



Welcome to Troop 10

This guide is to introduce parents of new Boy Scouts to Troop 10. There is a lot of information here, but it will give you important background on the Troop and how to support your son on his scouting adventure.

Getting Started

The most important things for you to do to get your son launched as a Boy Scout are:

1. Complete a [Boy Scout Application](#) (available at troop meetings or on the troop website).
2. Pay dues of \$25.
3. Complete [BSA Medical Form](#) parts A&B (downloaded from website). Note, if he will be going to summer camp, you will also need to have part C completed by his doctor.
4. Buy a tan Boy Scout shirt (or re-use their tan Webelos shirt).
5. Register and pay for summer camp if your son will be attending.
6. Mom or dad should read the Parent's Guide to Child Abuse Protection in the front of the Boy Scout Handbook and complete the exercises with your son.
7. Your son should read the Introduction and Leadership sections of the Boy Scout Handbook so he is able to complete the "[Joining Requirements](#)" on page 17.
8. Your son should contact Mr. Gordon at 215-485-2392 to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference.
9. Dads who will be camping with us should take Youth Protection Training online (<http://myscouting.scouting.org>) and complete his own BSA Medical Form.

Communication

We are a large troop (70-80 boys), so we rely heavily on electronic communication. Our calendar, contact information, forms, and other important information is available on our website (www.bsa-troop10-lmt.org). We also send out a weekly email update, so please make sure that we have your current email address(es).

Uniforms

Troop 10's "Class A" uniform consists of a scout shirt with patches and shoulder loops, pants, neckerchief/slide, and merit badge sash (for First Class and above). Official scout pants are preferred but any olive or khaki pants/shorts are acceptable. This uniform is required for formal occasions (Courts of Honor, Scoutmaster Conferences, Boards of Review, public flag ceremonies, parades, etc).

For regular troop meetings, jeans may be worn, but not athletic or plaid shorts. The merit badge sash is not required.

Uniforms are not required on camping trips unless there is a formal activity, such as a flag ceremony.

Patches

The scout shirt should have the following patches: Bucks County Council shoulder patch, troop numerals, patrol, rank, and position of responsibility (older scouts). See Boy Scout Handbook for patch placement.

Shopping

The troop will provide a scout book, neckerchief, slide, patches, and shoulder loops. You will need to buy the shirt, pants, and merit badge sash. If you buy scout pants, we recommend the zip-off nylon switchback pants as they are great for outdoor activities.

Uniforms can be purchased at the [Bucks County Council store](#) in Doylestown or online at www.scoutstuff.org. You can also shop at other council stores or Harry's Army & Navy in Hamilton, NJ.

Troop 10 also has green "Class B" activity shirts with the troop logo available for \$15. These are very popular. See Terry Schneider if you want to buy one.

Boy Scout Handbook

Each boy will be given a Boy Scout Handbook. Please write their name inside the book and on the edge.

This handbook contains most of the information they need to advance to First Class. Handbooks should be brought to every troop meeting until they earn First Class, as well as to all Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review.

Requirements are also signed off on in the back of the scout book, so do not lose it. Scout books left behind at meetings can be found in the lost and found bin the following week.

Advancement

Rank advancement is a big part of the Boy Scout program. Scouts move through the following ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. After Eagle, a scout may earn Eagle Palms.

Unlike Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts progress at their own rate. One boy may earn his Eagle Rank at age 1, another at age 17. Scouts have until their 18th birthday to complete rank requirements.

After completing all of his requirements for a rank, the scout is responsible for contacting the Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference. These are usually not held during troop meetings. Following a successful Scoutmaster Conference, he signs up for his Board of Review at a troop meeting.

Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class

The focus for Tenderfoot through First Class advancement is on skill and knowledge development in core scouting areas including: Camping, Cooking, First Aid, Hiking, Swimming, Citizenship, etc. All of the

information needed for advancement is found in the Boy Scout Handbook. Refer to pages 432-444 for a list of the requirements.

Each subject has a youth Instructor within the Troop (see Instructor list on the troop bulletin board). The scout should seek out the appropriate instructor to teach and sign off on each requirement. Parents should not sign off on their son's requirements, but can encourage their son to make progress.

Most scouts should reach First Class rank within 12-18 months of joining the Troop.

Star, Life and Eagle

Once a scout reaches First Class rank, the advancement focus changes. Rather than learning skills, the focus is on the following three areas:

- Leadership in the Troop

There are many "Positions of Responsibility" in a Boy Scout troop including Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Historian, Instructor, etc. There are job descriptions for each of these positions posted on the Troop website.

- Community Service

Scouts must complete a certain number of hours of community service to advance to Star and Life ranks.

Life scouts must then plan and lead a major service project in order to advance to Eagle. This project must be approved by the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee, Bucks County Council, and BSA National Council.

- Earning Merit Badges

There are over 100 merit badges available in a wide variety of subjects. Eagle rank requires the boys to earn a minimum of 21 merit badges including 12 specific "Eagle Required" ones. Lists of all of the badges and their requirements can be found at www.usscouts.org or www.meritbadge.org.

Merit badges can be worked on during troop meetings, at summer camp, individually with a merit badge counselor, or at other special events throughout the year. Other than summer camp, we suggest that boys do not work on more than 2-3 merit badges at once so that the merit badges do not compete with homework and other activities.

Troop Meetings

The troop meets 7:30-9pm every Thursday that school is in session. Once a month or so we try to do an outing outside the church. This might be bowling, dodge ball, Trenton Thunder, etc. Outing details are published on the troop calendar and via email.

The meetings are led by the boys and are structured as follows: Opening, Announcements, Patrol Meetings, Merit Badge Sessions, Instruction, Competition/Game, and Closing.

The Patrol Method

The boys are organized into Patrols of about 12 boys each. First year scouts are part of the “Newbie” patrol and will be joined by a couple of older “Guides” to help them get acclimated to scouting, learn scouting skills, and work on advancement. The Guides are experienced scouts and are trained on leadership, and conflict resolution. They are responsible for the younger scouts in the patrol. We also have an Assistant Scoutmaster assigned to coach the Guides.

Please try not to “parent” your son on scout trips. If you see an immediate safety issue, by all means step in. But, in general, try to let the Guides do their job. If you have a concern, please contact the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters who will resolve things through the youth leadership structure.

Camping Trips

We go tent camping every month. Some trips are built around activities such as canoeing, backpacking, or skiing. Some are more focused on a destination such as Washington DC, Gettysburg, or a military academy. Some are just camping trips where the boys can hang out, play games, and work on advancement. The camping calendar is usually set at least six months in advance and is posted on the website.

Trip sign ups are the two Thursdays before the trip. We meet in the church parking lot at 5:30pm on Friday and are generally back in Yardley by noon on Sunday. Boys should eat dinner before meeting at the church or bring money for a fast food stop along the way.

Each patrol plans and cooks its own meals on camping weekends. We have a cooking competition on most trips which encourages the boys to be creative with their menus. The boys take turns shopping for food. They should turn in receipts and any extra money to the Scoutmaster or Treasurer.

Most of our trips are open to all scouts. However, every June we do a 50 mile canoe trip on the Upper Delaware River. There are many areas of rapids and a real potential to capsize a canoe. We aren't comfortable taking fifth graders on this trip. However we usually do an early June trip just for the new scouts to help them get to know each other.

Dads are welcome to participate in any trip. We just ask that you complete Youth Protection Training [online](#) and have a medical form on file with the Troop. Food for dads usually costs \$20-25 for the weekend. Dads should bring their own tent.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is an important part of the annual scouting program. It provides an opportunity to earn several merit badges in one week and also provides a great opportunity to bond with the other boys in the troop. It is especially important for new scouts because they will complete many of the rank requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class during the week of summer camp.

We usually go to Camp Ockanickon (our Bucks County camp) in even years, and rotate between other camps in odd years.

All scout summer camps require BSA Medical Form Part C. This is the only section which requires a doctor's exam. We recommend having this section completed at your son's annual checkup. Same for dads who chaperone at summer camp.

Costs and Fundraising

Dues

New scouts pay \$25 to join in the spring. This covers the cost of BSA registration, scout book, neckerchief/slide, and patches.

After that annual dues for boys in the Troop are \$55 plus participation in the popcorn sale (described below). Dues for registered adult leaders are \$20. These are collected at the September roundup picnic and at troop meetings. Any boy not up to date with their dues may not participate on camping trips or be eligible for advancement. If you are not financially able to pay dues, please speak with the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson. There are scholarships available for scouts in need.

Other Costs

- Food: Scouts usually pay \$15 for food on camping trips. This is collected by the Patrol Leader (in cash) at the Thursday meeting prior to the trip. Dads usually pay \$20-25 for food (collected during the trip)
- Merit Badge Booklets: Some merit badge counselors ask the boys to buy and read the booklet for their badge. These can be purchased at troop meetings for \$4 each.
- Special Activities: A few times a year we have special activities with extra costs. For example, ski trips, Trenton Thunder outing, special merit badge opportunities, etc.
- Summer Camp: Usually about \$350.
- Personal Gear: Each scout will need to have some personal gear including a winter sleeping bag, sleeping pad, headlamp, etc. Every Fall we do a "Gear Night" for new parents to talk through suggested equipment (just in time for Christmas). You can find a Gear Night Recap on the troop website.

Popcorn Sale

The fall popcorn sale is our primary annual fundraiser. We typically raise \$4-5,000 per year through popcorn sales. These sales are essential to our troop program.

Each scout is expected to contribute by selling a minimum of \$150 of popcorn (from which the Troop keeps a \$50 profit) or making a \$50 donation to the Troop (or some combination of the two). Participating in this way is considered part of the scout's dues.

Popcorn may be sold through Show and Sell opportunities, or through take-order sales. All Show and Sell shifts are averaged together for purposes of calculating the amount sold and for earning prizes. Typically, 2 two-hour shifts are required to meet the \$150 minimum.

Friends of Scouting

Friends of Scouting is an annual fundraising campaign which supports Bucks County Council. This money supports Camp Ockanickon and Camp Kirby, keeps the scout store open, and provides training and coaching to our adult and youth leaders. We could not have a boy scouting program without supporting our Council.

Troop 10 has a goal of 100% participation in the Friends of Scouting campaign.

Adult Leadership

A troop as big as ours requires a lot of adult involvement to function. There is no minimum parent involvement, but we've found that your son will get a lot more out of the program if you are involved in some way. We have a lot of structure in place, but we are also constantly looking for new ideas, better ways to do things, and new leaders. Please get involved and share your time and talents.

There are basically three tracks for adult leadership:

1. Merit Badge Counselors: work with scouts to complete requirements toward specific merit badges. You can offer badges in an area which you have a professional or personal interest in. Appropriate for moms or dads.
2. Committee Member: Assists with administrative aspects of running the troop such as setting policy, financial management, advancement, boards of review, etc. Appropriate for moms or dads.
3. Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster: work with the youth leadership in the troop to plan and lead the overall troop program (meetings, camping trips, summer camp, and other outings). Appropriate for dads only as we do not have moms camping with us.

BSA requires that all adult leaders be registered and trained for their position. Troop 10 supports this policy. You will find detailed training requirements on the [Adult Leaders page](#) on the web site.