



# Boy Scout Troop 601

Salem United Methodist Church  
Newark, Delaware

[www.troop601newark.com](http://www.troop601newark.com)

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## INTRODUCTION TO BOY SCOUTING / Troop 601

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. 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 local 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:

John F. Kennedy – President of the U.S.	Boy Scout
Neil A. Armstrong - First person to set foot on the Moon	Eagle Scout
Gerald Ford - President of the U.S.	Eagle Scout
Steven Spielberg - Film maker	Eagle Scout
Sam M. Walton - Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart	Eagle Scout
Barber B. Conable, Jr. - President, World Bank	Eagle Scout

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 First 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 resumes 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 to learn more about aims and methods of scouting.

## **ORGANIZATION**

Troop 601 is a participating member of the Freedom Trail District in the DelMarVa Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Troop's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Troop Committee, Scoutmaster Core Group, the Troop, and the Troop's Parent's.

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

Every Troop belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Troop 601 is the Salem United Methodist Church. 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 the Church and us.

### **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 every month. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged for all parents and other interested adults.

### **Scoutmaster Core Group**

The Core Group consists of the Scoutmaster and the active Assistant Scoutmasters. They review and set program for the troop, guide the PLC both through suggestions and review of the PLC's planning. The program consists of the troop meeting agenda, the weekend camping trips and the goals of the Troop.

### **Troop 601 -- Troop Meetings**

Troop 601 holds meetings weekly. Meetings are held every Monday night, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 PM. Changes to the meeting schedule will be announced as early as possible to allow for proper planning.

Troop 601 will reserve the meeting immediately following a camping trip for the Patrol Leader's Council Meeting (P.L.C.). Only the Patrol Leaders, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Scoutmasters are required to attend. We hold our Troop Committee meetings on the first Sunday of the month so there is no scheduling conflict for the Scoutmaster.

### **Two deep Leadership**

At least 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 601 meetings, trips or outings.

### **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

The Troop is a group made up of several patrols. Each Patrol consists of a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and between four Scouts and twelve Scouts. Our cross over Webelos are placed in First year patrols to work on requirements and be assimilated into the troop in a more comfortable way being patrolled with friends and like aged scouts. See first year program handout.

### **Troop Parents**

The role of parents within Troop 601 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 as well as an occasional Parent / Leader group meeting.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed. Help your son "be prepared" for his weekly troop meeting.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist in all Troop fund-raisers and, as requested, in other such activities.
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

## **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:

1. The Boy Scout Learns.
2. The Boy Scout is Tested.
3. The Boy Scout is Reviewed.
4. The Boy Scout is Recognized.

### **Advancement Through First Class**

From the time the Scout enters the Troop through the time he advances 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 himself 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 from First Class to Eagle**

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 gets when joining the Troop. Take a look at Chapter 1. This short chapter has an advancement summary through First Class.

### **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. When the Scout completes the work on the merit badge, the counselor will inform the Scoutmaster that the Scout has completed the requirements for that badge. Merit Badges earned will be presented to the Scout at a Troop's Court of Honor.

### **Scoutmaster Conference**

From the rank of Scout to Eagle the last requirements to be signed off before the Board of Review are Scout Spirit and the Scoutmaster Conference. These requirements are a chance for the Scoutmaster or one of his assistance to review with the scout his personal

development and skill knowledge. The goal of this conference is to understand the importance of what has been covered in the requirements for that rank as well as a personal understanding of where the scout is going in the future. Though testing may be included it is far more important for the scoutmaster and the scout to discuss his progress toward ranks and his involvement in the troop.

### **Boards 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.

### **Courts of Honor**

Troop 601 will conduct a Court of Honor three times a year, August December and May. The Court of Honor recognizes all Scout appointments, elections, awards, and advancements since the last Court of Honor. Adult recognition may also be presented at the Troop Court of Honor. It is the responsibility of the Troop's Patrol Leaders' Council and the Scoutmaster 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 be 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 before the end of November of each calendar year.

### **Annual Registration Fees**

How much does Boy Scouting cost? As little as possible, but nothing worthwhile is free. The annual fee for each Scout in Troop 601 is currently \$50. This covers national BSA membership, insurance, badges, awards, some troop equipment, and other expenses incurred by the Troop as a whole. This also includes Boy's Life magazine. We feel that this publication is not optional. It is very enjoyable, and gives the Scouts ideas for activities and outings.

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

Individual activities may have fees associated with them, to cover camp registration and patches, and food and transportation. The cost for each camping trip averages around \$15.00. In some cases the cost may be higher and this will be communicated to the Scouts as early as possible. Week-long Scout Camps and High Adventure activities occur

once a year, average \$200 to \$400. The parents will be notified. We encourage the young men to earn the money for fuller appreciation of the experiences.

### **Fundraising**

Additional funds are raised by the boys through various fundraising activities. The Troop plans to do one or 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. Troop 601 currently is involved in the parking of University of Delaware football games and participates in the BSA Popcorn Sales drive.

### **UNIFORM**

We are a fully uniformed troop. 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:

#### **"Class A" Uniform**

- Tan scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Council strip, Troop numbers, green shoulder loops, and patrol emblem.)
- Troop 601 Neckerchief (supplied)      -Olive Scout pants or shorts.
- Boy Scout socks.                              - Boy Scout Hat (Optional).
- Scout web belt and buckle.              - Sneakers or hiking boots (dark color).

#### **"Class B" Uniform (worn when instructed by troop leaders)**

- Troop tan or red shirt T-shirts
- Olive Scout shorts
- Boy Scout socks
- Scout web belt and buckle
- Sneakers or hiking boots

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Troop Leaders and staff at the Scout Store 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. Troop 601 does have a small scout clothes closet for those who need help providing a uniform to their son.

### **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. Scouting 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!