

# Boy Scouts of America TROOP 124



*Tinton Falls, NJ*

[www.tintonfalls.com](http://www.tintonfalls.com)

## Parent & Troop Guide

**Twin Lights District  
Monmouth Council**

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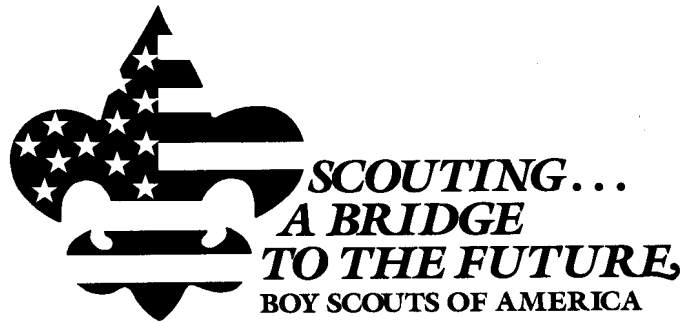
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*All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.*

*--Aristotle*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Boy Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

## **WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?**

There are three aims to scouting:

- Aim I -- To build character
- Aim II -- To foster citizenship
- Aim III -- To develop fitness

These three aims are the bedrock of the American Scouting movement they represent the long term outcomes we want for every boy.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

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

Since 1910, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress. Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon. The long list of famous scouts includes:

President John F. Kennedy	Boy Scout	Neil A. Armstrong, First person to set foot on the Moon	Eagle Scout
President Gerald Ford	Eagle Scout	Steven Spielberg	Eagle Scout
J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation	Eagle Scout	William C. Devries, M.D.; Transplanted First Artificial Heart	Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart	Eagle Scout	Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank	Eagle Scout

In addition, to these national figures, we have several scouts who are firemen, first -aiders and policemen in Tinton Falls, many of whom are from Troop 124.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Unlike Cub Scouting, which many of you are familiar with, Boy Scouting is a youth-lead organization. The boys learn how to organize and lead the Troop. After training, and with supervision from the adult leaders, the boys run the show.

The boys in the Troop will be working towards their 1st class and then Eagle ranks. As they travel on their trail to Eagle they will not only learn how to lead a team to a goal, but they will actually lead teams of scouts in a number of situations. Many Eagle Scouts put their accomplishments on their résumés and find they are often considered in obtaining acceptance into college or the work force.

Boy Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Please take a few minutes to read Chapter 1 of your son's Boy Scout Handbook.

## **ORGANIZATION**

Troop 124 is a participating member of the Twin Lights District of the Monmouth Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, the Troop, and the Troop's Parents.

### **Chartered Organization (Sponsor)**

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 124 is the Luther Memorial Church in Tinton Falls, 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 us and the Church.

### **Troop Committee**

The Troop Committee Functions as an administration and support organization for the Troop. The Troop Committee takes care of the non-program issues surrounding the Troop. For example: newsletters, Troop funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Troop equipment.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

## **Troop 124**

### **Troop Meetings**

Troop 124 will hold meetings weekly. Meetings currently are held every Monday, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

### **Adult Leadership**

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Troop 124 meetings, trips or outings.

### **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol usually consists of a Patrol Leader and no less than four Scouts and no more than ten Scouts. The boys in a patrol elect their patrol leader who in turn appoints the assistant patrol leader.

The Senior Patrol Leader and his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are elected positions. The Patrol Leaders, with the Senior Patrol Leader as their head, form the Patrol Leaders' Council, which plans the activities and runs the Troop meetings.

Elections for Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders are held in August of each year or earlier as deemed necessary by the Troop leadership.

### **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 124 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. Parents should attend an informal Boy Scout Fast Start by the Troop Committee.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) 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. Volunteer to assist with all Troop fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.
6. Visit the Troop website on a regular basis for updated information: [www.tintonfalls.com](http://www.tintonfalls.com) look under scouts.

## ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." For that is exactly what the Boy Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. 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.

Achievements include:

- Learning skills that qualify for Scouting's more rugged and exciting outdoor challenges.
- Developing body and mind, growing self-confidence, and helping younger Scouts climb the advancement ladder.
- Discovering how it feels to go further -- in so many ways -- than he ever thought he could.

We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Troop program.

There are four steps of advancement:

- The Boy Scout Learns.
- The Boy Scout is Tested.
- The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
- The Boy Scout is Recognized.

### **Rank Advancement Participation Requirements**

#### **Scout, Tenderfoot, Second and First Class:**

Attend and Participate in 75% of the Troop monthly meetings

Attend and Participate in 75% of the Troop Activities per quarter

#### **Star and Life:**

Attend and Participate in 75% of the Troop monthly meetings

Attend and Participate in 50% of the Troop Activities per quarter

#### **Eagle Palms:**

Attend and Participate in 50% of the Troop monthly Meetings

Attend and Participate in 25% of the Troop Activities per quarter

*Any requirements above do not supersede the requirements set forth in the BSA Boy Scout Handbook. They are in addition to the BSA Boy Scout Handbook Advancement requirements, per rank and are the minimum requirements for BSA Troop 124 of Tinton Falls, New Jersey.*

## Advancement Through First Class



**First Class Rank Badge**

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he earns advancement to First Class, he is learning basic scouting skills to enable him to camp, hike, swim, cook, tie knots, administer first aid, and perform other tasks in the outdoors and to work as a member of a team. With those first steps the scout begins to build themselves physically, mentally, and morally. He will start to live with the Scout Oath and Law. Soon he will learn the symbolism inherent in the Scout badge; he will learn that there are three points of the trefoil which stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: Duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to yourself. The goal of this Troop, is for the Scout to achieve the rank of First Class within his first year in the Troop. This is a sign

that the scout has mastered the fundamentals of scouting and can begin to start the long process of learning to lead others, refining the learned skills and learning additional skills. Advancement progress is tracked by the Troop Advancement Chairperson. Scouts need to report their advancement activities to the Advancement Chairperson. The scout's progress will be tracked and he will be scheduled for a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review in a timely manner. All advancement activity must be channeled through the Troop Advancement Chairperson and Scoutmaster.

Advancement requirements are signed off by a senior scout (Star, Life or Eagle). Activity and Community Service requirements are tracked and signed off by the Troop Advancement Chairperson.

## Advancement from First Class to Eagle



**Eagle Rank Badge**

From the achievement of First Class through Eagle, the Scout will be demonstrating leadership, performing service projects, earning merit badges and using the skills learned while achieving the rank of First Class. The next ranks he will earn are Star and Life. These ranks are harder to obtain than the earlier ranks, but are also more interesting for the older scouts. Upon completion of all the requirements for Star and Life the Scout will be eligible to work for Eagle. The original principals, the Scout Oath and Law now have fuller meaning for the Scout and their understanding of them is much greater. The final steps towards Eagle are filled with leadership experiences.

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.

Dues are required to be up to date in order for a scout to receive his Rank Advancement.

## **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. The Scout is required to contact the counselor to arrange for times and places to meet with the counselor. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge, the counselor will sign the merit badge card. The card consists of three parts, the counselor keeps one part, the scout keeps one part and the third part is turned in to the Troop Advancement Chairperson. The Troop Advancement Chairperson will send a report to Monmouth Council and purchase the Merit Badge.. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout during the Troop's weekly Troop meeting. Dues are required to be up to date in order for a scout to receive his Merit Badges.

*All parents of Troop 124 Scouts are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors. Please fill in the attached Troop Resource Survey and return to a Troop Leader.*

## **Scoutmaster Conference**

After all requirements are fulfilled by the scout and checked by the Troop Advancement Chairperson, the scout will then go to the Scoutmaster and request a Scoutmaster Conference. The Scoutmaster Conference is NOT a "grilling session" in which the Scout proves to the Scoutmaster that he's met all of the requirements for the rank he's going to be boarded for. This is the time for the Scoutmaster to get to know that Scout for whom he is and where he is going. Elements of his work toward that rank will come out and the Scoutmaster will have some idea of what the scout needs to work further on and what things he's mastered. Also, we find out more importantly, how well the scout mastered the Scouting ideals..which is what the Board is going to ask him about.

## **Board 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.

Dues are required to be up to date in order for a scout to be eligible for his Board of Review for rank advancement.

## **Courts of Honor**

Troop 124 will conduct a Court of Honor twice a year. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may be presented prior to the opening of the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council to plan and conduct the Troop Courts of Honor. The Troop Committee will support the Courts of Honor as requested.

The Court of Honor is a public ceremony, and is a chance for the Scouts to be publicly recognized for their achievements. Parents and all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Rechartering and Fees**

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Troop also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Troop must be completed by the end of December of each calendar year.

### **Dues and Annual Fees**

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 124 is:

\$72 + \$2.00/week

- \$10.00 for national BSA membership
- \$1.00 insurance
- \$9.00 for *Boys Life* magazine (gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings)
- \$2.00 / week for Troop membership (Pays for badges, awards, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole.)
- \$52 additional per year, per scout, scoutmasters and committee members (\$39 for the second scout in each family) to be paid to council.

### **Fees for Outings / Activities**

Individual activities may have fees associated with outings and activities. If so, the scouts and parents will be notified in advanced of these fees.

### **Fundraising**

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do one to two major fundraising projects a year. Our fund-raisers will be designed so that once the Troops budget is met, additional funds raised by your son will be put into his individual account to defray scouting costs. Details on this year's fund-raisers will be available at future Troop meetings.

### **Friends of Scouting**

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Scout-O-Rama, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Troop has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding.

## UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself can not make a good Scout or a good Troop, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Troop because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Troop, the following uniform items:

### Field or “**Class A**” Uniform

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Monmouth Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number
- Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Troop Scout Hat.
- Sash w/ Merit Badges sewn on.
- Scout web belt and buckle.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

### Field or “**Class B**” Uniform (*Standard Uniform for Weekly Troop Meeting*)

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Monmouth Council strip, red shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop number
- Olive Scout pants, Olive Scout Shorts or Blue Jeans.
- Boy Scout Socks or white Socks, for wearing with shorts.
- Troop Scout Hat.
- Belt.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.

### Activity or “**Class C**” Uniform (*worn, as instructed by Troop leadership, when activities may cause damage to the field uniform*).

- Troop 124 T-Shirt (available from Troop 124).
- Scout pants or shorts/Blue Jeans.
- Troop Scout Hat.
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots. Socks are required.
- Boy Scout Socks or white Socks for wearing with shorts.

Uniforms shall be worn as appropriate. Proper uniform for all events will be announced. Class A uniforms are typically for Courts of Honor, Board of Review, etc. Class B uniform will be worn to Weekly meetings unless directed otherwise by Troop Leadership.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put what badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement.

## **Scout Shop**

The Monmouth Council Scout Shop where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

### **Monmouth Council Scout Shop**

705 Ginesi Road  
Morganville, NJ 07751  
Phone: (732)536-1208  
Fax: (732) 536-1259

Scout Shop Manager: David Wing  
[dawing@bsaemail.org](mailto:dawing@bsaemail.org)

## ***AND FINALLY***

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Troop teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school. With hard work and dedication, your son will be able to serve as a leader in the Troop and advance in rank along the trail to Eagle.

Above and beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

### **For more information, contact:**

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