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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Scouts BSA! What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What do you need to get? We have prepared this booklet to hopefully help answer these questions.

The following pages describe the philosophy of Scouting, organization of a Troop and the advancement pattern that each Scout will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your Scout can progress through the ranks of Scouting with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Troop.

Please feel free ask questions! The troop leadership is here to help you. We look forward to working with your son or daughter over the coming years, and to your support for Scouting and our Troop.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SCOUTING

Scouting was founded by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in England in 1907. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 by William D. Boyce.

Over the years, Scouting has seen many Scouts go on to great accomplishments, including in their number a President of the United States, current and a former Supreme Court Justices, current and former Cabinet Secretaries, and numerous astronauts (including 11 of 12 who walked on the moon), highly-decorated soldiers, scientists, congressman, senators, governors, novelists, directors and successful businessmen, as well as 4 Nobel Laureates.

Scouting is non-governmental and non-partisan. Scouting is open to all, regardless of race, creed or national origin. We welcome all interested youth under the age of 18 to consider joining our Troop, whether or not they have any prior experience in Scouting.

DID YOU KNOW?

For every 100 Scouts:

- 18 will develop hobbies that will last throughout their adult life
- 12 will have their first contact with a religious organization
- 8 will enter a career that was learned through activity badges
- 5 will earn their religious emblem award
- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 1 will use his Scout skills to save a life
- 1 will use his Scout skills to save his/her own life

Scouting Alumni Include:

- Over 90 million Scouts since 1910
- 90% of the first 26 astronauts
- 89% of Senior Class Presidents
- 85% of Student Council Presidents
- 85% of FBI agents
- 72% of Rhodes Scholars
- 70% of Annapolis graduates
- 68% of West Point Academy graduates
- 63% of Air Force Academy graduates
SCOUTING MISSION

So what is Scouting? The Boy Scouts of America, specifically, is a non-profit organization which, for over 100 years, has had as its mission to prepare Scouts to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lives by:

1. Developing good character, including honesty, courage, integrity, self-reliance, self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-respect;
2. Instilling duty to God and country, including an understanding of the Scout’s relationship to others in his community and nation, how his local, state, and federal governments work, and his obligation to keep his country strong; and
3. Promoting physical, mental/emotional and moral fitness.

SCOUTING METHODS

Ideals — The ideals of Scouts BSA are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, the Scout slogan and the Outdoor Code.

**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 Slogan**

Do A Good Turn Daily

**Scout Motto**

Be Prepared

**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, and
Be Conservation-minded.

These ideals are the personal behavior guides and standards that the Scout commits to when joining Scouting. The Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan, and Outdoor Code give guidelines for living. Growth in moral strength and character is one of the aims of Scouting. By developing relationships to others, Scouts learn about their obligation to other people, to the society they live in, and to the government that presides over that society. This accomplishes our aim of having a youth become a participating citizen.

**Patrol Method** — Patrols are the essential building blocks of a Scout Troop. A patrol is a small group of Scouts who are similar in age, gender, development, and interests. Patrols camp together, cook together, play together, and learn together. Patrols are where Scouts learn citizenship at the most basic level.
They also take on responsibilities within the patrol, and learn teamwork and leadership. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol’s success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

**Outdoor Programs** — Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. Outdoor programs are important because they provide Scouts with the opportunities to practice the skills and activities they learn about in Troop meetings, and to engage in the activities which are required for rank advancement and various merit badges. The outdoor programs also help our Scouts learn about ecology and practice conservation, including the principals of Leave No Trace.

**Advancement** — Scouting has a system of ranks in which Scouts learn progressively more difficult skills and take on progressively greater responsibilities. Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Scout plans their advancement and progresses at his own pace as they meet each challenge.

The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

**Associations with Adults** — Scouts learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the Troop. In many cases, a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, merit badge counselor or other adult volunteer who is willing to listen to them, encourage them, and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

**Personal Growth** — As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. Scouts also grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting’s aims.

**Leadership Development** — The Scout program encourages youth to learn and practice leadership skills, such as planning, organization and decision-making. Every Scout has the opportunity to lead in some way, whether as part of a team, as the leader of his patrol, or as the senior patrol leader or as another youth leader of the Troop.

**Uniform** — Like most sports teams, Scouts should wear the uniform when they are doing Scouting, and to wear it properly. It is a visible symbol in our community at large of who we are and what we do. Accordingly, we expect all Scouts to behave according to the Scout Oath and Law whenever wearing their Scout uniforms.
TROOP ORGANIZATION

A Troop is composed of both youth and adults. All youth within the Troop join as Scouts. Leadership and planning of the Troop’s program is primarily in the hands of youth leaders. Other Scouting programs include Venture and Sea Scouts. Troop adults are volunteers who guide the youth leaders of the Troop, serving in a variety of roles from Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster to Committee members.

Youth Organization

Patrols

Scouts are organized into patrols, generally groups of between 6-10 Scouts, which serve as the basic building block of Scouting. Patrol members experience Scouting together as a “family unit” within the larger Troop structure, helping each other to advance and performing many activities as a team.

Most new Scouts that join a Troop are placed into existing patrols where they can be led by experienced Scout’s that have been appointed into the various Patrol positions. Patrols are led by Patrol Leaders (PL) which are elected by the Scouts of their Patrols. These elections usually occur twice a year at Troop Elections. Patrol Leaders may also designate an Assistant Patrol Leader or acting Patrol Leader.

Senior Youth Leaders

The Troop elects one older Scout as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), who then chooses one or more Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL) to assist. The SPL serves as the overall youth leader of the Troop, and runs the Troop meetings and directs the Scouts on camp outs. The goal of the SPL is to mentor and coach the PL’s and other youth leaders. If your Scout has a question or concern that can’t be or isn’t being addressed by the Patrol Leader, you should encourage your Scout to ask the SPL or an ASPL.

Some additional Troop officers include:

- **Quartermaster** - Reports on condition and availability of equipment and needs and manages Troop equipment
- **Scribe** - Attends and keeps a log of patrol leaders’ council meetings and keeps Troop records.
- **Chaplain’s Aide** - Prepares and leads Interfaith Services and prayers at Scout functions
- **Instructors** - May be assigned training tasks or report on previous training

Patrol Leaders’ Council

Youth work together to plan the Troop program. This meeting is the Patrol Leader’s Council (PLC) and is chaired by the SPL. The PLC typically meets once a month and are open to all. These meetings are run by the Scouts, and are primarily for planning purposes.
**Adults**

The adults involved in the Troop consist of the Chartered Organization, the Troop Committee, the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, and adult volunteers (such as merit badge counselors).

**Chartered Organization (Sponsor)**

Every Troop is sponsored by a community organization which receives a charter to operate a Scouting program. The Chartered Organization shares the BSA’s objectives for youth. Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between us and the Church.

**Troop Committee and Troop Committee Chair**

The Troop committee is made up of a group of qualified adults appointed by the chartered organization to administer the program of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other Troop leaders, are parents of youth in the Troop. The committee meets once a month and is led by the committee chair.

The committee works on non-program affairs within the Troop such as recruiting, and board of reviews for non-eagle rank advancements.

The committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages Troop finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

**Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters**

The Scoutmaster and ASMs have the responsibility to assist the Scouts in planning and running the program. All questions from adults regarding the program need to be addressed to these leaders. As a new parent trying to help your child, the SM and ASM are happy to any answer any of your questions, so long as this does not act as a substitute for your Scout to work with the PL and SPL to answer any questions, or to becoming comfortable in speaking with adults about what he/she needs. This is part of the growth process they will benefit from through Scouting.

The Scoutmaster’s role is to provide guidance, training, coaching and support, rather than to “take charge” and is assisted by multiple Assistant Scoutmasters (ASMs). The Scoutmaster or ASM meets with each Scout individually at each rank advancement for a “Scoutmaster’s conference,” and may provide words of wisdom as a “Scoutmaster’s Minute” at the end of each meeting. Perhaps most importantly, the SM and ASMs provide positive role models for the Scouts; as such, they are expected to embody the Scout Oath and Law.

**Parents**

The role of parents within Troop is to be supportive of the Troop’s efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should:

1. Read their Scout’s handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow their Scout’s progress (or lack thereof), offer gentle encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Troop by attending all Troop Courts of Honor.
4. Assist, as requested, in all Troop activities. Be involved.
5. Be aware of the Troop program and annual calendar.

Please direct any questions you may have to the adult leaders so that we can ensure you obtain correct information.
THE YOUTH-LED TROOP

Implicit in our Troop organization is the basic concept that our Troop is a “youth-led” Troop. Many youth join Scouts after participating in Cub Scouts.

One of the major differences between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA is leadership. In order to teach leadership, you have to let the youth lead.

“Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it. Never do anything a boy can do.”

– Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Scouts

What is important for us is:

- Not the food on the campout, but that the Scouts cooked it.
- Not that the Scout had all the right gear for the campout but that he packed it.
- Not who would make the best patrol leader, but that the Scout elect one.
- Not that a Scout learns to perform first aid perfectly, but that another Scout teaches the others.
- Not that we cover everything on the meeting agenda, but that the senior patrol leader is in charge.

It is naturally very tempting for adults to jump in and sort things out, but we have to remember the process of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing—even if that means learning from disorganization and sometimes failure. It is up to the Scouts to get things done; it is up to us to make sure the Scouts have what they need, but (within the bounds of health and safety) not what they do with it.

Advantages of a Youth-Led Troop

- Youth learn critical planning skills.
- Youth learn to lead in a safe environment.
- Youth learn from mistakes.
- Youth learn to lead others and work in teams.
- Youth learn respect when treated with respect.
ADVANCEMENT

In Scouting, advancement is “the art of meeting a challenge.” That is exactly what the Scout advancement program asks the youth to do. The Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that Scouts climb at their own pace. As skills are aquired, the Scout moves up through a series of ranks.

**Scouts BSA ranks are:**
- Scout
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class
- First Class
- Star
- Life
- Eagle Scout

**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 ever though they could.

Parents must understand that ranks are simply a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Everything Scouts do to advance and earn these ranks, from the day they join until the day they leave the program, should be a reflection of the Scout’s personal goals – not the parents. We strongly encourage advancement, but we never force it—advancement is the Scout’s choice, and their own pace.

**AdvanceMent ProceSS**

Advancement in Scouting is a four step process:

1. **The Scout learns.** A Scout learns by doing. As the Scout learns, he/she grows in ability to do his/her part as a member of the patrol and the Troop. As the Scout develops knowledge and skill, he/she is asked to teach others. In this way, the Scout begins to develop leadership.

2. **The Scout is tested.** A Scout may be tested on requirements by the patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster or a member of the Troop with the rank of Star or higher.

3. **The Scout is reviewed.** After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, the Scout generally has a Scoutmaster Conference followed by a Board of Review as discussed below. However, no board of review is required for the Scout badge. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the Troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by members of the district advancement committee and other selected leaders.

4. **The Scout is recognized.** When the board of review has certified a Scout’s advancement, the rank will be presented to the Scout at the next Troop Court of Honor.

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**TROOP TIP**

Most Troops use a minimum rank of First Class for most leadership positions, but ranks are not used to determine any other leadership or seniority position.

For example, a Life Scout is not the “superior” of a Star or any other Scout. All Scouts are entitled to equal respect.

Rank badges are Badges of Honor and Personal Achievements.
Scout Handbook

It is important for your Scout to bring the Scout handbook to all Scout meetings and camping events for two reasons. First, the Scout handbook is the primary reference source for rank advancement requirements. It identifies and explains everything needed for all ranks advancements up through first class, and lists the requirements for higher ranks.

The handbook also serves as the tangible record for completion of these requirements, as your Scout’s PL and SM/ASMs sign-off in the handbook as rank advancement requirements are completed. After his/her Board of Review, the Scout needs to show his/her Scout Handbook with the approved requirements for the rank to the Advancement Chair. If your Scout does not have his book, no one can sign off on rank requirements! There are new digital tools like Scoutbook.com, but they do not replace the Scout Handbook which is the most essential resource for your Scout to have a great experience.

Rank Requirements

Details for advancement are in the Scout Handbook, which every Scout should obtain as soon as possible. The ranks up through First Class focus on learning vital Scout skills and the ranks Star through Eagle focus primarily on leadership and service.

Merit Badges

Scouts are required to earn merit badges in order to attain the ranks of Star and above; however, merit badges can be earned by all Scouts at any time. Some of these merit badges must be from the list of Eagle required list. Eagle required merit badges have a silver border. With over 130 merit badges available, Scouts can expand on any areas of interest they may have.

Courts of Honor

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 strongly encouraged to attend. Parents are especially encouraged to attend when their son or daughter is earning a rank advancement as the Scout may place a small pin on them for the rank the Scout has earned.
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

All Youth Deserve a Trained Leader. All leaders must complete Youth Protection Training and Job Specific Training. Training programs are provided on a regular basis throughout the Scouting year. Contact the council office or your District Executive for a list of dates and locations. We encourage new leaders to attend one of the many “in-person” trainings available during the year, but training can also be completed online by going to my.Scouting.org. (Note: you must create a user account to take a course and receive the certification).

Youth Protection Training - We have award winning training programs to teach Scouts and adults about child abuse protection and avoiding potentially dangerous situations. The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating a safe and secure environment for our youth members. This training covers the BSA’s Youth Protection polices, kinds of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures. This training is available online and in each district through the year. All new leaders must complete this training BEFORE they can be registered and currently registered leaders must renew the training every two years.

Scouts BSA Leader Specific Training - These trainings are designed to present in-depth information for new leaders in a specific leadership position. Training includes five different courses related to specific positions—Scoutmasters and assistants, committee chairs and members.

Roundtable - Trainings are also provided at the monthly District Roundtables (see page 14) for listing of day, time, and locations. These trainings include leaders specific and program delivery trainings.

Service Projects - Some Merit Badges as well as some rank advancement, such as Star and Life Scout, require service hours to be performed. Throughout the year your Scout will be invited to participate in service projects specific to the Troop as well as being made aware of opportunities outside of the Troop. The Seneca Waterways Council hosts a Scouting for Food community-wide service project each spring. Additionally, Scouts working on their Eagle Scout rank need to organize and conduct a large service project. The Eagle candidate will appreciate your Scout’s assistance with his project – think of it as a down payment on the request for service hours your Scout will make when working on their Eagle Scout project.

For more information, training dates, and registration forms, log on to senecawaterways.org or contact your District Executive (see list on page 14)
THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL & THE DISTRICT

The purpose of the Council is to guide and support its districts for the achievement of the movement’s purpose. The Seneca Waterways Council encompasses the five counties of Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates. The purpose of the District is to organize and support successful Scouts BSA Troops by working through chartered organizations. The end result of effective district support is continued growth in membership and the delivery of a quality program to all members.

Districts are responsible for carrying out four (4) primary functions:

1. Membership
2. Finance
3. Program
4. Unit Service

The Council employs a team of Scouting professionals to help guide and assist our volunteers plan and execute our local programs. (See page 13 for the office phone number for your District Executive).

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

PHONE: (585) 244-4210       WEBSITE: senecawaterways.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SenecaWaterwaysCouncilBSA

STAFF SUPPORT:
Our professional and support staff at the Council Servicenter can assist when needed and get you in touch with other resources. In addition, each community is served by a full-time District Executive.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Your district has a team of volunteers called the district committee which develops quality district-wide programs for your Scouts to participate in.

COMMISSIONER STAFF
Your district has another volunteer team called the commissioner staff. They are the unit service team. They check on the health of your pack and are a communications link between your pack and the Scouting organization. A commissioner is assigned to assist your unit.

TROOP LEADERSHIP:
Most Troops have been in existence for many years and have existing leadership which will provide direct assistance. Many Troops even have a library of resource books to aid leaders in supporting the youth leaders, putting on quality Troop programs.
ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable is a monthly leaders’ meeting for all adult volunteers in your district. You can get help with crafts, games, skits, and songs for use at den and pack meetings. It’s also a great place to ask questions and share ideas.

DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>WHEN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay Waters</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Creek</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee Crossroads</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohawk</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towpath</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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NOTE:
Due to the current environment with COVID-19 pandemic, meeting locations may vary or be virtual. For more details about Roundtable meetings including locations, please visit your district’s page on the council website: www.senecawaterways.org or contact the District Executive.
## What District Am I In?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay Waters</td>
<td>Irondequoit, Penfield, and Webster</td>
<td>585-241-8530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Creek</td>
<td>Chili, Churchville, Gates, Henrietta, Riga, Rush, Scottsville, and Wheatland</td>
<td>585-241-8534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee Crossroads</td>
<td>City of Rochester</td>
<td>585-241-8541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Traditional Programs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse</td>
<td>Brockport, Greece, Hamlin, Hilton, and Spencerport</td>
<td>585-241-8547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohawk</td>
<td>The towns in all of Yates and Seneca Counties and the eastern halves of Ontario and Wayne Counties</td>
<td>585-241-8539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>The towns of Bloomfield, Canandaigua, Gananda, Honeoye, Manchester-Shortsville, Marion, Naples, Ontario, Palmyra-Macedon, Victor-Farmington, and Williamson</td>
<td>585-241-8522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towpath</td>
<td>Brighton, East Rochester, Fairport, Honeoye Falls, Perinton, Pittsford, and Mendon</td>
<td>585-241-8531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Point</td>
<td>City of Rochester</td>
<td>585-241-8568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(After School Programs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Please note that Genesee Crossroads and Turning Point Districts both serve youth in the City of Rochester with Genesee Crossroads focusing on traditional Scouting and Turning Point serving afterschool programs.
EQUIPMENT

If you and your Scout do not have camping gear, don’t feel like you need to buy it all at once. More experienced Scouts and adults can provide plenty of solid advice on what you really need and the best sources. This is an area where it pays to wait for sales, and to pay close attention to details about equipment capabilities and quality. Inexpensive is not necessarily a bargain, and expensive is not necessarily high quality. Follow your Troop’s recommended Scout Personal Gear List.

CAMPING

We camp. We hike. We get dirty. We get up close and personal with bugs and spiders. There’s no way around it. The Scouting program is built around outdoor activities. Expect to have more laundry after a campout and to hear some interesting stories about wild things. Most youth enjoy being outdoors and chose to participate in Scouting because of this. Youth learn best in hands-on situations which the outdoors provides. The outdoors is also the best place for youth to employ the patrol method. Participation in campouts is vital for rank advancement, as a large portion of early rank advancement is related to camping skills.

Camp Babcock-Hovey (Ovid, NY)

On the eastern shore of Seneca Lake in western New York’s stunning Finger Lakes Region, Camp Babcock-Hovey spans 283 acres of beautiful woodlands, pristine streams, and golden fields. With its half-mile lakeside waterfront, extensive hiking trails, top-grade shooting ranges and 100,000 gallon pool, the camp and first-rate staff are always ready to provide you with an unforgettable experience.

The camp maintains ten fully equipped campsites with tent platforms and lean-tos. It accommodates all campers of all ability levels, and is fully handicap accessible.

Massawepie Scout Camps (Tupper Lake, NY)

Located on a 3,769 acre parcel in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York State, Massawepie Scout Camps combine unique wilderness programs with a traditional Boy Scout summer camp.

Canoe, kayak, or sail on our gorgeous mile-long private lake, hike over 20 miles of well-kept trails, and camp along eight ecologically diverse ponds -- all without ever leaving camp property. Massawepie’s location is perfect for programs like mountain biking, outpost camping, and high-adventure experiences for older Scouts and Venture Crews. Our highly trained Voyager guides can lead your unit on a 3- or 6-day trek through the Adirondack wilderness -- by foot, canoe, or bike -- as either an independent trip or an extension of your week of camp.

Troop Tip: What to Buy

To get your new Scout started, you should acquire:

- Class A uniform pieces
- Scout Handbook
- Outdoor Equipment
STRONG SCOUT SHOP - UNIFORM CHECKLIST

**HANDBOOKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scouts BSA Handbook (boy and girls)</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Badge booklets</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNIFORM PARTS/PIECES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult &amp; Youth Micropoly, Cotton</td>
<td>$29.99-$49.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Spandex or Poplin Short/Long-sleeve shirt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl’s &amp; Ladie’s Performance Roll-up Pants</td>
<td>$44.99-$49.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl’s &amp; Ladie’s Skort</td>
<td>$24.99-$29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult &amp; Youth Zip-off Canvas Pants</td>
<td>$34.99-$44.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult &amp; Youth Shorts</td>
<td>$21.99-$29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts BSA Cap</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts BSA Web Belt</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neckerchief</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts BSA Socks</td>
<td>$7.99-$9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neckerchief Slide</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder Loops</td>
<td>$4.49</td>
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</tbody>
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**INSIGNIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council Shoulder Patch</td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Emblem</td>
<td>$2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Crest Emblem</td>
<td>$2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Crest Ring</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troop Numerals</td>
<td>$1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Badge Sash</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Pricing may change. Contact the Strong Scout Shop for most up-to-date pricing and item availability.

**BOYS’ LIFE MAGAZINE**

A monthly magazine for children and adults. Boys’ Life has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and U.S. history. There are also jokes, comics, and short stories. The magazine is $12.00/year for Scouts. Boys’ Life helps to encourage your child to read and to introduce your son or daughter to the fun and adventure available in Scouting.

A Boys’ Life subscription is half the newsstand price for Scouts.

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**Strong Scout Shop**

**Hours**

T-F: 10:00am-6:00pm  
Closed for lunch 1:30-2pm  
Sa: 10:00am-2:00pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday

**Shop at our National Scout Shop**

2320 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
585-241-8551

**NOTE:**

Days and hours are subject to change. For the most accurate information, visit the website at www.senecawaterways.org/scout-shop/
WHAT DOES SCOUTING COST?

**Immediate Costs**

- Annual Registration Fee (includes insurance) $72.00
- Annual Boys’ Life Magazine (recommended) $12.00
- Handbook* $17.99
- Troop Program Fees Determined Locally

* Prices subject to change

**Budget**

The Troop prepares an annual budget to fund their “ideal year” of Scouting which includes for most Troop activities, awards and advancements, recognition, and summer camp. Troops fund the annual budget in a variety of ways including by selling popcorn or charging dues.

**The Council Product (Popcorn & Nut) Sale**

While Troops have many options, one of the largest and most successful fundraising activities is the Popcorn and Nut Sale. Selling popcorn in the fall is a tradition for many Troops. Over 70% of the sale proceeds go towards supporting Scouting in Seneca Waterways. This product sale involves Scouts setting up displays in front of stores to sell product directly to customers, going door-to-door taking orders from neighbors, as well as online sales where product is shipped directly to friends and family who don’t live nearby. In recent history, several of our top-selling units have been Scouts BSA Troops, who have earned well over $10,000 to fund their Scouting adventures.

**Camp Cards**

Camp Cards help Scouts fund their way to any of the Council’s summer or day camp programs. For $5, each camp card provides $100+ in value with coupon specials from area businesses offering dining, fast food, recreation (bowling), and more. Sales begins in February and ends May 31st. The program provides a benefit to the individual units and helps the council in providing programs.

Units participating in the program can earn commissions up to 55% of the card’s retail cost. The remaining will support the Council in order to help make improvements to the Council’s three camps.
HOW IS SCOUTING FINANCED?

When you register your child into the Scouting program there is a $72 national registration and insurance fee. This fee allows your child to be part of the Scouting program and goes straight to our national office to help provide many of the services that our leaders receive (training courses, Scouting Magazine, and insurance, etc.) None of this money stays in the local Council.

Providing a Scouting program within the Seneca Waterways Council takes an annual budget of approximately $4.4 million, which must be raised each year from the generous support of friends, families, corporations and foundations. The Seneca Waterways Council budget includes things like subsidization of the summer camp program, maintenance and upkeep of the land and property at our three camping facilities, support staff, newsletters, training courses for leaders, and much, much more. The funds needed to support Scouting programs in the Seneca Waterways Council comes from a variety of areas including:

**Friends of Scouting Campaign (FOS):**

The Seneca Waterways Council also conducts an annual fundraising campaign known as Friends of Scouting. This grassroots campaign provides roughly 35% of direct support funding for our council, and involves presentations to each unit’s families where they are provided an opportunity to generously support local Scouting. Unit dues only cover BSA national registration fees, plus any unit-level costs. None of it goes to Seneca Waterways Council’s true cost of delivering Scouting to families in our community. Without the Council-level investments, Scouting couldn’t exist.

Donations to the Friends of Scouting campaign are optional, but are tax-deductible. And there is a unit incentive to participate: a unit can earn Friends of Scouting Platinum Unit recognition if they meet their fundraising goal. This achievement results in a unit earning free cloth rank advancement and free tent camping at any council property for the balance of the calendar year. The earlier a unit achieves Platinum status, the more time they have to take advantage of these benefits.

The Scouting program is not a government agency; hence, we receive no tax dollar support. United Way support accounts for a minimal amount of our annual budget.

**Popcorn & Nut Sale:**

Most units in the Council participate in the annual popcorn sale. Sales from this fundraiser benefit both the Council and those Units that participate. The annual sale occurs during September and October with product delivered in November.

**Special Events:**

Each year, the Council conducts a number of special event fundraisers to help raise money to support our Scouting program. Events include: 21 Stories for Scouts, the Youth Power Dinner, Lobster Fest, Clay Shoot Tournaments, and Casting for Character.

**COMPARATIVE COSTS OF SCOUTING**

For most families, Scouting will cost a total of $10-$15/month. Compared to the cost of uniforms, lessons and fees for seasonal youth activities such as hockey, football, little league, basketball, and soccer, the costs of Scouting on a per month basis is a value that is hard to beat. In addition, the family values, citizenship and leadership skills that Scouting instills in youth, make it (dollar for dollar) an exceptional investment.