



Orientation/Reference Packet

Troop 603

Boy Scouts of America

Sponsored by

Stevensville United Methodist Church

1. QUICK REFERENCE INFO

(Last Updated: February 20, 2017)

Scoutmaster: Steven Key 1-269-605-3907 keys@whirlpool.com
Committee Chairman: Doug Weingart 269-326-0661 dweingart@comcast.net
Troop Finance: Chris Kuhlmann Interim
Troop Advancement/Registrar: Robin Weingart 465-9978 weingartrobin@comcast.net
Troop Activity: Candie Westfall 1-269-930-9317
Charter Organization Representative: Fred Seifert 429-5022 fseifertiii@msn.com
Troop Web Site: www.troop603.org
Wabano District Executive: Nathan Mashman

Council Service Center:

Southern Shores Field Service Council-BSA
1791 W. Columbia Ave. Suite G
Battle Creek, Michigan 49015
1-269-962-8513 Website: www.michiganscouting.org

Where to buy scout related items:

Scout Shop at Council Service Center

1791 w. Columbia Ave. Suite G
Battle Creek MI 49015
1-269-962-8513

Kabelin's Ace Hardware

432 St Johns Rd
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-872-5431

LaSalle Council BSA @LaSalleBSA

1340 S Bend Ave
South Bend, Indiana 46617
P: (574) 289-0337

Dunham's
Gander Mountain
Dick's Sporting Goods
Bass Pro

www.macscouter.com

www.usscouts.org

www.scoutstuff.org

www.campmor.com

Troop Sponsor Organization

Stevensville United Methodist Church
5506 Ridge Road
Stevensville, Michigan 49127
Charter Organization Executive Officer: Pastor David Hills
Phone: 429-5911
Charter Organization Representative to Troop: Fred Seifert

When the Troop Meets and Where

Regular Troop Meetings: All Monday nights at 7:00 PM from the Monday after to Labor Day until the first Monday in June, Catch-up nights are planned for holidays that there is no school

Exceptions: Christmas holidays and Spring Break

Where: Basement of Stevensville United Methodist Church

5506 Ridge Road, Stevensville, MI 49127

There is an access road off Red Arrow Highway to the back of the church. The main entrances to the church are off Ridge Road on the west side of the road. The church basement is in the front section of the church under the sanctuary.

Where we meet for camping activities:

Normally we depart for most activities from the church. For campouts that start on Friday evenings we will depart at a pre-arranged time (normally between 5 PM – 7 PM). We depart promptly at a prearranged time, plan on showing up 30 minutes early to help with loading equipment and taking care of last minute items

3. Boy Scout Basics

Individual

A boy enters the troop as a new Scout and progresses through the following ranks:

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

The progression from Scout to Eagle Scout is known as “The Trail to Eagle.” Along the way, Boy Scouts learn skills needed to survive in the outdoors, learn to communicate effectively, learn how to make new friends, become leaders within the troop, and learn to teach others skills they are proficient in. During the first four ranks, (Scout through First Class) the requirements are well defined and teach basic scouting skills. To achieve the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle a boy works primarily on merit badges and service projects. Many of the ranks require service project time. New scouts are able to work on any and all rank requirements simultaneously, after completing the Scout rank. It has been common for Troop 603 scouts attending Boy Scout summer camp to work on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements, while at the same time completing other merit badges. There are twelve required merit badges to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. For the ranks of Star and Life a percentage of these required merit badges must be completed (See the Boy Scout Handbook). An approved Eagle Scout Project is required to complete the Eagle Scout requirements.

Troop

Basic Patrol Method

The Boy Scout troop is led by boys. This is done by first electing boy leaders. The boys vote on who will be their leaders. **What makes Scouting special is that YOU (the boy) make the decisions.** That is right, YOU run the troop. Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, made it plain in Aids to Scoutmastership when he wrote,

“The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the Patrol Leaders.”

This means you have real decision-making power. As a troop leader you will:

- Plan and run troop meetings
- Pick troop outings, where to camp, what to do
- Plan advancement opportunities for all troop members
- Select High-Adventure programs
- Determine troop policy
- Help other Scouts along the “Trail to Eagle”

Each leadership position within our troop has a term of office, normally six months. Some positions have qualification requirements. Troop positions include the following:

Senior Patrol Leader - Required to be 1st Class Scout and previously served as a Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, or Assistant Patrol Leader. Must have at least 50% attendance for all troop events over past six months and regularly attend all meetings.

While a Senior Patrol Leader, you are expected to attend 75% of all troop meetings, Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings, outings, and service projects.

You are expected to give this job your best effort. You set the example by living the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life. You show the Scout Spirit in everything you say and do.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Run all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference.
- Run Patrol Leader’s Council meetings.
- Assign duties and responsibilities to junior leaders.
- Assist the Scoutmaster with Junior Leader Training.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader –Required to be 1st Class Scout and have at least a 50% attendance for all troop events over the past six months.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Help the Senior Patrol Leader lead meetings and activities
- Run the troop in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader
- Help train and supervise the Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, Guide, Librarian, Historian, and Chaplain Aide.
- Serve as a member of the Patrol Leader’s Council

Patrol Leader - The Patrol Leader may easily be the most important job in the troop. He has the closest contact with the patrol members and is in the perfect position to help and guide them. The Patrol Leaders, along with the Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader are the primary members of the Patrol Leader's Council.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Represents the patrol on the Patrol Leader's Council
- Plans and steers patrol meetings
- Helps Scouts advance
- Acts as the chief recruiter of new Scouts
- Keeps patrol members informed
- Knows what his patrol members and other leaders can do

Assistant Patrol Leader – The APL actively helps to run the patrol. .

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Helps the Patrol Leader plan and steer patrol meetings and activities
- Helps the Patrol Leader keep patrol members informed
- Helps the patrol get ready for all troop activities
- Represents his patrol at Patrol Leader's Council meetings when the Patrol Leader cannot attend.
- Lends a hand controlling the patrol and building patrol spirit.

Troop Quartermaster – The Troop Quartermaster keeps track of troop equipment and sees that it is in good working order.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Keeps records on patrol and troop equipment
- Makes sure equipment is in good working condition
- Issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition
- Makes suggestions for new or replacement items
- Works with Troop Committee members responsible for equipment

Troop Scribe – The Scribe keeps the troop records. He records the activities of the Patrol Leader's Council and keeps a record of attendance at troop meetings and advancement.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Attends and keeps a log of Patrol Leader's Council meetings
- Records individual Scout attendance
- Works with Troop Committee members responsible for records and finance

Chaplain Aide – The Chaplain Aide helps the troop meet the religious needs of Scouts in the troop. He works to promote the religious awards program.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Assists Troop Chaplain or adult leaders with religious services at troop activities
- Tells Scouts about the religious emblem program for their faith
- Makes sure religious holidays are considered during troop program planning.
- Assists in organizing observance of Scout Sunday participation
- Helps plan for religious observance in troop activities

Troop Historian – The Troop Historian keeps a historical record or scrapbook of troop activities. The Historian provides material for displays and presentations of current activities. In addition, the work of the Historian provides a link with the past.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Gathers pictures and facts about past troop activities and keeps them in a historical file or scrapbook.
- Takes care of troop trophies, ribbons, and souvenirs of troop activities
- Keeps information about former troop members

Troop Librarian – The Troop Librarian takes care of troop literature. The library contains merit badge books, leader manuals, and historical books.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Sets up and takes care of our troop library
- Keeps records of books and pamphlets owned by the troop
- Adds new or replacement items as needed
- Keeps books and pamphlets available for borrowing
- Keeps a system for checking books and pamphlets in and out.
- Works with troop committee members responsible for finance for purchase of new items.

Troop Guide - A 1st Class Scout that is 14 years of age or older. The Troop Guide works with new Scouts. He helps them feel comfortable and earn their First Class rank in their first year. The Troop Guide is a friend to the new Scouts and makes their first year fun and successful. This is an important position. The Troop Guide is appointed by the Scoutmaster.

Leadership Responsibilities:

- Introduces new Scouts to troop operations
- Guides new Scouts through early Scouting activities
- Advocates and defends the interests of the new Scouts
- Helps new Scouts earn First Class in their first year
- Teaches basic Scout skills
- Coaches the patrol leader of the new Scout patrol on his duties
- Works with patrol leaders at Patrol Leader's Council meetings
- Counsels individual Scouts on scouting challenges

Equipment

What do I need for campouts?

For most campouts a scout should bring the following items:

- Bring Scout Permission Slip and ensure medical form on file with troop
- Scout shirt/uniform
- Sleeping bag (20 degree or better rating)
- Ground pad (mattress)
- Flash light
- Clothing – pants, shirt, socks, underwear, outdoor shoes, jacket, hat, etc.
- Rain coat
- Scout Handbook
- Bag to contain scout gear
- Canteen/water bottle
- Eating equipment (plate, bowl, cup in mesh bag)/mess kit
- Silverware set (spoon, fork, knife)
- Medications (if applicable)
- Personal first aid kit
- Wash cloth & soap
- Personal hygiene items (tooth brush, etc.)
- Cell phones are allowed on campouts but not recommended. They are the responsibility of the scout. Troop leaders are not responsible if they are lost, damaged or stolen. A leader will confiscate it & lock it away for the duration of the campout if necessary.

Outing Specific Items Include:

- Winter camping requires a hat, coat and gloves
- Insect repellent
- Compass
- Camp seat
- Camera (optional)
- Cards or small games that can be played in a group (optional)

Our troop contains some limited supplies of items that can be borrowed. See the troop quartermaster for checking out these items.

Things that should be left at home include:

- Electronic Games
- Large knives
- Expensive items
- iPods
- Firearms, fireworks, etc.
- Hand axes
- Food that will not be shared
- Any materials inappropriate to an outdoor adventure
- Any “good” clothes or shoes that could be ruined
- Any valuable items, that if lost, would cause problems

Troop Committee

Our Troop Committee is made up primarily of parents of Scouts. It is open to all interested adults. Positions include, Committee Chairman, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Finance Chairperson, Advancement Chairperson, Charter Organization Representative, High Adventure Coordinator, Popcorn Coordinator, Committee Members, the Senior Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. One person may hold more than one position. Training is available for adult leadership. If you are interested in any position see Steven Key.

The **Committee Chairman**, a required troop position, is responsible for coordinating operation of the troop committee, calling regular meetings, and assisting with operation of troop.

The **Scoutmaster**, a required troop position, is responsible for aiding the Senior Patrol Leader in leading the troop.

The **Assistant Scoutmaster**, a required troop position, is responsible for assisting the Scouts in leading the troop.

The **Finance Chairperson** is responsible for maintaining the troop financial records and accounting associated with troop finances.

The **Advancement Chairperson** is responsible for maintaining records of scout advancement, filing advancement reports, procuring badges, and helping with coordination of Courts of Honor.

The **Activities Chairperson** is responsible for helping the boys make sure all paperwork is in order for any given activity, permission slip paperwork and Tour Plans.

The **Charter Organization Representative**, a required position, is responsible for approving all adult applications and acting as liaison between the troop and Stevensville United Methodist Church.

The **High Adventure Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating yearly high adventure experiences. This involves obtaining information, executing contracts where necessary, collecting money for the adventures, and having meetings.

The **Popcorn Coordinator** and **Tent Rental Coordinator** act as coordinators for fund raising for the troop.

The **Committee Members** lend their assistance in making troop functions run smoothly. They can participate in campouts by transporting scouts and equipment. They can also assist other committee members.

The **Senior Patrol Leader** and **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader** represent the Scouts at committee meetings and are responsible for bringing issues about activities, scout gear, etc. to the committee for resolution.

Merit Badge Councilors are troop, church or other community members that have expertise in a particular subject and are willing to donate their time helping the scouts fulfill the requirements needed to earn various merit badges.

List of Merit Badges

Eagle Scout Required Merit Badges include:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Cooking
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

Merit Badges in Alphabetical Order include:

American Business	Digital Technology	Kayaking	Rifle Shooting
American Culture	Disabilities Awareness	Landscape Architecture	Robotics
American Heritage	Dog Care	Law	Rowing
American Labor	Drafting	Leatherwork	Safety
Animation	Electricity	Lifesaving	Salesmanship
Animal Science	Electronics	Mammal Study	Scholarship
Archaeology	Emergency Preparedness	Medicine	Scouting Heritage
Archery	Energy	Metalwork	Scuba Diving
Architecture	Engineering	Mining In Society	Sculpture
Art	Entrepreneurship	Model Design & Building	Search & Rescue
Astronomy	Environmental Science	Motor boating	Shotgun Shooting
Athletics	Family Life	Moviemaking	Signs, Signals & Codes
Auto Maintenance	Farm Mechanics	Music	Skating
Aviation	Fingerprinting	Nature	Small-Boat Sailing
Backpacking	Fire Safety	Nuclear Science	Snow Sports
Basketry	First Aid	Oceanography	Soil & Water Conservation
Bird Study	Fish & Wildlife Management	Orienteering	Space Exploration
Bugling	Fishing	Painting	Sports
Camping	Fly Fishing	Personal Fitness	Stamp Collecting
Canoeing	Forestry	Personal Management	Sustainability
Chemistry	Game Design	Pets	Surveying
Chess	Gardening	Photography	Swimming
Citizenship in the Community	Genealogy	Pioneering	Textile
Citizenship in the Nation	Geocaching	Plant Science	Theater
Citizenship in the World	Geology	Plumbing	Traffic Safety
Climbing	Golf	Pottery	Truck Transportation
Coin Collecting	Graphic Arts	Programming	Veterinary Medicine
Collections	Hiking	Public Health	Water Sports
Communications	Home Repairs	Public Speaking	Weather
Composite Materials	Horsemanship	Pulp and Paper	Welding
Cooking	Indian Lore	Radio	Whitewater
Crime Prevention	Insect Study	Railroading	Wilderness Survival
Cycling	Inventing	Reading	Wood Carving
Dentistry	Journalism	Reptile & Amphibian Study	Woodwork