

TROOP 008

Welcome Guide for Parents and Scouts

Adventures

Troop 008 strives to keep busy with a variety of adventures. Each month there is a Committee Meeting that involves Troop leadership and Parents where we plan out a calendar. Example of activities include:

- One week of Summer Camp
- Troop campouts (every 1.5 months)
- Kayaking, climbing, swimming and other one-day activities
- Community service

Calendar can be found here:
www.troop008seattle.com/calendar

Meetings

Troop 008 meets every other Sunday afternoon, with exceptions for events and holidays, at the Rainier Lions Club from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Occasionally meetings will be held at another location for special events. Scouts and parents are informed in advance. Please check out our calendar on the website for exact meeting dates

Communications

We primarily use a Facebook group, website and email to communicate with families.

Please ask to be connected with these options.



Dear Scouts and Parents,

We are glad you are considering joining our troop. Troop 008 and its leaders believe strongly in the character building that comes from following the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We also believe strongly in parent participation in all Scouting activities. The youth that get the most out of Scouting are those whose parents are visible and active. Parents play a key role in the success of Scouting – you help motivate your Scout, provide moral support, and help as you can with troop activities.

Scouts get out of Troop 008 what they put into it. Leaders try to keep the “outing” in Scouting by offering plenty of activities of all kinds. We ask our Scouts to lead the troop as much as possible. That includes work planning and preparing for campouts and weekly meetings. As you learn and grow with us, your responsibilities will increase. Developing self-confidence, self-reliance and leadership are key goals of the Scouting program. We hope this pamphlet will be useful to you. Please read this together with your Scout, along with the first pages in the Scout Handbook. The exciting transition from Webelos to Scouting, or entering Scouting for first time, can be confusing at times. Please do not hesitate to ask one of our leaders if you have any questions, now or any time in the future.

~Scoutmaster Brandon Hersey



Dues

We do our best to keep the cost of Scouting as low as possible. We have three major costs that are collected throughout the year

- \$100 one-time join fee that includes BSA Registration
- \$25 monthly fee. This covers all the costs of campouts and activities
- \$150 for Summer Camp (*Note, this is an approximation, subject to variation)

Money should never be a reason that your Scout cannot participate. Please let us know in a manner comfortable to you if you need assistance, and we will do our best to accommodate your situation.

Payments can be made by check, cash, or Venmo. Please ask for more information.

Parental Commitment

Scouting is a family affair. No Scout is expected to travel the 'Trail to Eagle' by themselves. Parents should encourage their Scout to work on advancement and take full advantage of the Scouting program. Parents are invited to and expected at all Troop meetings and especially encourage to attend our Court of Honor events, usually held 2-3 times a year where the Scouts receive their awards.

The Troop program planning is done by the Scouts themselves, not the parents. There is always room for any parent who wants to take a more active role in working with the Scouts to plan their program. The Chief Seattle Council office hosts training programs several times a year, and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of them.

Troop Committee Meetings are held every month during the third Sunday. The Troop Committee is made up of leaders and parents and acts in a support role, including fundraising and logistics.

The Troop Committee oversees the Troop, helps plan activities, approves our calendar, and forms the Board of Review for each Scouts' rank advancement. Our Troop also needs Parent to help counsel merit badges, assist with special events and drive to activities. Many of our best ideas have come from parents who just spoke up! Because the Scouts run the troop, "helping" is usually just "watching." Your help makes the difference. National B.S.A. rules require at least two adults at every meeting and activity. Some activities require adults with special training.

EVENTS MUST BE CANCELLED if enough parents cannot attend

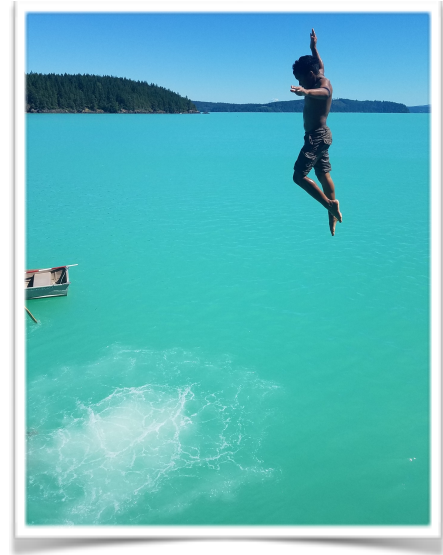


Uniform & Book

There are a few things each Scout needs right away to begin the Scouting trail: A Boy Scout uniform and a Scout Handbook. Your uniform is the place to wear all the awards you will soon be earning; your handbook tracks your progress from your first meeting.

Troop 008's uniform consists of a Boy Scout field uniform ("Class A") shirt with proper insignia. Shirts and books should be purchased as soon as possible, because they are worn to and used during every troop activity.. This will total to about \$75. We have a uniform bank for those that don't mind wearing used uniforms to help offset costs.

Our Troop also has an activity uniform ("Class B"), black t-shirt with our current logo, for wearing around camp, weekly meetings and other times that leaders announce. Official or "Class A" uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Shops located on Rainier Ave, by Franklin High School. Outgrown uniforms can be donated to our uniform bank for other Scouts to use.



Advancement

Advancement is the way you grow as a Scout, and become eligible for troop leadership positions and other honors. You start as a "Scout" and progress to "Eagle" in the following order: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

Advancement is how you become eligible for troop leadership positions, high adventure camping trips, and honors such as election to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor camping society.

Merit Badges

You can progress to First Class rank within one year. To do this, you will work with other first year scouts, patrol leaders and adult leaders. Bring your Scout Handbook to every meeting and activity. This is very important so your progress can be promptly recorded.

Once you reach First Class, Merit Badges become the main advancement tool. (You can work on badges earlier if you choose.) There are over 120 merit badges to choose from.

Many badges, like Pets, Athletics, Computers and the three Citizenships, may be worked on in school or at home. You can get credit for this work. You may work independently on merit badges that interest you. Leaders may help by allowing time to work on some badges during troop meetings.

Camping offers many opportunities for advancement and merit badges as well. You must get the Scoutmaster's permission and a Blue Merit Badge Card BEFORE starting work on a badge. This allows the leader to follow up, while you work with a specific, approved counselor who has experience in the subject.

Court of Honor

The accomplishments of the Scouts are formally recognized at a Court of Honor, held about three times per year. Most are held on Sundays in place of a regular troop meeting. Parents' attendance at our Court of Honor is an important and very easy way to demonstrate an interest in your son's scouting progress. Although Scouts are formally recognized at a Court of Honor, they receive their rank patches as soon as possible, usually at the next regular troop meeting.

Camping Gear & Equipment

Camping is a key part of Scouting and some simple equipment is needed to be comfortable and enjoy the experience. A sleeping bag or a couple of heavy blankets, reusable plate and eating utensils (called a mess kit), rain gear and a flashlight are needed for the first campout. Pocketknives may be carried after the Tot'n Chip card is earned, certain types of knives are never allowed for safety reasons. Your Scout Handbook is a good source for additional information on what to pack.

The Troop has equipment like rain jackets, rain hats, sleeping bags, tents and other camping-related items that we loan out to Scouts.

Before buying expensive items like sleeping bag, boots and backpacks, we strongly suggest you use suitable family gear or borrow for the first few trips. This lets you see what is needed, what others use, research purchase and take advantage of sales. Troop 008's leaders have camped for years and can suggest money-saving substitutes, or recommend good quality equipment that will survive the rigors of Scout camping. Group items such as tents, lanterns, stove and other camping equipment are furnished by the troop.



Medical Forms

So the leaders can "Be Prepared" in case medical attention is necessary and parents are unavailable, a medical history is needed from each person prior to participating in troop activities. The B.S.A.'s physical form includes a parental permission box that should be signed. For long-term activities like Summer Camp and some High Adventure activities, a physical exam within the past year is required by B.S.A. National policy. However, a medical form signed by your doctor stating any limitations is required every year.