



# Parent Guide 2024



Welcome to BSA Troop 94	4
Mission Statement	4
Life Skills in a Values-Based Environment	4
Why Scouting?	5
Differences from Cub Scouts	5
Organizational Chart	6
Patrol Method	6
Scout Leadership	7
Scout BSA Operations	9
Rank Advancement Principles.....	9
Merit Badges	11
How to Obtain.....	11
Other Opportunities to Earn Merit Badges.....	12
Service Projects	12
Day to Day Operations	13
Weekend Camping	13
Summer Camp	13
Event Signups	13
Uniforms	14
Cost	14
Fundraisers	15
Recommended Equipment	15
Camp Transportation	15
Camping Forms	15
How to Help	16
Troop 94 Adult Leaders	16
Some Famous Scouts	16

## Welcome to BSA Troop 94

We are excited to have your family be a part of our troop, and we encourage you to review this guide in detail to learn about how we operate.

Our adult & youth leadership is dedicated to the mission of the Boy Scouts of America and work tirelessly to provide a well-rounded program for the Scout families who participate in our organization.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

### **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**

The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout. A Scout tries to live up to the Law every day. It is not always easy to do, but a Scout always tries.

*A Scout Is: TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN & REVERENT.*

### **Outdoor Code**

*As an American, I will do my best to - Be clean in my outdoor manners. Be careful with fire. Be considerate in the outdoors. Be conservation-minded.*

## Life Skills in a Values-Based Environment

Scouting is a values-based program with its own code of conduct. The Scout Oath and Law help instill the values of good conduct and honesty. A boy who spends one year in a Scout troop will learn lifetime skills. He will learn basic outdoor skills, self-reliance, and how to get along with others. Scouting will prepare him to live a more productive and fulfilling life.

## Why Scouting?

Three specific objectives:

- Character development
- Citizenship training
- Personal fitness

The principal focus is on the boys and in making it fun.

Objectives are delivered by these methods:

- Ideals
- Patrols
- Outdoor Programs
- Advancement
- Personal Growth
- Leadership Development
- Uniform
- Associations with Adults

*“Scouting is a game for boys under the leadership of boys under the direction of a man.”*

-Lord Baden Powell

As the Scouting program has expanded since he founded it in 1908, Lord Baden Powell could now expand his definition to: “Scouting is a game for youth under the leadership of youth, under the direction of an adult.”

## Differences from Cub Scouts

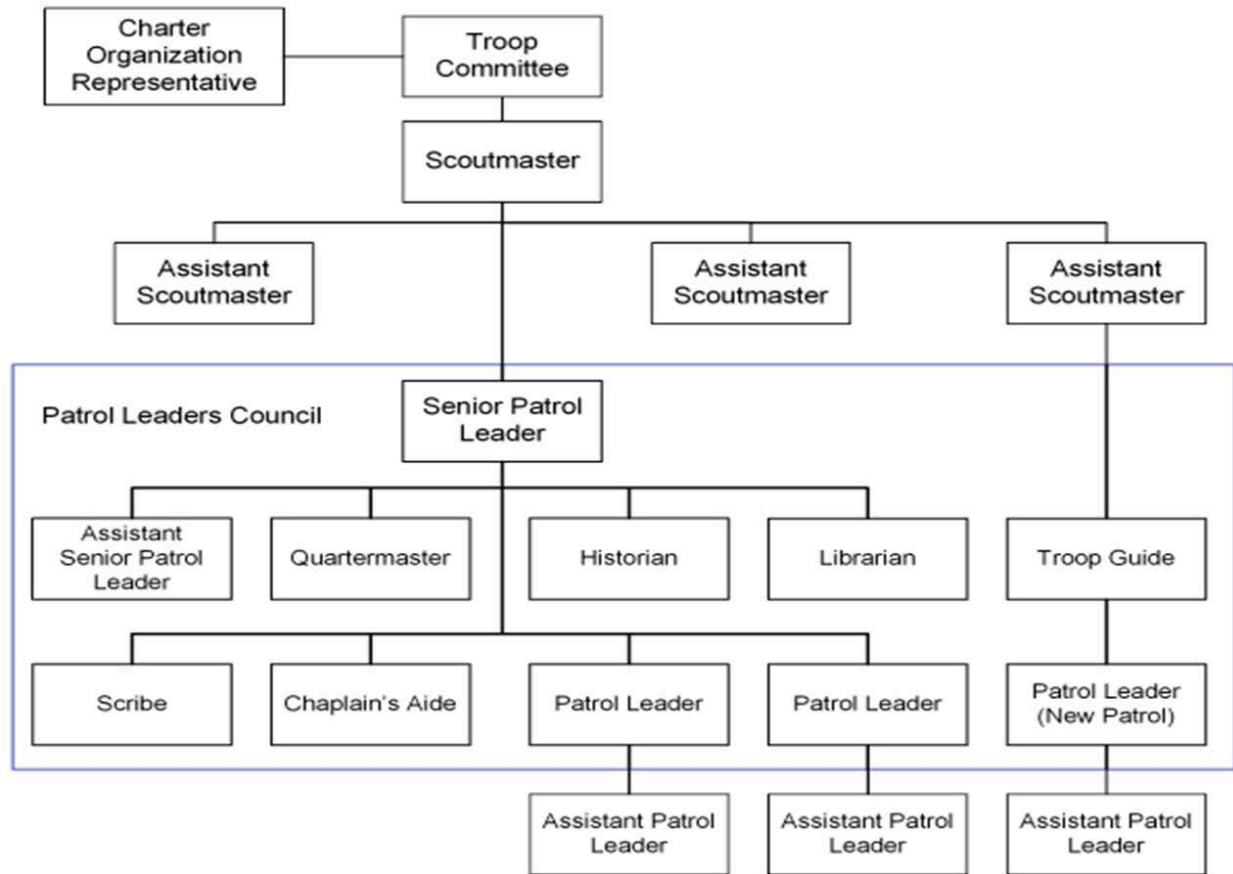
A Scout TROOP is not structured like a Cub Scout PACK.

In a troop, the Scout himself is responsible for initiation of ADVANCEMENT.

- Parents are encouraged to NOT help their sons while under the supervision of the Scout leadership
- This is the most misunderstood concept in scouting, especially for new families: the troop is **BOY-led & Adult Guided, NOT ADULT-led.**
- The boys will be given the power to plan, pack, set up, camp, cook, etc. without direct input of adults. This is not to punish the boys. This is to let them make mistakes and learn from them.
- The adult leadership is here to make sure that all these activities are done in a safe manner and to provide guidance via the Patrol Method, explained later.
- We give the boys the chance to try to learn things and make mistakes in a safe environment.
- A Parent CANNOT sign off on advancement or Merit Badge requirements

- Adult Leaders (Scoutmaster (SM), Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM)), or Youth Troop Members who have a rank of Life or Eagle.

## Organizational Chart



## Patrol Method

This is a concept you will hear a lot from the troop leadership.

It is not a method of Boy Scout leadership, it is the **only way** that we will lead this troop.

*"The more responsibility the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leaders, the more they will respond."*

-Lord Baden Powell

- Each Patrol operates as a self-sufficient unit.
- Each Patrol is encouraged to develop their own identity with a Patrol flag and yell.
- Each Patrol will utilize a duty roster to distribute tasks across the team members and learn the value of teamwork.

- Each Patrol will elect its own leadership (6-month term) to guide and manage the Patrol (Patrol Leader (PL) and Assistant PL).
- Patrol Leaders will attend a monthly planning meeting termed the Patrol Leader Council or “PLC” and represent their patrol & are responsible for Patrol communications.
- Adults do NOT run the Patrols.
- An ASM will be assigned to each as a Patrol Guide.
- Depending on attendance, Patrols may be combined for activities.
- Patrol Leaders (and other leaders) **will make mistakes**. This is a **learning activity**. Each Scout will get their opportunity to lead and to learn how to lead effectively.

***So, are you insane? The kids are in charge? Isn't that the inmates running the asylum?***

Scouts BSA is about training our future leaders and our focus is to provide them an environment to allow them to learn and make mistakes before those mistakes really count.

***How are they going to know how to lead if no one gives them an opportunity to lead?***

We are giving them that opportunity. New Scouts learn from their fellow, more-experienced Scouts how to accomplish tasks and work as part of a team, and they, in turn, will teach those skills to future Scouts.

***So, if the boys are in charge won't things be sloppy, and won't they forget stuff?***

Yes, it sometimes will! But you will also be surprised at how they rise to the challenge to get things done. Sometimes they forget things and make mistakes, but adult leadership is there to help ensure that they do not get hurt and that they learn from their mistakes. We are not here to make sure that everything gets done.

## Scout Leadership

- **PATROLS:**

– Group of 6-8 boys who work together. Members of each patrol elect their own leader, called the Patrol Leader (PL), and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL).



- **SENIOR PATROL LEADER (SPL):**

- Top junior leader in troop. He is leader of the Patrol Leaders Council. He appoints other junior leaders on his team.



- **ASSISTANT SENIOR PATROL LEADER (ASPL):**

- Assists senior patrol leader in giving direction to the other leaders under the umbrella of the senior patrol leader. Fills in for the SPL when he is absent.



- **QUARTERMASTER:**

- Responsible for maintaining troop gear and patrol gear.



- **TROOP GUIDE:**

- Advises new scout patrol.



- **SCRIBE:**

- Keeps track of attendance for activities, meetings, service projects, campouts, etc. Also records what activities were performed during the above aforementioned events, and takes the minutes at the PLC.



- **CHAPLAIN AID:**

- Works under the Chaplain for Troop. Performs prayer prior to events. Also responsible for helping perform Sunday worship service when on campouts.



- **DEN CHIEF:**

- This is a special leadership position. After training, the Scout is placed in a Cub Scout den and serves as a youth mentor for the Cub Scouts. He assists the Den Leader and often helps capture the attention and interest of the younger Scouts.

## Scout BSA Operations

### Rank Advancement



- SCOUT
- TENDERFOOT
- SECOND CLASS
- FIRST CLASS
- STAR
- LIFE
- EAGLE

### Rank Advancement Principles

- Personal growth is a prime consideration of program.
- Learn by doing.
- Each Scout advances at his own rate.
- A badge is recognition of what the Scout can do, not a reward for what he has done.
- Parents' role is not to **carry** the Scout, but to monitor, motivate and support the Scout.



### ***How does my son advance in rank?***

- The *Scout Handbook* has detailed instructions in the back of the book.
- Each rank has different requirements to be completed and signed off on.
- The Scout is responsible for initiating sign-off on his rank advancement, which is part of building personal responsibility and self-reliance.
- You as a parent **cannot** check these requirements off as you did in Cub Scouts. We ask that you encourage your scout to participate in his rank advancement.
- Camping and service hours are required for advancement.

### **How We Do It**

- Weekly Patrol meetings (Tuesday nights; 6-7:30pm) (2-3 Per Month)
- Weekend camping
- Summer camp
- High-adventure camping

Once the Scout has performed what is asked for each of the advancement criteria, he then has it initialed and dated (signed off) in his Scout Handbook. The advancement is then entered into the Scoutbook website as a digital record.

Troop 94 will allow these positions to sign-off on requirements:

- SM/ASM
- Any Scout with the rank of Life or Eagle.

Once all requirements for a rank have been met,

1) The Scout requests and participates in a Scoutmaster Conference with the SM or an ASM.

2) The Scout emails the Troop's Advancement Chairperson to schedule a Board of Review, which is conducted by adult Troop Committee Members. The BOR is:

- Not a test.
- Allows Troop leadership to get to know the Scout.
- Provides the Scout with practice speaking to adults.

Once the Board of Review is completed:

- Scout is awarded the rank he has earned.
- Will be recognized at the next Court of Honor.
  - 2 Per Year
  - Merit badges and rank advancements are awarded by public recognition.

## Merit Badges

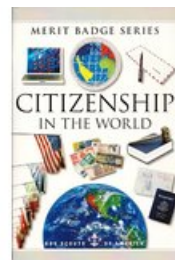
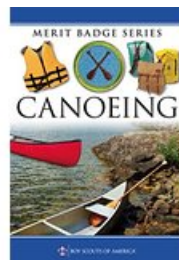
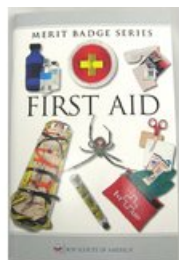


Earning merit badges gives Scouts the opportunity to participate in activities and study subjects that prepare them for life.

Merit badges teach Scouts about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers, and they give Scouts the opportunity to become comfortable communicating with adults. Earning merit badges is required for rank advancement beyond First Class Scout.

There is a **minimum** requirement of 21 Merit Badges to earn EAGLE rank.

- 14 of those 21 are in **required** subjects.
- There are OVER 130 merit badges to choose from!



### How to Obtain

1. Scout shows interest in particular area/subject.
2. Obtain requirements (may start working on it prior to speaking to the Scoutmaster).
3. Request to open a badge from the Scoutmaster.
4. Obtain blue card from the Scoutmaster.
5. Scoutmaster will assist with assigning a merit badge counselor.
6. Once ALL requirements are satisfied, the merit badge counselor will sign the blue card.

7. Scout will then present the completed portion of the blue card to the Scoutmaster for signature.
8. Advancement Chair will then enter completion into Scoutbook.
9. Merit Badges will be awarded at the next Court of Honor.

#### Other Opportunities to Earn Merit Badges

- Summer camp
- Council-sponsored merit badge fairs
- On their own

#### Helpful Info on Merit Badges

- Once started will have until 18th birthday to complete
- Pay very close attention to wording of requirements
  - “Show...”
  - “Discuss...”
  - “Demonstrate...”
- Best source of information is from official merit badge book
  - Make sure copy is current
  - They do change requirements from time to time
  - Most comprehensive resource for badge
  - Available at any Scout Shop
  - Amazon (also have kindle versions)
- BSA publishes updated requirements
  - Current 2016
- [www.meritbadge.org](http://www.meritbadge.org) has most information on what is required for current merit badges
- Also utilize merit badge worksheets, available online, to facilitate the completion of badge
  - These are not mandatory for receiving badge.

#### Service Projects

- Bike Path Cleanup
- Community outreach opportunities
- Eagle projects
- Order of Arrow projects

Don't forget to keep records of volunteer/service hours in the back of the Scout Handbook.  
(NOTE: NEW RANK REQUIREMENTS HAVE INCREASED NUMBER OF REQUIRED SERVICE HOURS)

## Day to Day Operations

- Troop/patrol meetings
  - Tuesdays
  - 6:00pm-7:30pm
  - Class A uniform

Activities that pertain to:

- Advancement
- Planning for next campout
- Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)
  - Plan activities for Troop/upcoming campouts

## Weekend Camping

- Once per month
- Typically, Friday night through Sunday afternoon
- Opportunity for rank advancement

## Summer Camp

- Week-long, sleep-away camp
- Opportunity for earning merit badges
- PLC chooses location
- Possible End of June - Mid August
- Have many aquatics opportunities
  - canoe/kayak/swimming
- Highly encourage all new Scouts to go

## Event Signups

- All Sign Ups will be required to be done through our Troop website. Each event will have a calendar reminder email with specific details.
- There will be deadlines posted.
- Once in Troop, Scoutbook emails will be sent out as reminders for Troop activities.
- We encourage your Scouts to have email access for Troop communications. Adult leaders will never contact a Scout without a “cc” to you and/or another registered leader. Scouts should always include you, or another adult leader, when sending communications to an adult leader.
- Events will be on the Troop calendar on our website ([www.ehttroop94.com](http://www.ehttroop94.com)) and in Scoutbook
- Deadlines will be enforced
  - i.e. once reached, signups will close.

## Uniforms

- CLASS A (Field Uniform)
  - Khaki/Tan shirt
  - Troop #94 on left sleeve
  - Neckerchief & slide
  - Green Shorts/Pants
  - Worn at Scout meetings or Troop activities in public.
  - Formal events/District & Council Events
  - 1st set of following provided by Troop: #94 patch, Neckerchief, Slide & green shoulder loops (Epaulets)
- CLASS B (Activity uniform)
  - Orange Troop 94 T-shirt, with or without gray Troop 94 sweatshirt
  - Worn anytime at a troop event when not wearing a Class A Uniform
  - Green Shorts/Pants
  - Appropriate for more physical service projects & other informal events

## Cost

- No Scout Troop can function without monetary support.
- We offer as many fundraising events as we can to help defer costs.
- We try to keep costs down in the Troop.
- Annual Dues for Scouts include fees that are paid to the National Scouts BSA and Jersey Shore Council. Only a portion of the Annual Dues paid each year will be retained by the Troop for expenses. The cost may change from year to year and the Troop committee will communicate the details each year when registration is due.
- Monthly Weekend Campouts are usually from \$20-50 depending on where we go and what we are doing, and includes food, transportation, site rental and activity costs.
- Summer camp is approximately \$500-650 all-inclusive, depending on where we go.
  - This cost is for an entire week so is comparable to any week-long camp your Scout might attend.
- Jersey Shore Council offers scholarships for Scouts with financial hardship.
  - If you need this assistance please ask any of our Scoutmasters for information.
  - We do not want the boys to miss out on the Scouting experience.

## Fundraisers

Wreath Sales

Popcorn Sales

Car Washes

Camp Cards

Other...our committee actively plans other fundraisers and welcomes ideas.

- Money your Scout earns as a benefit from individual fundraisers, or that you contribute to him, will be placed in his own Scout account.
- This money can be used for fees related to campouts, activities or summer camp.

## Recommended Equipment

Scouts are required to come prepared with the necessary items in order to be self-sufficient and stay warm, dry and appropriately clothed. A full list of things to bring on a camping trip can be found here >>> <https://www.ehttroop94.org/troop-forms>

## Code of Conduct

All participants are required to agree and follow the current Troop 94 Code of Conduct in order to participate in ANY Troop activity. Everyone, including Scouts, are responsible for the well being and safety of everyone participating in our Troop activities. Please review the Code of Conduct document in detail and provide an initialed and signed copy to an Adult leader if you do not already have one on file with the unit. You can find the current copy here >>> <https://www.ehttroop94.org/troop-forms>

## Camping Transportation

- Pooled and arranged via Scoutbook email
- Drivers must complete online Youth Protection Training (YPT).
- Have a valid Drivers License & Car Insurance.

### Required Troop Forms

#### Scouts:

- Scout BSA Youth Application
- BSA Medical Form (Parts A, B and C)
- Permission Slips (annual or specific for each outing)
- Troop 94 Code of Conduct

#### Adults:

- Adult Resource Survey
- Scouts BSA Adult Application
- BSA Medical Form (Parts A, B and C)
- YPT
- My.Scouting.org Position Training

## How to Help

Volunteer for one of the Adult Roles; Scoutmaster and Committee Chair can provide information on current needs

- Scoutmaster / Assistant Scoutmaster (examples & mentorship)
- Merit Badge Counselors
- Committee Members
- Transportation

**Troop 94 Adult Leadership** - Please see <https://www.ehttroop94.org/who-we-are>

## Troop 94 Internal Communication

- Scoutbook (Advancement & Event Reminders)
  - [www.ehttroop94.org](http://www.ehttroop94.org) (Event Registration & Information)
  - Private Facebook Group - @ehttroop94
  - Remind App (SMS Notifications during Camping Trips)
- Text @troop94eht to 81010 to Join the Remind Group

## Some Famous Scouts

- Hank Aaron, Baseball Hall of Fame member
- Bill Bradley, Basketball Hall of Fame member (Eagle Scout)
- Jimmy Buffet, musician
- Bill Clinton, 42nd U.S. president
- Walter Cronkite, journalist, anchorman and commentator
- Gerald Ford, 38th U.S. president (Eagle Scout)
- Harrison Ford, actor (Life Scout)
- Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft (Life Scout)
- John Glenn, astronaut, first man to orbit Earth
- Dan Janssen, 1994 Olympic speed skating gold medalist
- Michael Jordan, Basketball Hall of Fame member, two-time Olympic basketball gold medalist
- John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. president, first Scout to become president