



TROOP 44 PARENT GUIDE

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Boy Scout Troop 44 is sponsored by the St. Mary of Vernon Church Men’s Club. The Men’s Club appoints an individual known as the chartered organization representative to work with our Troop. This individual is a member of the Troop Committee. Additionally, the Chartering Organization selects the Troop Committee Chairman and helps select and approve all other adult leaders. While our sponsoring organization is affiliated with a Catholic church, Troop 44 is a non-denominational troop and includes Scouts representative of various faiths. The Troop is led by Boy Scouts who are elected to leadership positions by their fellow troop members. Adult participation is required to guide and support the activities planned by Boy Scout Troop leaders. On average there are usually about 20-30 boys in Troop 44 ranging in age from 11 to 18.

Troop Meetings

- Meetings are conducted each Monday evening from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Sharing Hands Room of St. Mary of Vernon Church in Indian Creek, Illinois.
- Changes to the normal Monday night meeting schedule are announced and publicized in advance.
- Scouts must come prepared to every meeting for the possibility of both indoor and outdoor activities.
- The Troop will have meetings at locations other than the church. They may include such places as: a swimming pool for a troop swim before summer camp; a bowling alley for a troop bowling night, and other locations decided by the Troop.
- For each Troop meeting, Scouts should come prepared to actively and constructively participate in the meeting, learn and have fun! Scouting teaches skills that can and have saved lives!

Parent Participation

- **Parents are expected and encouraged to participate!**
- A parent may be a Committee Member.
- A parent may be a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster.
- Parents are encouraged to register as Merit Badge Counselors in fields where they have expertise or experience.
- Troop parents supply transportation for each Scout activity.
- Parents help Scouts during troop fund raisers.
- Troop planning and leadership comes from Scouts, but only with active parent support.

The Troop Uniform

The Boy Scout uniform is suitable for most activities and is worn by both Boy Scouts and Boy Scout Adult Leaders. The Troop Class A

or “Field” uniform consists of the official BSA shirt (long or short sleeve), the Troop neckerchief and BSA slide, official BSA pants or shorts, shoes, and socks. (Dark blue jeans or shorts may be substituted for the official BSA pants or shorts.) The Class B or “activity” uniform is the same as the Class A uniform except that a Troop t-shirt is worn instead of the official BSA shirt. The initial cost of a Class A uniform is around \$30.00 (see Expenses). The Class A / “Field” uniform is to be worn at all troop meetings and ceremonies, unless the scout is otherwise notified in advance.

What to Expect

Besides the weekly troop meetings, the troop has at least one activity, usually a campout, each month. Activities are planned by elected Boy Scout leaders. Planning occurs at the troop meetings, or if schedules permit, during Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meetings

- The Troop conducts fund raisers throughout the year.
- The Troop attends a long-term summer camp for two weeks each summer where individual scouts can elect to attend for either one or both of the weeks attended by the troop. Troop 44 attends the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation in northern Wisconsin. We are proud that a number of Troop 44 scouts and leaders have been selected by their peers and have been inducted into Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan’s Lodge #40 of



the Order of the Arrow. The Honorary Society of the Boy Scouts of America.

- The Troop also participates in various service projects, parish and community activities each year. Some of these include the

4th of July Parade, food drives, various scout-led Eagle projects and others.

- The troop is currently considering adding one or more family-style discovery campouts each year. A family-style discovery campout would offer the opportunity for Scouts and their families to sightsee, learn about the surrounding area and allow the Scout to demonstrate and share their scouting skills with their families.

FUNd Raisers

Each fund raiser is managed by a parent who tracks quantities sold and profits earned by the Scouts and the Troop. The Troop maintains an account for each Scout. Once initial quotas are met, 50% of the profits earned by the scout is placed in the Scout’s individual “Camper Account.” Camper Account balances can be applied by the scout to pay for camp-outs and summer camp fees and expenses. Scouting can be expensive and participating in Troop fund raisers is the best way to help a Scout pay his way.

- The Council sponsors and the Troop may participate in a Scout Popcorn sale each year.
- The Troop sells Poinsettias at Christmas.
- The Troop sponsors an Italian Fest.
- Almost any fund raising idea is possible, but all fund raisers must be approved by the Council.

FUNd raisers help both the Scouts and the Troop to meet their needs.

Expenses

- Scouting can be expensive
- Fund raisers help the Troop pay for awards, camp fees and equipment.
- Troop neckerchief cost \$6.00.
- Scouts provide their own uniforms, a shirt costs about \$35.00 including patches.
- Scouts pay their individual camping/activity fees. Some more expensive activities or events may be partially subsidized by the troop, where finances allow.

- Scouts need a sleeping bag, a foam pad, a mess kit and a water bottle.
- Each Patrol member shares the cost of food required for a weekend campout (averages about \$7.50 per Scout).
- Each scout pays for summer camp (\$200 + per week).
- The annual registration fee for both Scouts and adult leaders is \$35.00. This includes a subscription to Boys Life magazine.
- Individuals must supply their own specialized clothing for winter camping or other activities.
- The Boy Scout Handbook is about \$13.00 and should last a lifetime.
- Nonetheless, do not let costs alone sway you from scouting. Limited financial assistance is available and be discussed in a confidential setting.

Additionally, there is a national program, the Friends of Scouting (FOS), that allows families to contribute directly to the local Council. This helps defray the costs of administering the BSA program and helps families in need participate in scouting.

The Troop Committee



Committee members are registered with the Northeast Illinois Council. Scout parents fill committee positions. The Committee meets once each month, usually on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. Committee positions include: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Advancements, Travel Coordinator, Chartered Organization Representative, Youth Protection Officer, and members-at-large. Members-at-large administer various, unspecified Troop needs, as they arise. Committee duties include managing Troop assets, approving and supporting activities and Troop by-laws, supervising fund raisers, and conducting Boards of Review for Scout rank advancements.

All troop adult leaders are registered with the Council. This provides an opportunity for the national Scouting organization to verify a

prospective leaders' qualifications and provides liability insurance for the Troop. You can help! Just ask any committee member, the Scoutmaster, or an assistant Scoutmaster what needs to be done.

The Scoutmaster and Assistants

- We're proud that the Troop 44 leaders' combined years of scouting and leadership represents over 100 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America!
- These are adults, usually Scout parents, approved by the Troop Committee and the Chartering Organization.
- The Scoutmaster is the lead facilitator for all Troop operations.
- All Troop plans and activities are first approved by the Scoutmaster
- Assistant Scoutmasters assist the Scoutmaster during meetings, at camp-outs, with advancement activities, or as otherwise needed. Assistant Scoutmasters often act as Tour Leaders, taking responsibility for one or more of the monthly camp-outs or activities.
- The Council sponsors adult leader training classes throughout the year. The Scoutmaster must be trained, and Assistant Scoutmasters are also encouraged to attend formal training classes.
- Troop 44's current Scoutmaster and one of the Committee Members has completed the BSA's highest leadership training curriculum – The Wood Badge. All of Troop 44's current Assistant Scoutmaster have earned the BSA "Trained" emblems as worn on the left sleeves of their uniforms. Some are Eagle Scouts and all of our adult leaders have received training in scouting essentials, youth protection, BSA leadership methods and outdoor leadership skills including a week-end long outdoor skills course.



Troop Organization



The Troop is divided into sev-

eral patrols. Scouts are assigned to a patrol. A patrol is normally made up of five to eight Scouts. Patrols plan and carry out activities as a unit. A patrol is lead by one Scout, the Patrol Leader (PL), who is elected by all the patrol members. A Venture Patrol is available for older Scouts who qualify by age and rank.



The Troop elects a senior Scout (Star, Life or Eagle) as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The SPL is the top elected boy leader in the Troop. The SPL and Scoutmaster work together to conduct an active Troop program. The SPL has a staff to help in Troop operations: an assistant senior patrol leader (ASPL), a Quartermaster, a Historian, Patrol Leaders, Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, a New Scout Guide and a Bugler. A Scout's advancement to the rank of Star, Life, and Eagle requires that he serve in one of the above leadership positions.

The New Scout

New Scouts usually join the Troop from a Cub Scout Webelos Den. The new Scouts are assigned to a patrol and help elect a Patrol Leader. A Troop Guide is then assigned to help the new Scouts. The Guide is a troop resource and helps the Patrol Leader train the new Scouts. The new Scouts participate in Troop activities. The goal of each Scout is to earn the rank of First Class during his first Scouting year. Attending a summer camp will help a new Scout meet most, if not all, of his Tenderfoot, Second, and First Class Scout requirements. At the end of a year, this Scout is a veteran camper, and a new group of Webelos joins the Troop and the process begins again.

Scout Rank Advancement

Boy Scouts advance at their own pace beginning with the Tenderfoot rank and continuing to Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The initial goal for a new Scout is to the First Class rank during his first year. To advance, Scouts must actively participate in

weekly Troop meetings, attend campouts, and meet all the requirements for their next rank advancement. The chart on the next page depicts the process that a boy must follow for both rank advancement and for earning a merit badge.

The *Scout Handbook* contains the requirements for each rank advancement. The *Scout Handbook* should always be brought to each Scout meeting, campout, or activity. Completed requirements for rank advancement are approved/verified by the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Merit Badges play a key role in Scout advancements. There are more than one hundred merit badges allowing Scouts to learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers. The Scout picks a subject and asks the Scoutmaster to assign a counselor. The Scout then contacts the counselor to arrange a meeting. Merit badges are taught following the two-person rule. There must be two adults to one Scout or two Scouts to one adult when a badge is taught. Merit Badge counselors are always needed; if you have a skill or knowledge to share, please volunteer.

Each rank advancement requires a Scout to demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in his everyday life. Each rank advancement requires a Scout to participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. Additionally, each Scout must pass a Board of Review conducted by at least three members of the Troop Committee before he can achieve the next rank.

Before becoming a Star Scout a boy must earn six merit badges, four from the required list, and take part in service projects totaling 6 hours. Before becoming a Life Scout a boy must earn five additional merit badges, including three more from the required list, and take part in service projects totaling 6 hours. To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must carry out an Eagle Project and earn twenty-one merit badges, twelve of which are required:



Boy Scouts of America Northeast IL Council Troop 44



Rank Advancement

See Scout Handbook (SH), Chapters 3-6, and pages 438-449. Participate in Troop/Patrol activities.

Keep detailed record of Troop/Patrol activities you participate in. See SH, pages 75 & 127.

As each requirement is completed, explain to a Scoutmaster (SM)* how accomplished. SM* initials requirement in SH.

*or Leadership Patrol for 1st Class & below

Ask SM for a Conference. Discuss how requirements were met and leadership objectives. SM initials SH.

Contact AC to schedule BoR. Discuss Scouting interests, experiences, and goals with BoR. If approved, BoR initials SH.

AC purchases Rank Badge and Certificate. Scout is awarded Badge at earliest Scout activity opportunity.

Scout is recognized and receives Certification Card at next scheduled Court of Honor.

1 Rank Requirements

2 Scout Events and Activities

3 Completing Requirements

4 Scoutmaster Conference

5 Board of Review

6 Badge Award

7 Certification

Merit Badges

1 Select Merit Badge

See SH Chapter 7, Merit Badge (MB) Pamphlets, & Boy Scout Requirements 2002.

Use Scout Buddy System!

Obtain Application (Blue Card) from Scoutmaster (SM). Contact authorized Merit Badge Counselor (MBC). Scout discusses his MB plans with MBC.

2 Application

3 Counselor Sessions & Records

Attend MBC sessions if offered. Create detailed records to document how each MB requirement met.

4 Examination

MBC may sign off requirements as completed. When Scout finishes all requirements, MBC gives examination.

5 Certified Application

If approved, MBC signs application certifying completion. Scout gives Unit copy to SM for approval.

6 Badge Award

AC purchases MB emblem and Certificate. Scout is awarded MB at earliest Scout activity opportunity.

7 Certification

Scout is recognized and receive Certification Card at next scheduled Court of Honor.



Camping

**The key to making Scouting fun,
challenging and rewarding
is contained in the expression:
KEEP THE OUTING IN SCOUTING!**

Troop activities may consist of hiking, backpacking, climbing, caving, a bike ride, skiing, or classes, but nothing can compare with an overnight campout. A Scout learns various crafts and skills when camping.

Scouts require the proper clothing and equipment for camping. Many activities occur in the mountains where temperatures fall rapidly after sunset. Wool socks and garments are good investments. Individual camping equipment is up to the individual, but the following is suggested:

- A good three-season sleeping bag, with a pad to sleep on.
- For winter camping add a wool blanket or polar fleece liner to the sleeping bag.
- A mess kit with plate, bowl, cup & utensils (we do not use paper products on camp-outs).
- A quart canteen or water bottle.
- An individual first aid kit (required).
- A flashlight
- A pocketknife (Sheath knives are prohibited)
- A poncho or some other type of rain gear. Breathable rain gear, though more expensive works best. Ponchos can be cumbersome on bike rides or other active events.
- Seasonal clothing.
- In the winter add gloves, sweaters, and a coat. Wool and synthetic wicking materials work best. Cotton, once dampened,

can lead to hypothermia and does not dry out. (See our winter camping guide.)

- Extra socks and a spare pair of shoes or boots.
- Scouts may want to bring a disposable camera. Expensive camera/video equipment is strongly discouraged.

Some items may not be taken on campouts. Check your Scout's pack and ensure these items are left behind:

- Individual snacks that might attract wild animals into a Scout's tent.
- Electrical equipment such as: radios, tape players, television sets, Game Boys, etc.
- Firearms.
- Fireworks.
- If unsure, consult with the Scoutmaster.

Summer Camp

Summer camp is the highlight of the Troop's camping calendar. This is a long-term camp offering seven days and six nights of camping. Each year the Troop takes fifteen to twenty five Scouts to camp. Summer camp offers something for each Scout: swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, hiking, crafts, and Scout skills. This is always a great opportunity for advancement. New Scouts can meet the requirements for advancement to First Class; all Scouts can earn merit badges.

A Scout's regular camping gear will normally be sufficient for summer camp. Include clothing for seven days and supplement as follows:

- A uniform shirt (Class A Uniform) required for the dinner meal.
- Mosquito netting and frame
- Sunscreen
- Soap and towels for bathing
- One or two swimsuits for aquatic activities.
- Two one-quart water bottles or canteens.
- Sunscreen.

Camp includes a trading post where Scouts can purchase crafts, souvenirs, knives, model rockets, flashlights and other neat stuff. Pocket money is nice to have. A designated adult Troop leaders will provide a "bank" service to

help prevent any accidental loss of funds.

Council and District Support

The Northeast Illinois Council is divided into districts. Each district is headed by a professional Scouter, the District Executive. Our Troop is in the Aptakasic District. There are over fifty Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer Post units in the Aptakasic District, too many units for one professional to support single-handedly. Volunteers are needed at the District level to help maintain scouting standards. The professionals provide guidance and help to the volunteers implementing the Scouting program at the unit level. The BSA program is run by volunteers. Possibly the most important support offered by the Council is Training.

Training

It is extremely important for Scouts and Adult Leaders to receive training. A Junior Leader Training (JLT) Course is provided by the Troop at least every two years. Attending a JLT will help a Scout carry out his duties as a Leader. The Council regularly offers training sessions for Den Chiefs, additional JLT courses, and classes for Adult leaders as well. Training for adults begins with a Fast Start Video Tape. Scout Leader Training is conducted three or four times during the year. Other adult training courses include the College of Scouting, Woodbadge, and advanced training at Philmont, the Scout Ranch in New Mexico.



The Aptakasic District conducts a Roundtable meeting, for all Scouting units on the second Tuesday of each month. Unit leaders can obtain program information and receive training and help at these meetings, which are open to Scout leaders, Scouts, and Scout parents.

Courts of Honor

A Court of Honor is held to accord formal recognition for the accomplishments of each Scout. Ceremonies are for all Scouts and their families. Your attendance at the Court of

Honor shows your son that you recognize and appreciate the hard work he's done to earn his ranks and merit badges.



A special Court of Honor is held when a Scout earns the rank of Eagle. Eagle Courts of Honor are planned by the Scout and his family, with some help from the Troop. Attendance is by invitation.

Where-to-Find

- **Troop Calendar, Patrol Membership, Leadership Structure, Photo Galleries and much more!** www.BSA44.org
- **Activities:** to find out what to expect, ask a mom or dad of a scout who participated on that activity or a similar one last year.
- **Anything not covered: Ask!**
- **Camping Gear:** Wal-Mart, SportMart, Target, Outdoor World, Sears, etc.
- **How you can help: Ask any troop leader.**
- **Leader registration:** obtain a registration form from the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman and return it when completed.
- **Merit Badges:** visit our web site for a list of counselors. Merit Badges requirements can be found in the Boy Scout Requirements Book (updated every two years: check the dates before buying one) and on the internet at www.meritbadge.com
- **Patches:** Sewing templates, for the scout uniform shirt, are located inside the front and back covers of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Badges of rank and merit badges are provided by the troop at Court of Honor Ceremonies.
- **Rank advancement:** Requirements are in the Boy Scout Handbook and on page 4.
- **Scout registration: Obtain a registration form from the Scoutmaster and return it when completed.**
- **Uniforms:** Northeast Illinois Council Office/Trading Post in Highland Park, Abernathy's in Mundelein, and thrift shops.