them in other ways to make ethical choices over their lifetimes in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law:

The Scout Oath (or Promise)

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,
thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young men to develop self confidence, leadership, and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts sit in the highest leadership positions in our government, military, business, and industry.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 3.5 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting is a boy-led organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show. The boys in the Troop will be working toward their First Class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will learn how to lead a team toward a goal and then get practical experience in leadership.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

Organization

Troop 221 is a participating member of the Hamilton South District in the Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's parents.

Chartered Organization

Every Troop belongs to an organization. For over 105 years, the Chartered Organization for Troop 221 has been the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts as liaison between us and the Church.

Adult Leadership

Scoutmaster

The principal adult leader of the Troop is the Scoutmaster. He oversees the entire Troop program, along with his Assistant Scoutmasters. They are the responsible adults at all Troop meeting and activities. At least two registered adult leaders (both of whom must be at least 21 years of age) are required to be present for all Troop 221 meetings, trips or outings.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee, headed by the Chairman, functions as an administrative and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For

example: Advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment, Troop funds and fund raising activities, activity permits, and membership drives.

The Committee meets at least quarterly (and more often if requested by the Chairman). The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults. Any parent who would like to participate as a Scout leader is welcome and just needs to formally apply with the Dan Beard Council.

Boy Leadership

Senior Patrol Leader

The Senior Patrol Leader is an elected position and is the highest boy leadership position in the Troop. The Senior Patrol Leader, with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster, selects his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop Scribe, the Troop Quartermaster, and the Troop Guide. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council which plans all Troop activities and runs the meetings. The Senior Patrol Leader usually serves for a full year and is elected at the beginning of the school year.

Patrols and Patrol Leaders

The Troop is comprised of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and between four and eight Scouts. The boys in a Patrol elect their Patrol leader, who in turn appoints an assistant.

Elections and appointments for Patrol Leaders and other positions are held twice per year, normally at the beginning of the school year and the spring.

Parents

The role of a Troop 221 Scout's parent is to encourage and support his or her son's involvement in Troop activities. Parents should try to:

- Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
- Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and an occasional push if needed.
- Show support for both their own Scout and his buddies by attending the two yearly Troop Courts of Honor.
- Help their Scout acquire and maintain a Scout uniform and the equipment and materials he needs to participate in Scouting activities.
- Assist, as requested, in Troop fund raising and other such activities. Such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and lowers each family's cash outlay for participation.
- Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

Activities

Troop 221 Meetings

Troop 221 holds weekly meetings every Monday from 7:45-9:00 pm in the Cabin Hall room of the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming. The exception is that there are no meetings scheduled on pre-scheduled holidays on the Wyoming City School District calendar during the academic year, during the week that the Troop attends summer camp, or at other designated times on the Troop Calendar.

The Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) is a group consisting of the boy leaders in the Troop. It meets on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-7:45 pm in Cabin Hall to plan the next month's activities and assign instructors. Only the youth and adult leaders are required to attend this meeting.

Weekend Campouts

Campouts are generally within a 60-90 minute drive from Wyoming, and can be at a Boy Scout camp, state park, or private property. The Troop usually pays whatever fee is charged, but in those cases that the Scout has to pay a fee, it is generally less than \$15 for camping. There are occasionally special activity fees that Scouts are asked to pay that can be more expensive – eg horseback riding, rock climbing, rafting, etc. These are always voluntary

The Troop supplies tents and cooking equipment. Cooking is usually done by patrol. Each patrol develops its own menu. One member is designated to buy the food, and he is reimbursed by the other members of the patrol. The usual cost of meals for a weekend is \$10-\$15. Each Scout brings his own gear in a backpack or duffle bag. A list of what to bring on a campout can be found in the Scout handbook.

Summer Camp

The highlight of the year is when the Troop goes to a weeklong summer camp in mid-June at the Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in northeastern Ohio. Our campsite has wall tents on wooden platforms with metal bunks, and we eat in a central dining hall. The camp staff provides a variety of merit badges and programs in which the Scouts may participate. The cost for the week is \$350, although discounts are available for early registration (currently \$285 if paid in full in February, \$335 if paid in full by mid May), and for Webelos who have just crossed-over (an additional \$10).

High Adventure

Older Scouts (13 and up) have the opportunity to participate in a challenging one or two week outdoor adventure in June or July, usually backpacking, rafting or canoeing in a wilderness area. The last several trips have been to the Sawtooth Wilderness Area in Idaho, the Rockies in Colorado/Wyoming, and the Philmont Scout Ranch high adventure base in New Mexico.

Other Activities

Other activities include day trips involving such activities as canoeing, caving, indoor and outdoor climbing, and skiing at commercial facilities (for which there is a charge). We also conduct an annual overnight lock-in at the church with computer games, movies, etc.

Advancement

The Scouting definition of advancement might be “the art of meeting a challenge,” for that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges that he wears on his uniform. These ranks are, in order: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs, the more challenging the requirements become – and the more rewarding.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting’s more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder
- Discovering how it feels to go further than he has ever thought he could

The Troop doesn’t look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Scout learns
- The Scout is tested
- The Scout is reviewed
- The Scout is recognized

Advancement through First Class

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he advances to First Class, he is learning basic Scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, perform other tasks in the outdoors and work as a member of a team. This learning takes place at Troop meetings, weekend campouts, summer camp and other activities. With those first steps, Scouts begin to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. They will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon they will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; that there are three points of the

trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to himself.

The nominal goal is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first two years with the Troop, but Scouts progress only at the rate they apply themselves. The achievement of First Class is a sign that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of Scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills.

Each rank has a series of requirements that the Scout must meet to be awarded that rank. These are found in the Scout handbook. A Scout may learn and pass the requirements in any order, regardless of the rank to which they pertain. However, he must earn the ranks in sequence.

Unlike Cub Scouts, a Troop leader must certify that a Scout has passed a particular requirement, rather than a parent. That Troop leader may be either an adult leader or an older Scout authorized by the Scoutmaster to test younger Scouts.

Advancement from First Class to Eagle

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle the Scout will demonstrate leadership, perform service projects, earn merit badges and use the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all of the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principles, the Scout Oath and Law, now have fuller meaning for the Scout. The final steps toward Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

The specific details and requirements for advancement to each rank are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout gets when he joins the Troop.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Scouts work with registered merit badge counselors to earn the badges. A Scout may earn a merit badge regardless of the rank he holds. However, merit badge programs at summer camp or Merit Badge Challenge may insist that a Scout hold a certain rank or be a minimum age. Merit badges are required only for the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle.

The Scout must first obtain written permission from the Scoutmaster to work on the merit badge. This is done by means of a "blue card" (which in today's world can be either a physical blue card or a digital version). The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor and gives the blue card to the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge the counselor will complete and sign the blue card and give it to the Scout. The Scout will return it to the Scoutmaster, certifying to him that he has completed the work.

"Merit Badge Challenge" is an event hosted by the Dan Beard Council every winter which offers Scouts the opportunity to earn up to three merit badges over the course of three Saturdays. This event is held at several local high schools. The council also maintains a register of qualified merit badge counselors in

the community who are willing to work with boys from all Troops, but Troop 221 also has adult leaders within the Troop who are counselors for many of the more popular merit badges (see appendix). Parents from Troop 221 are encouraged to become merit badge counselors in any topic in which they have expertise or interest.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee. The Board of Review is not an examination. It is designed to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals, to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working toward his goals. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Courts of Honor

Troop 221 conducts two Courts of Honor per year to recognize all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last event. Adult recognition may also be presented at the Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Court of Honor. The Troop Committee will provide support as requested. The Troop may also conduct separate special Courts of Honor to recognize Eagle Scout recipients.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents, family and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Administrative

Rechartering and fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for Scouts and Leaders. The process of rechartering must be completed by mid-December of each calendar year.

Annual Registration Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee estimate for each Scout in Troop 221 in 2023 is:

B.S.A. annual registration fee	\$75.00
Accident Insurance	6.60
Troop 221 annual dues	20.00
Total due	\$101.60
Scout Life subscription (optional)	15.00

We encourage Scouts to take Scout Life, but it is optional. If you decline the subscription, the total due is \$101.60. For boys joining midyear, the cost is prorated, with Troop dues also prorated by month. There is also a one time fee of \$25 that boys must pay the first time they register with Scouting. If a boy ever previously registered as a Cub Scout or Boy Scout, this fee is waived.

Every boy should have the opportunity to be a Scout. If the costs present a financial problem for your family, please call or email one of the persons listed at the end of this guide, and we will work out a payment plan or other solution.

Registration Fees for Scouts joining from another unit in our Council

If a boy transfers into our Troop from a Pack (i.e. Crossing Over from Webelos) or another Troop, his national membership, and Scout Life subscription will also be transferred. At the time of the transfer we will only collect the prorated Troop dues.

Fees for outings/activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with them. If so, parents will be notified. Boys who participate in camping activities will normally need to share in the cost of their patrol's food expenses.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans a small number of these projects each year. Our fundraisers are designed so that once Troop budget goals are met, additional funds raised by your son are credited toward his account to defray scouting costs. Details of this year's fund raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

Uniform

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each Scout is required to have and wear the following uniform items within a reasonable amount of time of joining the Troop:

Class A uniform:

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Dan Beard Council strip, olive shoulder tabs, patrol emblem)
- Troop Numbers (obtained from Troop, free of charge)
- Veteran Bar (obtained from Troop, free of charge, and currently part of Troop Numbers)
- Appropriate rank as earned (obtained from Troop, free of charge)
- Appropriate leadership insignia as earned (obtained from Troop, free of charge)
- Olive Scout pants or shorts – optional, not required
- Boy Scout socks for wearing with shorts – optional, not required
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots for activities. Socks are required.

Uniforms and insignia are worn in a specific way. Pages 22-23 of the current Scout Handbook contain guides for placement of patches on the uniform. Troop leaders and staff at the Scout Store will be able to answer any questions you may have on where to place badges.

Activity or Class B uniform (worn when activities may cause damage to Class A uniforms)

- Any Scouting related t-shirt. The troop periodically orders customized t-shirts that can be purchased on a voluntary basis.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

Scout Store

The Dan Beard Council operates a store that sells all uniform components and many other Scouting related items. It is located at the Marge Schott Scout Achievement Center at 10078 Reading Road in Evendale (phone 513 961 0500).

Facebook Page

The Troop has a Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/wyomingtroop221 . We post pictures of our outings and items of interest for the Troop Members at this site, although it is not a primary communication tool

Final Words

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and reinforces behaviors that develop good community citizens. Scouting also reinforces for boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else, the boys and we adults in Scouts are here to have fun.