



BE THE CHANGE

BE IT. DO IT. CHANGE IT.



Scouts BSA Parent Guide 2024



My Scout Directory

Complete this quick reference guide to save important information about your Troop and leaders

My Troop Chartered Organization is: _____

My Troop Number is _____

My Patrol is _____

My Scouting District is _____

My Patrol Leader's Name _____

My Patrol leader's Phone Number _____

My Patrol Leader's Email Address _____

My Patrol Meets Day Time _____

My Patrol Meets at _____

My Scoutmaster's Name _____

My Scoutmaster's Phone Number _____

My Scoutmaster's Email _____

My Troop Meets Day Time _____

My Troop Meets at _____

My Council is: _____



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Scouting Makes a Difference

- As a parent, you want your child to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind. Since 1910, we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening leadership, character, good citizenship, and physical fitness for youth.
- Scouting is about **positive youth development**. However, we know that kids do not join Scouting to get their character built. They join because it is fun!
- **Your time is valuable**. More than ever, today's families struggle to find time to spend together. Scouting helps to support your family by providing opportunities for your whole family to enjoy together.
- Your child needs comradery with their peers. With an emphasis on **fostering friendships**, kids will build self-esteem and learn to get along with others. As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups your child joins will teach values consistent with good citizenship, character development, and physical fitness in a **safe environment**.
- Scouting teaches **family values** and works to strengthen your relationship with your child. Scouting activities can provide added value to the time you have with your child. It also provides activities for the **whole family** to enjoy.
- Don't just take our word for it. See what other parents say about their Scouting experience. Go to **bsaparents.com** for parent testimonials.





Scouts, BSA. Be Prepared

The best way to find out what you do best is to do it. Kick a ball. Pitch a tent. Help with an Eagle Scout Project. Scouts are at that magical age where the skills they learn now will be skills they use for their whole life.

Their most valuable rewards are the friends they make for life and a parent's proud smile. These are the invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting.

Did you know that the 5 Cs of positive youth development are woven throughout the Scouting program?

- COMPETENCE
- CONFIDENCE
- CHARACTER
- CONNECTION
- CARING

Your child is a member of a Patrol

Scouting is a family-centered program for kids and adults

- A Patrol is a single group of six to ten youth who work together as a group to help plan/participate in activities, work on advancement, and provide support for one another.
- Patrols tend to break off during a Troop meeting to meet.
- A Patrol is led by a Patrol Leader (Youth Leader) who is helped by the Senior Patrol Leader and other youth leaders who share the responsibility.

Your child and the Patrol are part of a Troop

Each Troop is made up of one or more Patrols

- Twice to Four times a month, Scouts attend a Troop meeting with games, skill development advancement work, and any presentations of recognition badges earned.
- The Troop meeting is led by the Senior Patrol Leader with help from the Scoutmaster.
- The Troop families will also have other opportunities, like Troop/Council camping, canoeing/boating activities, STEM activities and field trips.

Your Troop is owned by a Chartered Organization

- Include schools, parent-school organizations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other organizations interested in serving youth.
- Your Chartered Organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place and ensures the Troop operates within both their guidelines and policies and those of the BSA.
- Your Chartered Organization selects a Representative as a liaison between the Pack and the Chartered Organization.



Desired Outcomes

As a Scout, your child will participate in activities and adventures that will achieve five key outcomes:

Character Development Scout Oath and Scout Law
Duty to God

Participatory Citizenship Civic Awareness and Patriotism
Service
Stewardship

Outdoor Skills & Awareness Comfort, Safety, & Adventure in the
Outdoors
Nature and Outdoor Ethics
Emergency Skills

Personal Fitness Physical Fitness
Healthy Eating
Wellness and Healthy Habits

Leadership Supporting Leaders
Leadership Training





Twin Rivers Council, BSA

The Twin Rivers Council is a leading youth serving agency in Eastern Part of NYS, instilling timeless values of character, citizenship and leadership in each young person who enters the Scouting program. The Council provides education-based skills and activities. The Council also operates two camps that provide outstanding outdoor experiences for youth and adults.

The Mission

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best; to do my duty to God and my Country; to obey the Scout Law and 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.

The Scouts, BSA Motto

Be Prepared.

A Promise to Parents:

Parents will say that Scouting in Twin Rivers Council offered their family fun and adventurous things to do. Through the structured and safe environments, Scouting helped their son or daughter develop leadership skills and values important to good citizenship and service to others.



Advancement Opportunities

The advancement program for Scouts, BSA is as diverse as youth in our program.

- The highlight of our advancement program is the Trail to Eagle. The trail is different for every scout full of scout skills like fire building, first aid, navigation, and so much more.
- There are plenty of opportunities to gain life skills through our merit badge program. With over 130 different merit badges from astronomy to welding it provides scouts with a safe environment to learn new skills and maybe find a new passion to explore.
- We also have an extensive award program with areas of focus in STEM, Conservation, Outdoor Experiences, and so much more.

Personal Growth Is the Primary Goal

Scouting skills—what a young person learns to do—are important, but not as important as the primary goal of personal growth achieved through participating in a unit program. The concern is for total, well-rounded development. Age-appropriate surmountable hurdles are placed before members, and as they face these challenges they learn about themselves and gain confidence.

Learning Scout skills and concepts through active participation is a vehicle for personal growth, but it is not the primary goal. For example, learning how to tie a knot, plan a menu, swim, or administer first aid may turn out to be critical in one's life, but they are secondary to the goal of personal growth that comes with learning. As Scouts learn skills and are tested on them, and then reviewed and recognized, they develop confidence. They come to realize they can learn and do other similar things. The retention of Scouting skills and knowledge is important, of course; but for retention to take place, it will be because Scouting skills and knowledge are used in our programs.

Success is achieved when we fulfill the BSA Mission Statement and when we accomplish the aims of Scouting: character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness. We know we are on the right track when we see youth accepting responsibility, demonstrating self-reliance, and caring for themselves and others; when they learn to weave Scouting ideals into their lives; and when we can see they will be positive contributors to our American society.





Funding Futures



Funding Scouting is a shared responsibility between the family, the Troop, and the Council.

The Family – members buy their own uniforms, handbooks, personal equipment and typically pay their own camp fees. Family dues help defray Troop costs. Families are also invited to invest in the Council operation by making an annual donation. Participation in Troop fundraisers can reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

The Troop – creates a budget to cover the expenses necessary to deliver a quality program for its members. Income sources include money-earning projects and family dues.

The Council – financial support for the Council comes from a variety of income sources including annual donor campaigns, grants, fees, product sales and special events. Friends of Scouting provides families the opportunity to invest in Scouting's impact in your County.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) - the annual charitable campaign of the Twin Rivers Council. Parents and leaders are encouraged to make a gift that will help expand the council's mission, outreach efforts, facility improvements and expand the Scouting program to serve more youth.

The Scout - A Scout is Thrifty and earns their own way.

The Council hosts two fundraisers annually for Packs to help reduce costs to families.

Popcorn Sale

Scouts can earn great prizes, be invited to special events, and receive college scholarships by selling gourmet popcorn products exclusive to Scouting. The sale runs September to November.





Twin Rivers Scout Shops

There are complete one-stop shops for Scout uniforms, insignia, literature, trophies, awards, crafts, camping equipment, gift certificates, and more. We have three locations to better serve you:

National Scout Shop

253 Washington Ave Ext.

Albany, NY 12205

(518) 690-0282

Hours:

Mon thru Fri: 10 am. – 5 pm.

Sat: 10 am – 2 pm

*Closed 2-2:30 for lunch

Closed Sunday





Council Properties

Camping contributes to good health, develops self-reliance and resourcefulness. Camping also enhances spiritual growth and contributes to social development. Scouts and non-Scouting groups alike are welcome to enjoy programs at these outstanding facilities. Start reaping the benefits of outdoor adventure, make your reservation today!



Wakpominee

With one of the greatest locations available in the country, Wakpominee is the place to be. Located on over 1,000 acres in the Adirondack Park of Upstate New York.



Rotary Scout Reservation

Welcome to Rotary Scout Reservation, a 1,300-acre wilderness adventure area in Upstate New York. RSR is owned and operated by the Twin Rivers Council, BSA, and offers five weeks of Scouts, BSA summer camp programs and year-round cabin and campsite rentals.

Scouts BSA Resident Camp- Rotary Scout Reservation

Campers, ages 11-18, participate in a variety of exciting activities including the pool, shooting ranges, mining camp, STEM activities, climbing, crafts, games, hikes and RSR offers instruction in over 45 merit badges, including Eagle-required and STEM badges.

Cub Scout Day Camp

For girls and boys, Scouts and non-Scouts, ages 7 (or 6 and entering 1st grade in the Fall) to 11. All campers entering 1st grade in the Fall must be accompanied by an adult partner STEM activities included! Healthy, fun outdoor activities, Archery, BB guns, slingshots, nature, crafts, and games.

Cub Scout Resident Camp

Cub Scout Resident Camp is a four-day, three-night outdoor Cub Scout Adventure featuring an exciting program including: Aquatics, Swimming, Shooting Sports, Crafts, Nature Hikes, STEM, Sports and Games, First Aid, Scout Skills and Much MORE!

New Scout Basic Needs

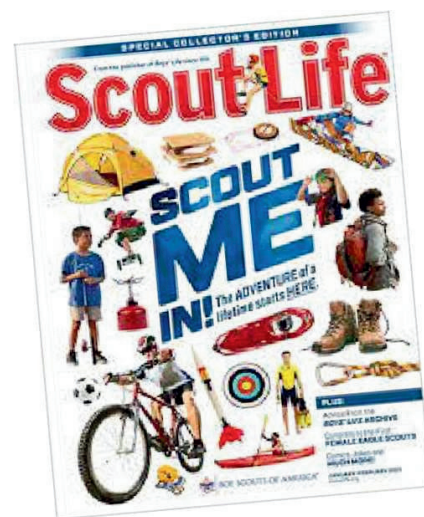


Scout LIFE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Scouts' Life Magazine has been around for almost as long as there have been Scouts. It is the only magazine especially designed for the Scout.

The mission of *Scouts' Life* Magazine is to entertain and educate America's youth and to open their eyes to the joyous world of reading. This is accomplished through a proven mix of news, nature, sports, history, fiction, science, comics, and Scouting. A special edition is published for Cub Scouts with age and program specific content and feature articles.

Parents can always be confident that the content of the magazine is wholesome, entertaining, and educational. See a sample at <https://scoutlife.org/>



Scout Handbook

Contrary to what your child may tell you, the first thing they will need to get started is not a uniform, but a book. Scout handbooks are the number one bestseller for developing life skills, leadership, and character. The books in Scouting are color coded for quick reference, are related to age, and contain the basics needed for the tenure of your scout, especially the requirements for advancement awards.

Scouts, BSA Uniform

The uniform makes Scouting visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. The uniform gives the Scout identity to a world-wide kinship of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they accomplish.

Scout uniforms are of very high quality and, in most cases, will last for several years. So, be sure to buy one large enough for your child to grow up in.



How Can You Help?

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are the primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to fill a role in Scouting, but also to help your child and their friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.

What Do You Get in Return?

Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. The following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talents, and enthusiasm to Scouting.

Fun, fellowship with other families, AND sharing your pride in the kids' accomplishments.

The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.

A chance to help children learn good citizenship and to help shape them into adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.

The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of youth as they grow strong in mind and body.

A code to live by will set a worthwhile example for both kids and adults.

The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization – wearing the Scouting uniform is a visible means of showing you believe in and stand up for the ideals and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouts, BSA Learning Library

Whether you are a parent helper, a committee chair, Scoutmaster, the Learning Library at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/> is the chief location online for finding everything you need to get the most out of Scouting. This site is packed with helpful and important information designed to make your experience great!



Your child's Troop is supervised by parent volunteers who provide leadership to a variety of key positions that ensure every youth and family has a quality Scouting experience. It is for this reason we encourage at least one parent to participate in a leadership role.

Scoutmaster

Overall coordinator between the scouts and the adult leadership.
Provides guidance to the youth

Troop Committee

Troop committee members (sample listed below) perform administrative functions of the pack.

Committee Chair Parent Helpers /Committee Members

Overall coordination of Troop plan "One shot" program jobs of short and volunteers. Presides at all Troop duration coordinating pack committee meetings. Helps recruit participation in sales events, Day of adult leaders. Service, campouts, merit badge instruction, resident camp, etc.

Secretary/Treasurer

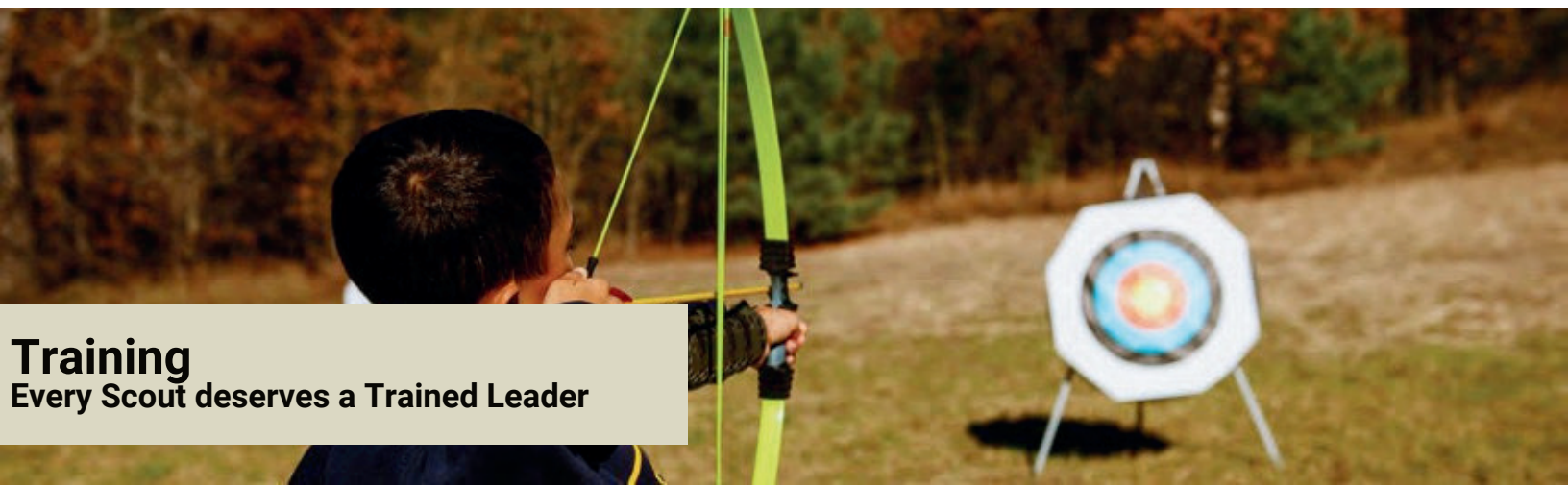
Keeps records of Troop funds There is a task for every family. Don't (collections and expenses) and sit on the sideline cheering; get in the reports to the Committee. Handles game and enjoy Scouting with your applications and recharter child!

PARENT TALENT SURVEY

Advancement Chair All parents are asked to complete a Maintains advancement records for short online survey that will help the the Scouts. Orders and obtains all Troop leadership identify resources badges and recognition. available to help deliver a stronger more exciting program for the youth.

Troop Trainer

Guides leaders and parents to training resources and classes (online and in person).



Training

Every Scout deserves a Trained Leader

Being a volunteer in your child's Scouts, BSA Troop is an exciting journey where you and your family will share many lifelong memories. The first step in that journey is to complete training. Training provides you with the tools and resources you will need to lead a quality program for Scouts.

Step 1 - Youth Protection Training

All registered adult leaders must take Youth Protection Training (YPT). YPT covers the BSA's youth protection policies, kinds of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures. YPT is required every two years.

- Take the course online through my.scouting.org (if you are new to Scouting, you will be asked to create an account).
- For frequently asked questions: ocbsa.org/training-FAQs.

Step 2 - Leader Specific Training

All registered adult leaders must complete the training required for their specific position. All direct contact leaders must also complete Hazardous Weather Training. Hazardous Weather teaches how to provide Scouting in a safe outdoor environment.

- Take the course for your position. (For example, if you are a Tiger Den

Leader, take Tiger Den Leader Training. If you are an Assistant Scoutmaster, take Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training)

- Even if you change positions during your tenure, you must take the training required for your position
- Go to my.scouting.org then go to the BSA Learning Center to take the training online

Step 3 – Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

After completing Leader Specific Training and Hazardous Weather Training, you may opt to take the following:

- IOLS provides every new leader the basic skills and understanding for outdoor activities. Visit trcscouting.org/calendar to register or any upcoming courses offered.

Thank you for taking the time to make Scouting in your unit the strongest it can be. Every youth deserves a trained leader.



You are Not Alone

Being a volunteer leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. But you don't have to do it all by yourself. Your Troop, District, and Council have many people and resources to give you and your child the best Scouting experience possible.

Publications

- Volunteers are informed of national Scouting news and events through *Scouting Magazine*, included with the adult registration fee.
- A monthly online newsletter, *The Latest*, and other e-news are e-mailed to every family to keep them abreast of upcoming programs, good news stories, and other important information to ensure a quality experience.
- Many Troops have a library that contains leader books you can use.

Volunteer Support

- Your District has a team of volunteers called the District Committee, which develops quality district-wide programs Scouts can participate in.
- They have people who specialize in recruitment, fundraising, training and outdoor properties.

Each Pack has a commissioner assigned to serve as a Pack coach.

Online Resources

Twin Rivers Council:
Individual Leader Portal:
Boy Scouts of America:
Boys' Life Magazine:
Scouting Magazine:

trcscouting.org * Local Information
my.scouting.org * Training and Tools
scouting.org * National Site
boyslife.org * Youth Magazine
scoutingmagazine.org * Leader Magazine



The first night a child joins Scouting is a memorable experience for both the Scout and parents. It is likely remembered long after your child is active in Scouting. Capture the first night and share the enthusiasm with your family and friends.

The second big Scout moment comes when a child first puts on their new uniform. Don't let these memories go by without a little celebration! We hope you will join with other parents by posting to your Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts these special moments in their childhood.

Joining the Boy Scouts of America is an important step for your family, and we hope it will be the beginning of a wonderful partnership in developing your child into the person you dream of.

Let's Be Social!

Find TRCScouts on these sites:

