

Your Guide to Troop 58

Revised: March 1, 2007

Welcome To Troop 58

This guidebook was put together to let you know a little about our troop. Troop 58 is sponsored by the Lions Club of New Milford. Membership in the troop is open to all boys from the Greater New Milford area. The requirements for any boy to join Boy Scouts are that he be eleven (11) years old or completed fifth grade and that an official BSA registration be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.

Troop Meetings

The troop holds regular troop meetings in The First Congregational Church basement hall located on the Town Green. The meetings are Wednesday nights from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm unless announced otherwise. Scoutmaster conferences are held from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm on meeting nights.

A normal troop meeting consists of:
Opening
Announcements
Patrol Corners
Skill Instruction and / or Merit Badges
Final Announcements
Closing

The meeting is run by various boys in the troop under the leadership of the Senior Patrol Leader.

Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings are generally held as needed. They are held at 7:30 pm in the church building. These meetings are open to all parents and Scouter adults. If you would like to get more involved with the Troop, voice your concerns, or find out about upcoming events, this is the place to come.

Registration and Dues

New boys to the troop are required to complete an Official BSA Registration Form and parents are asked to complete a Parent Resource Survey Form. The registration fee for all Scouts and adult Scouters is \$30.00 per year with Boy's Life magazine. All registration fees and forms are generally due the second week of February.

Transfers to the troop must fill out a transfer form from the BSA and an Official BSA Registration form. Patrols must fill out a weekly attendance sheet. Dues (\$35) will be collected from all scouts at the beginning of each year. This amount is subject to change by the Troop Committee. The dues cover monthly birthday cakes and other special activities.

Extra costs for camp-outs and other activities are paid prior to those activities and are posted on the activity sheets.

Scout Handbook

It is required that each scout has a copy of the Scout Handbook. Information in the books is very useful to scouts and parents and should be read very carefully. Boys not having books will find it almost impossible to work on advancement. Handbooks should be brought to each troop meeting and to most activities.

Scout Uniform

The standard uniform of Troop 58 consists of long scout pants and scout shirt. The shirt will require minimum patches consisting of: American flag patch, council shoulder patch and troop numbers.

Rank patches and leadership patches are also expected to be put on the shirt. We are a full uniform unit and will strongly encourage boys to buy and wear the above uniform as a minimum. The above uniform is considered Class A. An alternate Class A uniform during the summer consists of the short sleeve shirt, green khaki shorts and scout socks. An acceptable Class B uniform is the official troop t-shirt with scout pants or scout shorts.

Uniforms are to be worn at all troop meetings, and during other special functions. When uniforms are worn they will be worn in the proper manner, buttons buttoned and shirttails tucked in. Uniforms are expected to be kept in a clean and neat condition. Uniforms may not be required at some service projects due to the nature of the project; (i.e. Painting, cleaning up garbage, etc.).

Troop Organization

The troop is organized into the following groups of people.

1. Troop Committee: Composed of parents & other

adults who set troop policies.

2. Adult Staff: Scoutmaster, Asst. Scoutmasters, Merit Badge Counselors, Advancement and Awards Coordinator, Merit Badge Coordinator, and Troop Records Coordinator.

3. Troop Leadership: Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leaders and Leadership Patrol.

4. Patrols: Lead by Patrol Leader & Asst. Patrol Leader, composed of groups of 5 - 8 scouts.

Adult Position terms are from September 1 to August 31.

The Patrol Method

Troop 58 operates under the Patrol Method of Scouting as developed by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in England. This method was developed on Brown Sea Island in the early 1900's. BP found that a group of eight people was the most efficient method of developing leadership and accomplishing goals.

Today, a patrol consists of 5 - 8 boys under the leadership of a Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader is selected by the senior leaders of the troop using guidelines outlined below and with input from the individual patrols. His primary responsibility is to represent and make known the wishes of his patrol at the Patrol Leadership Council, (PLC).

The Patrol Leader is also responsible for relaying information from the PLC to the patrol; ensuring people are assigned to required tasks and the conduct of patrol members. Patrol members participate in all activities as a team. Part of learning to lead is by first learning to follow. It is important to understand that the boys run the troop. The adult leaders provide guidance. The Patrol is the Key and the Patrol Leader is the Key Man.

Eligibility For Patrol Leader Candidates

The candidate must be of the 1st class rank or above.

The candidate must have attended at least 2 council camporees; (i.e. Spring Camporee, Fall Camporee, and / or Klondike Derby).

The candidate must be current with his dues.

The candidate must attend a minimum of 6 campouts held throughout the year.

The candidate must have attended a minimum of 90% of all regular meetings held during the year.

The candidate must have taken part in troop fundraisers.

The candidate must have participated in troop service projects.

Eligibility For Assistant Patrol Leader Candidates

The candidate must be of the 2nd class rank or above.

The candidate must have attended at least 2 council camporees; (i.e. Spring Camporee, Fall Camporee, and / or Klondike Derby).

The candidate must be current with his dues.

The candidate must attend a minimum of 6 campouts held throughout the year.

The candidate must have attended a minimum of 75% of all regular meetings held during the year.

The candidate must have taken part in troop fundraisers.

The candidate must have participated in troop service projects.

New Patrols

The patrol of new scouts that is formed in March of each year will work together as a team until Summer Camp. At Summer Camp the Patrols are mixed with scouts of varied rank and abilities. Also each Patrol at Summer Camp should have scouts that have been to Summer Camp in the past. In the fall the Senior Leadership will form new patrols. Leaders for the new patrol will rotate so everyone gets a chance for each patrol job; (i.e. Patrol leader, Asst. Patrol Leader, Scribe, etc.).

Advancement (The Trail to Eagle Scout)

Advancement from Scout to Eagle is an important part of the scouting experience and is completely explained in the Scout Handbook. Troop 58 has several adult leaders to help and advise the boys on advancement. Older Scouts, 1st Class and above will assist, train and guide newer scouts in the skills and requirements needed to obtain the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.

The Advancement and Awards Coordinator is responsible for maintaining advancement records, scheduling boards of review, and ordering all rank and merit badge patches.

The Troop Records Coordinator is responsible for maintaining all personal, advancement, and training records for Scouts and Adult Scouters

Scouts are responsible for completing advancement

requirement on their-own and for maintaining a complete record of their own advancement. Opportunities for completing advancement requirements will be provided to the scouts; it is the scout's responsibility to take advantage of those opportunities. The troop has five basic rules about advancement.

1) Parents can not sign-off advancement or merit badge requirements for their son without prior authorization.

2) Merit Badge Counselors must be approved by the Merit Badge Chairman and registered with council prior to any work being completed on the merit badge. Both the Advancement and Merit Badge Chairmen reserve the right to disallow any advancement or merit badge signed-off by an unapproved individual.

3) Scouts must obtain a merit badge card from the Advancement and Awards Coordinator prior to starting a merit badge. The "blue card" must be signed by the Scoutmaster prior to starting the Merit Badge. The scout will be given credit for completing a merit badge when he returns the card, which has been signed by his counselor, to the Advancement and Awards Coordinator.

4) Boys will be encouraged to advance but will not be pushed to advance. Troop leaders are responsible to provide advancement opportunities, but are not responsible for ensuring a scout advances in rank.

5) Even though the Troop Records Coordinator maintains records of each scout's advancement, it is each scout's responsibility to maintain written proof of his advancement. Scout Handbooks provide places to have requirements signed-off and scouts will be given a signed card for each merit badge or rank advancement. Each scout is responsible to keep his Merit Badge cards. Possession of a patch is not considered proof. Eagle rank will not be granted without documented proof that all requirements have been completed [Top](#)

Service Projects

When each Scout completes a service project it is his responsibility to document the hours worked and report the total hours at his next Scout Master Conference.

Service hour reports should include the following: Name, date of the event, type of event, and length of time you worked in 1/2 hour increments rounded off to the nearest 1/2 hour.

Service projects are a major part of the advancement process, without proper documentation you will not be able to advance.

Court of Honor

The troop schedules Courts of Honor bi-monthly.

A Court of Honor is a special troop meeting where all family members are invited. The meeting is held for the purpose of providing recognition to those scouts that have earned rank advancement, merit badges or other accomplishments.

The whole family is encouraged to attend even if a scout has not earned any special recognition.

Courts of Honor are generally scheduled on the last Wednesday night of every other month (see troop calendar for exact dates).

Active participation

All members of Troop 58 are expected to participate in all phases of the troop program. We have one of the best programs and unless each person is willing to do his share, the troop as a whole will be affected. Regular attendance at meetings, monthly activities, service projects and fund raisers are of vital importance to the scout's advancement and the overall

health of the troop. Important planning takes place at the weekly troop meetings and it is vital that scouts attend to help with that planning. We realize that there will be times when scouts can not attend due to illness, family problems, school, or church functions. We would appreciate it if the scouts would contact their Patrol Leader when they can not attend an activity.

An active scout should make plans to attend at least 65% of all regular meetings, any District Camporee, attend a minimum of 6 campouts through-out the year, and participate in as many service projects and fundraisers as possible.

The PLC and / or the Scoutmaster may remove any Patrol or Asst. Patrol Leader who misses 3 consecutive meetings from that office.

Troop Activities

Most major troop activities are planned months in advance and the times and dates are published in the Troop Calendar (located on the troop web site). Please keep track of these dates and help us avoid conflicts. The troop depends on parent support to see to it that their son attends as many troop activities as possible.

Schedule changes and additions will be communicated by special notices. Detailed information about monthly activities is usually handed out at troop meetings. We encourage all parties to watch the calendar and we especially encourage all parents to ask their sons about any hand out they may have received at the troop meetings (most parents don't see any papers until they pick the soggy mess out of the washing machine).

All scouts on Troop outings must have a completed permission slip signed by your parent / guardian, regardless of whether they're attending or not.

All parents must plan to drive to or from an event that your Scout is attending. You may also attend any event that interests you. Parents providing transportation of scouts to any scout event must

have proof of liability insurance on record with the troop together with the registration number of the vehicle to be used. It is also strongly recommended that parents provide the troop with a copy of their medical insurance card.

Parents, please be certain to check-in with the event Scoutmaster before you take your Scout home. NO Scout should leave a camping event without the Scoutmaster's permission. This is for the Scout's protection.

Scouts, please be aware that all electronic games and tape/CD players are restricted from Troop events and functions without prior permission.

Parent Support

The key element in maintaining and improving the quality of Troop 58 is active parent support. To be successful, scouting must be a family activity. Parent support does not consist of driving your son to a troop meeting and picking him up. The troop requires parents to attend the first 15 minutes of each Troop Meeting.

Good parent support consists of the following:

- 1) Make sure your son attends all troop activities and is ready for them.
- 2) Encourage your son in his scout advancement.
- 3) Take an active interest in his scouting activities.
- 4) Attend parent meetings, courts of honor and other family activities.
- 5) Join the Troop Committee. The committee is made up of parents and meets once a month to set troop policy.
- 6) Become a Merit Badge Counselor for the troop. You don't have to be an expert in the area. There are 120 merit badges so there should be something you know about.

Support fund raiser projects. This is how we earn money for troop equipment and the scouts can earn money for activities.

Fundraisers

The troop depends on various fundraisers to gain operating funds for the year. In the past, Troop 58 has participated in such activities as Popcorn Sales, Bake Sales, and a Spring Ziti Dinner. Most of the funds generated from the fundraisers go to the troop fund for operating expenses and equipment purchases.

Some fundraisers are split between the scout and the troop. The money that is split is put into a Scout fund for each scout. The amount depends on whether the split is based on a percentage of the profit or by hours worked on the fundraiser. The decision on the type of split or if there is to be a split is made by the troop committee.

If the split is made by the number of hours worked: A record will be kept of all boys that participate in a fund raiser and how many hours they worked.

Regardless of how the funds are split, the money in the scout fund accounts can be used to pay for any scout expense such as summer camp or even the purchase of personal scout equipment, with prior approval of the Scoutmaster.

No money can be given to a scout because this could be considered income wages and be subject to taxation. If a scout no longer participates in any BSA program, all funds in his account revert to the general troop fund. If a scout joins another BSA program his Scout fund may be sent to that group.

Troop Equipment

Troop 58 has been fortunate enough to have a number of individuals that have been willing to work hard at fund raisers during the last couple of years in order to purchase quite a bit of troop equipment. The troop currently has tents, stoves, lanterns, cooking equipment, tarps, rain flies and other gear worth several hundred dollars. Scouts are expected to treat this equipment with respect and will pay for anything damaged or lost through carelessness.

Personal equipment is something every scout will eventually need. Listed below are the personal items that every scout should have for campouts. Also listed below are suggested items for cold weather camping. There are a number of experienced campers among the adult staff that can help with selecting the best items and tell you where to buy the items.

Personal Equipment

By the end of the second year every scout should have the following:

backpack

mess kit, compass, sun protection

eating utensils

Pad & Pencil

sleeping bag (please with consult Scout Master)

first aid kit, pocket knife, garbage bags, plastic travel mug, Scout book

sleeping pad, canteen or Nalgene bottle

bug repellent, rain gear

flash light or headlamp

Personal Gear -

comb

soap w/plastic holder shampoo

toothbrush washcloth large towel

toothpaste small towel toilet paper

Warm weather clothing -

short sleeve shirt (t-shirts) long pants (nylon)

extra underwear

comfortable rugged footwear

shorts (loose & comfortable) light jacket (nylon with liner)
extra socks (padded poly blend is best) hat with brim

Cold weather clothing -

poly long underwear (top & bottom) wool or wool blended socks (3 pair) fleece or wool
shirt or pullover

2 wool or fleece hats

insulated boots

poly sock liners

nylon pants with liners insulated coat with hood gloves (weather-proof) extra footwear

Prices vary and most items can be bought at outlets
such as Eastern Mountain Sports, Sports Authority or Campmore.com. For cold weather
camping wool and/or fleece (polypro) material is best.

DO NOT bring any cotton. Footwear should be seasonal
and comfortable. Please remember that camping should be fun,
if your son is wet & cold he isn't going to have fun.

Communications

In any organization, communication is essential.

We currently have a Troop Calendar that is posted on the
Troop Web Site. Most information is discussed at the opening of
weekly troop meetings; that is why regular attendance is important.

For short notice communications, adult leaders will
contact other adult leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader
will contact the individual Patrol Leaders who will,
in turn, contact members of their patrol.

In addition the troop maintains a email list of scouts and parents.

Summary

If you have any questions, call your Patrol Leader
or any other member of the junior leader staff.

If you don't know, ask!

This guide book was meant to be a brief summary of "need to know" items. If we have forgotten something, feel free to contact any of the adult staff.

The Lions Club has made a commitment to sponsor our Troop. You, as parents have made a commitment to Troop 58 when you registered your son with us, to cooperate, assist, and support the Troop, its activities, and its leaders. We expect you to fulfill this commitment.