

Troop 133

New Scout and Parent Guide

Electronic copy available @ <http://www.troop133worchester.com>



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About the Troop

Troop 133 was formed over 60 years ago. During that time, our Troop has been fortunate to watch numerous boys become great citizens and we have seen many Eagle Scout come out of our ranks. Our Troop is fortunate to call the Worcester Community Hall our home. In appreciation for this service provided to us by the Township of Worcester, we proudly do a yearly service project for the township by doing a clean-up day at Heebner Park. As another service to the community, we also host an annual Easter Egg Hunt for the township residents at Heebner Park.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee serves as the administrative function of the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of items such as the Troop finances, coordinating fund raising activities, membership, advancement records, permits, and procurement of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets monthly and meetings are open to all concerned parents and adults.

Troop Meetings

Troop 133's Scouting Year runs from September through July. We do not meet in the month of August to allow our families the time to enjoy part of the summer for vacation.

Regularly scheduled Troop meetings occur every Sunday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Meetings will typically not be held if there is a weekend event, i.e. camping trip. All Troop meetings are held at the Worcester Township Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road in Fairview Village, PA.

Our events and meetings are tracked for everyone's convenience through Google Calendar. The calendar can be viewed at any time on the Troop website, <http://www.troop133worcester.com>. From the website the calendar can be printed or added to your mobile device.

Adult Leadership

The Troop leadership encourages involvement by those adults that would like to help with the unit. Adult leaders must complete Youth Protection Training and obtain the 3 Pennsylvania require youth protection clearances.(<https://www.colbsa.org/news-and-information/news-and-information/pa-child-protective-services-law.html>)

Youth Leadership

The Troop is made up of Patrols. Patrols consist of a Patrol leader and no more than 10 boys. The scouts in the Patrol elect their Patrol leader who then appoints an assistant from within the Patrol.

All scouts will vote and elect the Senior Patrol Leader, referred to as the SPL, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader(s), referred to as the ASPL. The SPL and ASPL, along with the Patrol Leaders, form the Patrol Leader Council, referred to as the PLC. The PLC will meet monthly at a Patrol Leader Conference to plan Troop activities.

Troop meetings are run by the Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Parent involvement

Parents are encouraged to be involved in their son's Scouting experience. The role of the parent within the Troop is to be supportive of the Troop's efforts and to provide the atmosphere needed for the Scouts to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read the Scout's handbook to understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow the progress of the Scout and offer encouragement or 'a push' when needed.
3. Show support to all Scouts within the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor
4. Assist, as needed, in all Troop fundraising or other such activities.
5. Be aware of the Troop program and Troop calendar.

Troop Financial Requirements

Annual Dues

What is the cost for the Scouting program? The annual dues for the Troop per scout is \$50.00 and are due at the beginning of the Scouting Year. These annual dues are non-refundable and are expected to be received in full by the end of September each year. Dues can be paid from the Scout's account if desired.

Fees for Outings and Activities

Troop activities may have fees assigned with them. These fees are used to supplement the overall expense to the troop for the event. While the Troop will pay a majority of the cost for the event, there will be a nominal fee charged to each participating Scout. All camping weekends will cost \$5.00 per meal per scout. Some of the Troop outings, like Whitewater Rafting, may have a larger associated cost. Any changes to the cost per event cost will be decided upon by the Troop Committee and communicated to the Troop in a timely manner.

The cost for summer camp will vary depending on the cost of the camp chosen by the Scouts each year. These costs will be communicated to all families as soon as they are known by the Troop Leadership.

Fundraising and Scout Accounts

The Troop conducts a few fundraising opportunities throughout the Scouting Year. These opportunities include, but not limited to; our Annual Christmas Tree Sale, annual Pancake Breakfast, annual Car Wash, Popcorn sale, and Camp Card sale. Proceeds allocated to the individual Scout account vary per event and per individual participation.

The Annual Christmas Tree Sale and the annual Car Wash directly fund the General Troop Fund and is used to run our functions and pay for awards, Merit Badge, etc.

For the annual Pancake Breakfast, the scout will receive 75% of his ticket sale proceeds deposited into his Scout account for participation in the fundraiser. The remaining 25% of the ticket sales will go directly to the General Troop Fund.

Camp Cards and Popcorn are individual voluntary fundraising opportunities and are not required by the Troop. If a Scout chooses to participate in Camp Card sales, the scout will receive \$2.00 into his Scout account for each Camp Card sold. For Popcorn Sales, the Scout will receive 75% of the profit from his individual sales with 25% of the profit going to the General Troop Fund.

Scout Assistance

If a Scout and/or his parent(s) have a financial hardship with regard to paying dues or any other fees needed to participate in the Scouting program, we ask that the Scout and/or parent contact the Scoutmaster directly and discuss this before the end of the 2nd week in September. The Scoutmaster will then consult with the Troop Committee with regard to the financial hardship on behalf of the family and determine how the Troop can help.

Uniform

The uniform itself does not make a Scout of a good Troop, but it is the visual symbol of Scouting and is a symbol of unity. All Scouts and Leaders are required to attend all Troop meetings in "Class A" Uniforms. In some cases, the Troop will be instructed by the Senior Patrol Leader if "Class A" is not appropriate based on a specific activity. If this is the case, the Troop will wear our "Class B" uniform. It is expected that with both uniforms, the Scout will present themselves in a presentable manner with shirts tucked in and shoes tied.

"Class A" Uniform

- Tan Scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches
- Olive Scout pants or shorts
- Boy Scout socks
- Troop 133 hat
- Scout belt and buckle

"Class B" Uniform

- Troop 133 t-shirt
- Troop 133 hat
- Olive Scout pants
- Boy Scout socks
- Scout belt and buckle

Information for appropriate placement of insignias and patches can be found at the end of this guide or at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/InsigniaGuide.aspx>.

Advancement

Advancement to First Class

Once the Scout joins the Troop, the Scout will begin working on achieving the skills necessary to work towards the rank of First Class.

It is expected that the Scout in his first year attend summer camp to help to achieve reaching First Class within their first year of Scouting. The Troop will work with the Scout leading up to summer camp in order to ensure he is prepared for this great experience. After summer camp, the Patrol Leaders will work with the SPL and ASPL(s) to reinforce the skills learned at summer camp while working towards completing the Rank Advancement requirements.

Part of the Rank Advancement involves camping. Camping is an integral part of the Scouting Program. The Scout must attend camping trips in order to achieve the First Class rank.

Advancement after First Class

As the Scout continues his journey to Eagle, the scout will be demonstrating leadership, working on service projects, and continuing to use the skills learned while working to achieve the First Class rank. The ranks after First Class are more difficult than the earlier ranks but are also enjoyable to Scouts. Unit leadership will work with the PLC to ensure that opportunity exists for every Scout to advance within the Troop.

The higher ranks in scouting require Merit Badges in order make rank. Opportunities will exist for Merit Badge completion, but the Scouts are encouraged to pursue their own interests with Merit Badges.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges can sometimes be completed in a Troop setting, but these are mostly considered an individual exercise in Scouting. Our Troop has registered Merit Badge counselors in various Merit Badges that can work with the Scouts. Each year, our Troop attends the District Merit Badge College. This is a great opportunity for the Scouts to complete Merit Badges that interest them. Each year, the Scouts are able to choose their Merit Badges for Summer Camp as well. Through opportunities like this and the support of the Troop Leaders, it will be possible for Scouts to achieve their Merit Badge requirements for Rank Advancement

Scoutmaster Conference

A Scoutmaster Conference is a time where the Scoutmaster can speak with the Scout individually about his advancement, his needs, and feeling about the program.

There are periodic informal Scoutmaster Conferences that can be conducted by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster(s) based on the program and needs. This will allow the adult leadership to determine if any discussion is needed during a Patrol Leader Council meeting to adjust the program to suit the needs of the Scouts.

The formal Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement will be held by the Scoutmaster only. This conference is not to test the Scout on their requirements, but to make sure that the Scout has done the work to achieve the requirements and has some understanding of what is learned from these requirements. If there is a concern raised from this conference, the Scoutmaster will meet with the Senior Patrol Leader to ensure the attention is given to reinforce the skills that may be lacking.

Boards of Review

Once a Scout has completed all the requirements for a rank and has had a conference with his Scoutmaster, the Scout will appear before a Board of Review consisting of members of the Troop Committee. The purpose of this review is not to examine the knowledge of the Scout; but rather to determine the Scout's attitude, acceptance of Scouting's ideal, to discuss the Scout's experiences in the Troop and the Troop's program and to provide encouragement to the Scout to continue working towards advancement. For all Boards of Review, it is expected that the Scout will appear before the board in full "Class A" uniform including his merit badge sash.

Courts of Honor

Troop 133 will hold three (3) Courts of Honor per Scouting Year. These will be held at the end of March, after Summer Camp in July, and immediately before the holiday break in December. These Courts of Honor is a time for the Troop and families to recognize and applaud the hard work and dedication of all the Scouts. It is encouraged that all scout families and all other interested individuals attend.

All Badges of Rank, Merit Badges, and awards will be handed out at the Courts of Honor. Adult recognition and awards will also take place during the Courts of Honor.

The Troop's PLC is responsible for planning the agenda of the Court of Honor and designating a member of the PLC to officiate the Court.

Equipment Needs

Backpacking

Below is a basic list of necessary backpacking supplies each scout should have for overnight backpacking trips. Items should be packed into a backpack appropriate for backpacking. The pack should be packed by the scout so that the item locations are known by the scout. Specific itemized lists will be sent for each event and will expand on this list if needed.

- Bedding
 - Sleeping bag
 - Sleeping pad
- Clothes
 - Boots
 - 2 pair of socks per day
 - Underwear
 - Shorts/Pants appropriate for conditions
 - Short/Long sleeved shirts appropriate for conditions
 - Raingear
 - Hat
 - Clothes for sleeping
 - Sweatshirt/jacket appropriate for conditions
- Personal hygiene items
 - Toothbrush and tooth paste
 - Deodorant
 - Comb/brush
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Soap
 - Towel
 - Glasses, contacts, etc.
- Cooking/Eating
 - Mess kit
 - Mug
 - Eating utensils
- Miscellaneous
 - Camera
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray (non-aerosol)
 - Headlamp/flashlight
 - Batteries
 - Pocket knife (if Totem Chip was earned)
 - Scout book and pen

Camping

Below is a basic list of necessary camping supplies each scout should have for overnight camping trips. Items should be packed into a bag that can be managed by the scout and appropriate for the trip. Specific itemized lists will be sent for each event and will expand on this list if needed.

- Bedding
 - Sleeping bag
 - Sleeping pad
- Clothes
 - Boots
 - 2 pair of socks per day
 - Underwear
 - Shorts/Pants appropriate for conditions
 - Short/Long sleeved shirts appropriate for conditions
 - Raingear
 - Hat
 - Clothes for sleeping
 - Sweatshirt/jacket appropriate for conditions
- Personal hygiene items
 - Toothbrush and tooth paste
 - Deodorant
 - Comb/brush
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Soap
 - Towel
 - Wash cloth
 - Glasses, contacts, etc.
- Cooking/Eating
 - Mess kit
 - Mug
 - Eating utensils
- Miscellaneous
 - Camp chair
 - Camera
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray (non-aerosol)
 - Headlamp/flashlight
 - Batteries
 - Pocket knife (if Totem Chip was earned)
 - Scout book and pen

Expectations

Code of Conduct

It is the expectation of Troop 133 that all Scouts and Scouters will abide by the rules and guidelines set forth by the Boys Scouts of America and show self-control and self-discipline at all times.

It is expected that all Scouters are to lead by example and to conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner. Adults shall remain ever mindful that Scouting is a boy-run, adult-supervised organization, and will be expected to support that vision.

The expectation for all Scouts is that they will:

- Conduct themselves by the Scout Oath and follow the Scout Law
- Demonstrate leadership by following the rules and asking other to do the same
- Follow directions given by both adult and youth leaders
- Respect the property of others
- Respect the feelings of others
- Use the "buddy system" at all times during applicable activities.

It is expected that all Scouts will not:

- Swear, or use offensive language or gestures.
- Display unruly, loud, disrespectful or disobedient behavior.
- Borrow or use another individuals or troop equipment or property without prior consent.
 - Practical jokes such as hiding someone else's gear, sabotaging tents, stuffing a sleeping bag with leaves will not be tolerated.
- Use alcohol or any other controlled substances that are not prescribed by a physician.
- Use tobacco products of any kind.
- Bring or use firearms, fire crackers, fireworks, ammunition, black powder, sling shots, bows and arrows, paint ball guns or any other weapons. These items are prohibited and violations of this rule will result in the most serious of disciplines as allowed by the Boy Scouts of America.
- Allow or participate in inappropriate physical roughness amongst fellow Scouts. Shoving, punching, kicking or stick fighting is not permitted and has no place in Scouting.
- Throw rocks or other objects.
- Threaten or intimidate another Scout by word or action to include no hazing, "put-downs," ridiculing or name-calling. Hurtful comments or jokes at other people's expense have no place in Scouting.
- Leave an activity and/or designated area without an adult supervisors express permission.
- Intentionally vandalize, destruct, or damage natural or man-made areas, personal or troop property.

Use of electronic devices

It is the expectation of the Troop that all scouts will use electronic devices appropriately for scouting activities. Each activity or event will dictate its own policy for the use of electronic devices. For example, when camping it is expected that scouts will not use their electronic devices during the day but may use them in their tents at night after lights out.

If for any reason a scout is found to be violating the electronic device guidelines, the device will be confiscated by the adult leader and returned at the end of the activity or event. Continued abuse of the guideline will result in the scout being prohibited from bringing any electronic device to a scout activity or event.

The following are general guidelines for use of electronic devices. In any case where you are not sure of what the policy may be, check with the Scoutmaster or the Senior Patrol Leader.

General guidelines

1. The scout must possess an up to date Cyber Chip.
2. The scout will treat the use of technology as a tool in the same way they would treat the use of an axe or pocketknife.
3. Use of the technology must be to aid in navigation, find useful information, communicate or share excitement about Scouting.
4. Updates to social sites using appropriate, (non-embarrassing), photos or clips can share and build excitement about Scouting.
5. Use of technology will not detract from the outdoor experience, the program experience, or the Scouting experience for the troop or patrol.
6. All scouts will use the 12 points of the Scout Law as a framework for appropriate use of technology

Trustworthy

- A Scout is truthful with others online and is careful of the information shared.
- He does the right thing when sharing and makes sure to have permission to share the words or pictures of others.

Loyal

- A Scout uses his phone or device in a way that adds value to his troop or patrol.
- A loyal Scout is careful to post only appropriate photos or clips and would never want to embarrass others with his updates or communication.
- A loyal Scout would not use a phone to exclude some Scouts from the conversation, for example with secret messages.

Helpful

- A Scout could use applications that can add to the outdoor experience, such as a star-map, first aid or GPS.

- A Scout should alert others to scams, cheats, and suspicious sites and point them to reliable sources of information. Encourage people to report bad online behavior.
- A Scout may use a phone to take appropriate photos of events or situations for the troop or for personal memories.

Friendly

- A Scout could use his phone to assist someone else with information or access to communication.
- A Scout could use his phone to invite others to join Scouting or to remind his fellow Scouts of important events and activities.

Courteous

- Ringers and alert messages should be muted — beeps, rings, and recorded music take away from the outdoor and Scout experience.
- A device should not be a distraction. Scouts should pay attention to the program and fellow Scouts. In a program or troop situation, a Scout should avoid checking his phone for incoming messages or emails, unless messages related to the program are expected. Consider using “airplane mode” and wait to check at designated free times.
- A courteous Scout does not interrupt a conversation with others to stop and check for inbound messages. The courteous Scout focuses his attention on his personal interactions, such as conversations in which he is engaged.
- A phone should not be used to insulate a Scout from the outdoors or others. For example, a Scout should not use headphones during a Scouting activity. During a Scout outing a phone should not be used for entertainment such as playing solo electronic games, idle web surfing, shopping, etc.
- A phone should not be used to play music or videos — for himself or for others — at an outdoor experience. Phone music at a campsite or campfire will take away from the outdoor experience for others.

Kind

- Not everyone can afford a smartphone. A Scout needs to be sensitive to others and avoid using his phone in a way that looks like boasting and makes other Scouts disappointed that they cannot afford such a device. This is no different from any other piece of gear.
- A Scout always treats people with respect while on social networks, playing games, talking, texting or in other digital activities.

Obedient

- When using digital devices, a Scout follows the rules and examples set by parents, guardians, teachers, and Scout leaders.
- A Scout abides by the rules on websites, services, devices and games.
- A Scout is aware that different settings, events or locations will have different rules for use of electronics.

Cheerful

- A Scout uses messaging tools and social forums to build relationships with others while having fun.

Thrifty

- A Scout recognizes that his phone may run out of power, and learns to take measures to conserve power in his device such as by turning it off when not in use or by switching to “airplane mode” to conserve his battery.
- A Scout should not become overly reliant on his device. For example, a Scout should be ready with his map and compass rather than rely on his smartphone GPS.
- A Scout is a smart consumer. He knows his voice, text, and data plans and uses them wisely, careful not to run up charges on apps and sites.

Brave

- The Scout should not normally be calling home, or sending text messages back and forth with home. If the Scout thinks there is an urgent need to contact home, he should consult an adult leader first.
- Parents need to understand and agree that they are normally not to send messages or call their Scout while he is out with the program. Communication from home should be routed through an adult leader.
- Stand up for what is right. Do not participate in mocking or bullying others, even if others are doing it. Report suspected abuse to a trusted adult, like a parent or leader or call 911 as appropriate.

Clean

- A Scout uses clean language and only discusses appropriate topics when using digital devices to communicate with others.
- A Scout needs to take responsibility and take care of his device against damage from dirt, drops, water or other hazards. He may want to keep it carefully packed away against damage. He keeps his gear in good, working order.

Reverent

- A Scout respects the feelings of other people and would never use digital devices to spread irreverent ideas.

Participation in Troop Activities

It is the expectation of the Troop that all scouts will be active within the Troop. Scouts are expected to attend activities in order to facilitate rank advancement as well as to reinforce scouting skills.

Furthermore, senior scouts are expected to attend activities in order to mentor the younger scouts and help them progress in their scouting knowledge.

It is understood that certain circumstances will prevent a scout from participating in a troop activity, but these situations should be the exception and not the norm. If a situation presents itself, the scout should reach out to the Scoutmaster in a timely manner as to not impact the troop.

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Troop Participation Acknowledgment

In choosing to participate as a Scout in Troop 133 meetings and activities, I hereby indicate that I have reviewed with my parent(s) the rules and guidelines set forth in the Troop 133 Parent Guide.

By signing below, I am indicating my agreement to adhere to these rules and guidelines and commit to observe the Code of Conduct of Troop 133.

_____	_____	_____
Scout name (printed)	Scout Signature	Date

As a parent of a Scout in Troop 133, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Troop133 Parent Guide for the current Scouting year and agree that I will work with my son to ensure that any and all rules and guidelines will be abided.

I also agree to help promote a positive Scouting experience for all Scouts and will assist in leading by example.

_____	_____	_____
Parent name (printed)	Parent Signature	Date

Troop 133 acknowledges receipt of the Troop Participation Acknowledgement

_____	_____	_____
Scoutmaster (printed)	Scoutmaster signature	Date

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Boy Scout Troop 133 Photo and Talent Release Form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Boy Scout Troop 133 takes photos at all events for Troop historical and promotional purposes. It is our policy not to identify youth by first and last name (only first) or to publish addresses in any photography or videos.

In order to use the photos, we must have signed releases. Please read the release paragraph carefully and fill out the release form by neatly printing all the information.

I hereby assign and grant to Boy Scout Troop 133 the right and permission to use and publish photography/film/video/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America and I specifically waive any rights to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

This **Release** will remain in full force and effect until withdrawn in writing by me.

Youth Name _____

Adult Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

This permission is for **ALL** Troop, District and Council Events that my son or I attend.

