

Troop 969

Scout and Parent's Information Booklet & Troop Handbook

2020- 2021

Read

Sign

Save

A Scout is
Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

Dear Scout,

Troop 969 wishes to extend a hearty welcome to you.

This booklet will give you a general idea of our Troop policies and its activities in presenting the Scouting program to you.

Boy Scouting is different from Cub Scouting in that you will be encouraged to make individual moral and ethical decisions and to try to acquire new skills on your own. As a Scout, your active participation in Troop activities is essential to the functioning of the Troop.

You are now at the age where you will begin to become a young man. Being a Scout will help you in that quest. In the next few years, you will have the opportunity to go camping, see sights (old and new), meet different people, take special trips, and much more in the way of fun and adventure. You will also work and play with other boys as a team, as an individual, as a leader and learn more about life itself.

We would be hard pressed to be successful in promoting your Scouting career without your active participation. Help us make your years in Scouting memorable ones. Thanks for joining, and enjoy the ride!

Troop 969 is sponsored by the St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Holy Name Society.

Troop Meetings

Troop 969 will meet most Monday evenings from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Meetings will take place in the St. Elizabeth if the Trinity Social Center lower level (enter thru the parking lot entrance), unless otherwise notified.

The calendar can be found in the Gazette, our Troop's monthly newsletter, and on the website at Troop969.com.

All Scouts attending meetings must be in the appropriate uniform. Specifics regarding the uniforms are covered in the Equipment Section of this Information Booklet.

The uniform to be worn at each event will be announced, either at the Troop Meeting, or will be in the Gazette. In addition to wearing the appropriate uniform, Scouts must have their Scout Handbook, paper and a pen/pencil at all meetings.

If you are going to miss a Troop Meeting, it is your responsibility to contact your Patrol Leader.

Annual Dues

Scout dues must be paid before Scouts can engage in any Troop activities. At that time, your name will be added to the Troop Roster. Due to restrictions on troop activities due to the current pandemic, annual dues for the Scouts in Troop 969 are \$50.00, annual dues for BSA Registered Adults in Troop 969 are \$30.00 and must be paid by November 23rd.

Scout Dues cover:
Scout BSA registration
Boys Life Magazine
Insurance
Activities and Awards

Troop Events and Activities

Due to pandemic restrictions, the monthly campouts are being replaced with one-day activities.

Summer camp is our major camp-out of the year, and one of our highlights. In 2021, it is our hope the Troop can once again attend summer camp at Owasippe Scout Reservation near Muskegon Michigan.

Periodically, Troop 969 has gone on High Adventure campouts. Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico, Blue Ridge Mountains in Pulaski, Virginia, and Northern Tier in Minnesota. These campouts are longer in duration, and more physically and intellectually demanding of you. You will be able to test many of the skills you have learned in Scouting at these High Adventure campouts.

Courts of Honor are held throughout the year. These events are an important part of Scouting. This is the time that you are recognized for your achievements and receive your awards. We encourage all family members to attend these events and support all the Scouts for their efforts. You deserve the praise, and your family deserves to witness it.

Equipment

Each Scout must have a complete uniform consisting of a Scout shirt (with complete and updated patches), Scout pants (official Scout Pants), Scout belt and Merit Badge Sash. The Troop will supply the first Scout Handbook and Troop 969 T-Shirt. The Troop will also provide the Merit Badge Sash, upon successful completion of 3 Merit Badges. All Scouts must have a complete uniform within 60 days of joining.

There are three Troop 969 uniforms:

Class A – Formal

Consists of a Scout shirt (with complete and updated patches), Scout pants (Official Scout Pants), Scout belt, Merit Badge Sash and dress shoes. This is for formal occasions, such as Courts of Honor, **and for going before a Board of Review for rank advancement.**

Class A – Informal

Consists of a Scout shirt (with complete and updated patches) and blue jeans (in good repair, no tears). Gym shoes are permitted. This is for occasions such as traveling to campouts.

Class B

Consists of the Blue Troop T-Shirt and blue jeans (in good repair, no tears). No sweat pants except for gym night. Gym shoes are permitted. This will be the primary uniform for Troop meetings.

Uniforms for events will be announced at Scout Meetings and in the Gazette. If you have any questions about the uniform, see a leader.

For camping, the Scout should have a pack or duffel bag, sleeping bag or blanket, stuff sack for the sleeping bag, mess kit, eating utensils (knife, fork and spoon or fork), canteen/water bottle, flashlight, pocket knife (NO sheath knives), compass, poncho or raincoat, a good pair of hiking boots and any other camping items that make camping more comfortable. These items may be used or new and often are available from older brothers or friends.

All other equipment, such as tents, lanterns, axes, etc. are furnished by the Troop.

Dress Code

Troop 969 promotes a philosophy in which we encourage Scouts and Leaders to “live” by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This is to lead by example. Our dress code reflects that which is established by St. Elizabeth of the Trinity School.

Haircuts should reflect good grooming. Clean cut, combed and traditionally styled hair is expected. Hair should not grow beyond the nape of the neck or below the earlobe. Tails, moussed hair, or fad and exotic hairstyles, are not acceptable for Scout functions. Earrings or ear studs are not allowed for youth members.

Body painting, body piercing, make-up, nail polish, temporary tattoos and henna stains are also not appropriate for Scout Meetings or other Scout functions. Baggy, oversized, torn, or excessively worn clothing is not permitted in our Scouting program. Hats are to be removed when indoors.

The Scoutmaster and/or the Troop Committee will have final authority on what is deemed appropriate.

In keeping with the concept of dignity and personal esteem, parents, leaders, and Scouts are asked to cooperate fully with regards to our Troop Policy.

Discipline Board

Appropriate behavior is expected from Scouts at all times. Profanity, fighting, disrespect to others, and damage to property is not proper behavior in any environment and will not be tolerated in Troop 969. A discipline board will be established by the Troop Committee to review any problems with the Scout and their parent(s), taking appropriate action, up to and including dismissal from the troop. Scouts and their parent(s) will be responsible for willful damage to property.

Rank Advancement

Reaching the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class provide Scouts with the basics of Boy Scouting. Earning Merit Badges is not Rank Advancement. Earning a Merit Badge provides an additional opportunity to learn and experience areas of interest to you. Therefore, new Scouts should focus on learning the basics of Scouting by focusing on advancing in rank.

In many cases you do NOT have to complete all the requirements for one rank before you can start/complete requirements for the others. The Scout Handbook has details as to what requirements must be worked on during your current rank. When in doubt, refer to your handbook first. Still in doubt, ask for help.

After completing rank requirements it is your responsibility to get the required signatures and dates completed. Again, the specifics are in your Scout Handbook.

Advancing in Boy Scouts is done through working with Patrol Leaders, Patrol Advisors, Troop Guides, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Troop's Advancement Chair.

After you have completed all the requirements for a rank (with the exception of the Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review), contact the Scoutmaster to schedule a time you can meet with him to do a Scoutmaster Conference.

To complete a rank in Scouts, you need a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review. Once the Scoutmaster Conference is completed, the Scout must contact the Troop Advancement Chair to schedule a Board of Review. Scouts going before the Board of Review are expected to be in a Class A – Formal uniform. Boards of Review are typically held on the last meeting of the month.

It is your responsibility to complete requirements and schedule meetings. When in doubt, ask for help from any of the people listed above.

Merit Badges

Merit Badges can only be signed and approved by a Council certified Merit Badge Counselors. Before a Merit Badge is started, a Scout must let the Scoutmaster know of his interest in working on the Merit Badge and obtain a Merit Badge card (Blue Card) signed by the Scoutmaster.

The Scout can then make an appointment with the Merit Badge Counselor to review requirements, determine what the counselor will expect and how the requirements can be completed. Most requirements can be done on campouts, Troop Meetings, special Troop activities or at home. Contact the Troop's Advancement Chair in order to get the Counselor contact information for the Merit Badge you are interested in working on.

Once the Merit Badge is completed and the Blue Card is signed by the Counselor, the Scout must present it to the Scoutmaster for his signature, and then turn the card in to the Troop Advancement Chair. Your badge will then be presented to you within a few weeks, and your merit badge certificate/card will be presented to you at the next Court of Honor.

If you have any questions about advancement during your climb up the Eagle Trail, your Scoutmaster, any of his Assistants, or the Troop's Advancement Chair will be happy to help.

PLEASE INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BOOKLET BY SIGNING BELOW WHERE INDICATED:

SCOUT'S SIGNATURE_____ DATE_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET TO THE ADVANCEMENT CHAIR PRIOR TO ANY PARTICIPATION IN TROOP ACTIVITIES!!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT 2020-21

As you are aware Troop 969 is a very active one, which is why you choose it for your son to take part in. We will be forever indebted to our adult leaders who give countless hours to make these activities run smoothly. All parents are required to take part in your son's Scouting year by assisting in every way possible. Please help the Troop and volunteer to any of the below activities.

___ Monday night meeting set-up

___ Activity driver Month_____

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PLEASE INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BOOKLET BY SIGNING BELOW WHERE INDICATED:

PARENT'S SIGNATURE_____ DATE_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET AND THE MEDICAL FORMS TO THE TROOP SCOUTMASTER PRIOR TO ANY PARTICIPATION IN TROOP ACTIVITIES!!

FORM CHECK OFF

___ PARENT INVOLVEMENT SHEET / THIS SIGNATURE SHEET