

Handbook for Scouts and Parents

TROOP 339
FOUR RIVERS DISTRICT
BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
SEVERNA PARK, MD

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WELCOME

We welcome you to Troop 339 of the Boy Scouts of America!

Troop 339 has been serving the boys of the Severna Park area since 1954 and we look forward to having you join us.

This handbook is written so that both the Scout and his parents will better understand what Scouting is, how it functions, what Troop 339 can do for you and what you can do for the Troop. Please don't hesitate to call any of the leaders if you have a question or a comment. We value your input.

As a member of Troop 339 during the last few years you could have

.... camped at the C&O Canal, Wye Island NRC, Assateague Island, cabin camping at Camp Rodney, canoed on the Shenandoah River, went white water rafting in western Maryland, explored the caves at Laurel Caverns, skied at Seven Springs Ski Resort, hiked the on the Appalachian Trail, or ate slushies on a bike ride on the B&A trail.

.... hiked for 10 days in the Southern Rockies at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

.... attended summer camp for 7 days during the summer at Camp Yawgoog in Rhode Island and learned Scout skills such as lifesaving and sailing, made a basket, used your pocketknife to carve something, and gone on an over-night canoe trip with only a sleeping bag and some water to drink.

.... earned awards and patches at Merit Badge Madness, advanced in rank, attended Merit Badge classes on the US Naval Academy, or became an Eagle Scout.

.... learned how to use a knife and ax, use rope, tie knots, make a monkey bridge, start a campfire, shoot a rifle, gone fishing, learned archery, and how to give first aid that might save a life.

We welcome you to Troop 339.

THE AIMS OF SCOUTING

Growth in moral strength and character

Participating in citizenship

Development in physical, mental, and emotional fitness

The Scout Oath and Law give the boy guidelines for living. Growth in moral strength and character is one of the aims of Scouting. We encourage a boy to look at his personal qualifications, his values, his outlook, and hopes for the future. By developing his relationship to others, he learns about his obligation to other people, to the society he lives in, and to the government that presides over that society. This accomplishes our second aim of having a boy become a participating citizen. Problem solving, self respect, and a fit body meet the final aim of Scouting--developing physical, mental and emotional fitness.

BOY SCOUT OATH

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

SCOUT LAW

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

SCOUT MOTTO

Be prepared.

SCOUT SLOGAN

Do a good turn daily.

SCOUT ORGANIZATION

A Boy Scout troop is organized and administered by a Chartered Organization that is granted a charter annually by the Boy Scouts of America. The Chartered Organization agrees to provide an adequate meeting place, and to select adults of good character to serve as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Merit Badge Counselors.

Troop 339 is chartered by Woods Memorial Church in Severna Park, MD.

Troop 339 is truly run by the boys, with adult supervision. The troop is made up of patrols, each consisting of from 5 to 8 boys, led by a Patrol Leader. The boy who leads the entire troop is the Senior Patrol Leader. All boy leaders are elected or appointed by the boys in the troop.

The Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters administer the Scouting program as defined by the Troop Committee, which consists of



the adult troop officers and interested parents or other individuals.

Troop 339 is part of the Four Rivers District, made up of about 50 troops located generally in Anne Arundel County. We share joint activities with other troops in the district, such as camporees and training opportunities. Four Rivers District is part of the Baltimore Area Council. The Council provides professional support, program information, Council camps and training opportunities for both boy and adult leaders. Baltimore Area Council is part of the Northeastern Region. The Scouting program, books, literature, etc. are the responsibility of the Boy Scouts of America, National Headquarters, located in Irving, Texas.

JOINING REQUIREMENTS

To join Boy Scouts, a boy must be between 10 1/2 and 18 years of age and have completed the fifth grade or have earned the Arrow of Light Award. If possible, the boy and his parents should visit a regular troop meeting where they can observe the operation of the troop and ask questions. It is best to make contact through the Troop Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, or one of the assistants so that the new boy can participate in the activities, if possible.

TROOP MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Troop 339 meets at the Woods Memorial Church in the meeting each Wednesday night from 7:00 until 8:30 P.M. There is a troop campout approximately 11 times a year. Every summer the boys have the opportunity attend Summer Camp for a week of extended camping at a BSA Summer Camp. They have the opportunity to earn Merit Badges as well as to participate in fun events such as canoeing and swimming. Every four years, Scouts can attend the National Jamboree where tens of thousands of Scouts from all over the USA and foreign countries join together for an adventure they will never forget. Also every four years, but staggered to fall two years apart from the National Jamboree is a World Jamboree (National and World Jamborees have additional age and rank requirements). All these events allow the Scouts to have fun with other boys and practice the skills they have learned.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

An important part of Scouting is learning to be a leader. A Scout learns leadership through the patrol method in the troop, and at a Junior Leader Training conducted by the troop. Den Chief Training is conducted in the fall by the Council. A Den Chief is a Boy Scout who assists an adult leader of a Cub Scout or Webelos den. The district conducts a Junior Leader Training (JLT) course. At JLT, all the boys with Troop positions are trained in their positions and boy leadership in general.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

Scouting offers activities that are sometimes vigorous, ranging from a One Mile Swim to a 50 Mile Hike to a trek in the mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch. A current yearly physical exam form is required for many of the activities. The safety of the Scout is of uppermost concern to Troop 339. At least two adults will be present at each Scouting event. The troop is equipped with a First Aid Kit and adult leaders have First Aid training. It is very important that parents keep the Troop advised of a Scout's medical condition, medication, allergies, and conditions such as sleepwalking, etc. The troop also needs current addresses, phone numbers, work numbers and where to reach a parent in an emergency.

WHAT YOUR SON WILL NEED TO GET STARTED

The first thing the new Scout needs is his personal copy of the Boy Scout Handbook. Plastic or nylon book covers are also available at the Scout Shop to help keep the book clean, dry and in one piece. This book is the Scout's textbook and his record of achievement so it should be with him at every Scouting event. He should be sure to put his name on the outside edge so he can identify it.

The Scout should be proud of his uniform and what it represents. As soon as possible, the new Scout should obtain his uniform. In the spirit of Scouting, the Scout is encouraged to earn his own money to buy his uniform. He can also request uniform parts for events such as his birthday. If the family cannot afford a uniform and the Scout is unable to earn the money, experienced uniforms will try to be located. New uniforms and supplies are available from the J.C. Penney's mail order catalog, and the Scout Shop in Baltimore. A local outdoor store "Sunny's" also has some basic uniform items.

UNIFORM INFORMATION	
Number	Description
Q598	Shirt, short sleeve
Q00676	Shoulder loops, red, 1 pair
Q52992	Belt, olive, web, with Boy Scout buckle
	World Scouting patch
	Baltimore Area Council patch
Q104	Numerals 3, 3, and 9

UNIFORM INFORMATION	
Number	Description
Q591	Short pants needed for summer camp
Q588	Long pants optional(Q587 for slims)
Q561	Socks needed for summer camp

Rank, Patrol and Leadership patches are furnished by the troop. Patches should be sewn on the uniform properly. See the uniform inspection guide found in Boy Scout Handbook. Gaudy, distracting clothing should not be worn. The official uniform shirt (Class A) is to be worn at troop meetings and when attending a Scouting function. Scout T-shirts can be worn on some occasions, as approved by the Scoutmaster. Obscene T-shirts or shirts advertising alcohol or tobacco will never be worn at a scouting event. The official headgear for the troop is the BSA baseball style mesh cap. The troop wears a green with red marking official neckerchief for troop events. It should be worn with a suitable slide, which can be hand made. *A Scout should be in the correct uniform for all Scouting events.*

The troop has a standard short sleeve red shirt (class B) and a red "hoodie" sweatshirt that can both be purchased through the troop.

Camping items such as tents and cooking utensils are furnished by the troop. The Scout may bring his own tent with the permission of the Scoutmaster or an Assistant. Knives which do not fold up are not allowed at BSA or Troop 339 activities. A Scout must attend a knife safety course and earn his Totin' Chip before he can carry a knife or use an ax and/or hatchet. Safety violations can cause him to lose his privilege to carry a knife. Fuel burning devices such as lanterns and stoves can be used by Scouts only under direct adult supervision, per BSA regulations. For campouts the Scout will need a duffle bag, warm coat, hat & gloves, poncho, sleeping bag, canteen of water, small pocket first aid kit, flashlight, toothbrush, comfortable shoes and warm clothes. Later, after he has grown enough to be able to carry his equipment on his back, he should use a backpack.

FUNDRAISING

The BSA National Headquarters and the Baltimore Area Council are supported mainly by the United Way and by Friends of Scouting contributions. The troop is supported by various fundraising activities and by troop dues. These funds are used to provide a place to meet,

camping equipment, and advancement badges for the Scouts. Each Scout and his parents have an equal responsibility in participating in fundraising activities. Some fundraising activities also allow the Scout to receive monetary credit for dues, Summer Camp, and other Scouting activities.

Joining Fees: * The joining fee includes transfer registration, initial equipment fee, (tents, cook kit, stove, etc.), & neckerchief. Checks should be made payable to Troop 339 and are to be paid to the Troop Treasurer upon registration along with a Scout application form.

Dues:

Dues are \$6.00 per month /\$72.00 per year which are used for BSA National office registration, insurance, equipment and other troop operating expenses. Dues are paid monthly by the boys to teach paying a monthly obligation/bill.

All adult registration fees are paid by the Troop.

Fund Raising:

Holiday wreaths, popcorn sales and the Navy football refreshment sales are typically used as the primary fund raisers for the troop. These events are organized by a group of adult leaders or parents The Troop portion is used for awards, camping supplies, etc.

Fundraisers: Participation in at least one fundraiser is mandatory and a minimum amount must be sold by each Scout per year. (the minimum is less if there are two or more brothers in the Troop).

The selling price of the wreaths are determined by the Troop Committee. Approximately 50% covers the costs of the wreaths and shipping. The remainder is split with 50% going go to the Troop and 50% to the Scout accounts.

Popcorn pricing is set by the Council, with half the profit going to the Troop and the other half going to the Scouts

High Adventure Fund Accounts

Fundraising allow Scouts to develop their own "High Adventure Fund Account". Funds can be used for Troop outings, summer camp, activities, registration or Scout related items. Scout accounts are tracked by the Troop treasurer. A statement of a Scout's High Adventure Fund account will be provided in quarterly by the Treasurer.

A written request from the Scout or parent to use the funds should be submitted to the Troop Treasurer.

High Adventure Fund Account Policy

Each individual Scout account is held by the Troop's treasurer in the Troop checking account. This total balance is tracked as if it were a separate account and these funds belong to the Scouts and may not be used to run the Troop.

Deposits into the account are made by the treasurer and is money earned during a Troop fund-raiser. The percentage earned from a fund-raiser is to be decided by the Troop committee prior to a given fundraising event.

Insurance Policies

- The Troop is covered by an insurance policy held by the Baltimore Area Council and is renewed on a yearly basis.
- The Trailer and it's contents TBD

Campership

In case of hardship, financial assistance may be available from the Troop and Council for summer camp. Financial information will be kept

confidential and should only be discussed with the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairperson.

The Troop Campership account is funded by an agreed amount voted by committee.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Troop 339 Courts of Honor are held three or four times a year, where the Scouts are recognized for their achievements in the presence of their families. The assistance of parents is needed in fundraising activities, for transportation to campouts and other events, building projects, and repairing equipment. Parents are always welcome at troop meetings, campouts and Troop Committee Meetings. Parents are also needed to share their occupational, hobby and other skills with the Scouts as Merit Badge Counselors. Boy Scouts is a volunteer organization. Nobody in the troop is paid for their efforts. There are people who give a considerable amount of their time even though they do not have boys in a troop. There is a tendency with some people to get what they can from an organization without putting anything back. We want to teach the boys that whether it is the environment, our community, our church or Scouting, we each have an obligation to put back as much or more than we take. Each family has a responsibility to contribute where they can so that the boys can have the very best program possible. Usually the achievement of the Scout is directly related to the participation of the parents. Whether it's church, school, or Scouts, the amount of involvement of the parents sends a message to the child as to that activities' importance to the parents.

Our Scout program is planned, run and enjoyed by the Scouts with adult supervision, and some elements are designed for the family.

SCOUT'S CONDUCT

The Scouting program, meetings and outings, are provided for the boys to explore different activities, places and challenges. In return, the

Scouts are asked to show Scout Spirit, be an active member in the patrol, troop and outings. In the case of older Scouts, you are expected to learn and demonstrate leadership skills in regards to the younger or newer Scouts. The program will not be successful or as much fun if everyone does not participate.

In order to ensure that the program that is planned is successful the following rules will apply to all scout functions:

- Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Law at all Scout activities
- During all meetings all Scouts are expected to be in full uniform and neatly dressed.
- Attendance at most activities is expected. If a conflict occurs, the patrol leader is to be notified of the reason so that he can represent you at the function.
- Wear my seatbelt at all times as an occupant of a motor vehicle.
- During activities/outings, everyone will participate in all planned activities.
- During outings, specific times will be identified for back in camp, lights out and quiet time.
- No items other than those which are for the purpose of the activity/outing will be allowed.
- Alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, firearms, drugs, slingshots, knives other than pocket or Swiss Army type pocketknives, laser pointers and similar items are not allowed at any Scout activities.
- Harassment of others during any Scout function will not be tolerated. Support of others during all scout functions is expected.

- **Respect of other Scouts, adults and the personal belongings of others is expected. In order to have a successful experience, respect is a key ingredient.**
- **Preparation for all scout functions is required equally by all Scouts.**
- **Carrying a regulation pocket knife without an earned Totin' Chip card is not acceptable. Sheath knives are never allowed.**
- **Scouts will always use the buddy system when leaving the campsite.**
- **Do not throw food, candy, or any object except in an organized game**
- **Do not light unauthorized fires**
- **Maintain and leave the campsite or place of activity in better than original condition**
- **Electronic devices (Walkman, Discman, Game Boy, AM/FM radios, boomboxes, etc.) are allowed in vehicles traveling to and from outings. They are not allowed to be removed from the vehicles for use at troop meetings, campouts or Summer Camp.**
- **Do not destroy or misuse anything (machines, books, property, etc.)**

If any of the above or related rules are not followed the Scout will be asked to correct the issue. Depending on the issue if the Scout does not correct the issue the Scoutmaster or leader in charge of the event, has the right to call the parent(s) to pick up their Scout from the outing/activity regardless of it's location. If a Scout is required to leave an activity he will not be permitted to attend future activities without a conference with the Scoutmaster.



ADVANCEMENT

Ranks and advancement are fully described in the Boy Scout Handbook. The vehicles for advancement are the learning of skills and earning of Merit Badges. Under the new requirements, introduced January 1, 1990, if the Scout actively attends Troop meetings and campouts, he should complete the requirements for ranks through First Class in a one year timeframe. Merit Badges are required for Star through Eagle. Although a Scout below First Class can work on a Merit Badge, he really needs to concentrate on the requirements he needs for rank advancement. We encourage Scouts to reach the rank of first class during their first year in Boy Scouts. Boys who do so tend to stay in Scouting, thereby continuing to learn and practice leadership skills.



MERIT BADGES

After the Scout has learned the basic skills of Scouting, he moves on to learning more in-depth skills. There are, at the present time, 120 Merit Badges that the Scout can earn. Specific numbers of badges must be earned to



advance from Star through Eagle and certain badges are required for Eagle (these are outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook). Many Merit Badges are vocational or hobby oriented. The Scout is older now and may be considering a career. The

Merit Badges allow him to "sample" many different activities to determine where his interests lie. Merit Badges are approved only by adult Merit Badge counselors who have knowledge about a particular badge, either by occupation, hobby, or training. Counselors may be either male or female and must be at least 21 years old. The counselor must be registered with BSA and be approved by both the Troop and the Council before he begins to work with a Scout on a badge. The counselor should use his experience and training to teach the Scout the material as well as certify that the Scout has met the requirements for the badge. There is a Merit Badge pamphlet in the Troop Library for many of the badges. The Scout should see the Troop Librarian to check out the pamphlet. After he has read the material, he should ask the Advancement Committee Member or the Scoutmaster for a "blue card". This card is approved by the Scoutmaster and contains the name and phone number of the counselor assigned to work with the Scout on the badge. The Merit Badge Counselor signs and dates each requirement as it is approved and completes the card when finished. The Scout presents the signed card to the Advancement Committee Member who records the badge in the Troop Record Book. The badge is presented to the Scout in the troop meeting. The Merit Badges are worn on a sash over the shoulder and are only worn on special occasions, such as a Court of Honor or public ceremonies such as flag raising's. The Merit Badge sash is not worn to a regular troop meeting or a campout.

Troop Library-Merit Badge Books

The Troop maintains a library of merit badge books that may be signed out by a Scout in the Troop. The library is maintained by the Troop Librarian.

* If anyone would like to donate their completed booklets please provide them to the Troop Librarian.

RECOGNITION

One of the fundamentals of Scouting is achievement and recognition. The boy learns that in Scouting, as in life, achievements must be earned. He receives immediate feedback since, as he achieves a goal such as a Merit Badge or rank advancement, he is recognized for his achievement. This recognition is done before his peers, usually at the same troop meeting. Later, at the quarterly Court of Honor, he is recognized again before his peers as well as his parents. When he achieves the eagle rank, his mother (or father) is also presented a pin for that rank at the Eagle Court of Honor.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

A Scout is expected to be faithful in his religious duties and respect the convictions of others. The Scout Law states "A Scout is Reverent". In addition, there are religious emblem programs in which a Scout, under the direction of his pastor, priest or other religious leader, can earn a special religious award of his particular faith. Upon completion, he is awarded a medal to be worn on his uniform for special occasions, such as Courts of Honor. A knot is worn on the uniform to indicate he has earned the medal, when he is not actually wearing the medal. Religious



emblem and the Arrow of Light, which the boy earns as a Webelos Cub Scout, are very important.

SUMMER CAMP

The Troop reserves the last full week of July for summer camp at Camp Yagoog in Rhode Island.

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow, or OA, is a brotherhood of honor campers. Scouts become candidates for OA by being elected by their fellow Scouts as best exemplifying the Scout Oath and Law. They are "called out" in a special ceremony, usually at the Spring Camporee. They must then prove themselves at an OA Ordeal where they are to reflect upon their Scouting life and obtain a deeper understanding of the Order. One adult per troop per year can be recommended by the adult OA members of the troop to the OA Committee. He also must attend the ordeal.

TROOP CALENDAR

The basic troop calendar which includes Troop, District and Council events is prepared approximately one year in advance and is updated on a regular basis by the Troop webmaster.

Scouts and parents should keep their personal calendars/schedules updated using the planning calendar on the troop website

TROOP MAILBOX

All Scouts/leaders/committee members have a file folder in the Troop file box which is made available at all Troop meetings. Scouts/Leaders are responsible for obtaining all information in their folders.

If you are unable to attend a Troop meeting please contact your patrol leader to pick up your information. Not obtaining the information is not an excuse for not being prepared.

TROOP WEBSITE

<http://www.troop339.org>

