

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 310



Your son is registered in the world's largest youth organization - Boy Scouting, as a Division of Boy Scouts of America. Here are some facts you will want to know:

Our Troop is part of the Patriot's Path Council. It is actually a corporation made up of representatives of Unit sponsors, plus members-at-large. It is run by elected officers and an Executive Board. It employs a small professional and clerical staff who run the Council Service Center and who train Council and District officers, help organize new Units, and help them succeed. Our Council is one of over 500 Councils in America.

Our Troop is part of the Munsee District. The Council is divided into districts and there are many district and council officers who work with the Troop. These people are "behind the Scenes" as far as your son is concerned, but without their work and effort, our Troop probably would not exist. The Patriot's Path Council is chartered by the National Council. Local Councils are coordinated by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. All badges, books, uniforms and training materials, etc., are prepared by the National Council. Staff members of the National Council make regular visits to our Council and help our local leaders.

Aims and Methods of the Scouting Program

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

Ideals. The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols. The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs. Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

Advancement. Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Associations With Adults. Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. [Scout leaders](#) can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

Personal Growth. As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Leadership Development. The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Uniform. The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

The Troop

The Troop is a group made up of several Boy Scout patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and four to eight Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Green Bar Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Troop Communications

The Troop's adult and youth leaders attempt to keep everyone informed but it is the personal responsibility of everyone associated with the troop to keep *themselves* informed. The best way

to stay informed is to attend the weekly Troop meetings. The Troop uses the following methods of communication:

- ✿ E-mail
- ✿ The troop's website (<http://troop310.cyberpuppi.com>)
- ✿ Announcements at the end of each meeting
- ✿ Announcements at the end of each Scout activity
- ✿ Weekly patrol calls by the scouts
- ✿ Calendar posted on the troop's website (<http://troop310.cyberpuppi.com>)
- ✿ Committee Meetings on the last Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Troop coordination, tour permits and trip coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment. Troop 310's Committee Chairman is [Debra Aker](#).

The Committee meets monthly, usually on the last Monday. Meetings are open to all Troop Committee members.

Troop Parents

The role of parents within Troop 310 is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist in Troop fund-raisers and other such activities.
5. Be aware of the Troop Events Calendar.
6. Consider serving as Merit Badge Counselor in areas in which they have specialized knowledge and skills. A Merit Badge Counselor must be Registered, must submit an additional Merit Badge Counselor application and finally must be approved by the Munsee District Merit Badge Dean and have completed the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection training.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every BSA Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 310 is Bishop Justin J. McCarthy Council #5503 Knights of Columbus, 27 Westfield Ave., Clark, NJ. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between Troop 310 and the K of C. Troop 310's Chartered Organization Representative is Martha Kamichoff.

Meetings

- Troop Meetings will normally be held at 7:00 PM each Wednesday at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School, 59 Mildred Terrace, Clark, NJ 07066. They will generally last about 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Scouts work on rank advancement and merit badge activities.
- Troop Committee meetings will normally be held monthly at 7:00 PM on the fourth (4th) Monday of the month at the Clark Library on Westfield Ave., Clark. The time and place of the meetings may be altered to the convenience of the Committee.

Monthly Campouts

Troop 310 loves to camp. Each month features a weekend campout or other activity. We will also attend Summer Camp in July and possibly have another special trip during the summer.

Service Projects

In addition to weekly meetings and monthly camping activities, Troop 310 scouts develop a sense of citizenship and strengthen their community by participating in special Service Projects throughout the year.

Summer Activities

Weekly meetings are usually not held during the summer, however other activities are planned.

Each summer scouts can attend a week-long camping trip at a Boy Scout summer camp. This year we will be attending Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation's Camp Somers, in Stanhope, NJ.

Fundraising

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do two to three major fundraising projects a year. Our main troop fundraiser will be the [Entertainment Book Sale](#). We will also sell Trail's End Popcorn.

A note about adult supervision

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are present at all troop meetings, trips or outings. This is a BSA requirement.

Attendance

Troop Meetings

- Troop meetings will be an integral part of Scouting, and Scouts should attend all meetings.

General

- Scout functions will be scheduled to begin and end at specific times. Scouts and their parents are expected to be present when an activity begins and leave promptly upon completion.
- Scouts should wear uniforms at all times unless otherwise specified. For certain outdoor activities, a Troop/Scout T-shirt and Boy scout hat will be deemed acceptable.

Fees

How much does Boy Scouting cost?

The annual registration fee is a nominal fee paid each fall to officially enroll the Scout in the local Troop and the national Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization. Other costs through the course of scouting include fees for special activities and uniform purchases.

Annual Registration Fee - \$153 (as broken-down below)

The annual membership fee for each Scout in Troop 310 is applied by the troop toward:

- National BSA membership (\$15)
- Patriots' Path Council Scout Fee (\$13)
- Insurance (\$5.00)
- Troop membership costs, including badges, awards, troop-supplied materials, equipment, adult leadership training and other operating expenses incurred by the Troop. (\$120 Annually or \$10 per month for 12 months)
- **[Annual Registration/Dues Calculator](#)**

The **[Parent's Registration Guide Letter](#)** will help you understand the registration process and provide the troop with necessary information about your child and you for the Troop's official records.

Youth Protection and Scouting

A booklet, included in the printed handbooks, **[How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide](#)**, provides tips to help parents talk with their sons about child abuse. This pamphlet must be reviewed with your son upon joining the Troop. Below is a link to the downloadable version of the pamphlet.

[How to Protect Your Children](#)

Yearly Physical Examination / Annual Medical Form

In order for your son to participate in Scouting activities he must undergo a yearly physical examination by the doctor of your choice, the official **BSA Annual Medical Form** must be completed, **IN FULL**, and a copy must be on file with the Troop. The information requested includes your insurance carrier and policy number, physician's name and contact information, any, and all, allergies or pre-existing medical conditions, inoculations with date of last inoculation and any, and all, prescribed medications, including inhalers and epi-pens. This is for your son's protection and is extremely important!

Boys Life magazine subscription - \$12.00 - optional (but encouraged)

Boys' Life is a monthly magazine popular with Scouts, and filled with ideas for activities and outings. Subscriptions are optional and are processed with the annual registration. This is half the cost of the cover price.

Fees for Outings / Activities - varies

Campouts and other activities may have fees associated with them.

- **Monthly weekend campout** - for food and supplies, cost determined on a trip-by-trip basis.

Uniform and Handbook - Each scout is required to have the Boy Scout Handbook, and these Boy Scout "Class A" uniform items:

- Tan scout shirt with insignia and patches (Here is the [Official BSA Insignia Guide](#))
- Other uniform items such as hat, belt neckerchief and scout pants are available at [Scout shops](#).
- Neckerchief slide (can be purchased or made by the Scout).
- Troop 310 will try and provide each new Scout with a Troop 310 T-shirt.

Optional - "Class B" Uniform - for less formal troop activities is a "class B" uniform -- a T-shirt with the Troop 310 emblem, available only from Troop 310.

Advancement

The Boy Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs at his own pace. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges. Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The higher he climbs the more challenging his tasks — and the more rewarding.

Details for advancement are contained in the Boy Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible after joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's areas of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are

earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor.

Qualified parents of scouts are encouraged to [become a Merit Badge Counselor](#) if they are registered and verified by the Munsee District Merit Badge Dean. If you are interested please complete a [Troop Resource Survey Form](#) and return it to a Troop Leader.

Boards of Review

When a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank, he appears before a board of review composed of members of the Troop committee. The purpose of the review is not an examination. Rather it is to determine the Scout's attitude and acceptance of Scouting's ideals; to ensure that the requirements have been met for advancement, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program, and to encourage him to keep working towards advancement. A Board of Review may also be held to counsel a boy about his lack of progress toward advancement.

Courts of Honor

Troop 310 will conduct a Court of Honor usually three times a year to recognize Scout advancements and awards. The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be recognized for their achievements. Families and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Committees

Certain events during the year require efforts above and beyond the normal effort put forth by the adult leaders of your Troop. In order to make sure these activities are a success for the Boy Scouts, committees will be formed to spread the work involved. Each family will be expected to help on one of these committees during the year. **Our Troop can not function successfully without this parent participation.**

Closing Statement

Boy Scouting is a year-round, home-centered program involving boys and their parents, adult leaders and friends. The Troop can only function successfully with parent participation. Parents are expected to contribute time, energy and talent as needs arise within the Troop. (Boy Scouting Training Programs are available to benefit adult members.)

Parent/Troop Agreement

Boys can expect:

- Help from parents with advancement
- Leadership from the Troop
- **FUN at all Scout functions !!!**
- Membership in the Boy Scouts of America.

Parents can expect

- Help with character building for your son
- Specific tools to help with discipline and growth
- Warm associations with your son
- Programmed good times with your son
- A chance to see your son perform in public
- An opportunity to help your son receive public recognition
- Pride in your son's accomplishments.

The Troop can expect

- Participation by boys in weekly Troop Meetings
- Help from parents in specific ways during year
- Payment of fees
- Information sent to parents to be read
- Parents to help boys with advancement.

Youth Member Behavior Guidelines: [Click here for a downloadable file](#)

Core Values

SCOUT OATH	SCOUT LAW
<i>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.</i>	<i>A Scout is: Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent</i>

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

VISION STATEMENT

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future Scouting will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.