



PARENT'S GUIDE
TROOP 179
GREAT LAKES
COUNCIL

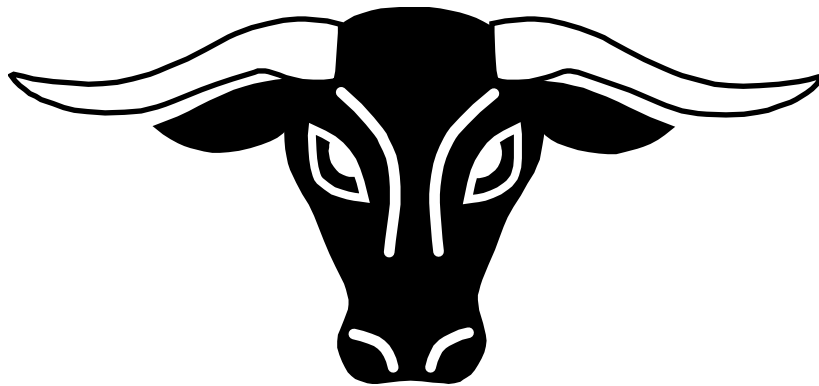




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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Troop 179! We are happy you selected our troop and look forward to getting to know you, your Scout and your family. Troop 179 has a long history of being one of the finest Scout Troops in Michigan. Some of the indicators in which we feel that we have exceeded as a troop are:

Participation: with our three programs, the New Scout Program, Traditional Scout Program, and Venturing Program, we have a wide range of activities that hold the interest of all of the youth who are members. The national average shows that most Scouts will quit the Scout program by their 14th birthday with only 3% of boys staying in Scouts until their 18 years of age. In Troop 179 we maintain about 35% of the Scouts who join our troop until they are 18. This gives us an extra three years to work on the Scouts to develop leadership, work on advancement, and to achieve the Aims of Scouting.

Advancement: our program is developed to give each Scout every opportunity to advance to the Eagle Scout Rank. A Scout enters the troop into our New Scout Program that is designed to ensure that each Scout makes First Class in about one year from joining. Next, the Scouts are on their own to earn merit badges and pursue leadership experience to earn Star, Life, and Eagle at their own pace. The troop has assistant Scoutmasters dedicated to counseling Scouts to help them prepare for rank. Nationally 4% of all youth who join a Scout troop make it to the Eagle Scout Rank. Troop 179's average is 19%.

Adult Leadership: we have two areas in which parents and adults from the community volunteer to help maintain Troop 179. (1) Our Troop Committee is a group whose purpose is to support the operations of the troop by helping to facilitate the program. (2) The Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters are the backbone of our troop — they work with the Scouts directly, advise Scouts on their advancement, and work with the Scouts to develop leadership. In all there are over 65 adult members doing a wide variety of jobs to support the troop. We encourage you to get to know the adult members of our Troop.

Some of the key factors to maintaining our standards are:

- A high standard of performance is expected for all members
- Trained Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters
- 95% parental participation
- A high dedication to the eight methods of Scouting designed by the BSA
- A large resource of Troop owned equipment (tents, patrol kitchens, patrol dining tarps, propane stoves, lanterns, and trailers for hauling equipment to camp)
- The Aims of Scouting





SCOUTING'S AIMS & METHODS

Your goal in having your child join Scouting should be to help the youth to grow into a stronger person. The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America designs its program with three aims in mind:

To build character

The growth in moral strength and character defines what a youth to think of themselves, their personal qualities, their values, and their outlook.

To foster good citizenship, and

Used broadly, citizenship means the youths relationship to others. Scouts come to learn of their obligations to other people, to the society they live in, and to the government that presides over that society.

To develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness

Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).



Each of our meetings and activities have been planned to meet the aims of Scouting. It is a year-long program and missing any part of it slows the progress of your child's development as a Scout. Leadership positions that your child will be assigned to are a large part of this development. Take an active interest in helping your child to meet the responsibilities of the positions to which they are assigned. For every position there is a written description of responsibilities that is published in our Youth Leadership handbook and on-line.

Undoubtedly many of you were Scouts when you were young, but many of our activities will not be the same as you remember. Keep in mind that your child is not living in the same world you lived in 20 years ago. Youth have different interests and likes. Scouting has changed to keep up with the interest of your child and youth of the same age. The aims of Scouting are the same, but what we do to meet those aims has evolved.

How Does Scouting Work, Our Methods

To accomplish the Aims of Scouting the National Council has developed a program that falls into eight methods:

Scouting Ideals
Patrol Method
Outdoor Programs
Advancement

Adult Association
Personal Growth
Leadership Development
Uniforms

Troop 179's program incorporates all of these methods in delivering Scouting to its members.



SCOUTING IDEALS

The ideals of Boy Scouting of America are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto, and the Scout Slogan. The Scouts measure themselves against these ideals and continually try to improve. The goals are high, and as the Scout reaches for them, they have some control over what and who they become.

Scout Oath (or Promise):

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 Motto: Be Prepared

Scout Slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily

The Scout Law:

Trustworthy

A Scout tells the truth. Scouts are honest, and keep promises. People can depend on a Scout.

Loyal

A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and nation.

Helpful

A Scout cares about other people. Scouts willingly volunteer to help others without expecting payments or rewards.

Friendly

A Scout is a friend to all. Scouts are brothers and sisters to other Scouts. Scouts offer friendship to people of all races and nations, and respect them even if their beliefs and customs are different from the Scout's own.

Courteous

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. Scouts know that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

Kind

A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. Scouts treat others as they want to be treated. Without good reason, Scouts do not harm or kill any living thing.



Obedient

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. Scouts obey the laws of his community and country. If the Scout thinks these rules and laws are unfair, the Scout tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

Cheerful

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. Scouts cheerfully do tasks that come their way. The Scout tries to make others happy.

Thrifty

A Scout works to pay their way and to help others. The Scout saves for the future, protects and conserves natural resources and carefully uses time and property.

Brave

A Scout can face danger although they are afraid. Scouts have the courage to stand for what they think is right even if others laugh at them or threaten them.

Clean

A Scout keeps body and mind fit. Scouts choose the company of those who live by high standards and help keep their home and community clean.

Reverent

A Scout is reverent toward God. Scouts are faithful in their religious duties. Scouts respect the beliefs of others.



SCOUT PATROLS

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches youth how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to act in small groups where they can easily relate to each other.

The three programs in Troop 179 operate like independent troops each with its own "program" leadership and each with its own patrols:

The **New Scout Program** is made up of Scouts in their first year with the troop. These Scouts receive guidance from a Troop Guide, appointed solely to their patrol from among the troop's older Scouts. The Guide teaches them all the basic Scouting skills that can carry them through the ranks of Tenderfoot and Second Class until they become First Class Scouts. At the same time, their patrol elects a Patrol Leader who appoints other patrol officers to run the patrol. By spending time with other new Scouts at their same skill level and having a talented, dedicated Guide to help them along, new Scouts can have an enjoyable first year Scouting experience.

Scouts entering into their second year with the troop become a part of the **Traditional Scout Program**. In this program, they have the opportunity to reinforce their Scouting skills without the need for a Troop Guide. They elect a Patrol Leader each term to serve for approximately six-months. The elected Patrol Leader, in turn, appoints an assistant Patrol Leader, a Patrol Quartermaster, and a Patrol Scribe. Traditional Scout Patrols work on Merit Badges to pass requirements for Star and Life ranks.



The **Venture Crew** is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are fourteen or have completed the eighth grade, through twenty years of age. The Venture Crew's purpose is to provide positive outdoor and hobby experiences while helping young people mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Our Venture Crew assists the troop in running activities, training, and provides our older Scouts with opportunities to bond with activities designed to meet their interests. Venture Scouts are appointed to positions of responsibility that help them obtain the Eagle Scout award.

The **Paul Bunyan Patrol** is our leadership patrol. Twice a year we hold Senior Patrol Leader elections and all of

the Scouts and Venture Crew members have the opportunity to elect the one Scout who will run our troop's program. The Senior Patrol Leader has the responsibility of being in charge of all the activities and meetings of the troop as well as being the chair of the Patrol Leaders Council, a committee of youth representing each patrol. Following the election, the new Senior Patrol Leader appoints 15 to 20 Scouts to help with responsibilities. These Scouts along with the Senior Patrol Leader make up the Paul Bunyan Patrol.

UNIFORMS

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Scouts BSA is an action program, and 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. The uniform is practical attire for Scout activities, and provides a way for Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

Full BSA Field Uniform

- Official Hat
 - Red Ball Cap for Boy Scouts
 - Black Ball Cap for Venture
- Scout Shirt (with patches)
 - Western Style Bolo Tie
 - Great Lakes Council Patch
 - "179" Numeral Patch
 - Badge of Office
 - Rank Badge
 - USA Flag Patch
 - Patrol Patch
 - Green Shoulder Loops
- Scout Pants or Shorts
- Scout Socks
- Scout Belt
- Court of Honor Wear
 - Merit Badge Sash
 - Medals & Pins



Troop 179 Activity Uniform

The *Activity Uniform* (Class B) is the same as the *Field Uniform* (Class A) with the exception is we wear our troop tee shirt (or a plain red tee shirt with no printing on it) instead of the Scout Shirt.

When to Wear What?

At most Troop functions; the *Field Uniform* is required and should be worn. The Senior Patrol Leader will always let the Scouts know if no uniforms are to be worn. The best rule is, "When in doubt, wear your uniform."



Regular Meetings: the *Field Uniform* as well as sharp folding knife, bolo tie, small first aid kit, and pen or pencil.

Courts of Honor: the *Field Uniform* plus medals, pins, and a merit badge sash.

Outdoor Activities: the *Field Uniform* is still worn, no bolo ties are required as this is an item that tends to be lost at campouts. During most camp activities the Scouts will be told by the Senior Patrol Leader to pack away their *Official BSA Scout Shirt* and change into our red Troop Tee Shirt.

Before You Run Out and Buy a Uniform

Troop 179 parents have uniform exchange program. It sells used Scout Uniform shirts, pants and shorts at great prices. Before you buy an all-new uniform for that growing Scout of yours, take a look at what we have in stock in the troop store. In addition, we stock some new uniform items such as red troop hats, belts, socks and almost all of the patches and numerals worn on the uniform shirt. We also sell items for the activity uniform: hooded sweatshirts, crew neck sweatshirts, and hats. Sales take place the Tuesdays before campouts and on Courts of Honor (parents) nights.

When your Scout outgrows his uniform, we ask that you consider donating it to Troop 179 for resale. Proceeds from the sale of these uniforms help to fund our scholarship programs for youth whose families are not able to afford Scouting.

Where to Find Boy Scout Supplies:

Store	Address	Phone
National Supply:	www.scoutstuff.org	(800) 323-0736
Nankin Hobby	33350 Nine Mile Road Farmington, MI 48336I	(248) 919-0040
Troy Scout Shop	1155 E Long Lake Rd Troy, MI 48328	(248) 253-9596
Detroit Scout Shop	1776 W. Warren Ave. Detroit, MI 48208	(313) 898-8920

Many people do well buying uniforms on e-bay.com as well

CAMPING ACTIVITIES

Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Scouts gain an appreciation for God's handiwork and humankind's place in it. The outdoors is the laboratory for Scouts to learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources. Camp

plans are emailed the week of the event. Watch those emails for last minutes details of the event,

How to Register For Troop Activities

Troop 179 utilizes an on-line registration system called "Double Knot", and it is an integral part of managing the task of organizing monthly activities. To sign-up to attend activities it is best to set-up your doubleknot account and then you are able to keep a history of activities your Scout has attended. See the section on How to Use Doubleknot later in this guide for more.



Transportation

Transporting your Scout to and from camp is your responsibility. While registering on-line, you will have the option to provide transportation to and from camp for other Scouts. Typically, if a ride is arranged for your Scout one way, it is expected that you provide other Scouts a ride the other way. Communications with the transportation committee is very important prior to the activity, their contact is t179transportation@gmail.com. They create a master list for the activity leaders of how the Scouts will arrive to the activity and who will be picking them up (for your child's protection).

If your child is arriving late or leaving early from an activity, you must notify the Transportation Committee ahead of time, there is a space for this type of information during the on-line registration. Before any Scout can physically leave the event, you must notify the leader in charge of the activity before leaving with your youth. This is no joke! The safety and well being of our youth are a serious matter to the Boy Scouts of America. Please cooperate with us so that we may all be safe and have a good time.

Paying For Troop Activities

Every Scout has an account with our troop treasury, this is basically a deposit account that you can keep funds in and his fees for activities will be debited at the time of the activity; you can send a check with your Scout to any meeting to replenish funds in the Scout Account. Another



er option is during the on-line registration process you can pay with a credit card (there is a fee for this option). Your Scout account is expected to be kept current and activity fees should be made prior to the activity. Your child will not be allowed to attend activities if your account is in the rears. If you are having trouble paying the balance be sure to reach out to the Scoutmaster or Scout Account Treasurer and payment plans can be set-up.

What About Medications

For weekend campouts, Scouts are expected to manage their own medication and keep it with them. For the weeklong summer camp, medication is kept with the nurses in the medical tent. In the New Scout Programs if you make our leaders aware of your Scouts medication schedule, they will make their best attempt to remind the Scout when it is time to take the medication.

Meals At Our Troop Activities

The troop provides nutritional meals and an evening snack for all Scouts. There is always more than enough food at our activities. We allow Scouts to bring extra pop or snacks; however it should be kept to a minimum. These snacks should be stored away so they are not mistaken as a common snack bought by the troop.

Every Scout needs to bring their own table service (plate, bowl, cup, fork, knife, & spoon). This not only saves us from having to buy lots of paper products but, it also saves our world from the massive amount of landfill waste. We have two different types of food service and depending upon the activity one is chosen by the Activity Leader In Charge.

Patrol Cooking is the type of cooking we prefer. In Patrol Cooking the Scouts prior to the weekend create a menu and food buying list for their patrol. They then go over their plans with their Patrol Adviser (an adult that eats with them). Someone in the patrol is selected to purchase the food and bring it out with them. A troop check is issued to that Scout and the Scout uses the money to go to a grocery store and purchase the food. Some items the Scout may raid from your pantry such as a cup of sugar or a teaspoon of spice. During the activity the Scouts then take turns cooking the meals for the patrol. We feel the Scouts get the most out of this type of food service.

Some activities it makes more sense to utilize **Troop Cooking Service**. On these activities each patrol takes turns working with our adults to cook for the entire troop (average 80 people). The adults take charge of making the menu and purchasing the groceries for these activities.

Food Allergies: many Scouts and adults come to camp with special dietary needs due to allergies. It is most important that your Scout understands the allergies and the consequences of eating the item(s) that cause trouble. He or She needs to be the person in charge of what they eat and should ask to see ingredient lists and question adults if they don't understand. If we are patrol cooking the menu will be planned by the Scouts themselves and your son/daughter can often help the patrol to make choices to get around food allergies. In some instances the Scout may need to bring their own items to be able to substitute (i.e. gluten free bread) food items being purchased. If we are troop cooking the troop always have vegetarian, gluten free and nut free alternatives. The Scout needs to ask the adults in charge of the cooking and they will be given food they can eat. Aside from listing allergies on your Scout's health form, seeking out and talking with the adult in charge of your Scouts Program and Patrol will help to make sure the Scout is being reminded to watch what he/she is eating, but also know how to react if the Scout mistakenly eats the wrong thing. Constant reminders are appreciated.

Sleeping Considerations

For most camping trips your normal Holofill sleeping bag will be plenty warm. In the spring and fall you may want to pack an extra blanket, on a winter camping trip two sleeping bags and a blanket works well. If you need to purchase a sleeping bag, a zero degree rated sleeping bag may be a good investment. If you are purchasing a blanket for camping, a wool blanket (US Army blankets can be purchased at one of the Army/Navy Supply stores) works best since it has warming ability even when it is wet. It is also a good idea to have some padding under the bedding. A closed cell foam pad can be purchased at most stores and works best. An air mattress does not work well because it tends to deflate as air temperature drops eliminating any insulation from the cold ground. Cots are great, but are a luxury and take up a lot of room. (They also cause you to become cold in the winter because of heat loss through the cot.) If you are buying a cot, be sure to get one that is low to the ground, 6 to 12 inches. Our website, bsatrop179.org there is a section on Camping Equipment with a ton of information to help in making your purchases. Many of our leaders have been camping for many years and are also willing to help you make the right choice.

Tent Assignments:

Every Scout teams with another Scout in their patrol (tent partner) and is issued a tent by the Troop Quartermaster. These partners maintain, keep and store the tent for use on activities. It is their responsibility to make sure that the tent is returned in good, usable condition. Scouts must talk to they're partner to make sure that



whoever has the tent brings it to the activity. If one of the partners is not attending the activity Scouts will partner up with someone else in the patrol for that activity; these two Scouts need to discuss which one will bring a tent to use (don't assume the other is bringing one, ask).

After most of the camping trips (where we use tents) your Scout will bring home a tent or dining tarp to dry out, clean, and repair. We ask that the parents help their child with this task to ensure that the proper procedures, that are listed below are carried out. The troop has a sizable investment in these tents (approximately \$400 each) and we need to make sure that they are properly maintained and stored.

Post Campout Canvas Drying Procedure

Unroll the tent and hang it up to dry. If the tent is very wet you should hang it in the sunlight to expedite the drying process. Make sure you have two complete six-foot aluminum poles (newer tents have three poles), and twelve pin stakes. Knock the dirt off the stakes and straighten them if required. Wipe the sand and dirt off each section of the two aluminum poles. It is much easier to get the sections apart if they are kept clean. Do not beat the poles against anything to get them apart! You will only dent them and they will never come loose!

When the tent is dry, sweep out any dirt and/or leaves. Scrub any dirt, sticky, or mildewed spots with a scrub brush using soap and water. Inspect the tent for damage! Report to the Quartermaster any repairs that are needed. Roll the two or three (2 or 3) poles and twelve (12) stakes up inside of the tent and place the tent inside the canvas storage bag. Store in a dry place (preferably inside) until it is returned.

Keeping Warm on Activities

The best clothing for camping is warm, light-weight materials. Wearing layers of clothing is most effective on all camping trips. The logic is that you wear many layers, adding some when you are cold; taking them off when you are warm. Gloves are great items to have at most outings throughout the year – on colder weekends you will need gloves and mittens. Always bring twice as many socks as you think you will need. A good warm hat and hooded sweat shirts are also a good items to bring on all outings throughout the year.

What About Uniforms

Scout Field uniforms (Class A) must be worn when riding to and from camp. This is so that the Scouts are identified as Scouts. During most activities the Scouts may wear our activity uniform; however the Senior Patrol Leader may call for the *Scout Field Uniform* when it is deemed appropriate.

Keeping Entertained

Troop 179 always has a fun-filled, jam-packed weekend in store for the Scouts, but there is also free time that the Scouts have to themselves. A good book or crossword puzzle is great to have along. Portable radios, iPods, phones and portable video games are often brought to campouts, however, it is not recommended by the leaders. If the Scout brings items and does not want other Scouts to use them, they should keep them in their tent and not tell other Scouts that they have them.

Personal Camping Gear List

- Scout Field Uniform (Wear To Campout)
- Duffel Bag, Backpack, something that easily carries the items you pack
- Sleeping Bag or two to three blankets
- Foam Pad or Air Mattress
- Ground Sheet, (4' X 8' sheet of plastic to put under your camp bed)
- Pillow
- Heavy Jacket, Warm Gloves, And Hat
- Sweater or Light Jacket
- Poncho or Rain Gear
- Lightweight Boots
- Pair of Sneakers or Shoes
- Change of Underwear
- Extra Pair of Pants
- Swim Trunks
- Extra Socks
- Pajamas or Sweat Suit to sleep in
- Extra Tee-Shirts and Sweat Shirts (Red)
- Toilet Kit Including: Towels, Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush & Paste, Toilet Paper, and Comb
- Table Service Kit (Plate, Bowl, Cup, Fork, Knife, and Spoon)
- Flashlight With Extra Batteries
- Pocket Knife
- Compass
- Personal First Aid Kit (Band-Aids)
- Boy Scout Handbook
- Insect Repellent (No Aerosol)
- Pen/Pencil and Paper
- Sun Block With PABA
- Water Bottle
- Mess Kit



ADVANCEMENT

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement, and by participating in the troop program, progresses as the Scout overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system helps the Scout grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.

After your child has completed the requirements for each rank, the troop evaluates the progress of the Scout and ensures that the Scout has reached our standards for each rank. After the Scout has proven ready for rank advancement, the Scout meets with a Scoutmaster for a **Scoutmaster Conference**. This conference is designed to involve the Scouts in their own personal growth process by asking him to evaluate their own progress. The Scout is then asked to discuss and decide how to achieve the next steps in development. This agreement becomes the basis for a program of development meeting the Scout's own desires and needs. The conference helps the Scout accept the responsibility for growth in Scouting. It also establishes a relationship between the youth and the Scoutmaster that makes this growth possible.

Most people think that the Scoutmaster holds all the Scoutmaster Conferences. The Scoutmaster may assign

an Assistant Scoutmasters to conduct the conference for him. The Scoutmaster, however, does all Eagle conferences.

The last phase of earning each rank is the **Board of Review**. The purpose is to review the progress of the Scout and determine if the Scout has matured to the level of the rank. The board is made up of at least three adults from the community who are not a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. Troop 179 has at least one of the board members (the Board Chairperson) as a member of the Troop Advancement Committee. The other two board members can be any parent and are trained just prior to the review. We mention this because this is an activity that we need many of our parents to become involved with so please consider helping-out. Reviews are held once a month and are published in the Troop Calendar. We usually need six to nine parents to assist on these nights.

If a Scout fails to meet the troop's standards and is turned down for rank, it is usually because she/he has forgotten a vital part of the skills or other requirements for that rank. Whether the Scout is turned down at the Scoutmaster's Conference or the Board of Review, the Scout will always be told exactly why. The Scout is told what they have to do to satisfy the Scoutmaster or Board Chairperson to receive rank. The Scout does not start over the procedure, but simply returns to the person who held up the progress and satisfies them.





TROOP RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section I Affiliations

- A. Troop 179 is chartered by the Ottawa District, Great Lakes Field Service Council, Michigan Crossroads Council, Central Region (Area two), Boy Scouts of America.
- B. Troop 179 is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.
- C. Troop Color is Red.
- D. Troop totem is Babe, the blue ox. Babe was selected in 1968 to go along with our first Patrol the Paul Bunyan's.

Section II Membership

A. Joining Requirements

- a. Boy Scouts must be either
 - i. Youth must be a minimum of 11 years of age or
 - ii. Must have graduated the 5th Grade or
 - iii. Is a former Cub Scout and has earned the Arrow of Light Award
- b. Venture Scouts must be either
 - i. Youth must be a minimum of 14 years of age or
 - ii. Must have completed the 8th Grade

B. Initiation procedure

- a. Complete the Boy Scouts of America application and pay the membership fee.
- b. Purchase a Full Scout Field Uniform from a Scout distributor.
- c. If joining as a Scout
- d. Purchase a *Scout Handbook* from a Scout distributor.
- e. Meet the joining requirements as detailed in the *Scout Handbook*.

C. Aging Out

- a. Scout, BSA members age out at 18 years of age and cannot earn ranks after that date
- b. Venture Scouts age out at 21 years of age and cannot earn recognition after that date
- c. Staying on once a youth has turned 18
 - i. Any youth (boy or girl) that reaches the age of 18 and would like to continue in the Scout BSA Troop or Venture Crew may do so by becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster in the troop and working as a volunteer fulfilling all requirement of the Assistant Scoutmaster position
 - ii. Continuing as an Assistant Scoutmaster is conditional on the approval of the Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Chairman, and the Chartered Organization Representative.
 - iii. As a volunteer the assistant Scoutmaster is no longer obligated to any membership dues or financial requirements.

D. Financial Responsibility

- a. The Scoutmaster will be required to provide an annual budget to the parents and committee members enrolled in the Troop and Venture Crew.
- b. The Budget is divided by the number of members and the resulting sum becomes an annual financial obligation each member is required to pay.
 - i. The parents and committee members may decide to assess a dues to be paid in cash to reduce the members annual obligation.
 - ii. The parents and committee members may decide to collect fees for attendance at activities to reduce the members annual obligation.
 - iii. The parents and committee members must provide opportunities for members to raise funds to pay the annual financial obligation as well as any other dues and fees assessed by the parents and committee members.

E. Attendance

- a. Like any other organization we depend and plan on the attendance of all Scouts. If a Scout misses a meeting or activity their patrol (like a team) is short a person. If too many Scouts miss a meeting or activity, the patrol cannot function and our program breaks down. Because Scouting is a year round activity we understand that other activities can come in conflict with the troop program. Regarding sports and other school activities our policy is:



- i. If an infrequent event, such as a music concert or game, conflicts with our weekly meeting, the Scout should miss the troop meeting for this special event.
 - ii. However, if a weekly after school activity conflicts with a once-a-month troop activity, we feel the Scout should attend the campout. We feel this is important as the Troop attends only one campout each month.
 - b. If a Scout cannot attend a meeting, the Scout should call his Patrol Leader. If a Scout cannot attend a Campout after registration close date, the Scout must notify his Patrol Leader, and the Transportation Chairperson.
 - c. Only active members will be considered eligible for awards, ranks and membership in a patrol. An active member will be defined as someone who consistently attends two-thirds of the troop's activities since making the last rank.
 - d. A Scout may be asked to report to the Patrol Leader's Council if the Scout misses three consecutive meetings or three consecutive activities. If the Scout fails to report to the Patrol Leader's Council they may suspend his membership for review by the Troop Committee.
- F. Participation
 - a. The Scout will be expected to be in Full Scout Field Uniform at all Scout meetings and activities unless otherwise announced by the Senior Patrol Leader.
 - b. As a member of a patrol and troop a Scout will be asked to do tasks by his fellow elected Scouts. If a Scout is insubordinate to the others the Scout will be asked to go home.
 - c. Scouts who participate in High Adventure events, such as the Philmont Scout Ranch, Sea Base, or National Jamborees, are required to participate in Summer Camp. Summer Camp is considered a vital and important part of the Scouting experience that should not be missed for even one year. High Adventure activities are extra-curricular.

Section III Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

- A. The PLC is the governing body of the troop. Its purpose is to plan, develop and give leadership to all meetings and activities of the Troop and Venture Crew.
- B. Voting Members of the PLC:
 - a. Senior Patrol Leader (Chair of the PLC)
 - b. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, New Scouts
 - c. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Traditional Scouts
 - d. Venture Crew 179 President
 - e. Patrol Leaders (representing their patrol)
- C. All other Paul Bunyan Members are considered non-voting members of the PLC
- D. Any Scout may attend meetings of the Patrol Leader's Council.
- E. The troop will maintain a Youth Leadership Guide which details the process a youth becomes each position and the expectations for meeting the required responsibility in each position.

Section IV Officers

- A. Charter Organization Representative (CR)
 - a. The CR is appointed to guide the Scouting Program and make sure it is in the best interest of the Sponsor
 - b. The CR is appointed by the Sponsor
- B. Scoutmasters (SM & SA)
 - a. The troop will maintain one SM/SA for every ten Scouts
 - b. The Scoutmaster is appointed to run the Scout Program utilizing the eight methods of Scouting and is the sole person in decisions pertaining to the manner in which the program is delivered.
 - c. Every Scout deserves a trained Scout leader. All 179 Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters must complete BSA training within one year of registering.
 - d. Appointment of the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters are done by recommendation of the Committee Chairman and approval of the Charter Organization Representative.



- C. Troop Committee (CC & MC)
 - a. The troop will maintain a committee of parents and interested members of the community to decide on matters of operational policy, membership, advancement and finance.
 - b. The committee will form a group that will support the Scoutmasters in their role as requested by the Scoutmaster.
 - c. Every Committee Chair and Members must complete BSA training within one year of registering.
 - d. Appointment of the Committee Chair and Committee Members are done by recommendation of the Scoutmaster and approval of the Charter Organization Representative.

Section V Meetings

- A. The Troop meets regularly on every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. throughout the year as the Scoutmaster deems necessary to deliver the Scouting program
 - a. The doors will be open at 7:00 p.m.
 - b. Parents should pick up their Scout at 9:00 p.m.
 - c. The Scoutmaster will use the actions of the Farmington Public Schools to reach a decision about canceling a meeting for severe weather reasons
- B. Special Meetings:
 - a. The Troop will have three Courts of Honor each year to recognize awards the Scouts earned since the last Court of Honor and award them to the Scouts. All parents are encouraged to be present.
 - b. Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meets once a month on the Tuesday following most troop activities to plan the troops program. On the same night the Troop and Patrol Quartermasters meet to work with the troop equipment and the Scoutmasters meet to evaluate the program and our goals.
 - c. Patrol meetings may be summoned at the convenience of the Patrol Leader or Guide. Attendance is required.
 - d. The Troop Committee meets once a month.
 - e. There will be at least one parent membership meeting per year.

Section VI Activities

- A. Transportation
 - a. Transportation will be arranged on a volunteer basis by the Transportation Chair. Parents need to volunteer to drive either to or from an activity at least every other time a Scout attends.
 - b. If a Scout will be arriving late or leaving early his parents are responsible for his transportation. Under these circumstances, the Transportation Organizer must be notified in writing prior to the campout.
 - c. We are required to follow our sponsors rule on transporting minors: a driver must be 25 or older to transport any youth under 18 years of age. Parents must agree in writing for any Scout to be excluded from this rule.
 - d. All Scouts must travel in uniform and wear seat belts while traveling.
- B. Scouts are expected to maintain a level of behavior that is tolerable to the leaders in charge. Fighting or lack of cooperation will result in the Scout's parents being called to come and pick up the Scout.
- C. The troop will cover the camping and food fees for all adults providing supervision responsibilities on activities and camps.
- D. Parents are welcome on campouts at any time; we can always use extra supervision. Remember campouts are learning experiences for the Scouts and parents should refrain from helping their child too much.
- E. There are many State of Michigan laws and Boy Scouts of America rules that our overnight activities fall under. Parents visiting on activities should only visit their child when in open or common areas. The sleeping areas of the activity are off limits to all adults with the exception of registered leaders working with the program the Scout is currently in. These adults have had extensive background checks and have served with Troop 179 for a minimum of a year and meet all the state and BSA regulations for youth protection.



- F. There must be at least one adult per ten Scouts on an activity with a minimum of two leaders.
- G. Prior to joining the Troop, a Scout candidate will be limited to going on one activity.
- H. No firearms, fireworks, alcohol or illegal substance are permitted on campouts.

Section VII Disciplinary Problems

- A. First time offenders will meet with the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) to provide an explanation of what happened. If found guilty of a First Offense, the Scout will be warned and a note will be attached to his records for a six month period. As an offense constitutes a lack of Scout Spirit, it may delay any pending advancement in rank.
- B. If problems continue after talking to the Scout, the PLC can issue a Second Offense, and renew the six-month period.
- C. If problems persist and the PLC assigns a Third Offense to the Scout, the PLC relinquishes responsibility to the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee will meet to determine if the Scout will be asked to leave Troop 179.
- D. If the Scout wishes to appeal any decision of the PLC he may appeal with his parents to the Troop Committee.
- E. The Scoutmasters will keep the parents apprised of any discipline problems and what the troop has determined to be the consequence of the problem.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS



The Troop Committee is the overall governing board of the troop. It is the job of the committee to recruit and

approve all adult participation in the troop; decide on matters of youth membership; charter the troop; keep the troop financially independent; and approve all rank advancement of the Scouts.

Although it is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster, his Assistants, and the Patrol Leaders Council, to decide on the troop's program, the Troop Committee should play a supportive roll in its administration. The committee helps with providing transportation, assists Scouts with their uniforms, run Courts of Honor and other parent activities, and works closely with the Scoutmaster. The decisions of the Scoutmaster on the troop's program are solely his and should not be questioned. If there are concerns by the committee as to whether his decisions are meeting the overall goals of the troop the committee can intercede and direct the Scoutmaster to meet the goals or replace him with someone new.

Administrative Positions:

Chartered Organization Representative (CR): The CR is appointed by the sponsor to be a liaison officer of the committee to oversee the operations of the troop and insure that the goals of the sponsor are being met. The CR presents concerns that the sponsor has to the troop and facilitates any requests the troop has of the sponsor. All adults involved in the troop must be approved by the CR.

Committee Chairman (CC): The Chief Executive Officer of the troop, the CC, is in charge of the total operation of the committee responsible for recruiting and approving all adult volunteers in the troop. The chairman is responsible for training all committee people in their jobs and following up with them to see that the tasks assigned to them are being done in a timely manner. The chairman is present at most meetings of the Troop to interact with the parents, oversees committee activities going on at the meeting, and maintains firsthand knowledge of the activities of the troop and its program.

Scoutmaster (SM): The Chief Operations Officer is in charge of working with the Senior Patrol Leader, the Paul Bunyan Patrol Members, and the Patrol Leaders Council to plan, develop, and run the troop's program. He works with the CC and CR to ensure that the Boy Scouts of America's Aims and Methods of Scouting are put into place.



Assistant Scoutmasters: are assigned to many of the tasks to maintaining the troops program. All assistant Scoutmasters spend their first year working on the equipment committee. This is so that the leader has time to understand the administration of the program and also so that the Scouts and leaders have time to understand the individual personality of the new leader. After the first year the leader can either stay in the supportive roles or be assigned to work in one of the three youth programs (New Scout, Boy Scout, or Venture Crew).





Transportation: Our Transportation Committee is responsible for registering all Scouts and adults attending our activities. They coordinate a car-pooling service for parents to provide transportation to and from troop activities. The service is voluntary and parents can opt to be a part of the car-pooling or provide their son or daughter with their own transportation. The committee collects data from the parents via the on-line activity registration and then arranges the Scouts into vehicles making sure that every Scout has a ride to and from the activity.

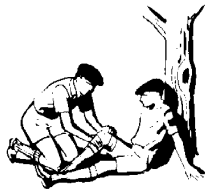
The Hospitality Committee:

This committee serves as hosts at our parents' nights. Our largest parent's night activity each year is the International Dinner. The committee also meets with the parents of our Eagle Scouts to aid in planning for Eagle Courts of Honor and the celebration of our Scouts that obtain this high level.



Publicity: This committee promotes the news about Troop 179 and its great Scouts. The publicity chairperson writes articles, takes pictures and notifies the press about our courts of honor and special activities, especially information about our Eagle Scouts.

Health Services: This committee inventories, replaces, and maintains various first aid kits that are appropriate to the activities conducted by the troop; works with the Assistant Scoutmasters encouraging them to undertake first responder training and to be prepared in the event of an accident on an activity; staffs a State of Michigan certified Health Office for week-long youth camps while the troop is at summer camp; organizes CPR certification courses for the Scouts and adults annually.



The Membership Committee

This committee is responsible for creating a marketing program that attracts new members to the troop, both youth and adult. They work with both the community and Webelos leaders to make Troop 179 available to receive any new recruits. They host our annual Webelosfest weekend, attend Crossover Ceremonies, and host open houses at our meetings.

The Finance Committee:

Troop Treasurer: The Chief Financial Officer of the troop, the Treasurer, is in charge of all financial concerns of the troop. The Treasurer is required to present an annual report to the parents of the troop's financial status, including presenting an annual budget for the parents to

approve and make recommendations on funding the budget. Throughout the year the Treasurer will attend most meetings of the troop to reimburse expenditures made by Scoutmasters and pay bills. The treasurer will produce a monthly balance report and present it at the monthly committee meeting.

Scout Accounts Treasurer: This person works with the Troop Scribe to accept and receipt monies brought in by Scouts in payment of fees, dues, and their financial obligation. This treasurer keeps track of each Scout's account and sends out monthly reminders to parents of any monies owed to the troop.

Friends of Scouting: This person helps to annually raise funds from the Scout families to donate to the Great Lakes Council.

Wreath Committee: This committee is responsible for raising the funds needed to fulfill the budget approved annually by the parents. Starting October 1, Scouts solicit orders for Christmas wreaths and then delivering the wreaths within a few weeks around Thanksgiving.



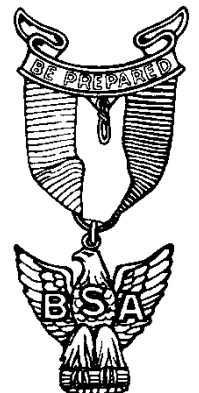
Popcorn Committee: This committee helps the youth in September and October with the selling and distribution of Boy Scout Popcorn.

Uniforms: This committee runs our troop store and uniform exchange. They encourage Scouts to turn in uniforms that don't fit anymore and then have them available to sell at a reduced price. All of our "Babe-wear" including: T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Hats, Patches, and Bolo Ties are also available. See the troop calendar for dates when the store is open, and it is also open by appointment.

The Advancement Committee:

The Advancement Committee is responsible to see that every Scout has the opportunity to advance in rank to the ultimate goal of Eagle Scout. The troop is responsible for ensuring that:

- Each Scout will advance to the rank of First Class through a skills training program that is conducted by the Patrol Leaders Council.
- Parents are recruited to be Merit Badge Counselors and make themselves available to all Scouts in the Ottawa District.





- A Board of Review is held at least once a month to approve the rank advancement from Tenderfoot through Life and to review the progress of Scouts who have not advanced in the past year.
- Eagle Boards of Review are conducted within a month after requested by an Eagle candidate, and that it is conducted under the auspices of the Ottawa District Advancement Committee.
- All Scout Advancement is reported utilizing the BSA's Internet Advancement program to the Great Lakes Council at least once a month.

The Equipment Committee:

Troop 179 owns approximately \$40,000 in camping equipment and has eight trailers for hauling it. All of the equipment is stored at the Presbyterian Church and it is a large task to keep it maintained. We ask the help of all parents, since from time to time tents are sent home to be dried out. The maintenance of the equipment is broken up into several volunteer areas:

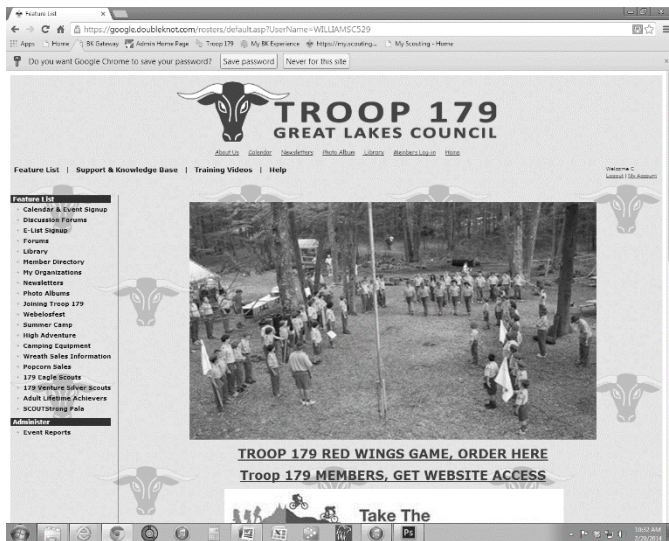
Quartermasters - Assistant Scoutmasters works with the troop, patrol, and crew quartermasters, and mentors them to help develop leadership and to ensure completion of their tasks to inventory, replace, and maintain the equipment that is issued in the patrol kitchens and the patrol equipment boxes.

Tents - Distribute to and collect tents from the Scouts – develops a program of maintenance for repairing and waterproofing

Supplies - Maintains a supply of consumable products (i.e. paper goods, fuel, cleaning supplies), maintains bulk products for troop cooking activities, ensures an adequate supply of charcoal and propane for each activity.

Vehicles - Inspect and maintain trailers ensuring reliability for use; Check electrical connections, charge batteries, and check tires prior to each use; Recruit and create a list of drivers for transporting the trailers to and from each activity

USING DOUBLEKNOT



DoubleKnot is our website host that has tools for maintaining our contact list, communications, and activity registration. This section will hopefully help you to learn to set-up and gain access to all of its features. The Web Site: www.bsatroop179.org will come up looking like the picture above and allows the public access to learn about 179, gives access to our calendar, photos, and "how to join us" information.

Website Member Access

To gain access to more you will have to get login credentials and the easiest way is to use the link right under

our home page troop picture "**Troop 179 MEMBERS, GET WEBSITE ACCESS**". Clicking on the link will allow you to send an email to request access to the members' area. This process depends on the Scoutmaster to reply so it may take a day or two. Fill in the information requested and you receive a reply in a day or two.

The request is then sent to the Scoutmaster who approves it and gives your account permissions; after he is done you will receive an email with your username and password.

After you receive the email go back to the website (www.bsatroop179.org) and click the "Members Login" either on the top menu or at the left feature list. Enter the username and password given and press login. The first time you do this you will be asked to change your password to something more memorable and then it will return you to the home page. You are now logged in as a DoubleKnot "Troop 179 Member".

My Account Profile

Going to the account settings is where you will find your personal information. To do this first go to the website (www.bsatroop179.org) and log in for members access. Look in the upper-right area of the home page and in small letters you will see "Welcome (your first name)". Under that is two links "Logout" and "My Account" Select the "My Account" link.



On this page you will see a row of tabs, your name with a "Edit Profile" button, and finally any upcoming registrations you have signed up for. Select "Edit Profile" button. This setting lets you do two things of importance.

First fill in or edit the fields on the page you're looking at. This information is what other members see when looking you up in the Members Directory. The only required fields are the First & Last Names and the "Primary Email" field. Along the top of the page you will also see a link to "Change User ID and/or Password". Using that link will allow you to select a new user name and password that is more memorable for you

Next, going back to the "My Account" page and looking at the other tabs, you should find:

Subscriptions: This allows you to choose different email lists you want to hear from. New Parents should be sure that "New Scout Program" and "Troop 179 General Mailings" are both checked off.

Registrations: will contain a list of all registrations you have made on DoubleKnot. To edit you either select the "View Details" or "Update/Edit" links. Once the individual registration comes up you want to "Update" the registration and go through all the steps of the particular registration. To edit a registration you can also contact the Scoutmaster or 179transportation@gmail.com and just describe the change that needs changing. In this area you can also make a payment if you would like.

Membership Directory

Go to the website (www.bsatroop179.org) and log in for members access. On the left menu bar (Feature List) look for Member Directory and select the link.

You can hit the "Search" button and you will see all 150 plus members of the troop, or you can enter all or some of a members last name. Hit the "Search" button and it will return only members with that last name.

A couple things to keep in mind. You are only able to view other members with website access (most all of our

Scouts has at least one parent with access). Many Scouts have parents with last names different than their own. You can only view information about a member that the member has put in their profile.

How To Register For an Activity

Go to the website (www.bsatroop179.org) and log in for members access. Select the "Calendar" link in the top menu bar. Look for the date of the activity and on that date select the link for the activity. You will see a page describing the activity. At the bottom of this page select the "Register" button.

Starts by asking how many participants you would like to register (usually 1). This includes Scouts, Adults and Siblings if applicable. That will bring up a text box asking for information about the participant. The only required fields are First Name and Last Name. You can also click the link "Add someone I've signed up before" link and a pop-up will come up with information stored about previous participants.

Press the "Continue" button and you will see a list of your participants in your "Shopping Cart". If the activity is looking for more information you will see forms needing to be filled out. Click on the forms name and complete the answers asked. For overnight activities you will see a transportation for that will ask your preferences on how your participant will get to and from the activity.

Depending on the activity you may be asked additional questions about the event. Answer as required for each participant, including the adults. This is where you will note transportation needs for your Scout as well.

Press the "Checkout" button and the next page confirms information about the purchaser (it is pre-filled out from your profile); Next choose your payment option (choose the mailbox option if you want to submit payment in person at a meeting). Click the "Complete Order" button and you are done.