

**A PARENT'S GUIDE
TO
SCOUTING IN
TROOP 6 CRANSTON**



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Introduction

This pamphlet is for all parents/guardians of Scouts in our Troop and is written with the specific purpose of making the Scouting experience for your sons the best it can possibly be.

Hopefully this will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the operation of the Troop. However, if you still have questions, please contact the Committee Chairman, the Scoutmaster, or any of the Assistant Scoutmasters.

Better still, come early to one of the meetings and talk to us in person.

Contact Information

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Scoutmaster

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Committee Chairman

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BSA Policies Every Parent Should Know

The Policies of the BSA are strictly adhered to by the Troop. One of the most important is that of Two Deep Leadership. Simply put this means that on ALL SCOUTING FUNCTIONS a Scout is never alone with an adult. There must always be at least two adults present.

This policy is for the protection of both Scouts and adult leaders. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on any Scouting function either with you or in you. If you attend any Troop function and are in possession of alcoholic beverages you will be asked to leave the event.

No meeting in Scouting is ever closed to any parent. This includes Troop, patrol, and committee meetings.

Only registered adults are allowed to vote on Troop operations, policy, and changes in adult leadership.

All adult leaders must register with the BSA by filing a properly completed registration form and must include three references. Applications are approved by the committee, the sponsor, and National Council, BSA.

About the Troop

Committee Meetings

- The committee meets on the 1st Sunday of each month at St. Ann's Church, Cranston. Meetings are from 7:00 - 8:30pm.
- The August meeting is held on the Friday the Troop is at summer camp.
- There is no meeting in July.
- Every parent is strongly encouraged to attend.
- The committee makes all decisions regarding Troop operations such as: Dues Structure, Advancement Policy, Finances, Program Planning, and Adult Leadership.

Troop Meetings

- The Troop meets every Wednesday at St. Ann's Church, Cranston.
- Meetings are held while school is in session. The general rule is that if there is no school in Cranston due to vacation or weather conditions, there is no meeting.
- Meetings are from 7:00 - 8:30pm.
- Service patrols and junior leaders should plan to arrive 15 minutes early and leave 15 minutes late.

Patrol Meetings

- Each patrol should plan to meet at least once per month during the Scout year.
- Patrol meetings are planned by the patrol leader.

Uniforms

The Troop uses the official BSA Class A uniform consisting of the official Scout pants, shirt, and belt. The Troop 6 uniform also includes a hat and neckerchief. Sometimes the Troop uses a class B uniform, which is more relaxed. It consists of a red Troop 6 t-shirt and Scout shorts or pants.

The Scout pants, shirt, and belt may be purchased at any Scout Service Center. The hat, neckerchief, and red tee shirt must be purchased from the Troop.

Uniforms are worn to **all** Troop meetings and special events. They are not normally worn on camping trips.

In the interest of saving money Scouts may wear the short sleeve shirt throughout the year. In colder months a turtle neck (red or white) may be worn **under** the uniform shirt.

We also operate a uniform exchange to help defray the cost. Parents are encouraged to turn outgrown uniforms in or check the exchange for a needed size. Please check with the Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of uniforms before buying a uniform.

Scouts must have Official Scout shorts and socks for summer camp.





Dues

The committee decides on the dues for each year. This is done during the August meeting at summer camp.

The dues pay for the following:

- Summer camp (including picture)
- Registration with BSA
- Boy's Life subscription (one per family)
- Camping and Camporee Fees
- Camping Rentals
- Advancement Awards

Summer camp fee is refundable, less any money retained by the camp, if for some reason a Scout cannot attend.

Food money for monthly camping trips is always paid in cash and is not covered by the dues.

Dues are paid as follows:

- \$50 deposit in September (at the Family cookout)
- \$10/weekly until the amount is paid in full

IF FINANCES ARE A PROBLEM PLEASE TALK TO THE SCOUTMASTER OR COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE TROOP, AND BSA, THAT NO BOY WILL BE DENIED THE SCOUTING EXPERIENCE DUE TO FINANCES.

Transportation

For most trips each patrol must provide transportation for all of the *Scouts, personal equipment, coolers, event equipment, etc. that the patrol needs*. This means that from time to time you will be asked to drive to and/or from a camping weekend. Most trips are within a half hour drive from the church.

Troop 6 regularly embarks on long distance trips such as New York City, Washington DC, or Gettysburg. Buses, vans, or both will be rented for these trips.

Troop equipment is towed in a Troop-owned trailer. Do not ask the Troop to haul personal equipment to or from a trip.

Transportation to and from Yawgoog Scout Reservation for summer camp is the responsibility of each parent.

Camping

The Troop camps or has some other activity once per month. The Troop calendar is normally published in September. It is continually updated in every edition of the weekly Troop newsletter.

Each Scout attending any Troop trip **MUST HAVE A PERMISSION FORM**. This form must be **signed by a parent or guardian** and be turned in on the Wednesday prior to the trip.

For most camping trips the Patrols choose their menus and Scouts from those Patrols are assigned to purchase the food.

Food costs for camping are **not** included in the dues.

Food money must be turned in prior to the trip.

Food money must be in cash, **no checks please**.

We do Troop cooking on some trips. In these instances the money should be turned in to the dues table. Shopping will also be done by adults due to the large quantity required.



Attendance at Camping Trips

All Scouts should make every effort to attend every trip. In order to advance in Scouting boys must master skills which can only be done while camping. Therefore the program is planned based on the majority of the Scouts attending. Cabins and campsites are rented in advance based on these figures. If a majority of Scouts do not attend then we have wasted the money.

Adults are always invited to camp with the Troop. On some trips we do have limited bed space and the following policy holds for adults.

- Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Committee Chairperson are first.
- Registered Committee members are next.
- All others are on a first come, first served basis.

These rules apply to all trips including summer camp and special trips such as New York City or Washington DC.

All adults camping with the Troop are expected to obey the same rules as the boys. Equipment brought on a trip is no exception. We do not allow tent heaters, televisions, electronic games, radios, or anything else that may detract from the Scouting atmosphere.



Boy Leadership

The Scouting program is based on boys leading boys under the guidance of adults. Scouts are elected by the boys in the Troop. They are not appointed by the adults.

All boy leaders must meet certain requirements set up by the Patrol Leaders Council (Green Bar) and the Troop Committee.

One of the most important requirements for a Scout to be nominated as a leader is attendance. Since leadership is a requirement for every rank after First Class, it is impossible to advance any further without it. We ask you to encourage your sons to attend all Troop functions.

Adult Leadership

All adults are welcomed and urged to join the Troop Committee. Assistant Scoutmasters are asked to serve by the Scoutmaster and the Committee. The Scoutmaster is asked to serve by the Committee and approved by the sponsor (chartering organization) and the BSA.

All adult leaders must complete an adult leaders registration form, have three references, and be approved by the sponsor, the Committee, and BSA.

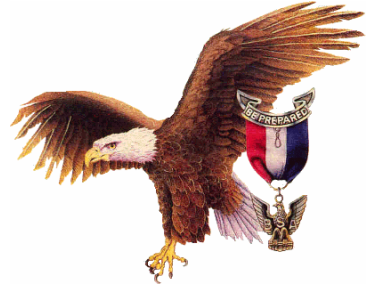
The Committee Chairperson is elected by the Committee.

We have a large, active Troop with an outstanding program which we are very proud of. This does not happen by accident or through the efforts of a few people. It takes a large number of people to get the job done. We urge each and every parent to serve in some way so we can continue this outstanding program.

Prior Scouting experience is **not** required to be an adult leader. Ask the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, or Committee Chairman for more information.

Advancement

The advancement policy of the BSA is explained in the Scout Handbook, please refer to it. The Troop follows these policies. Become familiar with them so you can help your son advance. If you have any questions, please contact the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster in charge of Advancement.



Courts of Honor / Parents Nights

Courts of Honor are when Scouts receive their awards for all their hard work.

The Committee has decided to hold five Courts of Honor (CoH) per year. Two of these are Eagle High Courts of Honor. The schedule is as follows.

- September: Annual Yawgoog Court of Honor & Family Cookout.
- January/February (2): Eagle CoH and reunion night, and General CoH (Merit badges & advancement).
- May/June (2): same as January/February

In keeping with Scouting as a family program we invite all parents, siblings, and other family members to attend.

Troop policy is to not award badges to Scouts whose parents are not in attendance or Scouts not in uniform. This is to save the Scout embarrassment from being the only one not having a family member present.

Fund Raising

It is not possible to run an interesting program for the boys without funding. Dues pay for Summer Camp but little else for the camping program. Since we try to keep the cost of Scouting as low as possible the Troop runs two fund raisers annually. In the past these have been a wreath sale during the Holiday season and a Macaroni Dinner in March.

The program which the Troop runs is directly related to the amount earned with these fund raisers. The Committee sets minimum sale requirements for each Scout, please try to meet these minimums.

Without proper funding we cannot plan trips like New York City or Washington DC. The rental of buses along with entrance fees to various attractions do not come inexpensively. Without your cooperation in our fund raising efforts we simply cannot continue such special trips. Fund raisers also pay for the equipment needed to camp.

Discipline

The Troop has been fortunate over the years in this area and expects it to remain that way. Most problems are handled by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters and normally amount to a boy being denied privileges or being assigned extra duties.

In the event that a Scout becomes a serious problem the Scoutmaster will meet with the parents to try to resolve the situation, working together. If a Scout becomes a serious problem on a Camping Trip you may be called and asked to pick him up.

Questions, Problems, Etc.

From time to time we all have questions, problems, or simply need an explanation of what is happening in any organization. Like any other youth organization the message may have been misinterpreted or not have been relayed at all.

We work very hard to avoid this by publishing this booklet and weekly newsletters. Special event flyers are also passed out as reminders to Scouts and parents. But boys will be boys and sometimes miscommunication occurs.

The Troop 6 News is published weekly. Every boy should bring home a copy following a meeting. We ask you to read the newsletter to keep yourself informed as to what the Troop is doing **and when**.

The best time to talk to the Scoutmaster is prior to a Troop meeting. He normally arrives at St. Ann's by 6:30pm on meeting nights. If this is not possible then call him. Please remember that the Scoutmaster is also a volunteer with his own family obligations.

Scouting is a program of boys leading boys under the **guidance** of adults **supported** by other adults. You are the other adults! We need your support and assistance in order to maintain the same high standards we have always held in this Troop.



A Note from the Scoutmaster

Unlike my immediate predecessor and mentor, I have only about 16 years of experience in Scouting, not 40! However, I know that his previous statement in this section is true: Scouts that have parents involved succeed – those that have little parental involvement struggle. Your sons see how much — or how little— the program means to you by watching your involvement. If you want your son to succeed, Be Involved!


Scouts who come from families that get involved tend to stay in the program and attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Scouts without this support tend more often than not to leave the program. We ask that you get involved with the Troop not for our sake but for your son's!



Baden-Powell

Troop 6 Web Site

The Troop's newest form of communication is a web site that has both public and private sections. The public section can give interested individuals an overview of our Troop and what we do. It also has a slide show utility that has photo highlights of recent Troop activities. You can find a list of all the Eagle Scouts that have come out of Troop 6 in its 80 years of operation. The private area gives us a secure area where we can put our forms, including trip permission slips, our detailed calendar, notices, and news articles. It also has the ability to e-mail notifications to subscribers to the site. Come visit the site at: www.troopsixcranston.com!



TROOP 6 CRANSTON

THE BEST BY FAR

Welcome to Troop 6 Cranston - The Best By Far!

Troop 6 Cranston is a nationally recognized Boy Scout Troop that consistently receives honors on the district, council and national level and has celebrated over eighty years of Scouting.

Browse through our public pages to learn more about who we are and what we do. If you are a boy between 11 and 17 years old, check out the "Joining Our Troop" page to find out how to become a part of the adventure!

Section Summaries:

About Troop Six
A brief summary of the Troop.

Troop Calendar
A general public-viewable edition of our annual calendar giving an overview of typical Troop activities for each month.

Photo Slideshows
Public-viewable slideshows showing the Troop in action at various events.

Advancement Program
A description of our advancement program that typically advances 5-10 or more Scouts to Eagle Scout each calendar year.

Joining Our Troop
Information about joining Troop Six. Includes contact information as well as links to membership applications and volunteer leader applications. Includes a copy of our current Parents Guide.

Troop History
Besides a history of Troop Six from its beginnings back in 1923, this page includes a brief history of Boy Scouts in America and in Rhode Island.

Eagle Scouts
A listing of over 80 Troop Six Eagle Scouts from the first one in 1933 to the six (so far!) in 2004.

- HOME PAGE
- ABOUT TROOP 6
- TROOP CALENDAR
- PHOTO SLIDESHOWS
- ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
- JOINING OUR TROOP
- TROOP HISTORY
- EAGLE SCOUTS
- DESKY LINKS
- MEMBERS ONLY

Scout Oath

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy
loyal
helpful
friendly
courteous
kind
obedient
cheerful
thrifty
brave
clean
reverent

Notes:



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