Troop 728 New Parent Information Guide

2017

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 728 - Oak Hills**

**A BSA *Quality Unit Award* Recipient**

<http://www.troop728.com/>

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1. **INFORMATION SUMMARY**

**MISSION** - The mission of Boy Scout Troop 728 is to provide opportunities for young men to have a fun, challenging, supportive and exciting scouting experience.

**ACHIEVING THE MISSION** - Active, enthusiastic scouts supported by involved and supportive parents in an outdoor based ***boy run program*** that holds the scouts interest. We encourage the scouts to advance in rank so they have the skills to enjoy the opportunities presented, but not at the expense of fun.

**Sponsor** Oak Hills Christian Reformed Church

**District** Sunset Trail District, <http://www.cpcbsa.org/districts/sunsettrail>

**Council** Cascade Pacific Council, http://www.cpcbsa.org/

**Meetings** Troop meets Monday 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Oak Hills Church

**Troop Size** Over 95 scouts and more than 50 active adult leaders

**Scoutmaster** **Mr. Bryce Horine**, scoutmaster@troop728.com

**Committee Chair Mr. Hodges,** committeechair@troop728.com

**Costs** *Annual Dues* - per year, includes Boys Life subscription *Summer Camp* - ~ $280 Fund raising can offset cost.

 *Friends of Scouting -* Tax Deduc. donation - $130(Recommended)

 *Outings* – Food cost shared by each patrol plus Transportation cost of ~$10 per scout, depending on distance.

 Most Troop costs supported by annual Christmas tree recycling program.

**Medical Forms** Required annually and at registration for all adults and Scouts. A writable pdf form is available.

# 2. Aims of Scouting and Methods

The Scouting program has three very specific objectives or “Aims of Scouting”. These objectives or aims are ***character development***, ***citizenship***, and ***fitness***. To accomplish these objectives there are eight methods used in the program. In alphabetical order they are -

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Advancement | Association with Adults | Ideals | Leadership Development |
| Patrols | Personal Growth | Outdoor Program | Uniform |

# 2.1 Patrol Method

In scouting, everything is done by Patrols. The patrol is the basic unit of scouting. The boys in the troop are divided into small groups of 6-10 boys who make up a patrol. The scouts do all activities by Patrol. On campouts they sleep, work together, cook and eat by patrol. The patrol method is what distinguishes scouting from other your groups. The basic leadership structure is the bedrock of the scouting program. The patrol is led by an elected patrol leader who is responsible for not only himself, but for the actions of his entire patrol. As a result do not expect the troop events to run perfectly. The scouts will work through and in the process gain invaluable leadership experience.

# 3. Organization

## 3.1 Troop Leadership and Patrol structure

The troop is organized to support the boy lead troop. Though many times the meetings and outings may seem disorganized, the key is not to have the perfectly organized event. The key is to have a successful boy led event. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) leads the troop with the guidance from the Scoutmaster. The boys are divided into Patrols. The SPL is an elected position and serves for a six month period. Patrol leaders are also elected by their patrols. Each patrol also has positions within it to assign responsibilities.

## 3.2 Troop Committee

***Some key terms and definitions***

SM – Scoutmaster ASM – Assistant Scoutmaster

SPL – Senior Patrol Leader ASPL – Assistant Patrol Leader

PL – Patrol Leader PLC – Patrol Leader Council

The troop committee manages the business side of the troop. The committee consists of many adult volunteers filling in various defined responsibilities that keep the troop operating smoothly so the boys have the best experience possible. The committee chair is leader of the committee and responsible for the committee members and troop business functions.

## 3.3 Venture Crew

The troop also sponsors an adventure crew, where older boys have the option to go on more serious outings.

# 4. Meetings

## 4.1 Troop Meetings

Meetings The meetings are scheduled for the entire year, and are on the troop calendar [www.troop728.com](http://www.troop728.com) . Meetings are Mondays 7:00 to 8:30pm at Oak Hills Church,2800 NW 153rd, Beaverton . There is typically NO troop meeting on the Monday following an outing.

Attendance All boys are encouraged to attend every meeting, though it is understood balancing schedules with school, sports and other activities can sometimes be a challenge.

Facilitation The Troop meetings are planned by the Patrol Leader Council, and the Senior Patrol Leader is responsible for leading the meeting.

Content The meeting agendas are structured and prepared by the boy’s Patrol Leader Council. They typically include:

* + - Troop announcements (a good place for parents to get information)
		- Detailed Patrol planning for upcoming outing.
		- Work on achievements for the trail to first class rank advancement
		- Opportunities for SM conferences or Board of reviews
		- Meeting with merit badge counselors

## 4.2 Patrol Meetings

Meetings There are typically no separate patrol meetings. Most patrol meetings are held during breakout sessions during the troop meetings or campouts.

Facilitation The Patrol meetings are led by the Patrol Leader, and supported with the troop guide for the first year patrols.

## 4.2 Patrol Leader Council

Meeting The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) meets the Monday immediately following an outing and also immediately prior to each Troop meeting.

Purpose The boy’s leadership team and patrol leader from each patrol meet to plan the month’s event and address any troop issues. Their meeting prior to the troop meeting is to make final organizational plans for that troop meeting. These meetings are only required if the boy is holding one of the leadership positions.

Facilitation The meeting is facilitated by the SPL and SM.

##

## 4.3 Troop Committee Meetings

Meeting The Troop Committee Meeting meets the Monday immediately following an outing, and immediately after the PLC.

Purpose The committee meeting is used to coordinate the troop’s ongoing operations, and assist in the monthly planning process. This meeting is open to ALL adults, and attendance is required for the assigned committee members.

Facilitation The meeting is facilitated by the Committee Chair.

# 5 Uniforms and Equipment

Each boy is required to have and wear a regulation Boy Scout uniform. Adult leaders are encouraged to wear the adult Boy Scout uniform. The troop will accept both the Class A and Class B uniforms as described below, depending on the activity involved.

All boys are expected to wear their Class A uniforms to all Scout meetings and other sanctioned functions. Class A uniforms are to be worn at the start of all outings, so the scout should always arrive at the collection point in Class A uniform. Shirts are expected to be clean and tucked in.

## 5.1 CLASS A UNIFORM

The Class A uniform is the official Boy Scout uniform. The troop requires that each Scout attend meetings in uniform. The Scouts tend to get the most use out of the short sleeve shirt. Matching colored long sleeve t-shirts may be worn in non-official ceremonies. The required uniform and patches is as follows:

The Scout Uniform

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force *for* good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout’s commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

***Required***

* Boy Scout Shirt (Short or Long Sleeve)
* Boy Scout Pants
* Neckerchief (Green/Gold) (provided by troop)
* Neckerchief slide of choice, BSA standard is fine
* Troop 728 Patch (provided by troop)
* Patrol Patch
* Rank Patch (provided by troop)
* Cascade Pacific Council Shoulder Patch
* Sunset Trail Pocket Patch
* Patch of Scout leadership position if held by the scout
* World Crest

 ***Suggested***

* Merit Badge Sash (purchase after the first merit badge)
* Boy Scout Belt
* Troop 728 Hat (provided by troop)
* Arrow of Light Patch if earned in Cub Scouts
* Religion Knot if earned in Cub Scouts

The official scout uniform, patches and other items can be purchased at the following locations.

* **BSA Nor’West National Scout Shop**, 2145 SW Naito Pkwy, Portland, OR 97201. Same location as the CPCBSA service center. http://www.cpcbsa.org/about-us/scout-shop
* **LaHaie's Jackets**, 277 E. Main St.,Hillsboro, OR 97123, 503-648-2341
* **BSA official online store** at www.scoutstuff.org

## 5.2 CLASS B UNIFORM

The Class B uniform is an official troop T-shirt provided to the Scouts each year immediately prior to summer camp. The Class B uniform can be worn on outings and to summer meetings. The cost of the troop T-shirt is included in the annual dues.

## 5.3 UNIFORM POOL

There is a small pool of used uniforms for our use. The pool works when scouts donate or exchange uniforms that they have outgrown. Contact the Scoutmaster who will put you in contact with the current Uniform Pool Coordinator for information on the available clothing.

## 5.4 UNIFORM PATCHES

Each Scout is responsible for having the patches sewed on to the uniform in the proper manner. This is a great opportunity to teach your son how to sew. To assist in the placement of patches, the Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet is available at the scout shop. Or Google “bsa uniform patch placement” and you will find multiple sources showing the proper placement of the patches for both the short and long sleeve shirts.

Patches are also of great interest to collectors and are provided to the Scouts at camporees and other special activities. Care in saving the patches that the Scout receives throughout his scouting career will provide the Scout with many memories.

## 5.5 Equipment

If you and your Scout do not have camping gear, do not worry and don’t feel like you need to buy it all at once.  More experienced Scouts and adults can provide plenty of solid advice on what you really need and the best sources.  This is an area where it pays to wait for sales, and to pay close attention to details about equipment capabilities and quality.  Inexpensive is not necessarily a bargain, and expensive is not necessarily high quality.  You and your Scout absolutely will need foul weather clothing and boots to keep warm and dry.  It rains or snows on more outings and campouts than not.

## 5.6 Ten Essentials

Every boy is expected to always have the ten essentials with him during any scout outdoor activity.

The scout basic ten essentials [Page 264 in Handbook] are the following.

1. Pocketknife
2. First-aid kit
3. Rain Gear
4. Water bottle
5. Flashlight
6. Trail food
7. Matches and fire starters
8. Sun protection
9. Compass
10. Extra clothing appropriate for the activity

Other essentials (Whistle, insect repellent) may be recommended based on destination and length of activity.

## 5.7 General Outings

There are many different outings during the year. The main purpose is for the boys to learn, lead and have fun. It is difficult for them to focus if they are wet, tired and cold. Since we live in a damp cool environment there are three key items that are highly recommended.

**Water proof** **hiking boots, breathable** **rain gear** (no ponchos!), and **a light weight day pack**.

## 5.8 Camping

The patrols camp and eat together as a unit. The Troop provides Patrol boxes equipped with stove, lantern, and propane. Each Patrol provides other pots and utensils needed, as most of these are handed down with the patrol box each year a few items are usually needed. The patrol also provides all food and other consumables to store, prepare and eat their meals. There are a number of Troop Dutch ovens available for use.

The individual boy’s equipment is typically built up over time however to get started there are a few key items recommended beyond the 10 essentials. They are aSleeping bag and mattress pad (backing type), **water proof** hiking boots, **waterproof and breathable** rain gear (jacket and pants), and a day pack.

Next recommendations would be - backpack, tent (one for two scouts, many scouts already have tents and we require that they buddy up during the trips). A packing list is available on the troop web page.

Items not allowed: Aerosol spray cans, fixed open knife, electronics (IPOD’s CD Players, Etc.)

# Activities and Outings

## 6.1 Medical Forms

**Required** annually and at registration for all adults and Scouts. The medical forms consist of four parts (A, B, C and D). Parts A and B can be filled out by a parent and are required for any outing that lasts less than 72 consecutive hours. Part C requires a doctor’s signature and is required for any outing lasting more than 72 consecutive hours. Part D is required for high adventure outings. See <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx> for more information.

## 6.2 Trip permission Form

**Required** for all outings, must be filled out by parents. Writable pdf version available.

## 6.3 Summer Camp

Each scout prior to camp must pay the cost of summer camp. The cost of one week in an in-council camp is $284 for 2014, and a down payment is required in the spring for registration. A deposit is required by the troop to hold a campsite and the time up to two years in advance to the camp. The scout can use the money that has accumulated in his scout account during the year to offset the cost of summer camp.

## 6.4 Typical Year in the Life of a Troop 728 Scout

There are many activities during the year of a scout in Troop 728. Appendix B shows a calendar for a typical year, and the actual calendar can be found at www.troop728.com Many of the activities are around service projects, campouts, merit badges and individual patrol outings. There is no lack of opportunity for to have Scouting as part of your boy’s schedule

# 7.0 Awards and Recognition

Boy Scouts are expected to take responsibility for their own rank advancement and merit badge activities.  The Troop creates opportunities to achieve rank and merit badge requirements, but it is up to your Scout to take advantage of them.  That said, you should feel comfortable in giving your Scout guidance, and even a little prodding.  Participation in campouts is vital for rank advancement, as a large portion of early rank advancement is related to outdoor skills.

## 7.1 Rank Advancement

There are a total of seven rank advancements in Scouts.

* Scout
* Tenderfoot
* Second Class
* First Class
* Star
* Life
* Eagle

The first step on the journey to eagle is the rank of Scout. The requirements are outlined in the scout hand book. This is the one advancement that requires parent involvement in requirement #9, ‘Complete Pamphlet exercises’. It takes less than 30 minutes and is the one requirement that must be completed with a parent. Each rank advancement requirements can be found in the back of the Scout handbook.

Parent involvement in rank advancement is different than in cub scouts. A boy’s parent can NOT sign off for any of the requirements for their own child. Other registered adults of the troop must verify the boy meets the minimum requirements outlined. Again, this is a great opportunity for the boys to take responsibility, work with other members of his troop, and build lifelong skills.

Advancement is an important part of Scouting. Trail to First Class (TTFC) is a key time in a Scout’s progress and staying involved. The Troop program is designed to enable an incoming Scout to have the opportunity to advance and achieve a couple ranks in their first year of scouting, but advancement depends on the individual Scout. Advancement activities are integrated into Troop meetings and campouts.

Scouts can and typically do work on the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks at the same time. Unlike Cub Scouts they work on advancement at their own pace.

For each advancement rank the final stage is a Scoutmaster conference and a Board of Review. For both requirements, the boy is required to schedule the conference or review with the Scoutmaster or ASM. A Board of Review takes place each time a boy advances to a higher rank.  All trained parents are qualified to serve on a Board of Review. This is a time for the boy to discuss his accomplishments, next goals and how the troop and patrol are functioning.

## 7.2 Merit Badges

There are 130 different merit badges in many different fields. For a full list go to <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page>

A boy must earn 21 total merit badges to achieve the rank of Eagle. Of these there are 12 that are required. The other 9 he can pick and choose those he wants to explore and have fun learning new skills, or demonstrating and refining areas of skill he currently has.

The best opportunity to earn merit badges come at summer camp. Where the boys can pick from a list of options, and spend the week with other boys working on the requirements. Not all badges started at camp can be finished, but it is a great way to get large portions completed.

Like all other things in the troop, the merit badges are the responsibility for the boys to initiate, track, and complete. For each merit badge the boy must make sure a blue card is filled out by the appropriate individuals. As parents we are encouraged to guide and inquire as to their progress, as the boys have many distractions outside of scouts.

## 7.3 Other BSA awards and recognitions

The boy scouts provide many other opportunities to earn recognition for service, accomplishment and participation the boys achieve. These can be found on the council and national websites.

# 8.0 Communication

Communication is vital to the success of each Scout patrol and the entire Troop.  There are many outings and activities with a troop our size. These provide a wide range or opportunities for the scouts to learn and have fun while building life-long skills. Each troop meeting starts with announcements, parents and scouts take turns verbally communication key items on outings, activities and troop business. Many parents hang out just to hear what is happening.

When your Scout has a patrol leadership position, he must either attend the weekly PLC meeting or designate another patrol member attend in his place.  Information critical to the smooth functioning of the entire troop is discussed and passed down to the patrols at the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), held immediately before each Troop meeting.

## 8.1 Electronic Communication

Email is one of the Troop’s primary communication tools.  Often important information comes out the day before or even the day of a Troop meeting or outing.  While Troop 728 is a “boy run troop,” it’s a good idea to have a parent as well as the Boy Scout on email distribution, if you have separate email addresses.

The troop website <http://www.troop728.com/> is also key to our communication program. The website is full of critical information and links;

* Annual Calendar
* Forms
* Contact information
* Advancement information
* Photos from outings.

We are always updating information, so it is recommended that you book mark the site for easy reference.

Another great site for information is the Cascade Pacific Council website [www.cpcbsa.org](http://www.cpcbsa.org) here you can find loads of information on activities in the region and nationally. It also has links to other key information on scouting.

# 9.0 Fund Raising

For any organization to function we rely on funds from various sources. Beyond the basic functions to keep the troop operating, there are many opportunities that the scouts will be involved in that require funding. The troop provides several opportunities through the year for boys to raise money to support their own activities.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available from the Troop and through the Boy Scouts of America Council office for summer camp and to assist in the cost of the annual dues for scouts that have a financial need. A parent should contact either the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chairperson to discuss opportunities for these scholarships.

## Scout Account

Each scout has a Scout Account with the Troop. This is where the money that the scout earns through the year is kept for him to apply towards activities and equipment.

## Fund Raising Activities

Fundraisers offer the boys opportunities to earn money for their Scout Accounts and pay for some or all of their activities, as well as to build fellowship within their patrols and the troop.  The monetary success of the troop is directly related to the effort that is made by the scouts. Prior to each of the fund raising efforts, the Troop Committee will set the criteria for the portion of the funds obtained by each scout that will go to a dedicated account in the scout’s name. This money can then be used for summer camp and other activities related to scouting.

There are three primary fund raising efforts for the troop each year. Other fund raising activities occur as opportunities arise.

***Christmas Tree Recycling***

The Annual Christmas Tree Recycling is our troop’s only fund raising effort. Scouts and parents are expected to participate as patrols to hand out fliers and work during the tree collection days. The net collected funds are typically split evenly between the troop (for operating expenses) and the scouts who work during the event.

***Candy and Popcorn Sale***

The troop supports our Council by participating in the Candy and Popcorn sales. This is an optional and voluntary sale. Important note regarding the candy sale: Scouts are responsible for selling any candy they procure from the Troop, so plan accordingly.

# Youth Protection

The BSA and the troop take the safety of your son as a priority. As a result the BSA has a world class youth protection program that is a required training for all active adults in the troop. As an adult leader you are required to have your youth protection training up to date and is verified before each outing.

#  Parent Involvement

Though the troop is Boy lead through the Patrol Method, the smooth operations of the troop and the opportunities for the boys are there as a result of a high engagement of our parent volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved as a family (and not just the dads)! The boys who do the best in scouting are the ones whose families participate with them from the start. If possible, attend as many campouts as you can the first few years. This includes Summer Camp. Summer Camp is often the longest time a scout has spent away from his family, and your presence can really help your son get the most out of the camp and scouting experience.

If you want to participate in other ways, help with coaching and training the scouts as an Assistant Scout Master (ASM) in your patrol and at the troop meetings. Help with fund raising events, troop activities, or participate as a Committee Member. Adult participation is critical to the success of our Troop. Troop 728 requires a minimum of three registered adults to join with each Den that crosses over. Two as Assistant Scoutmasters, and one as a Committee Member. Most adults find that they have a great time and enjoy the camaraderie. We had 94 scouts and 34 adults attend summer camp last summer. It is common to have a 1:3 adult: scout ratio on campouts. You don’t need to have any experience to participate! The Boy Scout organization holds classes several times each year, and the current ASM’s are very willing to pass along their experience to the new adults in the troop.

Make a point to attend as many Troop meetings as possible.  We always need parents to sign off boys on their Trail to First Class requirements, or to participate on a Board of Review (min. 3 adults).   All registered parents are qualified to serve on a Board of Review, and to sign off Trail to First Class requirements.  Troop 728 has a rule that no parent may sign off his/her own son on any requirement.  Hence, the need for parents to attend troop meetings to be available for boys who need sign-offs.

Each parent has expertise to offer the Troop. Most parents are qualified to act as a merit badge counselor in a handful of merit badges.  Chances are several badges directly relate to your profession, special training you've received, or lifelong hobbies.  Check the list of badges, and sign up as a counselor.  Then, if/when you feel so inclined, offer to hold a merit badge clinic for the boys.

Another opportunity could be working on the troop committee.  There are frequently positions needing to be filled.  Jump in and offer your services.

It is important to take BSA training to understand our program and goals for our scouts. There are two types of training offered; District/Council and troop training. District/Council training is mainly offered in the spring, while troop training is presented as part of our program. Copies of the District/Council training are included with this packet.

As our first priority is to make sure every scout has a safe and fun experience. All registered adults are required to take the National Youth Protection training every two years.

# Service

Community service is a crucial part of the scout experience and a requirement for many of the rank advancements and other awards. There is a log in the back of the boy’s handbook to record all service hours.

# Appendix A – Summary of Typical Campouts and Activities

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Outing** | **Comments** |
| September | Timothy Lake | Canoeing |
| October | Campout | Ape Caves, Silver falls |
| October | Webelos Woods | Leadership scouts and Webelos |
| November | Camp Meriwether | Boating, Crabbing, dessert cook-off |
| December | Christmas Party | Swimming, All-night gaming |
| January | Christmas Tree Recycling | Fundraising |
| January | Snow Cave outing | Build snow caves to sleep in |
| February | Ski Day | A day on the slopes |
| February | Nanitch Snow lodge | All ages, lodge camping, sledding, snow shoeing |
| March | Greider Lodge Camp | First outing for new Scouts, Focus on TTFC requirements |
| April | Eagle Fern | First tent camping for new Scouts, TTFC |
| May | District Camporee | All ages, including Webelos |
| June | Bayocean Spit backpacking | All ages, beginning backpacking |
| July | Summer Camp | 4 year rotation |
| July | High Adventure Camp | Venture crew - ages 13 and up |
| August | Whatum Lake | Intermediate Backpacking |

# Appendix B – How to Get Started Checklist

Scouts:

* BSA Youth Application

Follow link on Troop728 Website

* BSA Medical Form

Follow link on Troop 728 Website

* Dues for $75

Check made out to Troop 728

* Troop 728 Activity Permission Slip

Follow link on Troop 728 Website

Scout hand carries to each camp out load out and gives to his driver

* Uniform and Patches

Tan Uniform shirt & patches (sunset trail, cascade pacific council, world crest)

Troop 728 patch provided to scout upon receipt of all paperwork

Patrol patch ordered within patrol

Parents:

* BSA Adult Application

Follow link on Troop 728 Website

Include background check signature and 3 references

* Youth Protection Training Certificate

Make an account on-line @ https://myscouting.scouting.org/

Must be current within past 2 years

* BSA Medical Form

Follow link on Troop Website

* Adult Personal Data Collection Form

Follow link on Troop Website

Troop inputs into Troopmaster software, used for trip permits

* No Dues for Adults

Cost covered by Troop

## Questions?

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